

Region 5. Neches Flood Planning Group Meeting
via Publicly Accessible Videoconference
(details below)

February 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84017865361?pwd=cW5DSjBndFlWcDAxNWZzVGxCZ0VtQT09>

Audio ONLY may be heard at:
Telephone Conference Phone Number: +1 346 248 7799
Meeting ID: 840 1786 5361
Passcode: 457671

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Approve minutes of the January 07, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting
3. TWDB update and presentation – Scope of Work
4. Consider recommendations from the Consultant Selection Review Committee for the Request for Statements of Qualifications received from firms offering professional engineering consulting services in conjunction with development of a regional flood plan for the Neches River Basin.
5. Pre-planning Public Comment – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies to consider during the flood planning cycle/development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).
 - a. Public comments (limited to three (3) minutes per speaker)
6. Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons
7. Consider domain name options available for Region 5 website
8. Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)
 - a. March 11, 2021
9. Consider possible agenda items for next meeting
10. Adjourn

If you wish to provide oral public comments at the meeting, please email Risa Barber, Information Specialist, at risa.barber@lnva.dst.tx.us no later than one (1) hour prior to the posted meeting time on the date of the meeting.

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to risa.barber@lnva.dst.tx.us and include “Region 5 Neches Flood Planning Group Meeting” in the subject line of the email.

If you choose to participate via the live webinar, you WILL have the opportunity to provide comments during the designated portion of the meeting. Please use the webinar link posted at the top of the agenda to access the meeting.

If you choose to participate via the conference call number provided, you WILL NOT have the opportunity to provide comments during the designated portion of the meeting. The conference call phone number is provided for LISTENING PURPOSES ONLY.

The Region 5 Neches Flood Planning Group will hold a public meeting via webinar pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.127, as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions in accordance with the Governor's March 13, 2020 proclamation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Risa Barber at: (409) 892-4011 or by email at: risa.barber@lnva.dst.tx.us

Physical location: 7850 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Tx 77708

**Region 5. Neches Regional
Flood Planning Group Meeting**

February 11, 2021
1:00 PM

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 1.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Call to Order

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 2.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Approve minutes of the January 07, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting
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Background:

Recommendation:

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, January 07, 2021
1:00 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Brent Heironimus	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	x
Jeff Branick	<i>Counties</i>	x
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	x
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Stan Mathews	<i>Small business</i>	()
Joseph G. Majdalani	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	x

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Bregan Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	()
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones (Shonda Mace)	General Land Office	(*)
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **11**

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 12: 7

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Matt Nelson, TWDB (Meeting Facilitator)
 Ryan Ard, LNVA
 Dawn Pilcher, LJA
 Risa Barber, LNVA
 Morgan White, TWDB
 Mike Cornelius

Philip Taucor, Freese & Nichols
 Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols
 Don Carona, Sabine RFPG
 Kate Osborn, LNVA
 Helena Mosser
 Stephanie Castillo

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the ZOOM meeting.

All meeting materials are available for the public at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Jeff Branick called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance, and a quorum was established.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

The Chair, Jeff Branick, struck this item in lieu of an additional opportunity on the agenda for Public Comment toward the end of the meeting (Item 17).

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approve minutes of the October 28, 2020 Region 5. Neches RFPG Meeting

The Chair requested the Group review the minutes of the October 28, 2020, Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group. The Chairman asked for any corrections, additions or revisions.

Dr. Liv Haselbach noted that Dr. Joe Madjdalani was listed as an attendee twice. Other than that error there were no other corrections, additions or revisions.

