

PROJECT: Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG)
NAME OF MEETING: Region 4 Sabine RFPG Meeting – June 2022
RECORDED BY: Mat Leclair, PE, CFM, CPESC
DATE: June 22, 2022; 9:00am
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	
Johnny Trahan	Counties	X
Francis X. Shannon	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Clyde V. McKee III	Environmental Interests	X
Don Carona	Flood Districts	X
Nikki Davis	Industries	X
Alton Bradley	Municipalities	X
Michelle Falgout	Public	X
Travis Williams	River Authorities	X
Jeff Rogers	Small Business	X
Roman D. Griffin	Water Districts	
Ross Gordon	Water Utilities	X

Voting Members: 10

Voting Members Present: 12

Quorum: **Yes**

Non-Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)
Colleen Jones	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	X
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Ryke Moore	Texas Water Development Board	X

Other Meeting Attendees:

Mat Leclair (FNI)

Mike Reedy (FNI)

Cory Stull (FNI)

Allison Hand (FNI)

Doug Manning (OCDD)

Jim Brown (SRA)

Mark Howard (SRA)

Marvin Benoit (City of Orange)

James Bronikowski (TWDB)

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

- Travis Williams called the meeting called to order at 9:02 am.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

- Mark Howard confirmed quorum with 9 out of 12 voting members.
 - o Clyde (Tad) McKee joined the meeting after quorum was confirmed bringing the total voting members up to 10.

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

- No members of the public online.
- No comments from the public.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held May 23, 2022.

- **Johnny Trahan motions to adopt as presented. Seconded by Michelle Falgout. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 5: Updates from Chair

- Travis Williams provided a summary of the accounting in the meeting packet and noted a 3rd invoice was received from FNI.
- Waiting on reimbursement from TWDB on invoice 2. Comments came from the TWDB which are being addressed.
- Travis Williams noted that FNI provided recommendations on Task 12 in the last meeting which were slightly revised based on comments from TWDB.
 - o Task 11 remains unchanged at 10% for a total of \$56,960
 - o Task 12 was changed from 75% to 70% for a total of \$398,720
 - o Task 13 was changed from 15% to 20% for a total of \$113,920
- May 26th – had a chairs call. Recapped technical consultants call and discussed public meeting requirements.
- Travis Williams noted that SRA received draft chapter 3 and 4 with the One Page Summaries.
 - o Mark Howard noted the FMX items are posted on the website.

Agenda Item 6: Update from the Texas Water Development Board

- Ryke Moore noted the moving of funds less than 35%.
- Technical consultants call next Wednesday.
- Working on payment request and will have it turned around to SRA by this Friday.

Agenda Item 7: Region 5. Neches RFPG Report.

- Don noted that Neches is at the same point and have a meeting this afternoon for the Neches region.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion of the strategic direction for the Regional Flood Plan.

- Ross Gordon began the discussion by noting that making sure we look at the full picture of the planning process and how it fits in the broader picture and how we can align ourselves in the process down the road.
- Travis Williams noted the ultimate goal is try and bring funding to the Sabine basin. In order to access the funding sources, they need to be within the RFP.
- Ross Gordon provides the following points of discussion:
 - o with the amendment funds, the RFPG has the chance to elevate FMEs to FMPs which will make them eligible for construction funds which is a much bigger scale than study funds.
 - o We shouldn't just be relying on that funding stream (amendment funds related to the RFP) to advance things to the next stage. Other entities can advance projects from the FMEs to FMPs, and we have the ability to amend the Regional Flood Plan in the future.
 - o Region aims to get as many projects to the stage where they are eligible for construction funds.
 - o SRA has other TWDB funding/grants that can be used to advance projects
 - o Make sure the studies meet the end point of qualifying as an FMP
 - o By the time the state legislature appropriates funding to the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF), we want to make sure funding can go to FMPs
- Travis Williams noted tha for things to be listed as an FMP, there are a lot of requirements. The goal is to move many of those into projects (FMPs) over time.

