

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

| <u>Voting Member</u> | <u>Interest Category (Executive Committee role)</u> | <u>Present (x) /Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Timothy E. Buscha | Industries (Chair) | X |
| Alia Vinson | Water Districts (Vice Chair) | X |
| 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 | |
| Paresh Lad | Municipalities | X |
| Jildardo Arias | Small Municipalities | |
| Tina Petersen | Flood Districts | X |
| Todd Burrer | Water Utilities | X |
| Vacant | Coastal Communities | |
| Christina Quintero | Public #2 | X |
| Imelda Diaz | Upper Watershed | X |

| <u>Non-voting Member</u> | <u>Agency</u> | <u>Present(x)/Absent ()/ Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Hope Zubek | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department | |
| Michelle Ellis | Texas Division of Emergency Management | |
| Kristin Lambrecht | Texas Department of Agriculture | |
| Joel Clark | Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board | |
| Santiago Franco | Texas General Land Office | |
| Nicholas Collins | Texas Water Development Board | x |
| Melinda Johnston | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality | |
| Justin Bower | Houston-Galveston Area Council | X |
| Ellie Alkhoury | Texas Department of Transportation | |
| Michael Turco | Harris-Galveston Subsidence District | |
| Alisa Max | Region H Regional Water Planning Group | |
| Sally Bakko | Gulf Coast Protection District | X |
| Tom Heidt | Port Houston | |
| Lisa Mairs | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | |

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

| <u>Liaisons from RFPG</u> | <u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u> | <u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Todd Burrer | Trinity Region RFPG | X |
| Steve Moon | Neches Region RFPG | X |
| Mark Vogler | Lower Brazos RFPG | |
| Alisa Max | Region H Water | |
| Sally Bakko | Gulf Coast Protection District | X |

| <u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u> | <u>Entity</u> | <u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Brian Edmondson | FNI | X |
| Cory Stull | FNI | X |
| Maggie Puckett | FNI | X |
| Tanner Helweg | FNI | X |
| | | |

| <u>Project Sponsor</u> | <u>Entity</u> | <u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Jonathan Spellman | Office of the County Engineer | X |
| Timothy Williams | Office of the County Engineer | X |

Quorum:

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: (12) total, (12) at time of quorum
Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 15:8

Attendees:** Remote: Michelle Parsons (SJRA)

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Discussion/Action Items:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Discussion/Action Items:

- Roll call was conducted (see attendee list).
- A quorum was established.

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments on Agenda Items

Discussion/Action Items:

- No public comments were submitted.
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AGENDA ITEM 4: Discussion and possible action to reappoint RFPG members whose terms have expired

Discussion/Action Items:

- Current Cycle Term:

| 5- Year Term Cycle - Expires 7/10/25 | | 5-Year Term Cycle - Expires 7/10/28 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Voting Position | Members | Voting Position | Members |
| Counties | Erwin Burden | Electric Generating Utilities | Paul Lock |
| Public #1 | Augustus Campbell | Public #2 | Christina Quintero |
| Coastal Communities | Bob Kosar | River Authorities | Matthew Barrett |
| Municipalities | Paresh Lad | Upper Watershed | Imelda Diaz |
| Industries | Tim Buscha | Environmental Interests | Hanadi Rifai |
| Small Business | Connie Pothier | Water Districts | Alia Vinson |
| Flood Districts | Tina Petersen | Water Utilities | Todd Burrer |
| Agricultural Interests | Elisa Macia Donovan | Small Municipalities | Jildardo Arias |

Motion: A motion was made to approve and reinstate all current voting members whose terms expire on July 10, 2025, for an additional five-year term.

- **Members agreeing to another term:**
 - Erwin Burden
 - Augustus Campbell
 - Bob Kosar
 - Paresh Lad
 - Tim Buscha
 - Connie Pothier
 - Tina Petersen
 - Elisa Macia Donovan
 - **First Motion:** Alia Vinson
 - **Second Motion:** Matthew Barrett
 - Vote: Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain: 0
-

AGENDA ITEM 5: Texas Water Development Board Update Discussion/Action Items:

- TWDB is hosting a technical conference call on September 12th, 2025.
 - All Questions must be submitted to TWDB by September 9th, 2025
-

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 6: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion/Action Items:

- The meeting minutes were not approved in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
 - The May and August meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved at the September 11 meeting.
-

AGENDA ITEM 7: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities.

