

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

February 12, 2025

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Gulf Coast Protection District (the "District") met in regular session, open to the public, on the 12th day of February, 2025, at Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7, 4401 9th Ave., Port Arthur, Texas 77642, 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 Bechtel, Guenther, and Combs, thus constituting a quorum.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were: Grace Bader, Administrative Assistant for the District; Dedrea Norman, Chief Financial Officer for the District; Don Carona of Orange County Drainage District ("OCDD"); Allen Sims and Alex Thibodeaux of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 ("DD 7"); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD7; Bart Bartkowiak, City Manager of the City of Bridge City; Lanie Brown of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 36 Representative Brian Babin; Jim Macklin of the Office of Texas House District 129 Representative Dennis Paul; Lt. Col. Ian O'Sullivan, Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes, Toni Addison, Dominique Ukpabi, and Nicole Snyder of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"); Tony Williams, Sarah Purdon, and Mary Davison of the Texas General Land Office ("GLO"); Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Chris Sallese of Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; David Oliver, Kelly Hanen, and Cheryl Panozzo of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP ("ABHR"); Connor Stokes of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Evan Sitler of Terracon Consultants, Inc.; Jeff Scarborough of Stantec; Sina Amini of LAN; Eric Potts of Freese and Nichols; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Marc Broussard of Callan Marine; Leah

Stark and Mark Briggs of HPP; Stephen Knox of HNTB; Jason Folfyn of Transystems; Simon VanDyk of Touchstone District Services; and other members of the public.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Gordon 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 January 8, 2025, meeting. After review and discussion, Director Roccaforte moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Ritter 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 January 31, 2025, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Hulgan moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Bakko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ms. Norman reported on financial and administrative efforts from the previous month, including: (1) preparation and submittal of Advance Funds Requests to the GLO for funding appropriated by House Bill 1, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session ("HB 1") and Senate Bill 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session ("SB-1"); and (2) preparation of Amendment No. 4 to Local Cooperation Agreement ("LCA") No. 22-074-000-D188, between the District and GLO related to funds appropriated by SB 1 (the "SB 1 Amendment") and Amendment No. 2 to LCA No. 24-109-000-E394 between the District and GLO for funds appropriated by HB 1 (the "HB 1 Amendment") and negotiations with the GLO regarding same.

Mr. Gordon reported on the following: (1) the District's Appropriation Request for the 89th Texas Legislature to the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee; (2) the February 11, 2025, Senate Finance Committee hearing on Article VI (Natural Resources); (3) the presentation by District staff to the Texas Gulf Coast Infrastructure Coalition; (4) development of various communications items, including a new Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study ("Coastal Texas") brochure and video, and a Gate Study kickoff news release; (4) coordination

with the GLO regarding scope of work comments from USACE related to the Interlocal Project Cooperation Agreement between the GLO and the District for ecosystem restoration segment G-28, Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection ("G-28"), a project included in Coastal Texas, and other G-28 matters; (5) sediment sources studies being conducted by the GLO to identify sediment sources for beach nourishment projects as part of Coastal Texas; (6) a kickoff meeting with Texas A&M University-Galveston regarding the Gate Alternatives Study; (7) a kickoff meeting with the City of Houston regarding the feasibility of accessing sediment from Lake Houston for beach nourishment projects; (8) update on submittal of of the Memorandum of Understanding for Coastal Texas construction work to USACE for approval; (9) a status update regarding congressional notifications required in connection with the proposed amendment to the Design Agreement between the District and USACE for Coastal Texas; and (10) a proposed communications coordination workshop with USACE on Coastal Texas matters to be held in the month of March.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Director Mitchell reported on the Senate Finance Committee hearing held yesterday and commended Ms. Norman and Mr. Gordon for their assistance in the preparation for the hearing.

SABINE TO GALVESTON ("S2G") MATTERS

Messrs. Sallese and Gordon gave a presentation on District program management matters related to the Orange County Separable Element of S2G (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 anticipates that the memorandum regarding the Chief's discretionary authority for the Orange County Project will be received from USACE Galveston by the end of March 2025.

Mr. Sallese reviewed the status and schedule for the various rounds of phase II environmental site assessments by Geotest Engineering, Inc. and Terracon. He reported on ongoing right-of-entry discussions with Dow Chemical for the Dow Levee project. Mr. Gordon reported that the second Surface Use Agreement between Terracon and Texas Parks And Wildlife Department ("TPWD") for phase II environmental site assessments to be conducted on TPWD land was completed in January.

