

Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
Windham Civic Center, Center TX  
August 11, 2021  
10:00 AM

NOTE: This meeting will be conducted in person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6418597377?pwd=a2svTVhpbzJML1h3M3Y3SXVHaWV5QT09>

**Location:** Meeting will be held at the Windham Civic Center, 146 Express Blvd, Center, TX 75935.

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to [comments@sabine-rfpg.org](mailto:comments@sabine-rfpg.org) and include "Region 4. Sabine River Flood Planning Group Meeting" in the subject line of the email.

This meeting is a public meeting under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

If you choose to participate in the meeting using the conference call number below, please be prepared to identify yourself. So we can record your attendance. Telephone conference call phone number:

<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>+1 346 248 7799</b>
<b>Meeting Number:</b>	<b>641 859 7377</b>
<b>Access Code:</b>	<b>857302.</b>

Additional information may be obtained from:

Mark Howard  
RMPD Division Manager  
Sabine River Authority of Texas  
12777 Hwy 87 N.  
Orange, Texas 77632  
(409) 746-2192  
[mhoward@sratx.org](mailto:mhoward@sratx.org).

# **Sabine RFPG meeting**

**Windham Civic Center, Center TX**

**August 11, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

2. Roll Call.

Presenter: Mark Howard for Jeff Roges, Secretary

3. Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information, and Instructions.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

4. Receive public comments (public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker).

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

5. Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held July 14, 2021.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

6. Update from Chair.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

7. Update from the Texas Water Development Board

Presenter: Ryke Moore

8. Region 5. Neches RFPG Report.

Presenter: Don Carona

9. Update from Freese and Nichols.

Presenter: Mat Leclair / Mike Reedy

10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

11. Adjourn.

Presenter: Johnny Trahan, Chair

**AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

Chair Johnny Trahan will call the meeting to order.

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

## AGENDA ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

**PRESENTED BY: JEFF ROGERS, SECRETARY**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (V-Virtual, P-Physical)/ Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
James (Bill) Bruce	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	
Johnny Trahan	<i>Counties</i>	
Francis X. Shannon	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	
Clyde V. "Tad" McKee III	<i>Environmental interests</i>	
Don Carona	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Nikki Davis	<i>Industries</i>	
Alton Bradley	<i>Municipalities</i>	
Michelle Falgout	<i>Public</i>	
Travis Williams	<i>River authorities</i>	
Jeff Rogers	<i>Small business</i>	
Roman D. Griffin	<i>Water districts</i>	
Ross Gordon	<i>Water utilities</i>	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present (V-Virtual, P-Physical)/ Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Colleen Jones	General Land Office (GLO)	
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)	
Brian Hurtuk	Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)	
Robert (Bob) Baker	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)	
Ryke Moore	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	

---

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

Number of voting members or alternates present. \_\_\_\_\_

Seven voting members are required for a quorum.

Quorum is present, Yes, or No?

**AGENDA ITEM 3: WELCOME, MEETING FACILITATION  
INFORMATION, AND INSTRUCTIONS**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Receive public comments (public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Discussion and approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held July 14, 2021.

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discuss and approve minutes.

**MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_**



**PROJECT:** Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG)  
**NAME OF MEETING:** Region 4 Sabine RFPG Meeting – July 2021  
**RECORDED BY:** Mat Leclair, PE, CFM, CPESC  
**DATE:** July 14, 2021; 1:30pm  
**LOCATION:** Virtual and In-Person  
**DATE SENT FOR APPROVAL:** July 20, 2021  
**DATE FINALIZED:** August 9, 2021

*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	x
Clyde V. McKee III	Environmental Interests	
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: 12

Voting Members Present: **10**

Quorum: **Yes**

Non-Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	x
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Brian Hurtuk	Texas Division of Emergency Management	x
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:

- Vance Liles (MTG)
- Cory Stull (FNI)
- Mike Reedy (FNI)
- Mat Leclair (FNI)
- John Grounds (LJA)

**Agenda Item 1: Call to Order**

- Johnny Trahan called the meeting to order at 1:38pm

**Agenda Item 2: Roll Call**

- Quorum confirmed.

