

PROJECT: Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG)
NAME OF MEETING: Region 4 Sabine RFPG Meeting
RECORDED BY: Mat Leclair, PE, CFM, CPESC
DATE: May 15, 2023; 2:00pm
LOCATION: Virtual and In-Person (SRA Office – Orange, TX)

The following reflects our understanding of the items discussed during the subject meeting. If you do not notify us within five working days, we will assume that you are in agreement with our understanding.

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)
James (Bill) Bruce	Agriculture Interests	X
Johnny Trahan	Counties	X
Francis X. Shannon	Electric Generating Utilities	
Clyde V. McKee III	Environmental Interests	X
Don Carona	Flood Districts	
Nikki Davis	Industries	X
Alton Bradley	Municipalities	X
Michelle Falgout	Public	X
Travis Williams	River Authorities	
Jeff Rogers	Small Business	X
Roman D. Griffin	Water Districts	X
Ross Gordon	Water Utilities	X

Voting Members: 9

Voting Members Present: 12

Quorum: **Yes**

Non-Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)
vacant	General Land Office	
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Andrea Sanders	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Robert (Bob) Baker	Texas Parks and Wildlife	
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Ryke Moore	Texas Water Development Board	*

Other Meeting Attendees:

Mat Leclair (FNI)

Allison Hand (FNI)

James Bronikowski (TWDB)

Anita Machiavello (TWDB)

Lisa McCracken (USACE)

Doug Manning (OCDD)

Mark Howard (SRA)

Christine Gartner (SRA)

Marvin Benoit (City of Orange)

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

- Johnny Trahan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

- Jeff Rogers confirmed quorum with 9 out of 12 voting members.

Agenda Item 3: Receive public comments (public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

- No comments were presented.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting on April 10, 2023.

- **James (Bill) Bruce motions to adopt the minutes as presented and Roman Griffin seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 5: Updates from Chair

- Johnny Trahan (vice chair filling in for Travis Williams) noted the following:
 - o Everything moving along as scheduled
 - o Money still in the balance Payment of invoice #6 was received on May 8th. SRA is currently processing invoice #7.

Agenda Item 6: Discussion and possible action regarding the replacement for Sabine RFPG voting member to fill Flood Districts position

- Doug Manning (OCDD) is the only nominee to date.
- **James (Bill) Bruce motions to nominate Doug Manning to replace Don Carona and Jeff Rogers seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 7: Discussion and possible action regarding the nomination and selection of Executive Committee Member at Large.

- **Jeff Rogers motions for Doug Manning to replace Don Carona and James (Bill) Bruce seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 8: Discussion and possible action regarding the nominating and selection of Neches RFPG liaison.

- **Ross Gordon motions nominate Doug Manning and Michelle Falgout seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 9: Updates from Texas Water Development Board

- Anita Machiavello (filling in for Ryke Moore) notes the following:
 - o Reminds the RFPG that they must request certain funds to be used for Task 13.

- Proposed amendments to regional and state planning rules were published on April 21st of the Texas Register and are open for comment through May 22nd.
- TWDB sent an email on additional FMS guidance.

Agenda Item 10: Updates from Region 5, Neches RFPG Report.

- Doug Manning does not have a report at this time as the Neches RFPG meets the following week.

Agenda Item 11: Update from Technical Consultant, Freese and Nichols

- Mat Leclair provided an update on the following items:
 - New FMXs for Amended Plan
 - New FMEs (+113), FMSs (+10), and FMPs (+32) were proposed to add to the amended Sabine Regional Flood Plan.
 - New FMEs could contribute to +\$21M in potential funding to the region. FMSs could contribute +\$7M, and +\$1.05B in potential funding.
 - Discussion regarding Hunt County FMPs. Models are currently showing impacts above TWDB thresholds (greater than 0.35 feet). The engineer is wanting to use their engineering judgment to say there is no negative impact.
 - Mat mentioned that the group could allow them in, but they are still subject to TWDB review.
 - RFPG requested that coordination with that team be done in order to try and reduce the impacts below the TWDB stated thresholds.
 - Discussion regarding updated FMS guidance. There are proposed buyout programs in the Sabine RFP which had to be split. One went into an FMS for the management of a buyout program and the other was an FMP for its implementation.
 - Concern was brought up regarding buyouts as it lowers the tax base for a county/city and puts the burden of maintenance on the county/city.
 - Concern brought up over “checkerboarding”
 - TAC Rule Changes were mentioned, specifically for comments to be submitted by May 22nd.
 - Timeline to completion of amended plan

Agenda Item 12: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

- Johnny Trahan proposes the next meeting to be held on **Thursday, May 25th at 2:00pm.**

Agenda Item 13: Adjourn

- **Doug Manning motions to adjourn the meeting and Alton Bradley seconds the motion. Johnny Trahan ended the meeting at 3:47 pm.**