

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 11, 2023

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 11th day of October, 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 Director VanDerSnick, 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 and Martin Dies 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; Daniel Lawless of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 14 Representative Randy Weber; Kristen Lee of the Office of Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2; Bobby Petty, Kelly Burks-Copes, Capt. Aaron Brown, Nicole Snyder, and Toni Addison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Elizabeth Ozuna, Danielle DaVacque, Dianna Ramirez, Mary Davison, and Melissa Washington of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Chris Morgan of the U.S. Coast Guard; Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Chris Sallese of DEC; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP (“ABHR”); Mark Burton of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.; Leslie Hollaway and Connor Stokes of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Bob Stokes of the Galveston Bay Foundation; Amy Skicki of BayTran; Norman Kramer of Tetra-Tech; Sam Hinojosa of HALFF; Eric Potts and Joseph Majdalani of Freese and Nichols; Lars Zetterstrom of LAN; 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 August 9, 2023, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Mitchell moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Combs 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. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Oliver confirmed that McCall Gibson Swedlund Barfoot.PLLC, the District's auditor, has begun preparation of the District's annual audit, and stated that the audit must be filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality within 135 days of the District's fiscal year end. After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Carona discussed a proposed amendment to the Local Cooperation Agreement, GLO Contract No. 22-074-000-D188, between the GLO and the District ("LCA") to amend Attachment A to re-allocate funds to the District for fiscal year 2024 from funds appropriated pursuant to Senate Bill No. 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2021. After review and discussion regarding the proposed amended Attachment A to the LCA, Director Combs moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute the amendment to the LCA, subject to final review by ABHR. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Ms. Ozuna reported on coordination with the District on funding and budgetary matters.

Ms. Ramirez reported on program management, including sediment sampling underway and meetings with local governments to obtain resolutions of support for joint projects. In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Ramirez discussed the contract executed between the GLO and Ocean Energy Management on September 28, 2023, to perform the sediment sampling.

REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel reported on recent meetings with elected officials regarding congressional funding for Coastal Texas. He also reported on meetings with stakeholders regarding Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Program ("S2G") projects. Director Bechtel also reported on legislation filed by State Representative Dennis Paul to create the gulf coast trust fund.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sunstrum said she had nothing additional to report.

REPORT FROM ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7; REPORT FROM DISTRICT ENGINEER AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM AND PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Sallesse gave a presentation on program management activities related to the Orange County Separable Element of S2G. He reviewed a proposal from DEC to conduct additional modeling and analysis related to the interior drainage system to evaluate possible reductions in project complexity and cost. Mr. Sallesse reviewed an optimization schedule based on the proposal. He next discussed two projects, design of the Dow Levee and the Arlanxeo Levee Projects, which were identified as early start projects that could be expedited by the District as in-kind work. Mr. Sallesse reviewed proposals from DEC for design work associated with the projects. He reviewed projected timelines, risks, and estimated costs associated with expediting the early start projects. Mr. Sallesse then reviewed an overall schedule for the Orange County S2G Program and responded to questions from the Board. After review and discussion, Director Mitchell moved to approve and authorize execution of the three proposals from DEC as additional task orders pursuant to the terms of the Professional Engineering Services Agreement between the District and DEC. Director Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Sims gave a presentation on the status of projects included in the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G. He then responded to questions from the Board. After discussion, the Board requested an overall timeline for the DD 7 S2G projects.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported that the Regional Flood Planning Groups submitted their Regional Flood Plans to the Texas Water Development Board (“TWDB”) for review and eventual incorporation into a State Flood Plan to be submitted to the Texas Legislature by September 1, 2024. She said a draft of the State Flood Plan is anticipated to be available in early-mid 2024 for review. Director Bakko reported that the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group will conduct its next meeting on October 12, 2023, to appoint a new member and begin discussing the next cycle of regional flood planning efforts. She recommended meeting with TWDB representatives to discuss the Coastal Texas program as part of the State Flood Plan. Director Garcia suggested seeking resolutions of support from the District’s participating counties and said his office will circulate a form of resolution.

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

At 11:29 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was convening in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, to discuss legal matters related to a proposed agreement between the GLO and the District (the “SB 8 Agreement”) to provide for the use of funds appropriated to the GLO pursuant to Senate Bill No. 8, 87th Texas Legislature, Third Called Session, 2021, to conduct of a sediment source survey to identify sediment sources for beach nourishment projects as part of the Coastal Texas program.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 11:55 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session.

AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE FOR SEDIMENT SOURCING STUDY

After review and discussion and upon a motion made by Director Mitchell and seconded by Director Combs, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to execute the SB 8 Agreement, subject to final review by the Executive Director and ABHR.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 8th in Orange County.

ADJOURNMENT

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




Secretary, Board of Directors

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

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