Upon a motion by Robb Starr, seconded by Ellen Buchanan and the unanimous vote of all Group members present the October 28, 2020, Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group minutes were approved.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: TWDB Update and Presentation

Richard Bagans, TWDB, presented Flooding 101, a basic understanding of watersheds and floodplains, and an overview of the request for applications and contract details.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider nominating and electing RFPG Officers to serve as Vice Chair and Secretary

- a. Nominations for Vice Chair by members**
- b. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Vice Chair**
- c. Nominations for Secretary by members**
- d. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Secretary**

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chair position. Dr. Liv Haselbach nominated Dr. Joe Madjdalani for Vice Chair and the motion was seconded by Scott Hall. No other nominations were received.

The vote to select Dr. Joe Madjdalani as Vice Chair of Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group passed unanimously by all members present.

The Chair then opened up the floor for nominations for Secretary. Steve Moon nominated Scott Hall for the position of Secretary with a second from Dr. Liv Haselbach. No other nominations were presented from the Group.

The vote to select Scott Hall as Secretary for Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group was passed unanimously by all members present.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider nominating and electing two (2) voting members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee alongside the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

a. Nominations for two Executive Committee members-at-large by members

b. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Executive Committee members-at-large

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for two (2) additional voting members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee alongside the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Dr. Joe Madjdalani nominated Dr. Liv Haselbach and Scott Hall nominated Steve Moon to serve as voting members-at-large. Robb Starr seconded both nominations. The Chair called for any additional nominations. There were none.

The vote to approve Dr. Liv Haselbach and Steve Moon as additional voting members-at-large was approved unanimously by all members present.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider nominating and electing a liaison(s) to Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine RFPGs (Required §361.11.f(9))

The Chair opened the floor for nomination for Group members to serve as liaisons with Region 3. Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group and Region 4. Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group.

Scott Hall nominated Dr. Liv Haselbach to serve as the Region 4. Sabine liaison. Dr. Haselbach deferred since she is also on the Executive Committee. The Chair asked for interest among individuals not named to other positions to serve as liaisons to the other RFPGs.

John Beard, Jr. volunteered to serve as the Region 4. Sabine liaison. There were no other motions for Region 4. Sabine liaisons and the Group voted unanimously to approve John Beard, Jr. as the Region 4. Sabine RFPG liaison.

Scott Hall volunteered to serve as the Region 3. Trinity liaison if there were no other interested Group members. Ellen Buchanan offered to serve as the Region 3. Trinity RFPG liaison. There being no other nominations for Region 3, the Group voted unanimously to approve Ellen Buchanan as the Region 3 liaison.

The Chair then directed the liaisons to coordinate accordingly with the RFPGs to ensure there were no meeting conflicts.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider addition of non-voting positions necessary to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region

The Chair opened the floor for consideration of additional non-voting members with a vested interest in the region. Dr. Haselbach recommended the Texas Department of Transportation. Scott Hall suggested including InFRM (Interagency Flood Risk Management) representation as a non-voting member as well as the Big Thicket National Preserve, the Sabine-Neches Navigation District, and neighboring gulf coast regions. Ellen Buchanan recommended Public Lands be included as a non-voting member of the Group.

The Chair clarified the Group recommended adding four (4) additional non-voting positions. The Group conducted a roll call vote and voted unanimously to solicit nominations from Texas Department of Transportation, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Sabine-Neches Navigation District, and Public Lands.

LNVA (Group Sponsor) will solicit agencies for representatives to serve as non-voting members.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider addition of voting positions necessary to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region

Members discussed the addition of new voting members. It was agreed there was adequate regional representation of voting members within the group currently, but the item was left open for future consideration should the need arise.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider nominating and electing representative(s) to fill additional voting position(s) created

Item was tabled and no action was taken.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update from RFPG Sponsor on status of Regional Flood Planning Grant Contract with TWDB

- a. Discussion on status of application for Regional Flood Planning Grant funds**
- b. Discussion on Scope of Work posted with TWDB RFA**
- c. Discussion of technical consultant procurement process**

Ryan Ard delivered a brief update on progress and reviewed the entirety of the application located in the board packet materials. All requirements for submitting the application are fulfilled and will be submitted prior to the January 21, 2021 deadline.

