

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

February 8, 2023

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 8th day of February, 2023, at the Bay Area Community Center, 5002 E. Nasa Parkway, 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 Bakko, Guenther, and 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; Allen Sims and Phil Kelley of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (“DD 7”); Martin Dies of Orange County Drainage District (“OCDD”); Ray Russo, representing OCDD and DD 7; Hudson Peterson and Thomas Vanzant of the Office of U.S. Senator John Cornyn; Jason Fuller and Grant Murray of the Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; Brie Little of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 14 Representative Randy Weber; Will Carter of the Office of U.S. Congressional District 36 Representative Brian Babin; Kelly Burks-Copes, Maj. Ian O’Sullivan, Bobby Petty, Nicole Snyder, Belynda Kinman, Andrew Cook, and Aaron Brown of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Melissa Washington of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Capt. Bill Diehl, Christine Schlenker, and Andrea Lavorgna of the Greater Houston Port Bureau (“GHPB”); Capt. Clint Winegar, Henry de la Garza, Tyler Gavis, JJ Plunkett, George Burkley, and Matthew Greg of the Houston Pilots (the “Houston Pilots”); Capt. Mark Saunders and Adam Shannahan, of the Galveston-Texas City Pilots (the “Galveston-Texas City Pilots” and, together with the Houston Pilots, the “Pilots”); Randy Scott, Ethan Lewallen, Anthony Booth, and Mark Nelson of the U.S. Coast Guard; Naval Aranke of Executive Shipping; Robert Hawn of the West Gulf Maritime Association; Stuart Benton of Petredec Trading US Inc.; Kristen Lee of the Office of Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2; Tim Vail and Jason Foltyn of HDR Engineering; Ashton Binkley of Binkley & Barfield; Margaret Dubbin of GeoConsultants; Frederick Sundesera of ATSER; David Oliver, Duggan Baker, and Kristen Hogan of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP; Cindy Grimes of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.; Amy Skicki of BayTran; Adam Gatton of WSP USA; Lars Zetterstrom of LAN; Greg DeLong and Rick Rainey of Enterprise; Justin Knight of Bay Houston Towing; Bix Rathburn of Hilltop Securities; Chris Sallese of DEC; Jay Luckritz of Black & Veatch; Leslie Hollaway, Kasey Clarke, and Mariah Najmuddin of Hollaway Environmental and

Communications Services, Inc.; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Leonard Levine; Chris Catalanotto of Canal Barge Co.; Tina Peterman and Austin Ficken of Masterson Advisors LLC; Matt Johansen of Stifel; Sandy Walker of Weeks Marine; Robert Baker of Texas A&M-Galveston; Jonathan Schmeltz of McCarthy; Bob Esenwein and Jeff Scarborough of Stantec; Russ Poppe of HNTB; Peggy Zahler of PZ Consulting; Eric Potts, Augusto Villalon, and Joseph Majdalani, of Freese and Nichols; Darrell Morrison of Ardurra; Raul Wong, Sam Hinojosa, and Johnny Kim of HALFF; Simon VanDyk and 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 January 11, 2023, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Garcia moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Ritter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS

Ms. Grimes 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 Roccaforte moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Garcia seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

RENEWAL OF CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Board reviewed a proposal for renewal of the District's cyber liability insurance for a term to coincide with expiration of the District's other insurance policies. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve the proposal. Director Quiroga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION FROM HOUSTON PILOTS ON STUDY ENTITLED SHIP SIMULATION TRANSIT SCENARIO MODELING & SHIP PILOT STUDY OF THE MARITIME IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL SHIP TRANSITS OF THE PROPOSED HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL GATE COMPLEX (THE "STUDY")

Capt. Diehl discussed the Study and GHPB's interest in maritime implications of the Bolivar gate system concept. He expressed support for the District's efforts and requested consideration of an expedited USACE study and inclusion of GHPB in the design process. Capt. Winegar discussed the duties of the Houston Pilots and their history of involvement in discussions regarding the gates, noting original feedback was based on a one-gate system. He expressed the continued support of the Pilots and the decision to prepare the Study. Captain Saunders discussed the Galveston/Texas City Pilots and reviewed renderings of simulations showing potential concerns to consider in the gate

design process. The presenters responded to questions from the Board. Maj. O'Sullivan then responded to the GHPB requests and discussed the District's participation in project timelines, noting that USACE considers the Pilots to be an important partner on the project. After discussion, Director Garcia moved to acknowledge receipt of the Study and to request USACE to incorporate the feedback from the GHPB and the Pilots. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

At 10:50 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 11:32 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session.

LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Upon reconvening in open session, Director Garcia moved to authorize the President to sign the second amendment to the Local Cooperation Agreement between the District and the GLO (the "LCA Amendment"), as discussed, and to send a letter to the GLO indicating the Board's support of the LCA Amendment. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Dr. Burks-Copes updated the Board on efforts related to the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Program ("S2G"). She discussed the schedule for bidding and contract awards for the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G, the recent open house event for the Freeport Separable Element of S2G, and GIS efforts for the Orange County Separable Element of S2G.

Dr. Burks-Copes then updated the Board on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study ("Coastal Texas"). She discussed USACE's funding package submittals and hiring plans as well as a program initiated in schools to prepare the next generation for jobs related to Coastal Texas.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

This item was tabled.

REPORT FROM TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

There was no report from the General Land Office.

REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel commented on recent meetings with agencies and elected officials. He

discussed funding for the District that is included in the initial draft of the State budget. He also discussed upcoming hearings of the Texas House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Sunstrum reported on continued meetings and work on funding at the state and federal levels.

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

Mr. Sallèse gave an update on the Orange County Separable Element of S2G. He discussed efforts related to the interior drainage analysis and environmental work.

Mr. Sims gave an update on the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G. He then discussed upcoming events.

UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

There was no discussion on this item.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District's next meeting will be on March 8th at 10:00 a.m. at the Bay Area Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Regan R. Jennings
Secretary, Board of Directors

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

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