

MINUTES  
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

March 8, 2023

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 8th day of March, 2023, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. Nasa Parkway, Seabrook, Texas 77586, inside the boundaries of the District, and the roll was called of the members of the Board:

Michel Bechtel	President
Bob Mitchell	Vice President
Roger Quiroga	Secretary
Sally Bakko	Assistant Secretary
Roger Guenther	Director
Michael VanDerSnick	Director
Lori Traweek	Director
Billy Combs	Director
Adrian Garcia	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director

and all of the above were present except Directors Guenther, VanDerSnick, 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; Bee Kothuis of Netherlands Business Support Office-Texas; The Honorable James Abbey, City Council Member of the City of Nassau Bay; Martin Dies of Orange County Drainage District; Jay Guerrero of the Office of U.S. Senator John Cornyn; Grant Murray of the Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; Brie Little of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 14 Representative Randy Weber; Maj. Ian O’Sullivan, Col. Rhett Blackmon, Aaron Brown, and Charles Wheeler of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Melissa Washington of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Andrea Lavorgna of the Greater Houston Port Bureau; Capt. Clint Winegar and JJ Plunkett of the Houston Pilots; Doug Peterson of the Office of Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2; Jason Foltyn of HDR Engineering; Ashton Binkley and JR Reddish of Binkley & Barfield; Luke LeBas of Volkert, Inc.; Margaret Dubbin of GeoConsultants; Frederick Sunderman of ATSER; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Mark Burton of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.; Lars Zetterstrom of LAN; Niels Aalund and Justin Knight of Bay Houston Towing; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Leslie Hollaway, Blythe Payne, and Mariah Najmuddin of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Austin Ficken of Masterson Advisors LLC; Bob Esenwein and Jeff Scarborough of Stantec; Russ Poppe of HNTB; Peggy Zahler of CCWSC; Eric Potts of Freese and Nichols; Darrell Morrison of Ardurra; Sam Hinojosa and Johnny Kim of HALFF; Simon VanDyk, Trisha Manning, and Glamour Perry 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.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

The Board considered approving the minutes of the February 8, 2023, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS

Mr. Burton reviewed the bookkeeper's report, including the list of checks for payment of District bills, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Mitchell moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Quiroga seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, GOVERNMENT CODE, TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEYS, AND PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, OR DUTIES OF AN EMPLOYEE

At 10:20 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was convening in executive session pursuant to Sections 551.071 and 551.074, Texas Government Code.

## RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 11:05 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session. Upon reconvening in open session, no action was taken.

## GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT COMMITMENT TO CONSIDER NAVIGATION IMPACTS OF CERTAIN DESIGNS

Director Bechtel discussed the Board's receipt and acknowledgement at last month's meeting of the Ship Simulation Transit Scenario Modeling and Ship Pilot Study of the Maritime Implications for Commercial Ship Transits of the Proposed Houston Ship Channel Gate Complex (the "Study"). He discussed the District's commitment, as the non-federal sponsor, to represent all stakeholder interests. Director Traweck added that all stakeholder input is critical and important to the success of the projects.

## REPORT FROM U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Maj. O'Sullivan updated the Board on efforts related to the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study. He said USACE is working on the memorandum of understanding with

the District and the GLO, in addition to funding package submittals. He responded to questions regarding the timing of the memorandums of understanding and the preference for separate memorandums of understanding with the District and the GLO.

Maj. O’Sullivan next updated the Board on efforts related to the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Program (“S2G”). He reported on recent and upcoming meetings and engagements and acquisitions and contract awards.

#### REPORT FROM TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

There was no report from the General Land Office.

#### REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel reported on recent hearings and meetings at the Texas Capitol with House and Senate Committees, legislators, and GLO representatives. He discussed filed legislation that would impact the District. Director Bechtel then discussed local meetings and events.

#### REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sunstrum reported on continued meetings and work on funding at the state and federal levels.

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

Mr. Gordon reported on recent meetings of the District’s program management team with stakeholders and USACE representatives. He discussed a senior leaders meeting and executive governance meeting with USACE, the stakeholder partnering forum and Industry Day hosted by USACE, and a workshop hosted with Orange County elected officials regarding the status of the interior drainage analysis efforts. He also discussed an upcoming interior drainage workshop with USACE to review the results of recent task orders and to determine the path forward on upcoming interior drainage work.

Mr. Gordon next discussed the non-federal sponsor’s responsibility to conduct HTRW investigations. He discussed efforts to advance an initial set of Phase 2 environmental borings, which could be done in the near future under a categorical exclusion the USACE is pursuing. However, he clarified that the full HTRW investigation would require additional environmental clearances which the USACE is working on currently but may not receive until 2024. He stated that the District team is collaborating closely with the USACE to advance these efforts.

Mr. Gordon then discussed the program management team’s preparation of a draft Project Management Plan for the Orange County Separable Element of S2G, outlining the roles and responsibilities of USACE and the District, important schedules and milestones, and the protocols for working together. He then responded to questions from the Board about the information included in the Plan.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported on efforts by the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group to review Flood Management Evaluations to identify any that may be elevated to Flood Management Projects.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting will be on April 12th at 10:00 a.m. in Galveston.

ADJOURNMENT

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

/s/ Roger Quiroga  
Secretary, Board of Directors

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