

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

March 25, 2024

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in special session, open to the public, on the 25th day of March, 2024, at 1150 Gemini Street, Houston, Texas 77258, Suite 1050, inside the boundaries of the District, and the roll was called of the members of the Board:

Michel Bechtel	President
Bob Mitchell	Vice President
Vacant	Secretary
Sally Bakko	Assistant Secretary
Roger Guenther	Director
Lori Traweek	Director
Billy Combs	Director
Adrian Garcia	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulgan	Director

and all of the above were present except Directors Guenther and Garcia, thus constituting a quorum.

Also present at the meeting were: Nicole Sunstrum, Executive Director of the District; Grace Bader, Administrative Assistant for the District; Lt. Col. Ian O’Sullivan, Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes, and Toni Addison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Carlos A. Jaramillo, Brad Bergen, and Linda Duncan of the U.S. Coast Guard; David Oliver, Duggan Baker and Jane Miller of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP (“ABHR”); Brian Freedman of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership; Jeff Scarborough and Robert Esenwein of Stantec; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Simon VanDyk and Calep Estes of Touchstone District Services; and other members of the public.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Sunstrum called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

Dr. Burks-Copes discussed ecosystem restoration segment G-28, Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection (“G-28”), a project included in the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study (“Coastal Texas”). She discussed other ecosystem restoration projects underway, including Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (“CEPRA”) Project No. 1681 to construct rock breakwaters along the Anahuac shoreline of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and East Bay.

Mr. Williams also discussed other ecosystem restoration projects. He discussed Project No. 1681 being constructed by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. using grant funding and funds from CEPRA and the Gulf of Mexico Security Act ("GOMESA"). He also discussed a project underway by USACE to reconstruct a rookery island in Galveston Bay near Jamaica Beach.

Lt. Col. O'Sullivan discussed the process for moving projects out of design phase for purposes submitting funding requests for construction. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the District, in coordination with GLO, accepting responsibility as the non-federal sponsor for design of G-28 of Coastal Texas, subject to execution of a design agreement with USACE. The Board discussed timing, funding, and estimated costs to complete initial design for the project, as well as a necessary agreement with GLO outlining responsibilities and workflow.

After discussion, Director Combs moved to assume responsibility as the non-federal sponsor for segment G-28 of Coastal Texas. Director Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion was then withdrawn and the item was tabled for consideration later in the meeting.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATED TO DISTRICT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Ms. Sunstrum reported on responses received for the job posting for the District's Chief Financial Officer. She also discussed proposed job postings for a senior project manager and a communications director.

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

At 2:02 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board would convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, to discuss legal matters related to acceptance of project responsibility for segment G-28 of Coastal Texas. At 2:22 p.m., Lt. Col. O'Sullivan joined the closed meeting until it ended at 2:27 p.m.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, OR DUTIES OF AN EMPLOYEE

At 2:27 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board would convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code, to discuss employment matters.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 3:05 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board would reconvene in open session.

Director Combs moved for the District to assume responsibility as the non-federal sponsor for segment G-28 of Coastal Texas. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Director Roccaforte moved to approve the Executive Director's proposed salary for the position of Chief Financial Advisor, and to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an employment contract for the same position, as discussed, subject to satisfaction of all hiring criteria set forth in the District's Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual. Director Traweek seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Director Mitchell moved to approve the Executive Director's proposed salaries for the positions of senior project manager and communications director, authorize the Executive Director to make job postings and solicit applications for such positions within the salary ranges discussed, and to negotiate and execute employment contracts for both positions, subject to satisfaction of all hiring criteria set forth in the District's Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual. Director Combs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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




Secretary, Board of Directors