

MINUTES  
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 14, 2025

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Gulf Coast Protection District (the "District") met in regular session, open to the public, on the 14th day of May, 2025, at 1150 Gemini Street, Suite 1050, Houston, Texas 77058, inside the boundaries of the District, and the roll was called of the members of the Board:

Michel Bechtel	President
Bob Mitchell	Vice President
Sally Bakko	Secretary
Larry Taylor	Assistant Secretary
Roger Guenther	Director
Lori Traweek	Director
Billy Combs	Director
Tina Petersen	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulgan	Director

and all of the above were present except Directors Mitchell and Bakko, thus constituting a quorum.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were: Coalter Baker, Executive Director for the District; Dedrea Norman, Chief Financial Officer for the District; Grace Bader, Administrative Assistant for the District; Don Carona of Orange County Drainage District ("OCDD"); Allen Sims and Toby Davis of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 ("DD 7"); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD 7; Kelly Burks-Copes and Toni Addison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"); Sarah Purdon and Melissa Washington of the Texas General Land Office ("GLO"); Chris Sallese of Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; David Oliver and Cheryl Panozzo of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP ("ABHR"); and other members of the public, including those persons included on the attached list.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baker called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board considered approving the minutes of the April 9, 2025, meeting. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025, meeting as revised. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS

Ms. Norman reviewed the bookkeeper's report, including the list of checks for payment of District bills and a quarterly investment report for the period ending March 31, 2025, a copy of which is attached. Following discussion, the Board directed the bookkeeper to categorize the Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1 funds by the legislative session from which they were appropriated.

After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mr. Baker discussed a proposal from Texas A&M Galveston related to a study of rising gates as an option for the storm surge barrier in Bolivar Roads and stated he will circulate the proposal to the Board.

Ms. Norman reported on financial and administrative efforts from the previous month. She reported on continued negotiation with GLO regarding an amendment to Local Cooperation Agreement No. 22-074-000-D188 between the District and GLO related to funds appropriated by Senate Bill 1, 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session ("SB 1"). She stated that the proposed amendment includes the incorporation of Texas Grant Management Standards language and provisions to allow for accelerated funds to USACE.

Ms. Norman then reported that submittal of the fiscal year 2026 Community Project Funding Requests to certain members of Congress is complete.

Mr. Gordon provided a report on participation in Society of American Military Engineers Resiliency Workshop held on April 14, 2025, and a collaboration visit with Terrebonne Parish delegation on April 15, 2025, in coordination with GLO and USACE. He also discussed the upcoming Louisiana State of the Coast conference to be held on May 20-22, 2025.

Mr. Gordon then reported on 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature matters and noted that House Bill 1089 (Trust Fund Bill) passed in both the Texas Senate and House.

Mr. Gordon reported that USACE awarded the design-build contract for the Sabine to Galveston ("S2G") project in Port Arthur, PAV04, to Kiewit in the approximate amount of \$404,000,000. He noted that the project is the largest S2G project to be awarded to date.

Mr. Gordon reported on a meeting with Wes Coleman of USACE Galveston on May 8, 2025, to discuss the draft memorandum regarding the Chief's discretionary authority for the Orange County Separable Element of S2G (the "Orange County Project").

Mr. Gordon reported on a meeting with GLO and USACE to formally kickoff the design of the initial segment of ecosystem restoration segment G-28, Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection ("G-28-1"), a project included in Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Project ("Coastal Texas").

Mr. Gordon provided an update on Coastal Texas matters and reported that (1) the Memorandum of Understanding for Coastal Texas construction work is now fully executed; (2) a kickoff meeting with GLO and USACE was held on April 24, 2025, to initiate refinement of a strategy for a Project Partnership Agreement for Coastal Texas; and (3) the proposed amendment to the Design Agreement between the District and USACE for Coastal Texas is at the Office of Management and Budget.

#### REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Attendees watched a video titled *Unprepared, A Nation at Risk*, which Director Bechtel reported was produced eight years ago.