**Agenda Item 3: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information, and Instructions**

- Johnny Trahan noted this may be the last virtual meeting. RFP group needs to find a meeting place that is more centrally located for everyone.

**Agenda Item 4: Receive general public comments (public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker).**

- No public comments.

**Agenda Item 5: Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held May 26, 2021.**

- Travis Williams motions to approve the minutes.
- Motion is seconded by Bill Bruce
- Vote passes to approve minutes from May 26 RFPG meeting.

**Agenda Item 6: Updates from Chairman**

- Ryke Moore noted that all regions seem to be going at the same pace and are working together.

**Agenda Item 7: Update from the Texas Water Development Board**

- TWDB is finalizing review of the subcontracts
- Ryke Moore mentioned that everyone should be aware of the Governor's office suspending virtual meetings. All RFPGs are discussing moving forward with this.
- Legislature appropriated approx. \$10M which would be appropriated in September. Survey was sent out and is due back on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Will determine how much finding each RFPG gets.
- Email went out to the sponsors and technical consultants, expecting that it was passed around to all voting members of the RFPGs. Ryke Moore will resend the email to SRA.
- Mike Reedy (FNI): the survey was reviewed and FNI has provided some thoughts and ideas in response to what the survey is asking. Mat will send those along to what the group decides. There will only be 1 response from the planning group.
- Johnny Trahan recommends sending out the survey to everyone and let them reply to Mark Howard. Will take all replies and format into 1 cohesive reply.
- SRA requests FNI supply the draft letter so SRA can review. FNI agrees to send to SRA for review.

**Agenda Item 8: Region 5. Neches RFPG Report.**

- Don Carona: Attended/participated in Neches meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 9: Update from Freese and Nichols**

- Mat Leclair and Mike Reedy presented on updates from the consulting team on the RFP effort and upcoming schedule.
- FNI recommended an RFPG meeting every month through the end of 2021.
  - o This is primarily based upon the Tech Memo (Task 4C) being due in early January 2022.
  - o RFPG will need to vote to approve the memo prior to its submittal to TWDB. FNI recommends this happens in December 2021.
  - o FNI proposes to be complete and submit the Tech Memo to the RFPG by October or early November for review and comment so that changes can be implemented prior to the December RFPG meeting to finalize the Tech Memo
- FNI discussed the existing floodplain data which comprises the floodplain quilt and that a majority of the floodplains are approximate FEMA Zone A
- FNI provided a demonstration of the online web map for people to be able to add projects to identify flooding areas
- Quick overview of the public survey and the questions within the survey. FNI will provide a text version of the survey to SRA for distribution to the RFPG for review and comment. FNI recommends the survey go live for public input by the end of July so that data can be captured and included in the data analysis included in the Tech Memo (Task 4C).
  - o RFPG recommends survey stay open for 60 days. This puts the closing date on the survey near the end of September.
- FNI provides a tentative schedule for the upcoming months
  - o August: discussion of floodplain management and standards, discussion of date/format for the public meeting to present existing conditions flood risk
  - o September: FNI expects the public meetings to be held and for the RFPG to decide on floodplain management standards and regional goals.
  - o October: FNI will provide recommendations on FME/FMS/FMPs for approval
- RFPG requests FNI to develop a list of items that the RFPG might recommend as this would help entities decide or review what might work in their respective areas.

**Agenda Item 10: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.**

- Johnny Trahan recommends August 11<sup>th</sup> and recommends an in-person discussion located in Center, TX as it is more centrally located in the Sabine River basin.
- RFPG agrees on Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Site TBD, near or in Center, TX.
- An option was requested for having some kind of virtual option for future meetings, notably for the public.

