

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

June 14, 2023

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 June, 2023, at the Kaila M. Sullivan Chapel & Hall, 5000 NASA Rd 1, 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, Garcia, and Roccaforte, 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 Corona of Orange County Drainage District (“OCDD”); Allen Sims, Phil Kelley, and Toby Davis of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (“DD 7”); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD 7; Jay Guerrero of the Office of U.S. Senator John Cornyn; Michael Rizzo and Kelly Waterman of the Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; Will Carter of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 36 Representative Brian Babin; Kristen Lee of the Office of Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2; Andrea Lavorgna of the Greater Houston Port Bureau; Hank Dugie, Galveston County Treasurer; Maj. Ian O’Sullivan, Kelly Burks-Copes, Bobby Petty, Capt. Aaron Brown, and Lt. Peter Battung of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Tony Williams, Melissa Washington, Elizabeth Ozuna, Danielle DaVacque, Dianna Ramirez, and Stephanie Davidson of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Darren Shelton of Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee; Chris Sallesse of DEC; Margaret Dubbin of GeoConsultants; Amy Skicki of BayTran; Trey Lary and Duggan Baker of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Mark Burton of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.; Leslie Holloway and Claire Garvin of Holloway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Austin Ficken of Masterson Advisors LLC; Larry Wise of Baird & Associates; Peggy Zahler of PZ Consulting; Diana Tabor of Terracon; Johnny Kim and Samantha Harn of Half; Robert Esenwein, Jeff Scarborough, Krista McCormick, Dan Grandal, and Juan Moya of Stantec; Mark E. Haas and Nina Rach of MEH Engineering; Ashton Binkley of Binkley & Barfield; Norman Kramer and Nefi Garza of Tetra-Tech; Leigh Martin and Mark Dessens of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.; Darrell Morrison of Ardurra; Simon VanDyk 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

Mr. Shelton commented on ship traffic and the importance of ensuring the Bolivar gate system allows continual two-way traffic.

Mr. Dugie commented on a recent joint meeting of the Dickinson Bayou and Clear Creek Watershed Steering Committees at which support for District projects was reaffirmed and the importance of the Dickinson Bay/Clear Lake gates was discussed. He conveyed the Committees' offer to partner with the District to assist in District efforts.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

The Board considered approving the minutes of the May 10, 2023, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Quiroga moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS AND AMENDED BUDGET

Mr. Burton reviewed the bookkeeper's report, including the list of checks for payment of District bills, a copy of which is attached. He then presented an amended budget and reported on coordination with GLO representatives to categorize revenues and expenditures. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills and adopt the amended budget as presented. Director Quiroga seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Williams introduced Ms. Davidson of the GLO's government relations team. He next reported on the status of GLO project efforts, noting a meeting with Port Mansfield about partnering to move forward on an ecosystem restoration project and a meeting with Cameron County elected officials on plans for Padre Island. Mr. Williams reported on meetings and presentations at the recent State of the Coast conference in New Orleans. He discussed coordination efforts with USACE and an upcoming meeting with Brazoria County regarding the Follet's Island project. Mr. Williams then responded to questions from the Board and commented on beach erosion mitigation plans.

REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel discussed the status of legislation related to the District. He then reported on recent and upcoming meetings with stakeholders and elected officials and news coverage regarding the District. Director Bakko discussed Congressional funding considerations and the nationwide importance of District projects.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sunstrum reported on appropriations from the Texas Legislature.

REPORT FROM ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7; REPORT FROM DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mr. Salles 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. He discussed updates to the master plan based on recent schedules received from USACE. Mr. Salles reviewed a proposal for Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments of 20 locations approved by USACE in non-sensitive areas east of Cow Bayou. He reported that the investigations on the west side were completed and a report is being prepared.

Mr. Sims updated the Board on the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G and the status of projects. He said the HTRW report should be submitted to USACE in the next two weeks. Mr. Sims then discussed updated cost estimates for projects.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported on efforts by the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group to update the Regional Flood Plan, noting that several flood management evaluations were upgraded to recommended projects. She discussed the importance of District projects being included in the final State Flood Plan.

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 10:55 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 12:53 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session. Upon reconvening in open session, no action was taken.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District’s next meeting will be on July 12th at 10:00 a.m. in Chambers County.

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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