The Chair asked for any comments, and Steve Moon commended LNVA on the package and Ellen Buchanan concurred.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider establishing and appointing members to a Consultant Selection Review Committee for purpose of screening responses to the RFQ

Jeff Branick opened discussion to consider establishing and appointing members to review Statements of Qualifications and to make a recommendation to the full board.

Scott Hall, Steve Moon, Dr. Joe Madjdalani, Robb Starr and John Beard, Jr. all volunteered to serve on the Selection Review Committee to screen RFQ responses.

The Group unanimously approved the Selection Review Committee members.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discuss and consider a means by which the RFPG will develop and host a public website (Required §361.21(b))

The Chair opened discussion on development of a public website for the Region 5. RFPG. Risa Barber presented options for hosting the website.

Dr. Liv Haselbach suggested the Group use its own identifiable URL. Directive was given to proceed with identifying available URLs for the RFPG to review at the February meeting.

14. AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Discuss and consider a means by which the RFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (Required §361.21(c))

The Group directed the RFPG website should have a means for receiving and routing requests for public comment/participation in future meetings once the RFPG website is live.

15. AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities to be notified of RFPG activities (Required 361.21(e))

The Group agreed the RFPG website should also have a means for collecting requests from the general public wishing to receive Region 5 RFPG notifications.

16. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Consider adoption of calendar meetings for 2021

The following dates were provided for 2021 meetings:

February 11
March 11
April 8
June 10
August 12
October 14
December 9

The dates were approved by the entire Group provided there was no conflict with Region 3 and 4 RFPG meeting dates and times.

17. Public comments

There were none

18. Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items. It was determined TWDB would deliver a Scope of Work presentation in February.

The Consultant Selection Review Committee would also aim for delivering a recommendation to the full group for consideration.

It was also noted that a minimum of two (2) pre-planning meetings are required (TWC 16.062.d) to solicit public input for inclusion in the next regional flood plan. It was suggested an agenda item be included in the February and April RFPG meetings accordingly.

19. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on February 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM at a location to be determined.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Jeff Branick, CHAIR

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 3.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

TWDB update and presentation – Scope of Work

Background:

Recommendation:

Texas Water Development Board Flood Planning Presentation

RFPG Responsibilities:
Scope Of Work Overview
(20-25 minutes)

General Document Cross-Reference

Regional Flood Planning Contract Document References			2023 Regional Flood Plan Chapter, Associated TAC Sections, and Content		
TWDB Contract Reimbursement Accounting Number ('CAS')	Exhibit A - Contract SOW Task	Exhibit C - General Guidelines for Regional Flood Plan Development	Regional Flood Plan Chapter Number	Primary TAC Section	General Content
1	1	1	1	§361.30; §361.31; §361.32	Planning Area Description
2	2A	2	2	361.33	Existing Condition Flood Risk Analyses
3	2B			361.34	Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses

Task 1 – Planning Area Description



Llano dam on the Llano river sits on the banks of the county seat.

Image: TWDB

A general description of the region, including:

- social & economic character
- flood-prone areas, types of major flood risks, and key historical flood events
- political subdivisions with flood related authority
- the extent of local regulation and development codes relevant to flooding
- existing or proposed natural flood mitigation features and constructed major flood infrastructure

Task 2A & 2B – Existing & Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses

Perform existing and future condition **flood hazard analyses** to determine the location and magnitude of both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events



Develop existing & future condition **flood exposure analyses** to identify who and what might be harmed for both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events.

