

Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
Sabine River Authority Main Office, Orange TX  
July 27, 2022  
9:00 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 Sabine River Authority of Texas, Main Office, Hwy 87 N, Orange, TX 77632.

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**

**Sabine River Authority, Orange, TX**

**July 27, 2022 – 9:00 AM**

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order.

Presenter: Travis Williams, Chair

2. Roll Call.

Presenter: Mark Howard for Jeff Rogers, Secretary

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

Presenter: Travis Williams, Chair

4. Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held June 22, 2022.

Presenter: Travis Williams, Chair

5. Update from Chair.

Presenter: Travis Williams, Chair

6. Update from the Texas Water Development Board

Presenter: Ryke Moore

7. Region 5. Neches RFPG Report.

Presenter: Don Carona

8. Update from Technical Consultant, Freese and Nichols.

- Task 5 and 12 Coordination and Update
- Review of timeline through July 2023.

Presenter: Mat Leclair

9. Discussion and potential action on Draft 2023 Regional Flood Plan Region 4.

Presenter: Mat Leclair / Travis Williams

10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

Presenter: Travis Williams Chair

11. Adjourn.

Presenter: Travis Williams, Chair

**AGENDA ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

Chair Travis Williams will call the meeting to order.

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

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**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>
	General Land Office (GLO)	
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)	
Andrea Sanders	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)	

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### 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: PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Discussion and approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held June 22, 2022.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Discuss and approve minutes.

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

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> – 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 27<sup>th</sup>
  - o Chapters 5, 8, and 10 were estimated to be submitted the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>
- 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM CHAIR.**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Accounting:**

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
4/13/2021	Initial Grant Balance		\$ 947,600.00
9/21/2021	Meeting Room Rental Center Tx	\$ (325.00)	\$ 947,275.00
12/2/2021	FNI Invoice #1 (May 2021-Oct 2021)	\$ (189,476.02)	\$ 757,798.98
2/17/2021	FNI Invoice #2 (Sep 2021-Dec 2021)	\$ (168,886.58)	\$ 588,912.40
2/27/2022	Contract Amendment	\$ 569,600.00	\$ 1,158,512.40
3/28/2022	FNI Invoice #3 (Jan 2022-Feb 2022)*	\$ (89,830.95)	
5/23/2022	Balance		\$ 1,158,512.40

\*Not yet paid waiting for reimbursement from TWDB

The reimbursement for invoice #2 has been submitted to TWDB.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**

**PRESENTED BY: RYKE MOORE, TWDB**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: REGION 5. NECHES RFPG REPORT.**

**PRESENTED BY: DON CARONA**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: UPDATE FROM TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, FREESE AND NICHOLS.**

**PRESENTED BY: MAT LECLAIR, MIKE REEDY**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- Update from Technical Consultant, Freese and Nichols.
  - Task 5 and 12 Coordination and Update
  - Review of timeline through July 2023.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

No action required.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON DRAFT 2023 REGIONAL FLOOD PLAN, REGION 4.**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS / MAT LECLAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The Draft 2023 Regional Flood Plan Region 4 is due to TWDB on August 1, 2022. This Agenda Item is to approve the Plan for submittal to TWDB. FNI has been drafting this Plan for several months and has sent the Group individual chapters as they have been drafted for review and comment.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- Approve the Draft 2023 Regional Flood Plan Region 4 with authorization to submit the plan and required materials to TWDB contingent upon incorporation of any necessary, non-substantive comments or changes including, but not limited to:
  - Updates necessary to adhere to recently issued TWDB guidance
  - Non-substantive updates necessary to address recently received comments from the TWDB on the Technical Memoranda
  - Updates necessary to address additional or outstanding RFPG comments





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

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

**PRESENTED BY: TRAVIS WILLIAMS, CHAIR**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

There being no other business, Chair Williams will entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

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