Mr. Sallese updated the Board on the status of design of the Dow Levee and Arlanxeo Levee projects. He reported that 30% design plans have been submitted to

USACE for review and that the 60% design plans are on hold until consensus is reached with USACE on a soil sampling solution for the projects. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sallese then updated the Board on the status of design of the Torrent Floodwall project by USACE and coordination with ABHR on development of utility relocation reimbursement agreements. He reported that 90% design plans are on hold pending resolution of the aberrant barge impact loading criteria and the effect on the wall design.

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.

In response to an inquiry by Director Hulgán related the black rail listening survey, Messrs. Sallese and Corona provided a report on outstanding environmental approvals and continued coordination with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife on endangered species issues.

REPORT FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7

Mr. Sims provided a presentation on the status of construction contracts and utility relocations for the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G. He reported on the anticipated award of the contract for construction of PAV04 and noted that payment of the District's 35% share of the estimated project costs is due at contract award. Discussion ensued.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT NO. 22-074-000-D188 BETWEEN GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT AND TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Gordon reviewed the proposed SB 1 Amendment to extend the contract date, revise terms to allow more than one advance funding request per month, and to allow for accelerated funds to USACE. After review and discussion, Director Traweek moved to approve and authorize execution of the SB 1 Amendment, subject to final review by ABHR. Director Bakko seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT NO. 24-109-000-E394 BETWEEN GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT AND TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Gordon then reviewed the proposed HB 1 Amendment to (1) extend the contract date; (2) revise terms to allow more than one advance funding request per month; (3) allow for accelerated funds to USACE; and (4) amend Attachment A to re-allocate funds to the District from funds appropriated pursuant to HB 1 as needed. Director Bakko made a motion to approve and authorize execution of the HB 1

Amendment. Director Ritter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

The Board concurred to defer discussion on this matter to later in the meeting during executive session.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Ms. Purdon provided a report on the feasibility of accessing sediment sources in the San Jacinto River at Lake Houston for beach nourishment projects. She noted she anticipates that the sediment source study being conducted to identify sediment sources for beach nourishment projects as part of Coastal Texas will be complete in May 2025.

Ms. Purdon provided an update on the scope of work related to the Interlocal Project Cooperation Agreement between the GLO and the District for G-28.

Ms. Purdon reported on GLO's continued coordination with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife on South Padre beach nourishment efforts.

Ms. Purdon reported that the Advance Funds Requests recently received by the District, following execution of Amendment No. 3 to the LCA between the District and GLO for funds appropriated by SB 1, are under review by the GLO.

Mr. Williams discussed funds appropriated pursuant to Senate Bill No. 8, 87th Texas Legislature, Third Called Session, 2021 ("SB 8"), to advance Coastal Texas. He noted that SB 8 allocated Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds received under a federal plan for which the District will not receive work-in-kind credit.

Mr. Williams provided a report on upcoming events, including a Society of American Military Engineers Coastal Resiliency Workshop on April 14, 2025, and the State of the Coast conference in New Orleans to be held May 20-22, 2025.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko updated the Board on the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group, including preparation for 2028 Regional Flood Plan.

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISCUSS HIRING FOR CHIEF PROGRAM MANAGER, AND APPROVAL TO RECRUIT GRANT ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT MANAGER TO SUPPORT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Board concurred to defer discussion on these agenda items to later in the meeting during executive session.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Following discussion, the Board concurred to hold the District's next meeting on March 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at 1150 Gemini St., Houston, Texas 77058.

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

At 11:29 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 Coastal Texas matters, including design of G-28. Present at the closed meeting were Directors Mitchell, Bakko, Taylor, Hulgan, Traweek, Petersen, Ritter, and Roccaforte, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Hanen, and Ms. Panozzo. The Board determined Mr. Gordon's attendance in this executive session was necessary for the Board to obtain the necessary legal advice from its attorneys, and requested his presence in the executive session.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 12:18 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session. No action was taken.

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 12:19 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 Mitchell, Bakko, Taylor, Hulgan, Traweek, Petersen, Ritter, and Roccaforte, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Norman, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Hanen, and Ms. Panozzo.

At 12:36, Mr. Gordon and Ms. Norman left the executive session.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 12:53 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

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

At 12:54 p.m., the Board convened in executive session pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code to discuss S2G matters, including the Orange County Project. Present at the closed meeting were Directors Mitchell, Bakko, Taylor, Hulgan,

Traweek, Petersen, Ritter, and Roccaforte, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Norman, Mr. Corona, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Hanen, and Ms. Panozzo.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 1:04 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

Director Bakko moved to (1) authorize execution of an employment agreement for an Executive Director for the District; and (2) approve recruitment of a Grant Accounting and Management Manager for the District. Director Hulgan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

(SEAL)



/s/ Sally Bakko
Secretary, Board of Directors

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

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