**Agenda Item 11: Adjourn**

- Meeting Adjourned at 3:15pm

**AGENDA ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN.**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: UPDATE FROM THE TEXAS  
WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**

**PRESENTED BY: RYKE MOORE, TWDB**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: REGION 5. NECHES RFPG REPORT.**

**PRESENTED BY: DON CARONA**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT,  
FREESE AND NICHOLS**

**PRESENTED BY: MIKE REEDY**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- Updates to the survey based on comments from RFPG
  - o Drastically reduced public survey
  - o Redesigned stakeholder survey
- Task 1 Progress Updates
- Task 2 Approach Discussion
- Begin discussions of floodplain management goals
- Discussion regarding public meeting(s) to show existing conditions flood risk

---

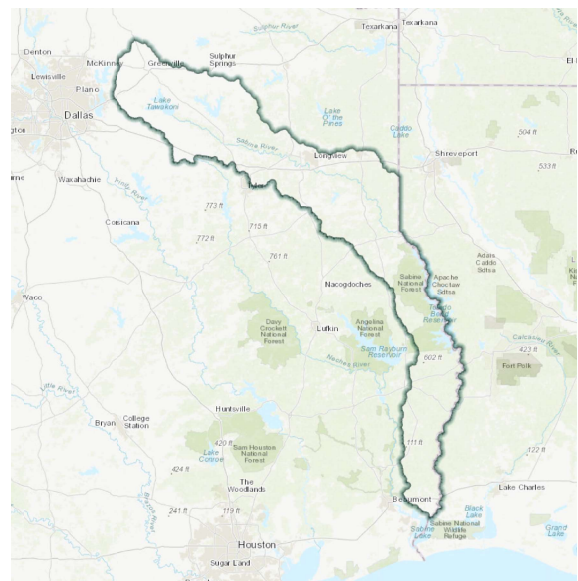
**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.



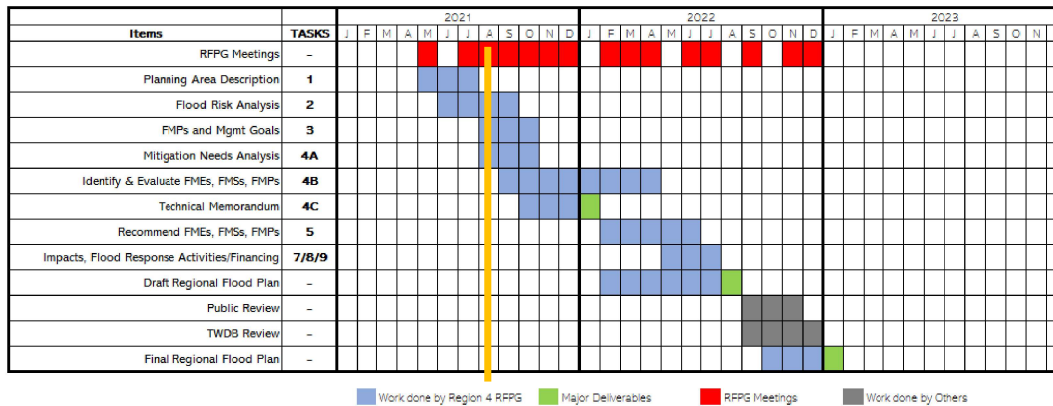
## Regional Flood Plan Updates

- Schedule
- Task 1 Updates
- Survey Updates
- Task 2 Updates
- Upcoming Discussions in future RFPG meetings
- Planning Schedule
- Discussion





## Planning Schedule



## Task 1 – Planning Area Description

- GOALS:
  1. Describe Flood Planning Region
    - a) Social and Economic character
    - b) Flood prone areas and types of major flood risk
    - c) Key historic flood events
    - d) Entities engaged in flood planning/floodplain management
    - e) General extent of local regulations
  2. Inventory and Assess Existing Infrastructure
    - a) Natural and Constructed Infrastructure
    - b) Description & Functionality (functional, non-functional, deficient)
  3. Describe Funded/Ongoing Flood Mitigation Projects