Perform existing & future condition **vulnerability analyses** to identify vulnerabilities of communities and critical facilities

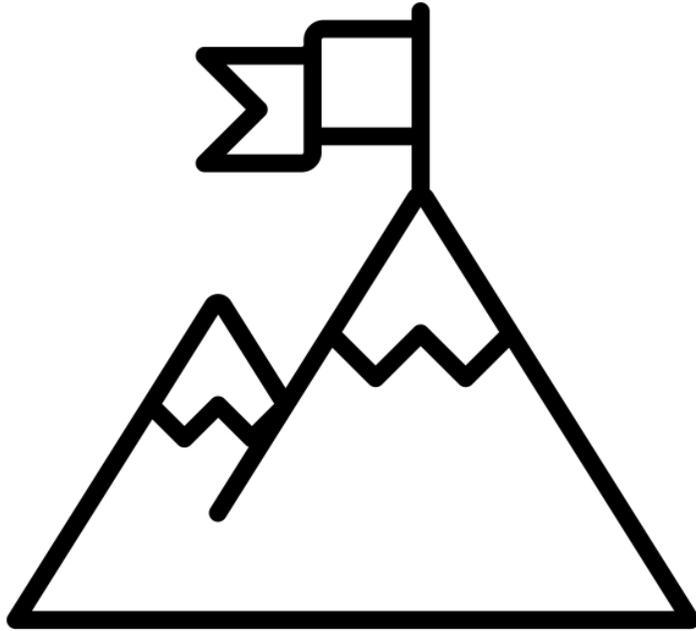
Task 3A – Evaluation & Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices

- Consider how current floodplain management practices or regulations increase flood risks.
- Consider how the 1.0% annual chance floodplain and associated flood risks may change over time.
- Consider adopting minimum floodplain management/land use standards that an entity must adopt prior to including any evaluations, projects, or strategies in the regional flood plan.



West Fork San Jacinto River near Humble, Texas after Hurricane Harvey
Image: Steve Fitzgerald, Harris County Flood Control District

