

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

October 9, 2024

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 9th day of October, 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
Tina Petersen	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulgan	Director

and all of the above were present except Directors Mitchell, Taylor, Guenther, and Hulgan, 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”); Allen Sims, Toby Davis, and Barron Cook of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (“DD 7”); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD7; Matt Murphy of the Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; The Honorable Jon Powell, City of Taylor Lake Village Council Member Position 2; Lt. Col. Ian O’Sullivan, Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes, Toni Addison, Peter Battung, and Nicole Snyder of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Tony Williams, Elizabeth Ozuna, and Mary Davison of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Eric Carrero of the Greater Houston Port Bureau; Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Chris Sallese of Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP (“ABHR”); Leslie Holloway and Blythe Payne of Holloway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Larry Dunbar of the SSPEED Center; Yvonne Hernandez and Prasad Rajulu of Terracon Consultants, Inc. (“Terracon”); Margaret Dubbin of Geo Consultants; Clint Renard of Rigid Constructors; Jeff Scarborough of Stantec; Ray Devlin and Nick Cox of Moffatt & Nichol; Lars Zetterstrom of LAN; Rick Robertson of Jacobs; Eric Potts of Freese and Nichols; Sohaib Alahmed, Sam Hinojosa, Johnny Kim, and Tony Sartori of Halff; Brittany Kendrick and Benjamin Castleberry of Black & Veatch; Anwar Zahid of Infratech; Tim Vail and Sarah V. of HDR; Whitney Casey of AECOM; Simon VanDyk and Calep Estes of Touchstone District Services; Doug Peterson; 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 14, 2024, and September 25, 2024, meetings. After review and discussion, Director Bakko moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Combs 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. She discussed an additional check in the amount of \$135,000 to Texas A&M University-Galveston pursuant to the agreement previously approved by the Board for a gate study. After review and discussion, Director Traweck moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills, including the additional check presented by Ms. Norman. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT NO. 22-074-000-D188

The Board concurred to table this item until next month's meeting.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Williams updated the Board on GLO efforts related to Matagorda Bay ecosystem restoration projects.

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

Mr. Williams reported on the execution of the Local Cooperation Agreement between GLO and the District for funds available from House Bill 1, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session.

Mr. Williams updated the Board on discussions with the City of Houston regarding the feasibility of accessing sediment sources in the San Jacinto River at Lake Houston for beach nourishment projects.

Mr. Williams then reported on recent and upcoming outreach events and site visits.

In response to questions from Director Bakko, Mr. Williams said he would determine the status of the report on the sediment source study previously completed pursuant to an agreement between the District and GLO.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Director Bechtel reported on recent and upcoming meetings and events with stakeholders and elected officials regarding District projects and funding.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ms. Sunstrum said she will send information to the Board about USACE's upcoming Stakeholder Partnering Forum.

Ms. Norman reported on efforts to update the District's Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual for Board consideration at next month's meeting.

COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

The Board concurred to table consideration of the Interlocal Project Cooperation Agreement with GLO for 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"), until next month's meeting.

The Board considered Amendment No. 1 to the Design Agreement between the District and USACE to allow USACE to accept accelerated funds to advance design of G-28, the Bolivar and West Galveston Beach and Dune System, and Bolivar Roads Gate System, subject to completing the appropriate congressional notification process. Col. O'Sullivan responded to questions and discussed the accelerated funds process. After review and discussion, Director Bakko moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Design Agreement between the District and USACE. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SABINE TO GALVESTON ("S2G") MATTERS

Mr. Baker discussed the notice letters that were distributed to the owners of real property located in Orange County, Texas, identified by USACE for conduct of cultural resources investigations for the Orange County Separable Element of S2G (the "Orange County Project"). After review and discussion, Director Traweck moved to ratify execution of the Authorization for Entry for Survey & Exploration to utilize the District's right of entry powers pursuant to Section 49.221, Texas Water Code, to perform testing and surveys on such real property parcels identified by USACE as critical for the Orange County Project alignment. Director Roccaforte seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Messrs. Sallese and Gordon gave a presentation on District program management matters related to the Orange County Project.

Mr. Gordon discussed the Master Agreement for Professional Services between the District and Terracon (the "Terracon Agreement") for conduct of the remaining 68 phase II environmental site assessments for the Orange County Project. He discussed an additional 10 phase II environmental site assessments necessary based on revisions to the alignment in the vicinity of the Port of Orange.

Mr. Gordon discussed the program management team's recommendation for Board approval of an amendment to Task Order No. 1 to incorporate the additional work. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to authorize execution of the amendment to Task Order No. 1, as proposed, to be incorporated into the Terracon Agreement, subject to review and finalization by ABHR. Director Petersen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Gordon updated the Board on the Post-Authorization Change Report ("PACR") for the Orange County Project. He discussed and recommended Board authorization for the Executive Director to endorse the Project Management Plan for the PACR, subject to final review. He reviewed the PACR schedule and the next steps. Mr. Gordon then responded to questions from the Board regarding the PACR process and environmental factors and considerations associated therewith. After discussion, Director Roccaforte moved to authorize the Executive Director to endorse the Project Management Plan for the PACR, subject to review and finalization by the District's program management team. Director Bakko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Gordon reviewed the status and schedule for the various rounds of phase II environmental site assessments by Geotest Engineering, Inc. and Terracon.

Mr. Sallesse updated the Board on the status of design of the Dow Levee and Arlanxeo Levee projects. He discussed the projected schedules for the projects. Mr. Sallesse discussed additional mitigation required for bottom land hardwoods at Arlanxeo, noting the scope of work is being prepared.

Mr. Sallesse reviewed a summary of recent program management activities for the Orange County Project. He then reviewed upcoming program management activities for the next 30-60 days. He also reviewed financials for the program management team.

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

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

Mr. Sims updated the Board on the status of contracts for the Jefferson County Separable Elements of S2G (the "Jefferson County Project"). He also reported on prior and upcoming meetings and events, including a meeting with USACE representatives regarding financial projections for the Jefferson County Project and the process for submitting a justification request for non-federal sponsor credit related to public lands. Mr. Sims then discussed preparation of an Affected Property Assessment Report for submittal to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to confirm no additional environmental remediation work is necessary, as required by USACE.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported that the next meeting of the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group is scheduled for October 10, 2024. She also discussed guidance issued by the Texas Water Development Board for amending regional flood plans to align with the 2026-2027 Flood Infrastructure Fund funding cycle, with amendments due by April 1, 2025.

Director Bakko then reported on a recent opportunity for the President of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce to present the Coastal Texas Project and related materials at an event with other chambers of commerce from across the country.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in Orange County.

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 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY

The Board did not convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code.

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 11:25 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board would convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code, to discuss employment matters related to District personnel.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 12:09 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board would reconvene in open session. Upon reconvening in open session, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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




Secretary, Board of Directors

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

	Minutes
	<u>Page</u>
Bookkeeper's report.....	2