

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

March 11, 2021
1:00 PM

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

March 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84101643277?pwd=My8rWEhzdjdFSTB4NHkwNWc0VDhlUT09>

Audio ONLY may be heard at:

Telephone Conference Phone Number: +1 346 248 7799

Meeting ID: 841 0164 3277

Passcode: 721365

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Approve minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meeting and the February 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting
3. Update from Texas Water Development Board
4. Update on status of TWDB Sponsor contract and Technical Consultant contract
5. Update on status on non-voting member solicitations
6. Discussion of visions and principles for the watershed
7. Discussion on existing 39 guidance principles stipulated by Title 31, Part 10 TAC Ch. 362 and potentially editing the Scope of Work to ensure the technical consultant addresses natural and nature-based flood mitigation projects and strategies
8. Consider nominating and electing a liaison(s) to Region 6. San Jacinto
9. Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons
10. Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)
 - a. April 08, 2021
11. Consider possible agenda items for next meeting
12. Public Comment
13. 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
Agenda Item 1.0**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Call to Order

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Approve minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meeting and the February 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting
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Background:

Recommendation:

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group
Consultant Selection Review Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 27, 2021
1:00 PM

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Joseph G. Majdalani (Joe)	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	x

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Discussion regarding Statements of Qualification received offering professional engineering consulting services for the development of a regional flood plan.

Three firms submitted Statements of Qualification by the January 26, 2021, deadline. Subcommittee members received copies of the submissions for review prior to the meeting. Discussion amongst members included detailing the requirements set forth in Texas Government Code §2254 when procuring professional engineering services.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Consider next meeting date/time for the Consultant Selection Review Subcommittee

February 09, 2021 at 1pm at

Drainage District 6 - 6550 Walden Road, Beaumont, Texas 77707

4. Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Consultant Selection Review Committee determined submitting firms would be invited to interview and present at the next scheduled Subcommittee meeting on February 09, 2021.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM by Joe Madjdalani.

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

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group
Consultant Selection Review Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
1:00 PM

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Joseph G. Majdalani (Joe)	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	x

Other Meeting Attendees:

Ryan Ard, LNVA
Dawn Pilcher, LJA Engineering
Chad Johnson, LJA Engineering
John Grounds, LJA Engineering
Bart Standley, RPS Infrastructure
Kelly Dillard, Walter P. Moore
Andres Salazar, Walter P. Moore
Derek St. John, Gauge Engineering
Danetta Harris, K Strategies Group, LLC
Michael Cornelius, GEI Consultants, Inc.
Michael Reedy, Freese & Nichols
Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols
Rolando Ayala II, Freese & Nichols
Zach Stein, HDR

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Interview firms in response to Request for Qualifications related to engineering services for the Region 5. Neches RFPG received on January 26, 2021.

Three (3) firms were invited to interview. Representatives from LJA Engineering, Walter P. Moore, and Freese & Nichols attended the meeting and made presentations to the subcommittee. Each firm was given approximately 15 minutes to make a presentation, followed by a Q&A session moderated by the subcommittee members.

Interviews began at 1:09 PM and concluded at 4:35 PM. Presentations were received in order of the aforementioned firms. Following the last interview the subcommittee deliberated on the merits of each firm. The subcommittee concluded based on the statements of qualifications received and the interviews held on this date that Freese & Nichols appeared as the most qualified firm to perform the scope of work

presented in the Region 5. Neches Request for Qualifications. Discussion was had and the subcommittee agreed the recommendation to the full RFPG Group would be made as such.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

The floor was opened for public comment; however, being no members of the public in attendance, the comment period was closed.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM by Joe Madjdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on February 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM at the location duly posted in the meeting notice.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Jeff Branick, CHAIR

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 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>	()
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	x
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Colleen Jones (Shonda Mace)	General Land Office	x
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: **

Reem Zoun, TWDB

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Risa Barber, LNVA

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Tim Buscha, Region 6 Sabine Liaison

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Kelly Dillard, Walter P. Moore

Tiffany Cartwright, Walter P. Moore

Michael Reedy, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Zach Stein, HDR

Burton Johnson

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>.

DRAFT

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Dr. Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance, and a quorum was established.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approve minutes of the January 07, 2021 Region 5. Neches RFPG Meeting

The Vice Chair requested the Group review the minutes of the January 07, 2021, Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group. The Vice Chair asked for any corrections, additions or revisions. There were none.

Upon a motion by Dr. Liv Haselbach, seconded by Steve Moon and the unanimous vote of all Group members present the January 07, 2021, Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group minutes were approved.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: TWDB Update and Presentation

Richard Bagans, TWDB, presented RFPG Responsibilities: Scope of Work Overview.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 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.

The Consultant Selection Review Committee reviewed and interviewed three (3) firms who submitted Statements of Qualifications. The committee unanimously recommended Freese & Nichols to the RFPG Board.

Upon a motion by Scott Hall and seconded by Brent Heironimus the recommendation was wholly accepted with unanimous board approval.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 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)).

The Vice Chair opened the floor and there were no participants and the item was closed.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons

Ellen Buchanan spoke as the Region 3. Trinity liaison and will be attending their next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2021 at 9 AM.

John Beard, Jr. has had no contact from Sabine RFPG as of yet, and will continue to monitor for their next meeting.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider domain name options for Region 5 website

The item was opened with a discussion on preference for .com versus .org. Ultimately the Board chose www.NechesFloodPlanning.org as the preferred domain choice.

A motion was made by Dr. Liv Haselback and seconded by John Beard, Jr. and was passed with unanimous approval by the Board.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Confirmation of next scheduled meeting

The next RFPG Board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items.

Dr. Liv Haselbach requested a discussion of visions and principles for the watershed,

Ellen Buchanan proposed editing the Scope of Work to ensure the technical consultant adequately addresses natural and nature-based flood mitigation projects and strategies.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM by Dr. Joe Majdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on March 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: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Update from Texas Water Development Board

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Update on status of TWDB Sponsor contract and Technical Consultant contract

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Update on status on non-voting member solicitations

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Discussion of visions and principles for the watershed

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Discussion on existing 39 guidance principles stipulated by Title 31, Part 10 TAC Ch. 362 and potentially editing the Scope of Work to ensure the technical consultant addresses natural and nature-based flood mitigation projects and strategies

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Consider nominating and electing a liaison(s) to Region 6. San Jacinto

Background:

Recommendation:

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

Meeting Date: March 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 10.0**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s) – April 08, 2021 at 1pm

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 11.0**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 12.0**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Public Comment

Background:

Recommendation:

**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Agenda Item 13.0**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2021

Agenda Preface:

Adjourn

Background:

Recommendation: