

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

July 17, 2024

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 17th day of July, 2024, at 1150 Gemini Street, Suite 1050, Houston, Texas 77258, 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
Adrian Garcia	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulkan	Director

and all of the above were present except Directors Mitchell, Taylor, Traweek, 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; Dedrea Norman, Chief Financial Officer for the District; Don Carona of Orange County Drainage District (“OCDD”); Phil Kelley and Toby Davis of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (“DD 7”); Will Carter and Nic Baez of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 36 Representative Brian Babin; Lt. Col. Ian O’Sullivan and Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Sarah Purdon, Melissa Washington, Stephanie Davidson, and Mary Davison of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Chris Sallese of Gannett Fleming; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Justin Tassin, Blythe Payne, and Connor Stokes of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Prasad Rajulu of Terracon Consultants, Inc.; Jeff Scarborough and Juan Moya of Stantec; Jason Foltyn of HDR Engineering; Lars Zetterstrom of LAN; Margaret Dubbin of GEO Consultants; Coraggio Maglio of DCCM; Austin Ficken of Masterson Advisors; John Ivery of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Mitch Mitchell of Mitch Mansions Inc.; 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

The Board considered approving the minutes of the June 12, 2024, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Roccaforte moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Combs seconded the motion, which passed 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, 2024. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve the proposal for renewal of the District's insurance. 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, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Guenther moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Ritter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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

Ms. Purdon 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 said GLO is working to determine the appropriate contracting party and the agreements needed to accomplish the project.

Ms. Purdon reported on progress related to the memorandum of understanding for design work with USACE. She said GLO aims to have the document in place before beginning design of the Matagorda project.

Ms. Purdon then reported on efforts to prepare for meetings with State legislators regarding appropriations.

Ms. Davison discussed funds recently deposited to the District and balances remaining from State appropriations. She discussed a pending inquiry regarding authorized uses of earned interest and discussions regarding a budget reallocation for the funds available from Senate Bill 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session. She added that GLO continue working to finalize the Local Cooperation Agreement for funds available from House Bill 1, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Director Bechtel said he had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ms. Sunstrum updated the Board on coordination with GLO on funding strategies and preparation of a legislative appropriations request. She discussed an upcoming American Shore and Beach Preservation Association conference, noting she will participate on a panel with Tony Williams of GLO and Dr. Burks-Copes, followed by a tour of the proposed ring levee.

Ms. Norman discussed plans to work with the Board to restructure the District's audit committee.

Director Bakko requested advance notice of upcoming events of interest to the District.

COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

Ms. Sunstrum said discussions are ongoing with GLO regarding funding strategies and agreements for G-28.

SABINE TO GALVESTON MATTERS AND DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Mr. Sallèse gave a presentation on District program management efforts related to the Orange County Separable Element of Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (the "Orange County Project").

Mr. Gordon updated the Board on the Post-Authorization Change Report ("PACR") for the Orange County Project and reported on USACE-Galveston's submittal of a revised Project Management Plan, Review Plan, Risk Register, and Schedule to USACE's Southwest Division for review. He reviewed the PACR schedule, noting the delays avoided by accelerating the PACR effort and the next steps pending further discussions with USACE regarding interior drainage and concurrence of the Southwest Division.

Mr. Sallèse updated the Board on the status of design of the Dow Levee and Arlanxeo Levee projects. He discussed the delayed schedule for the Dow Levee cultural resource coordination due to the results of the black rail listening survey.

Mr. Sallèse reviewed a summary of recent program management activities for the Orange County Project, including coordination meetings with USACE, the status of phase 2 environmental site assessments, and the status of design of the Torrent Floodwall project and receipt of a preliminary notice to proceed for utility relocations for the project. He then reviewed upcoming program management activities for the next 30-60 days, including acquisition strategy and executive governance meetings. He also reviewed financials for the program management team.

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

Following Mr. Sallèse's report, Mr. Carona noted that he did not have anything additional to report.

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the status of design and construction contracts for the Jefferson County Separable Elements of Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko said she had nothing new to report on this item.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting is scheduled for August 14th at 10:00 a.m. at 1150 Gemini St., Houston, Texas 77058.

In response to a question from Director Bechtel, Lt. Col. O'Sullivan reported that Major General Butch Graham was selected as the next Chief of Engineers of USACE, subject to Senate confirmation.

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

The Board did not convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

The Board did not convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Dolly Bakko
Secretary, Board of Directors

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