Task 3B – Flood Mitigation & Floodplain Management Goals

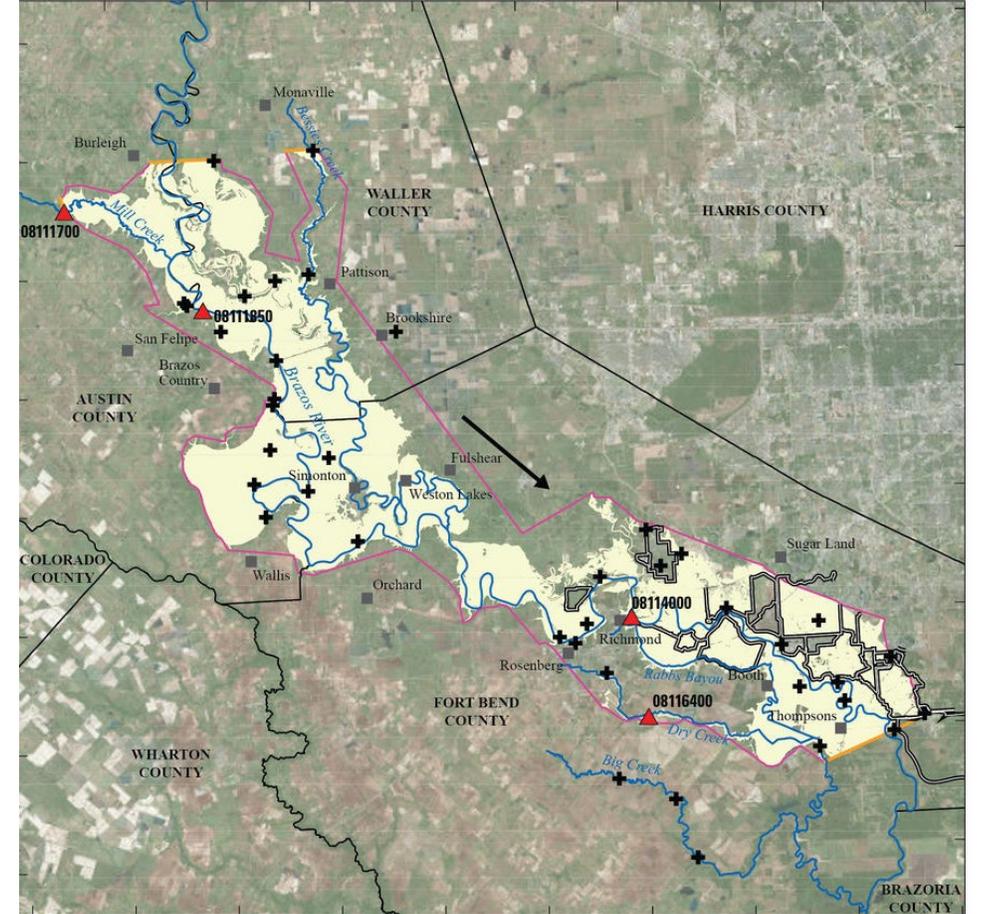


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- Identify specific and achievable flood mitigation and floodplain management goals
 - Short (10 year) & Long-Term (30 year)
- State the levels of residual flood risk after goals are fully met.

Task 4A – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

- Identify locations within the region that have the greatest flood mitigation and flood risk study needs.
- Based on the analyses and goals developed by the RFPG under Tasks 2A through 3B

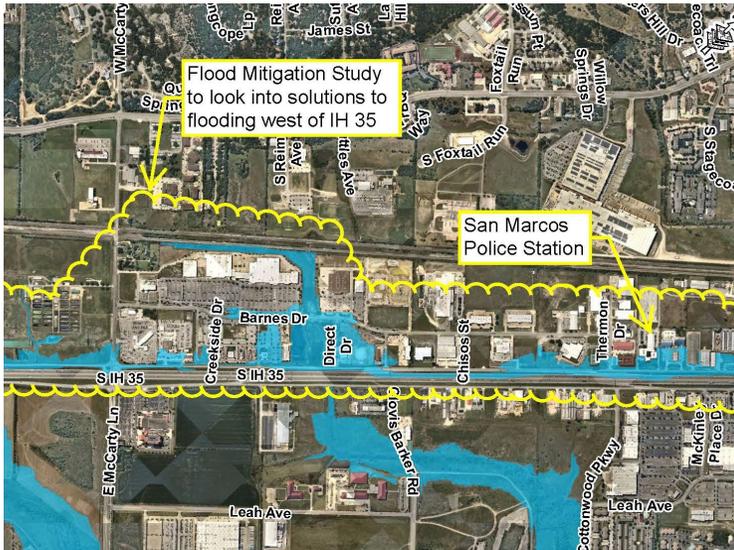


Map of inundated areas (yellow areas) on the lower Brazos River after Hurricane Harvey
Image: USGS

Key Terms for Tasks 4 & 5: FME, FMP, FMS

Flood Management Evaluation (FME)

- A proposed flood study of a specific, flood-prone area that is needed in order to assess flood risk and/or determine whether there are potentially feasible FMSs or FMPs.



Cottonwood Creek Flood Study, San Marcos, TX.

Image: City of San Marcos

Flood Management Strategy (FMS)

- A proposed plan to reduce flood risk or mitigate flood hazards to life or property (may or may not require associated FMPs to be implemented).



Exploration Green project, Clear Lake City, TX

Image: Texas Water Resources Institute

Flood Mitigation Project (FMP)

- A proposed project (structural and non-structural) that when implemented will reduce flood risk, mitigate flood hazards to life or property.