Discussion/Action Items:

- **Trinity Region (Todd Burrer)** – Progressing along the same path as the RFPG, with particular emphasis on community engagement efforts.
 - **Neches Region (Steve Moon)** – Recently reinstated expired voting members and is currently working through the second planning cycle. Beginning community outreach efforts and may look to collaborate with the San Jacinto Region.
 - **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) (Sally Bakko)** – On July 11, GCPD released two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for engineering services (preliminary design and environmental clearance work) related to the Bolivar Road Gate System and the Bolivar & West Galveston Beach Dune System. Responses are due by August 22.
 - [RFQ-2025-01](#)
 - [RFQ-2025-02](#)
 - **Meeting with GLO on the Sediment Source Study** – Updates provided on sampling; final report expected by fall.
 - **Texas A&M Gate Alternatives Study** – Draft report anticipated in the fall; coordination continues with Houston Pilots as gate system planning advances.
 - **Monthly Meetings with the City of Houston** – Ongoing discussions regarding the dredging of Lake Houston.
 - **Congressman Weber** – Secured a \$5M grant earmarked for a community funding request.
-

AGENDA ITEM 8: Discussion and possible action to appoint additional members to the Technical and/or Public Engagement Committee

Discussion/Action Items:

- **Sally Bakko** volunteered to serve on the Public Engagement Committee.
 - **Motion:** To appoint Sally Bakko to the Public Engagement Committee.
 - **First Motion:** Elisa Donovan

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- **Second Motion:** Erwin Burden
- **Vote:** Yes – 12 | No – 0 | Abstain – 0
- **Result:** Motion approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9: SJRFPG – Technical Committee Report

Discussion/Action Items:

- Technical Committee elected the following officers:
 - **Chair:** Imelda Diaz
 - **Vice Chair:** Larry Goldberg
 - **Secretary:** Augustus Campbell
- **Technical Committee Meeting – July 2, 2025**
 - **Discussion – Task 2A: Existing Condition Flood Risk Analysis**
 - Established data hierarchy to define existing flood risk across the region.
 - **Discussion – Task 4C: Performance of FMEs**
 - **May 2025 (Action Needed):** Select FMEs to perform; discuss Task 2B and 3B.
 - **June/August 2025:** Review results of Task 2A/2B and 3B; consider updates to goals for Task 3C.
 - **September 2025 (Action Needed):** Adopt goals (Task 3C); recommend minimum standards (Task 3A); present list of identified FMXs for recommendation.
 - **November 2025 (Action Needed):** Vote to approve Technical Memo and discuss FIF Technical Assistance ahead of FY26–27 Call for Applications.

AGENDA ITEM 10: SJRFPG – Public Engagement Committee Report

Discussion/Action Items:

- **Public Engagement Committee elected the following officers:**
 - **Chair:** Todd Burrer
 - **Vice Chair:** Paul Lock
 - **Secretary:** Augustus Campbell
- **Technical Consultant Presentation**
 - Deferred to consultant’s slides for details.
- **Website Updates**
 - Enhanced visual design, improved user interface, and mobile-friendly layout.
 - Key features include:
 - Easy access to agendas, meeting minutes, and upcoming events.
 - Technical resources such as Regional Flood Plan amendments, appendices, and technical memoranda.

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- Interactive and visually engaging **StoryMap** with chapter-by-chapter summaries.
- **Communication Plan**
 - Build on first-cycle successes while refining outreach strategies.
 - Utilize diverse communication tools to better serve stakeholders.
 - Increase awareness of RPFPG initiatives and regional flood risk reduction efforts.
 - Align and coordinate media engagement, ensuring a **designated spokesperson** for interviews.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Update from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant on the 2028 Planning Cycle including discussion and possible action to approve Task 2B methodology for defining future conditions flood risk

Discussion/Action Items:

- **Task 2A – Existing Condition Flood Risk Analysis**
 - **2nd Cycle – Technical Consultant Recommendation**
 - **Community Models & Maps** (Atlas 14, Master Drainage Plans, MAAPnext, etc.)
 - 2D BLE models
 - FEMA Detailed NFHL
 - 1D BLE models
 - Fathom data
- **Task 2B – Future Condition Flood Risk Analysis (Action Needed)**
 - **TWDB Goals:**
 - **Flood hazard analysis:** Identify where flooding might occur, how severe it could be, and how often.
 - **Flood exposure analysis:** Determine who and what (people, property, infrastructure) could be affected.
 - **Vulnerability analysis:** Assess the susceptibility of communities and critical facilities to flood damage.
 - **Scope:** RFPGs will evaluate **future flood risk in 2060** for **10-year, 100-year, and 500-year flood events.**
 - **Possible Data Sources:**
 - Future condition Fathom data
 - Future condition community models
 - Modified versions of existing condition models/maps adjusted with factors that affect future flood risk
 - **Approach:**
 - **Northern Zone (north of Harris County):**
 - SJRMDP future models (simulated with future rainfall)
 - 2D BLE models (simulated with future rainfall)
 - 1D BLE models + vertical buffer
 - Future Fathom Scenario 3
 - **Central Zone (Harris County):**
 - MAAPnext models (simulated with future rainfall)