## Task 1.1 – Social and Economic Character



### Population

- Estimated 585,000 in 2019 (TWDB)
- Older than State Median Average
- Change since 2010 Census
  - Gain: Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties
  - Loss: Newton and Panola Counties

### Household Income

- Less than \$25,000 – 25% of Regional Population
- Less than \$50,000 – 50% of Regional Population

## Task 1.2 – Social and Economic Character

- Economic Sectors Most at Risk of Flood Impacts
  - Manufacturing
  - Forestry & Logging
  - Construction
  - Agriculture
- Additional Regional Industries
  - Health Care
  - Retail Trade
  - Education

Based on FEMA claims under non-residential codes followed by research on nearby industry categories

- Draft Narratives have been created for these items for the RFP

## Task 1.3 – Key Historic Flood Events

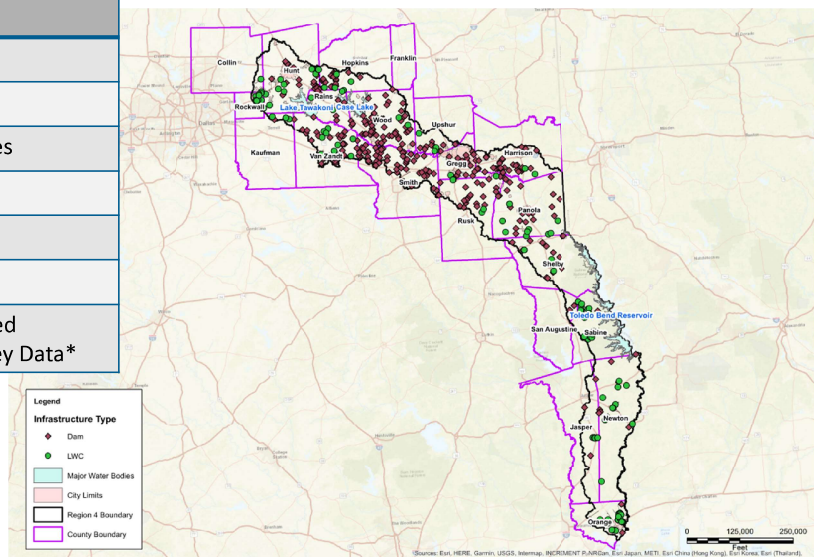
- March 2016
  - Currently identified as the Flood of Record
  - Previous flood of record: 1884/1913 based on gage
- Selected based on volume of flood claims, river stages, and fatalities

Year	Storm	Flood Damages	Flood Claims
2017	Hurricane Harvey	~\$350M	2854
2019	TS Imelda	~\$164M	1621
2008	Hurricane Ike	~\$140M	1498
2016 (March)		~\$12M	151
2002 (Oct/Nov)		~\$3M	142
2006 (October)		~\$2M	70
2005	Hurricane Rita	~\$1.5M	76
<b>OTHER STORMS</b>			
1884			
Spring 1953			

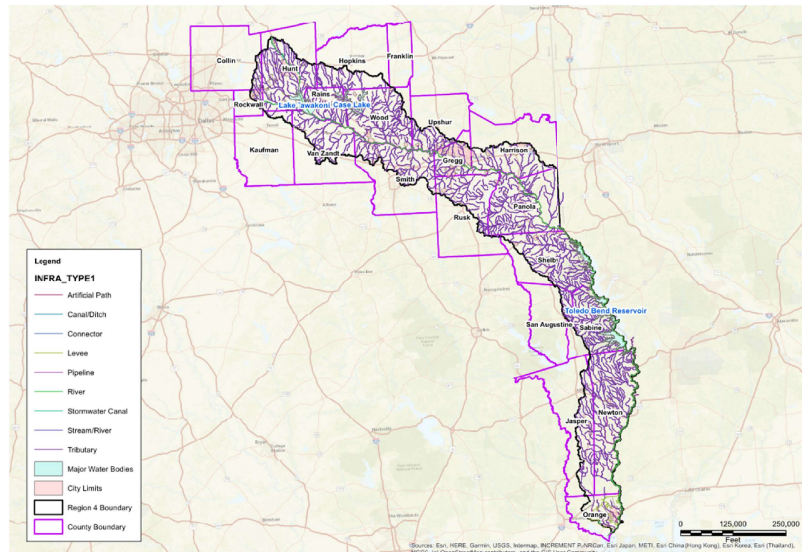
## Task 1 – Existing Flood Infrastructure