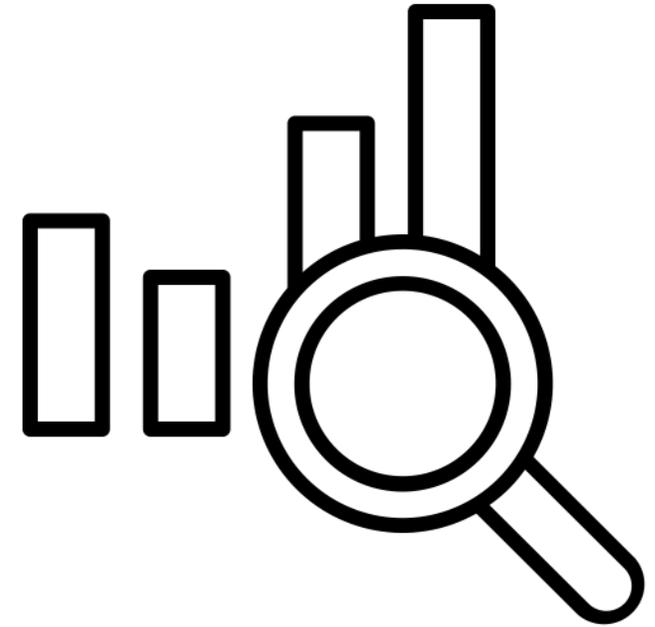


El Paso storm water project, El Paso, TX

Image: El Paso Water

Task 4B – Identification and Evaluation of Potential FMEs & Potentially Feasible FMSs and FMPs

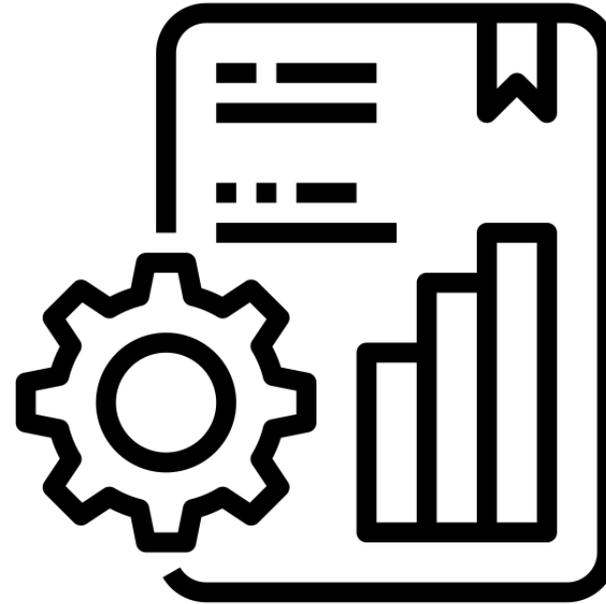
- Identify potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on process developed with public input
- Evaluate potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on a variety of factors described in rules and guidance.
- The FMPs should be permittable, constructible and implementable



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Task 4C – Prepare and Submit Technical Memorandum

- Include all deliverables from Tasks 1 to 4B detailed in the Scope of Work
- TWDB Guidance Document will provide more information.
- Tentative Due Date: January 2022



Created by Komkrit Noenpoempisut
from Noun Project

Task 5 – Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs & FMPs

- Recommend FMEs that are most likely to identify potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on evaluations under Task 4B
- Recommend FMSs and FMPs to reduce the impacts of flood based on evaluations under Task 4B
- Recommendations should be based on comparison of alternatives



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from Noun Project

Regional & State Flood Planning Long-Range Planning Process



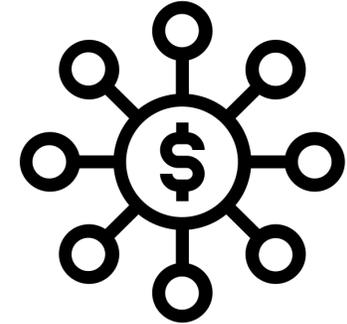
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Regional Flood Plans will identify flood risk and recommend FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs within regions.



Created by Creative Stall
from Noun Project

State Flood Plan will rank recommended FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs statewide.



Created by Alice Design
from Noun Project

Future state financial assistance may be allocated using a to-be-determined prioritization criteria.*

*Funding to implement projects can also come from local, federal, or other sources.