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- Future Fathom Scenario 3
- **Coastal Zone (south and east of Harris County):**
 - 2D GLO models (simulated with future rainfall + sea level rise)
 - 2D BLE models (simulated with future rainfall + sea level rise)
 - Future Fathom Scenario 3
- **Task 3B – Flood Mitigation – Analysis**
 - **TWDB Goal:** Identify locations within the Region that the RFPG determines have the greatest need for flood mitigation and flood risk studies.
 - **Strategy for this cycle is under development**
 - May mirror the previous cycle.
 - Will likely adjust to align with the work being done in Task 3A.
 - **Input and Recommendations**
 - Will seek input from the Technical Committee and the full RFPG Board.
 - Input will likely be needed on how to address identified gaps.
 - The committees can provide recommendations.
 - Efforts are building toward FMX recommendations.
- **Task 3A – Evaluation and Recommendation of Floodplain Management Practices**
 - **2023 Recommended Minimum Standards**
 - Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
 - Development of No Adverse Impact Policies
 - Establishment of Minimum Finished Floor Elevations (FFE)
 - Encourage use of the best available data
 - Compensatory storage requirements in the 1.0% ACE floodplain
 - Compensatory storage requirements in the 0.2% ACE floodplain
 - Development of detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analysis criteria/requirements
 - Incentivizing preservation of the floodplain
 - **Task 3A Schedule**
 - **Collect Survey Responses**
 - **Desktop Analysis**
 - Updated DCMs
 - NFIP and CRS participation
 - TFMA Higher Standards Survey
 - **Review and Compare**
 - 2024 State Flood Plan
 - Other 2023 Regional Flood Plans
 - **Technical Committee**
 - Review data collected
 - Conduct interactive workshop on Minimum Standards
 - **Develop Updated List**
 - Compile updated list of Minimum Standards to distribute to RFPG
 - **Fall 2025**

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- RFPG to recommend and/or adopt Minimum Standards
- **Task 3A Discussion**
 - **May RFPG Meeting:** Continue to recommend minimum standards.
 - **July Technical Committee Meeting:** Five standards proposed for adoption.
 - **Technical Consultant Recommendation:** Continue to recommend standards and propose FMSs in Task 3B.
- **Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals**
 - **Task 3C Overview**
 - Review and track progress towards 1st cycle goals.
 - Update goals for the 2nd cycle.
 - **Task 3C Substantially Completed Goals**
 - **Funding Goal (ID 0002):** Increase state/federal funds by 10% in San Jacinto Region. **Achieved 100%** – \$64.45M committed across 15 FIF projects (as of July 2025).
 - **Studies Goal (ID 0010):** Expand flood risk understanding using NOAA Atlas 14. **Achieved 100%** – Region fully mapped by Atlas 14.
 - **Task 3C Progressing Goals**
 - **Goal ID 0005 – Funding**
 - Increase public entities investing in stormwater infrastructure/planning by 10% by 2033.
 - **Progress:** 6% complete.
 - **Status:** FMEs elevated to FMPs.
 - **Goal ID 0006 – Funding**
 - Increase entities investing in stormwater infrastructure/planning by 25% by 2053.
 - **Progress:** 2% complete.
 - **Status:** FMEs elevated to FMPs.
 - **Goal ID 0007 – Floodplain Management**
 - Ensure all flood regulatory authorities adopt standards ≥ RFPG recommendations by 2033.
 - **Progress:** 82% complete (76 of 93 authorities).
 - **Goal ID 0008 – Outreach & Education**
 - Improve coordination; target 50% stakeholder survey completion by 2033.
 - **Progress:** 23% complete (125 of 1,101 stakeholders).
 - **Goal ID 0009 – Outreach & Education**
 - Improve coordination; target 90% stakeholder survey completion by 2053.
 - **Progress:** 13% complete (125 of 1,101 stakeholders).
 - **Task 3C Goals with No Progress**
 - **Goal ID 0001 – Multiple**
 - Goal: Zero flood-related fatalities annually by 2053.
 - Status: No progress (1 death in Harris County, July 8, 2024).