Agenda Item 9: Update from Freese and Nichols

- Mat Leclair (FNI) presented the proposed FME/FMS/FMP Identification
 - o 2 Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs)
 - o 49 Flood Management Strategies (FMSs)
 - Generally categorized into educational programs, flood warning/flood measurement, regulatory, property acquisition programs, infrastructure and maintenance, and dam reliability
 - o 59 Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs)
 - Generally categorized into county-wide flood hazard mapping, drainage master plans for cities and/or counties, and project planning.
- Mat Leclair presented on Task 12 considerations with the amendment funds.
 - o The county-wide and City-wide master drainage plans and/or floodplain mapping were noted to likely be too extensive and would likely take up the majority of the budget and would not produce a project (FMP). Additionally, these are generally long-term projects that are usually not done within the +/- 9 months within the amendment period; thus, Mat recommended that the Task 12 funding be confined to the project planning FMEs which are way more likely to produce FMPs which is the overall goal of Task 12.
 - o Mat recommended the detention ponds from the Cow Bayou/Adams Bayou study in Orange County to be prioritized as there is already a conceptual design and it was close to an FMP but just missing a few items.
 - o Travis Williams requested that FNI evaluate projects in the upper portion of the basin for consideration.
 - Mat Leclair noted the potential detention ponds in the City of Marshall and the City of Greenville as potential designs that could be done in Task 12. Mat will coordinate with those cities.
 - o Mat Leclair noted that he would evaluate projects and provide a recommendation list for RFPG consideration in a future meeting.

- Mat Leclair presented on Task 7 items related to flood preparedness, flood response activities, flood recovery, and flood mitigation.
- Mat Leclair presented on Task 8 items related to legislative, regulatory, and administrative recommendations for the Regional Flood Plan.
 - o Legislative recommendations included:
 - Providing a funding mechanism prioritizing smaller communities/municipalities
 - Continued support of the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
 - Evaluating stormwater funding ensuring equitable distribution of funds to rural and less populated areas
 - Re-evaluate requirements for FMPs to be more equitable for lesser funded regions.
 - o Regulatory recommendations included:
 - Development of H&H modeling standards
 - Developing higher standards for floodplain management
 - Establishing a process for Base Level Engineering (BLE) to be used as best available data for floodplain management.
 - o Administrative recommendations included:
 - Incorporating state and federal agencies (TXDOT, FEMA, etc.) into future Regional Flood Planning processes
 - Providing technical assistance to smaller communities for funding applications and/or completing studies
- Mat Leclair presented on Draft Chapter Progress
 - o Chapter 1 through 4 have been submitted for RFPG review
 - o Chapters 6, 7, and 9 were estimated to be submitted the week of June 27th
 - o Chapters 5, 8, and 10 were estimated to be submitted the week of July 4th
- Timeline for the upcoming year

Agenda Item 10: Discussion and potential action on recommended FMEs (Task 5).

- **Michelle Falgout motions to approve the 59 FMEs. Nikki Davis seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 11: Discussion and potential action on recommended FMSs (Task 5).

- **Ross Gordon motions to approve the 49 FMSs. Nikki Davis seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

Agenda Item 12: Discussion and potential action on recommended FMPs (Task 5).

- **Clyde (Tad) McKee motions to approve the 2 FMPs. Michelle Falgout seconds the motion. Motion passes.**
 - o **Ross Gordon requests to change the description information to be specific to Orange County in the levee system**

Agenda Item 13: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

- Travis Williams tentatively proposed the next meeting for the Sabine RFPG to be held on Wednesday, July 27th at 9:00am.

Agenda Item 14: Adjourn

- **Clyde (Tad) McKee motions to adjourn the meeting and Michelle Falgout seconds the motion. Travis Williams ended the meeting at 10:38 am.**