

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

July 12, 2023

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 July, 2023, at the West Side Complex Community Center, 8138 FM 3246, Baytown, Texas 77523, 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 Mitchell, Quiroga, 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; Don Carona of Orange County Drainage District (“OCDD”); Allen Sims and Phil Kelley of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (“DD 7”); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD 7; Lanie Brown of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 36 Representative Brian Babin; Maj. Ian O’Sullivan, Col. Rhett Blackmon, Bobby Petty, Capt. Aaron Brown, Nicole Snyder, Toni Addison, and Byron Williams of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Tony Williams, Elizabeth Ozuna, Danielle DaVacque, and Dianna Ramirez of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Henry de la Garza and Nathan Price of the Houston Pilots; Willi Gerami of West Gulf Maritime Association; Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Chris Sallese of DEC; Margaret Dubbin of GeoConsultants; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Brittany Little and Connor Stokes of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Austin Ficken of Masterson Advisors LLC; Larry Wise of Baird & Associates; Robert Esenwein and Jeff Scarborough of Stantec; JR Reddish of Binkley & Barfield; Norman Kramer of Tetra-Tech; Steve Floyd and Steve Jordan of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.; Sam Hinojosa of HALFF; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Eric Potts, Joseph Majdalani, and Tony Risko of Freese and Nichols; Daniel Arizpe of Apollo Productions; Niels Aalund of Bay Houston Towing; Michael Johnson of Solmax; Simon VanDyk and Calep Estes of Touchstone District Services; John Shanahan; 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 June 14, 2023, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Traweck moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Ritter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS

Ms. Sunstrum reviewed the bookkeeper's report prepared by Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P., including the list of checks for payment of District bills, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

RENEWAL OF DISTRICT'S INSURANCE POLICIES

The Board reviewed a proposal from McDonald & Wessendorff Insurance for renewal of the District's insurance policies, effective August 18, 2023. After review and discussion, Director Guenther moved to approve the proposal for renewal of the District's insurance. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel reported on recent meetings with various stakeholders and elected officials.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sunstrum reported on meetings and presentations during the past month.

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

Mr. Sallèse reported on the Orange County Separable Element of the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Program ("S2G") and coordination efforts with USACE to continue reviewing project costs and methodology. He also discussed efforts to work with USACE on a Post Authorization Change Report. Mr. Sallèse reported on the completion of phase I investigations on the west side and said the draft reports are under review. He discussed the schedule for closing out the project task order with USACE. He then responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Sims updated the Board on the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G and the status of projects. He said project 3A was recently bid and a contract should be executed in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Sims also reported on an upcoming USACE levee inspection.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported that the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group will be submitting its final, amended Regional Flood Plan to the Texas Water Development Board on July 14, 2023. She discussed the next step for the Texas Water Development Board to combine all Regional Flood Plans into a State Flood Plan for submittal to the Texas Legislature by September 1, 2024.

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

At 10:35 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was convening in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 11:45 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT AND UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ON COASTAL TEXAS PROGRAM

The Board considered approving an In-Kind Memorandum of Understanding Between The Department of the Army and the Gulf Coast Protection District for Design Work Prior to Execution of a Design Agreement for the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Project (“MOU”). After review, Director Bakko moved to approve the MOU and authorize submittal of a request to USACE for immediate preparation of a memorandum of understanding for in-kind construction costs. Director Guenther seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM AND PROPOSAL FOR PHASE 2 ENVIRONMENTAL SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Board considered approving a proposal from the District’s project management team for Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments of 20 locations east of Cow Bayou, in connection with the Orange County Separable Element of S2G. Following review and discussion, Director Traweck moved to approve the proposal. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Ms. Ramirez gave a presentation on the Bolivar/McFaddin and West Galveston Island projects as well as the GLO’s Follett’s Island project. Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Williams responded to questions from the Board regarding the projects.

Mr. Williams reported on the status of other GLO projects. He also discussed recent and upcoming meetings and presentations.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting will be on August 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Kaila M. Sullivan Chapel & Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

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


Asst. Secretary, Board of Directors



LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

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