Task 6A – Impacts of Regional Flood Plan

- Summarize the relative reduction in flood risk that implementation of the plan would achieve.
- Describe impacts of recommended FMSs and FMPs on environment, agriculture, recreation, water quality, erosion, sedimentation, and navigation.
- State that FMPs will not negatively affect neighboring areas.



Crops in the lower Rio Grande Valley
Image: TWDB



Recreational boating.
Image: TWDB



Dolan Falls
Image: TWDB

Task 6B – Impacts on Water Supply

- Summarize how Regional Flood Plan will affect water supply.
- How would FMSs and FMPs contribute to water supply?
- How would FMSs and FMPs impact water supply, availability, or projects in the State Water Plan?



© Texas Water Development Board

Task 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities

- Summarize existing flood response preparations.
- Coordinate with entities in the region to gather information
- RFPGs do not perform analyses or other activities related to disaster response or recovery.



Texas State Guard Hurricane Harvey emergency response.

Image: Texas State Guard

Task 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

- Develop policy recommendations to implement and achieve the RFBG's stated goals and plans.
- Consider potential new revenue-raising opportunities to fund flood activities in the region.



Image: TWDB

Task 9 – Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis

- Survey and report on how sponsors propose to finance recommended FMEs and FMPs
- Include recommendations on the proposed role of the State in financing FMEs and FMPs



Dam on the Llano River under Hwy 16 in Llano, Texas.

Image: TWDB

Task 10 – Public Participation & Plan Adoption

Administrative activities not included in other tasks, including:

- Meeting preparations, notices, agendas, materials, minutes, presentations, public meetings, and public comments
- Website creation and maintenance
- Intraregional and interregional coordination and communication to develop the regional flood plan.



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB



Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

Questions? Comments?

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 4.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Consider recommendations from the Consultant Selection Review Committee for the Request for Statements of Qualifications received from firms offering professional engineering consulting services in conjunction with development of a regional flood plan for the Neches River Basin.

Background:

The Consultant Selection Review Committee (the “Committee”) met in the Offices of LNVA on January 27, 2021 to review and discuss submissions received in response to the Region 5. Neches RFPG Request for Qualifications for a technical consultant. Three (3) firms submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQ). The three (3) firms included Freese & Nichols, Walter P. Moore, and LJA Engineering. After review of the written SOQs, the Committee requested that all three firms interview before the Committee on February 9, 2011 for final consideration prior to preparing a recommendation for the full RFPG Group.

Firms are scheduled to present and interview before the Committee on February 9, 2021 at the offices of Drainage District 6. Notice of the subcommittee meeting was duly posted and the invited firms were provided with specific discussion topics to address in their presentations. The Committee will report the outcome of the interviews to the full RFPG Group at the regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, 2021.

Recommendation:

The Committee will make a recommendation for consultant selection to the full RFPG Group at the regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, 2021.

Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 5.0

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Pre-planning Public Comment – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies to consider during the flood planning cycle/development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).

Background:

Provide background on formation of RFPGs and the Regional Flood Planning process.

Gather suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered in development of regional flood plan.

There will be many opportunities public involvement:

- Public comments are received at every RFPG meeting
- There will be at least one meeting for the public to comment on a flood risk summary map to identify any flood risk not captured
- There will be at least two public pre-planning meetings to receive feedback and gather general suggestions
- The public will get to comment on the draft regional flood plan, once developed

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 6.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 7.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Consider domain name options available for Region 5 website

Background:

Available names as of last week include:

NechesRFPG.com	NechesRFPG.org
Region5NechesRFPG.com	Region5NechesRFPG.org
Region5RFPG.com	Region5RFPG.org
NechesFloodPlanning.com	NechesFLoodPLanning.org
Nechesflood.com	Nechesflood.org
NechesFloodPlanningGroup.com	NechesFloodPlanning.org

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 8.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)

Background:

March 11, 2021

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 9.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 10.0**

Meeting Date: February 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Adjourn

Background:

Recommendation: