**Meeting Minutes**
**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting**
**Thursday, August 20, 2026, 2:30 p.m.**

| Voting Member | Interest Category | Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*) |
|---|---|---|
| Milton Purvis | Agricultural | Present |
| Jeff Branick | Counties | Absent |
| Liv Haselbach | Electric Generating Utilities | Present |
| Ellen Buchanan | Environmental | Present |
| Allen Sims | Flood Districts | Present |
| Steve Moon | Industries | Present |
| Kyle Kingma | Municipalities | Absent |
| Amanda Young | Public | Present |
| Scott Hall | River Authorities | Present |
| Brian McDougal | Small Business | Absent |
| Butch Wilson | Water Districts | Present |
| Robb Starr | Water Utilities | Present |

| Non-voting Member | Agency | Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*) |
|---|---|---|
| Kirian Brown | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department | Absent |
| Michelle Ellis (Matthew Holloway) | Texas Division of Emergency Management | Absent |
| Manuel Martinez | Texas Department of Agriculture | Absent |
| Trey Watson | Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board | Absent |
| Cydnye Robinson | Texas General Land Office | Absent |
| Katie Pietsch Koslan | Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) | Present |
| Kathy Sauceda | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality | Absent |
| Lisa McCracken Mairs | US Army Corps of Engineers | Absent |
| Keith Horn | Texas Department of Transportation | Alternate Present |
| Jacob Donellan | Federal Public Lands | Absent |
| Randy Reece | Sabine Neches Navigation District | Absent |

| Liaisons | Entity | Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*) |
|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Spellman | Region 3. Trinity RFPG | Absent |
| Don Carona | Region 4. Sabine RFPG | Alternate Present |
| Vacant | Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG | Absent |
| Rolando Ayala | Freese & Nichols, Inc. | Present |
| Lincoln Abbott | Freese & Nichols, Inc. | Present |
| Risa King | Lower Neches Valley Authority | Present |
| Victoria Dai | Lower Neches Valley Authority | Absent |

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**
Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 9
Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 12:7
The names of meeting attendees were gathered from those who entered information to join the virtual meeting and those who were physically present.

Chaitanya Desai , Texas Department of Transportation
Doug Manning, Region 4. Sabine RFPG
Jennifer Leonard, HDR
Emily Stephens, FNI
Kevin Wessels, TWDB
Aaron Burciaga

*All meeting materials are available for the public at:* https://nechesfloodplanning.org/

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call**

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.
- A quorum was established.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items.**

Discussion/Action Items

- There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Update from Texas Water Development Board.**

Discussion/Action Items

- Second-cycle regional flood planning progress and development of the 2028 Regional Flood Plan.
- TWDB review and informal comments on Technical Memorandums.
- Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs) for small and rural communities.
- Updates to the 2026–2027 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) Intended Use Plan.
- Changes to project eligibility, prioritization, grant funding, and application requirements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting.**

Discussion/Action Items

- This item was tabled.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from Technical Consultant**

a. **Overview of comments received on the Technical Memorandum**
b. **Update on Task 4C (Performance of FMEs)**
c. **Update on Task 7 (Flood Response Information and Activities)**
d. **Update Task 8 (Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations)**
e. **Update on Task 9 (Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis)**

Discussion/Action Items

- The Consultant Team updated the Region 5 Neches Regional Flood Plan, covering Texas Water Development Board feedback and ongoing Flood Management Evaluations. Potential mitigation measures in seven communities include roadway and structure elevations, drainage upgrades, and detention projects.
- The team also reviewed flood response and recovery activities, proposed legislative, regulatory, and administrative recommendations for the second planning cycle, and potential flood infrastructure funding sources and associated challenges. Upcoming work includes continued evaluation of flood mitigation alternatives, incorporation of technical comments, public input, and development of draft plan chapters.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Public Comment**

Discussion/Action Items

- There were none

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from other flood planning region liaisons.**

Discussion/Action Items

- Reports from other flood planning regions indicated similar progress and scheduling.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.**

Discussion/Action Items

- Upcoming meeting dates and topics were shared.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider the meeting date for the next meeting.**

Discussion/Action Items

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider possible agenda items for the next meeting.**

Discussion/Action Items

- Tentative agenda items include finalizing the goals and recommendations for the Region 5 Neches Regional Flood Plan.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Adjourn**

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Scott Hall, Secretary

Steve Moon, Chair