Infrastructure	Value
Dams	341
Low Water Crossings	132
Wetlands	1,208 Sq. Miles
Ponds	274 Sq. Miles
Natural Stream	11,736 Miles
Constructed Stream	924 Miles
Existing Flood Mitigation Projects	To be Identified through Survey Data*

- Info generated from TWDB data



## Task 1 – Existing Flood Infrastructure




## Survey

- Public Survey
  - **Previously: 15 questions with map to add flooding locations**
  - **Current: 5 questions & directing to map to add flooding locations. More open ended to allow user input.**
- Stakeholder Survey
  - **Previously: 54 questions**
  - **Current: 51 questions Updated based on comments from Sabine RFPG and other FNI RFPs.**

**Get Involved!**


We are looking for your help to develop the first-ever flood plan for the Sabine Region. Please use the links below to provide your input.



**Put it on the Map**

Use the interactive map to help us identify areas of flood risk in your region.


[See the interactive map](#)



**Take the Survey**

Take the survey to provide input on flooding issues and floodplain management goals specific to your region.

[Take the Survey](#)




**Upload Data**

Help us collect data to strengthen this plan.

[Upload Data](#)

## Public Survey Content

- General Info
    - Name, Email, Phone Number, Zip Code, County, City
  - Requesting input on the Top 3 Priorities for the RFPG in the establishment of goals 
  - Should RFPG recommend consistent **minimum flood risk management standards** across the region.
  - Requests any additional suggestions/ recommendations for the RFPG to consider
- Implement protective standards and policies
  - Identify and communicate flood risk
  - Reduce the number of structures in the 100 & 500yr floodplain
  - Restore failing/aging infrastructure
  - Implement flood warning and response mechanisms
  - Provide or enhance inter-jurisdictional cooperation
  - Other (please specify)

## Task 2 – Existing and Future Flood Hazard

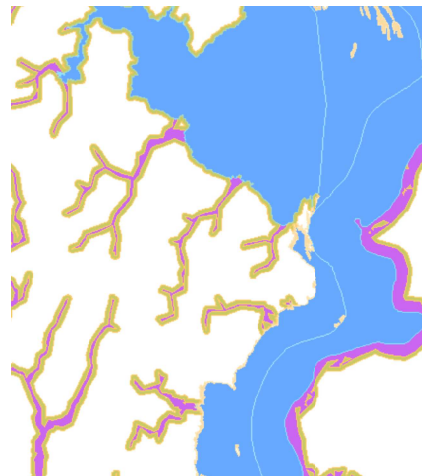
- GOALS:
  1. Perform existing and future flood risk analyses
    - a. Hazard
    - b. Exposure
    - c. Vulnerability
- Hazard: Floodplain Quilt + Survey info
  - Determine location and magnitude of 1% and 0.2% AEP events
- Exposure: who/what might be exposed
  - Identify who and what might be harmed
- Vulnerability: critical structures + SVI
  - Identify vulnerability of communities and critical facilities
- **Maps made available to the public**

## Task 2 – Existing and Future Flood Hazard

- Sabine’s challenge: Limited detailed study within the Sabine River basin
- TWDB Requirements: 100yr and 500yr
  - Existing Conditions
  - Future Conditions
- Most of the data is either Zone A (NFHL) or 100yr BLE
  - Very little 500yr data
- Fathom Data
  - 100yr and 1000yr...no 500yr at this time.
  - 500yr expected to come in October 2021 with new round of Fathom data

