

August Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting | [Link](#)

East Aldine District: 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Houston, TX 77039

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> (Executive Committee role)	<u>Present (x) / Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Timothy E. Buscha	Industries (Chair)	x
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	*(Larry Goldberg)
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	x
Augustus Campbell	Public #1 (At-Large member)	x
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	x
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	x
Connie Pothier	Small Business	x
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	
Hanadi Rifai	Environmental Interests	x
Vacant	Municipalities	
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	*(Gary Bezemek))
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	*(Mark Yentzen)
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	*(Bob Kosar)
Christina Quintero	Public #2	
Imelda Diaz	Upper Watershed	x

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	
Cynthia Nolasco	Texas Water Development Board	x
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	

Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District Region H	x
Alisa Max	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	
Sally Bakko	Gulf Coast Protection District	x
Lisa Mairs	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	x

<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Lea Sanford	Harris County Engineering Department	x
Mike Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	x
Timothy Williams	Harris County Engineering Department	x
Chris Griffin	Harris County Engineering Department	x

Quorum:

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: (15) total, (12) at time of quorum

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 15: 8

Attendees: Remote:**

Bill Callegari	Nicholas Collins	
Constance Pothier	R Fiederlein	
Harvey	Rachel Herr	
Jonathan Spellman	Tina Petersen	
Kim, Johnny		
Maggie Puckett		

****Meeting attendee names were gathered from the WebEx meeting platform.**

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM
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East Aldine District: 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Houston, TX 77039

MEETING START TIME: 9:02

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Tim Williams called the roll. A quorum was achieved.

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha and Alia Vinson attended the North Houston Association Awards ceremony. Tim commended Region 6 Flood Planning Group for receiving NHA Environmental Impact Award, presented by Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey. Tim Buscha will keep possession of award on behalf of the Region 6 Flood Planning Group, to no objection. Timothy Williams will photograph award and correspond to group with photo.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items

(Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

Discussion/Action Items:

There were no registered formal public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Discussion/Action Items: Cynthia Nolasco

- RFP status update reports as follows. On July 11th, 2024 communication updates sent out to all regions and planning group sponsors on current review status for payment requests. Anticipating releasing retainage prior to end of August, 2024.

- New guidance for amending regional flood plans. In May of 2024, TWDB released additional guidance for amendment process. TWDB has updated the policy regarding the use of 2028 Cycle-2 grant funds to process, review and approve up to two amendments to the 2023 approved Regional Flood Plans during the current RFP cycle. This is reflected in revised Exhibit A work scope for Technical Consultants and also in Cycle-2 grant contracts.
- TWDB will present the State Flood Plan to the State Board, on August 15th, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion/Action Items:

- Meeting minutes from June 13th, 2024 meeting was circulated in the meeting materials for this meeting.
- **Sally Bakko** – Sally Bakko commends Timothy Williams for his assistance in getting her comments, made via meeting chat during the June 13th, 2024 meeting and not originally included in the June 13th meeting minutes, added to revised meeting minutes for June 13th, 2024.
- Motion of approval to June 13th, 2024, meeting minutes, considering addition of Sally Bakko's comments, made by Erwin Burden with second provided by Larry Goldberg. Carried, 9:20am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities.

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Trinity Region – No report.
- b. Neches Region – Report sent to Tim Bucha via email. Technical consultant selection in process.
- c. Lower Brazos Region – Technical consultant selection process.
- d. Region H Water – **Michael Turco**, Meeting held on August 7th, 2024, they are continuing to work on the State Water Plan.

e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) – **Sally Bakko**, GCPD will host a meeting on Wednesday, August 14th, 2024. Meeting will be streamed on the GCPD webpage. The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has included \$500,000.00 for preconstruction engineering and design in their 2024 work plan for Coastal Texas Project. Helps finalize design plans and specifications and assists in designating a start destination for this project. Congressman Randy Weber submitted a community project funding request to House Appropriations Committee. Gulf Coast Protection District has a \$5,000,000.00 community project funding request that was included in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for FY25, that has not passed the House floor vote. USACE headquarters is currently reviewing the final design agreement between them and GCPD and GCPD is expecting approval for the Galveston District to proceed in executing this agreement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds, RFPG’s contract with TWDB and status of the Request for Qualifications the Technical Consultant for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle

Discussion/Action Items:

Erwin Burden – Grant agreement with TWDB was signed by Dr. Milton Rahman and the item appeared on Commissioner’s Court agenda for July 15th, 2024. Agreement was returned to the TWDB and is anticipated to be in execution currently. RFQ for a Technical consultant was issued and a single applicant returned. Scoring Committee has met and reviewed applicant Freese and Nichols. Per Erwin Burden, anticipating award and due process of Commissioner’s Court for Freese and Nichols.

Tim Buscha – Made recommendation of support from SJRFPG to Dr. Milton Rahman that the submittal be made through Harris County Purchasing for Freese and Nichols to be selected as the Technical Consultant. Larry Goldberg noted support for this recommendation. Motion was made by Larry Goldberg with Second by Erwin Burden. Motion carried. Letter of support will be sent from SJRFPG.

It was noted that the FNI team of subconsultants from the 2023 planning cycle will remain the same for the 2028 planning cycle.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: General discussion and membership thoughts on the Draft 2024 State Flood

Plan issued in May by TWDB and plan for formal comments from the planning group.

Discussion/Action Item:

Cynthia Nolasco – All public comments have been reviewed through in-person and virtual meetings during the public comment period. All public comments will be included in 2024 State Flood Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion about future amendments to the regional flood plan to add a new FMX or modify an existing FMX.

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha stated that this item was also a point of discussion at the June SJRFPG planning meeting. Prior to the June meeting, the amendment process was not a funded opportunity through the Regional Flood Planning Groups. Flood plan guidance has been amended to allow for process of amendments to the 2023 Flood Plan during the 2028 Flood Planning cycle.

Tim Buscha opened discussion about how to implement the two future amendments allowed by TWDB and the need to formalize our process. Tim stated his support for SJRFPG to offer workshops on how to recommend projects/amend accepted projects.

Sponsor commented that they have had inquiries from parties interested in adding projects to the 2023 Flood Plan; Sponsor has notified interested parties to watch for more information on how to amend.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation of 2024 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones

TWDB contract with Sponsor

Selection of Tech consultant process is underway; hope to be complete by next meeting.

- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held October 10, 2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Discussion/Action Items:

- Action to fill Steve Costello municipalities position. No applications were received. Sponsor has republicized the opening; it is still open. We have received 2 applications at present from the readvertisement. After the position closes, RFPG will have an executive committee meeting to recommend selection at the October meeting.
- October meeting will be at East Aldine District facility. Tim Buscha expressed appreciation for the facilities and staff, encouraging members to attend a meeting in person.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

Discussion/Action Items:

No public comments were received.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjournment Discussion/Action Items: N/A

MEETING END TIME 9:33 am.



Erwin Burden, Secretary

10/21/2024



Tim Buscha, Chair