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- **Goal ID 0003 – Roadways/Early Warning**
 - Goal: Reduce miles of major roadways subject to 100-year flood risk by 10% by 2033.
 - Status: 0% progress.
 - Context: FMPs show potential 45% theoretical reduction (1,949 miles reduced).
- **Goal ID 0004 – Roadways/Early Warning**
 - Goal: Reduce miles of major roadways subject to 100-year flood risk by 25% by 2053.
 - Status: 0% progress.
 - Context: Same data as above – 45% theoretical reduction.
- **Goal ID 0011 – Critical Facilities**
 - Goal: Reduce critical facilities subject to 100-year flood risk by 5% by 2033.
 - Status: 0% progress.
 - Context: FMPs show 76% theoretical reduction (2,425 of 3,185 facilities).
- **Goal ID 0012 – Critical Facilities**
 - Goal: Reduce critical facilities subject to 100-year flood risk by 20% by 2053.
 - Status: 0% progress.
 - Context: Same as above – 76% theoretical reduction.
- **Goal ID 0013 – Nature-based**
 - Goal: 35% of FMSs/FMPs incorporate nature-based practices by 2033.
 - Status: 0% progress.
- **Goal ID 0014 – Nature-based**
 - Goal: 90% of FMSs/FMPs incorporate nature-based practices by 2053.
 - Status: 0% progress.
- **Goal ID 0015 – Structures/Population**
 - Goal: Reduce structures subject to 100-year flood risk by 25% by 2053.
 - Status: 0% progress.
 - Context: FMPs show 30% theoretical reduction (71,812 of 240,093).
- **Task 4c – Performance of FMEs**
 - **Technical Consultant outreach to sponsors results**
 - **18 sponsors contacted.**
 - **8 FMEs confirmed interested** (by 6 unique sponsors).
 - **56 FMEs advanced** by sponsor or deemed not interested.
 - **49 FMEs pending** sponsor feedback.
 - **12 sponsors left to contact.**
 - **Task 4C Key Takeaways**

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- Coordination ongoing with sponsors of the 8 confirmed FMEs.
 - FMEs will not be performed until approved by RFPG.
 - Many FMEs have already been performed by sponsors.
 - Sponsor needs have shifted since the last cycle.
 - Additional FME confirmations expected through continued coordination.
 - The Technical Consultant team will propose alternative actions if the budget is underutilized.
 - Project is ahead of schedule; one-on-one outreach underway to educate sponsors on RFP and assess needs.
 - **Confirmed FMEs & Costs**
 - League City – Nottingham Ditch Stormwater Improvement – \$50K
 - Brazoria County – Camp Mohawk County Park Development – \$30K
 - Manvel – Flora St. Drainage Improvements – \$100K
 - Kemah – Widen Drainage Systems & Culverts – \$100K
 - Cleveland – Downtown Drainage Line Installation – \$50K
 - Harris County Flood Control District – Little Cypress Creek Frontier Program – \$30K
 - City of League City – Interurban & Newport Ditch Improvements – \$50K
 - City of Houston – Cottage Grove East Drainage/Paving (Phases I & II) – \$60K
- Total Confirmed Cost: \$470,000**
- **Future Meeting Dates & Content**
 - **Aug 2025 – RFPG Meeting**
 - Review progress of Tasks 2A/2B.
 - Task 3B Needs Analysis.
 - Consider updates to goals (Task 3C).
 - **Sep 2025 – RFPG Meeting (Action Needed)**
 - Review progress of Task 2A/2B.
 - Adopt Goals (Task 3C).
 - Recommend Minimum Standards (Task 3A).
 - Present list of potentially feasible FMXs identified this cycle.
 - **Sep/Oct 2025 – Technical Committee Meeting**
 - Present results of Task 2A/2B.
 - Provide input on Needs Analysis (Task 3B).
 - Prioritized List of FMEs for TWDB to perform (Due Mar 2026).
 - **Oct 2025 – Public Engagement Committee Meeting**
 - Approve planning for Public Meeting Series (Q1 2026).
 - **Nov 2025 – RFPG Meeting (Action Needed)**
 - Vote to approve Tech Memo.
 - Discuss FIF Technical Assistance ahead of FY26–27 Call for Apps.
 - **Jan 2026 – RFPG Meeting**
 - Focus on FMEs for RFPG and TWDB to perform this cycle.

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
August 14, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

- Planning for Q1 2026 Public Meeting Series.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- **Discussion/Action Items:**

- Next Meeting will be September 11th
- Technical Committee meeting report
- Public Engagement Committee Meeting Report

AGENDA ITEM 12: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

- **Discussion/Action Items:**

- None

AGENDA ITEM 13: Adjournment

- **Discussion/Action Items:**

- The meeting was adjourned 10:15 am

MEETING END TIME: 10:15 am

Erwin Burden, Secretary

Tim Buscha, Chair