

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group

May 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM

United Way of Greater Houston: 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, Texas 77007

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> <u>(Executive Committee Role)</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Timothy E. Buscha	Industries (Chair)	X
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	X
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	
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	X
Hanadi Rifai	Environmental Interests	X
Paresh Lad	Municipalities	X
Jildardo Arias	Small Municipalities	X
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Samantha Haritos	Coastal Communities	*Hank Dugie
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	X
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	
Nicholas Collins	Texas Water Development Board	X
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	*Amanda Ashcroft
Sarah Alvarez	Texas Department of Transportation	X
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	

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<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	
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
Allison Hand	FNI	X
Tanner Helweg	FNI	X
Ericka Reyes	FNI	X
Connor Stokes	Hollaway Environmental Communications	X
Jamila Johnson	WPM	X
Ray Hernandez	Partnership Lake Houston	X
Rachel Herr	Halff	X
John Millar	TDEM	X
Mary Anne Piacentini	Coastal Prairie Conservancy	X
Ricardo Villagrand	City of Huntsville	X

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Saad Hassan	Office of the County Engineer	X
Timothy Williams	Office of the County Engineer	X
Elizabeth Machuca	Office of the County Engineer	X

Quorum:

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: (13) total

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 16: 8

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AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

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

AGENDA ITEM 2: Welcome and Roll Call

- Roll call was conducted.
- A quorum was established.
- Sarah Alvarez replaced Ellie Alkhoury as the TxDOT non-voting member.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items

Discussion/Action Items:

- No public comments were received, either in person or online.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Update

Discussion/Action Items:

- Nicholas Collins – Board approved the Second Amended 2023 Regional Flood Plans for Regions 1 and 3-15 on March 31, 2026.
- Task 5b items currently under review; TWDB will reach out with requests for information and will update when goals are administratively complete.
- Technical Memorandums for all RFPGs are under review, with formal comments expected to be delivered this summer.
- RFPG upcoming chair conference call, TBD this summer.
- Newsletter sent out March 25th; can be found online.
- TWDB met with GCPD and GLO to discuss current funding opportunities. Discussed upcoming community outreach event; SJRFPG may be interested in collaboration.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion/Action Items:

- The **March 10, 2026 meeting minutes** were reviewed.
- Comments by Matthew Barrett (non-substantial corrections identified)
- **Motion:** Approve the **March 10, 2026** meeting minutes with noted revisions.
 - First: Alia Vinson
 - Second: Jildardo Arias
 - **Vote:** Yes – Unanimous
- **Motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM 6: SJRFPG Officer Elections – Discussion, possible action, and consideration of nominations for the RFPG Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Discussion/Action Items:

- Notice of Agenda Item regarding selection of regular board officers posted on April 9, 2026.

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- Existing officers are willing to continue service, but Tim Buscha opened floor for nominations.
- Motion: Approve the current slate of officers (Buscha, Vinson, Burden) to continue for 2026.
 - First: Elisa Macia Donovan
 - Second: Connie Pothier
 - **Vote:** Yes – Unanimous
- **Motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM 7: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Regions Progress/Status and Other Related Entities

Discussion/Action Items:

- Sally Bakko (GCPD liaison) – present. Tim Buscha made comments for other regions.
 - a) **Trinity Region RFPG** – Public Meetings are complete.
 - b) **Neches Region RFPG** – N/A
 - c) **Lower Brazos RFPG** – N/A
 - d) **Region H RWPG** – Regional Water Plan approved; 7th round cycle has begun.
 - e) **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** –
 - President signed the Appropriations Bill for the FY2026. Includes a \$5M funding request from Congressman Webber.
 - FY26 work plan for USACE – additional \$1.75M.
 - GCPD also has a line item in the President’s FY27 Budget. Submitting a request for \$27M to be spearheaded by Congressman Webber.
 - Preliminary engineering contracts have been executed for two projects.
 - Bolivar project at 90% design.
 - Working with the Greater Houston Partnership/Port Houston, met with Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. They are working on another Water Resources Development Act reauthorization.
 - Met with Representative Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman of House of Appropriations subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.
 - GCPD Communications team is developing a newsletter and organizing advisory groups (Industry and Environmental)

AGENDA ITEM 8: Presentation by the TWDB consultant developing the Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Resilience Guidance Manual

Discussion/Action Items:

- Allison Hand presenting. FNI is partnering with TWDB and The Nature Conservancy to develop this guidance manual. Slides can be found at <https://sanjacintofloodplanning.org/meetings/>.

AGENDA ITEM 9: SJRFPG Technical Committee Report; Discussion and Possible Action for Nominations of Additional Members to Serve on the SJRFPG Working Subcommittees

Discussion/Action Items:

- Per Tim Buscha, Samantha Haritos asked to serve on the Technical Committee in a supporting role.
- Motion: The Nomination of Samantha Haritos to the SJRFPG Technical Committee.
 - First: Jildardo Arias
 - Second: Elisa Donovan
 - **Vote:** Yes – Unanimous

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- **Motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM 10: SJRFPG Public Engagement Committee Report

Discussion/Action Items:

- Information from Public Meetings will be shared via report in Agenda Item 11.
- Tim Buscha attended a public meeting; will hear from a group of stakeholders in Humble May 21st for additional public engagement.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Update from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant on the 2028 Planning Cycle including discussion on the following:

- Review of Draft Chapters 1 and 2**
 - Public Meeting Series Review**
 - Small/Rural Communities FME Program**
 - Task 4C Modeling Updates**
- Tanner Helweg (FNI) presenting. Draft Chapters 1 and 2 are posted on the website for review; comments requested by June 12th, send to the technical committee - SJRFPG.TechCon@freese.com
 - Task 4C – making progress; remaining budget to be utilized on approved ranked FME list; expect to elevate as many FMEs as possible to FMPs for inclusion in the upcoming state flood plan.
 - Task 5B – officially kicked off by TWDB; 2 FMEs are authorized to begin; program has been well received by the region.
 - Q1 Public Meetings – Connor Stokes (Hollaway) presenting. Reviewed meeting format and materials, locations and attendance, feedback, and future milestones.
 - Total of 61 attendees over all 5 meetings
 - Survey comments from meetings mostly on Flood Prone Areas (35)
 - 38 total comments received
 - Public meetings series also upcoming for draft RFP
 - Tim Buscha commented regarding consideration of additional outreach/engagement. Per FNI, there will be additional rounds of public meetings.
 - Reminder of July 2nd FMX deadline
 - Discussion regarding more effective communication methods.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Discussion on Date/Time/Location of Future Planning Group Meetings

Discussion/Action Items:

- The next three meetings will be held at United Way of Greater Houston:
 - August 18, 2026
 - September 8, 2026
 - November 10, 2026
- Members were reminded to send alternates if they cannot attend.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Discussion/Action Items:

- Next Meeting: Tuesday August 18th at **9:00 AM**.

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- Item 6 (Officer Elections) can be removed from agenda.
- Item 4 (TWDB Updates) may or may not be removed but will be done in advance of meeting.
- Technical Committee and Public Engagement Committee Reports
- Technical Consultant should speak on memorandum and any other new activities.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Public Comments

- Sally Bakko – Observation on Nature Based Solutions manual; grateful for the hybrid approach in consideration regarding flooding, especially in Galveston area. Just completed a GLO-funded beach project, another is in planning stages.
- Ralph De Leon – Thanking group for service and expressed appreciation for Kingwood meeting with Bob Rehak.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned **at 10:17 AM.**
-

Timothy E. Buscha, Chair

Erwin Burden, Secretary