#### SABINE TO GALVESTON ("S2G") MATTERS

Messrs. Sallese and Gordon gave a presentation on District program management matters related to the Orange County Project.

Mr. Gordon updated the Board on the Post-Authorization Change Report ("PACR") efforts and reviewed the current schedule for the various elements of the PACR process. He stated he anticipated that a draft PACR will be received late summer 2025 for review.

Mr. Sallese reviewed the status and schedule for the various rounds of phase II environmental site assessment reports by Geotest Engineering, Inc. and Terracon Consultants, Inc. and stated that all reports are complete and are under review by special counsel. He noted that Dow phase II environmental site assessments are complete and he anticipates that Dow will provide a phase II environmental site assessment report this month.

Mr. Sallese updated the Board on the status of design of the Dow Levee and Arlanxeo Levee projects. He reported that 60% design plans for the Dow Levee project are still on hold until consensus is reached with USACE on soil improvements. Mr. Sallese noted that 60% design plans for the Arlanxeo Levee project are expected on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Sallese then updated the Board on the status of design of the Torrent Floodwall project by USACE. He also provided an update on coordination on development of utility relocation reimbursement agreements for the project.

Mr. Sallese reviewed a summary of recent program management activities and upcoming program management activities for the next 30-60 days. He also reviewed financials for the program management team.

#### REPORT FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7

Mr. Davis provided a presentation on the status of construction contracts and utility relocations for the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT NO. 22-074-000-D188 BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND GLO

Mr. Gordon discussed amending the Local Cooperation Agreement ("LCA") No. 22-074-000-D188 between the District and GLO related to funds appropriated by SB 1 to allow for accelerated funds to USACE and to revise the Attachment A budgets. The Board reviewed an Amended and Restated LCA No. 22-074-000-D188. After review and discussion, Director Traweek moved to approve and authorize execution of the Amended and Restated LCA No. 22-074-000-D188 between the District and GLO, subject to final review by ABHR, and direct that it be filed appropriately and retained in the District's official records. Director Combs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

There was no discussion on this matter.

#### REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Ms. Purdon provided a report on design of G-28-1 breakwater feature by Ducks Unlimited, the design engineer for the project, and stated that project design is 20% complete.

Ms. Purdon reported on design of M-8, East Matagorda Bay Shoreline Protection, a project included in Coastal Texas and noted that project design is holding at 30% completion.

Ms. Purdon then reported that GLO is developing its own memorandum of understanding for Coastal Texas construction work.

Ms. Purdon also reported regarding a meeting next week with representatives of Terrebonne Parish related to moving Coastal Texas projects forward.

#### REPORT FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

There was no discussion on this matter.

#### EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

There was no discussion on this matter.

#### SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Following discussion, the Board concurred to hold the District's next meeting on June 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Galveston.

#### CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE

At 11:19 a.m., the Board convened in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code, to discuss employment matters related to District personnel. Present at the closed meeting were Directors Bechtel, Taylor, Guenther, Traweck, Combs, Petersen, Ritter, Roccaforte, and Hulgan, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Oliver, and Ms. Panozzo.

#### RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 11:34 a.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

#### CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEYS

At 11:35 a.m., the Board convened in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, to seek the advice of its attorney on legal matters related to S2G matters. The Board determined that Mr. Baker, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Corona, Mr. Sallese, and Mr. Russo's attendance in this executive session was necessary for the Board to obtain the necessary legal advice from its attorneys and requested their presence in the executive session. Present at the closed meeting were Bechtel, Taylor, Guenther, Traweck, Combs, Petersen, Ritter, Roccaforte, and Hulgan, Mr. Baker, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Corona, Mr. Sallese, Mr. Russo, Mr. Oliver, and Ms. Panozzo.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 12:12 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session. No action was taken.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY

The Board did not convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

(SEAL)



  
Secretary, Board of Directors

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