## Task 2 – FNI Approach

- Existing Conditions
  - Lots of Approximate floodplains (FEMA NFHL Zone A)
  - Base Level Engineering (BLE) available, but not for entire basin
  - 500yr:
    - When present, 500yr will be used
    - Panola County and north: 100-yr floodplains + 100-foot buffer
    - Shelby County and south: 100-yr floodplain + 200-foot buffer



## Task 2 – Public Meeting

- Public Meeting Required to present Existing Conditions Flood Hazards
  - **Actions Items**
    - Identify Date(s)
    - Identify Time(s)
    - Identify Location(s)

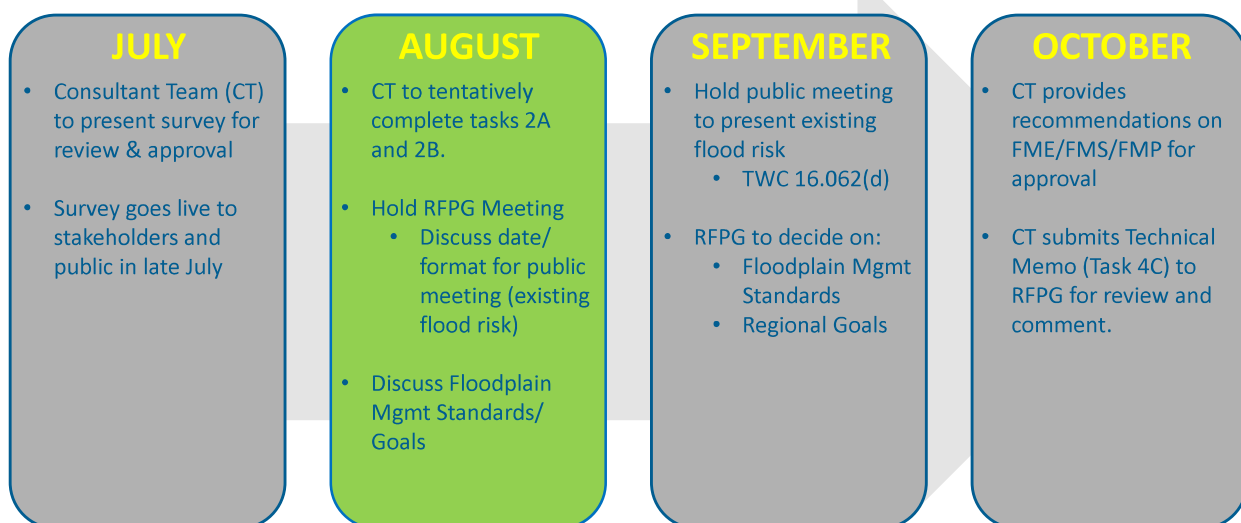
## Upcoming Discussions in September/October

- Task 3 – Evaluation & Recommended Floodplain Management Practices
  - Goals: Identify and reduce risk and avoid increasing or creating new flood risk
  - Consultant team to ***compile a list of entities in Sabine basin and summarize key floodplain management practices***
  - **RECOMMEND floodplain management practices as part of RFP**
  - Description of flood mitigation and floodplain management goals
  - Identify short- and long-term goals

## Upcoming Discussions in September/October

- Task 4 – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis
  - 4A: Mitigation Needs Analysis
    - Identify most flood-prone areas
    - Identify knowledge gaps and areas with emergency need
  - 4B: Flood Management Evaluations (FME), Flood Management Strategies (FMS), Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP)
    - **FME:** Watershed planning (H&H Analyses, Mapping Updates, Regional studies, etc.
    - **FMS:** Strategies which can be implemented to reduce risk of flooding, freeboard requirements, no adverse impact, etc.
    - **FMP:** Bridge improvements, dam improvements, flood walls, levees, channel improvements, regional detention, property acquisition, flood readiness and resilience, etc.

## Planning Schedule





**AGENDA ITEM 10: CONSIDER DATE AND AGENDA  
ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING.**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

**PRESENTED BY: JOHNNY TRAHAN, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

There being no other business, Chair Trahan will adjourn the meeting.

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

**MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_**