

MINUTES  
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

March 13, 2024

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Gulf Coast Protection District (the “District”) met in regular session, open to the public, on the 13th day of March, 2024, 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
Vacant	Secretary
Sally Bakko	Assistant Secretary
Roger Guenther	Director
Lori Traweek	Director
Billy Combs	Director
Adrian Garcia	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulgan	Director

and all of the above were present except Director 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; Don Carona of Orange County Drainage District; Kelly Waterman of the Office of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz; Ryan Caruso of the Office of Texas Senate District 11 Senator Mayes Middleton; Lt. Col. Ian O’Sullivan, Lt. Peter Battung, and Kelly Burks-Copes of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”); Tony Williams, Warren Collier, Melissa Washington, Dianna Ramirez, Stephanie Davidson, and Mary Davison of the Texas General Land Office (“GLO”); Chris Sallese of DEC; Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Dawn Pilcher of Tidewater Professional Services LLC; Duggan Baker of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP (“ABHR”); Cindy Grimes of Municipal Accounts & Consulting, L.P.; Leslie Hollaway of Hollaway Environmental and Communications Services, Inc.; Michael Roberts of The Coastal Trust; Gretchen McInnes of Hanes Geo Components; Norman Kramer of Tetra-Tech; Jeff Scarborough and Robert Esenwein of Stantec; Eric Potts of Freese and Nichols Michael Johnson of Solmax; Darrell Morrison of Ardurra; Diana Tabor and Yvonne Hernandez of Terracon; Leigh Martin of Schaumburg & Polk, Inc.; Brittany Kendrick of Black & Veatch; Larry Wise of Baird & Associates; Simon VanDyk and Calep Estes of Touchstone District Services; Mitch Mitchell of Mitch Mansions; 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 February 14, 2024, regular meeting. After review and discussion, Director Traweek moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Director Mitchell 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 Combs moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Traweek seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Williams reported on recent meetings with USACE and other stakeholders regarding options for coordination of projects. He reported on upcoming meetings with elected officials and a presentation at the 2024 Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Mr. Williams then updated the Board on the status of two beach nourishment projects.

Mr. Collier updated the Board on the status of preparation of the draft Local Cooperation Agreement regarding House Bill 1, 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session. He also updated the Board on delays in the GLO's audit of the District as a result of GLO personnel changes.

## REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

Director Bechtel reported on recent and upcoming meetings with elected officials and stakeholders regarding District projects and funding, including the recent "Houston Day" event hosted by the Greater Houston Partnership.

Director Bakko reported on meetings with staff from the Texas Capitol, Texas Comptroller's office, and the Texas Association of Business regarding District projects and funding. She reported on future opportunities discussed with such representatives.

## REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Following Director Bechtel's report, Ms. Sunstrum noted that she did not have anything additional to report.

## DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT MATTERS AND PROPOSAL FOR PHASE 2 INVESTIGATIONS FOR DOW LEVEE AND ARLANXEO LEVEE PROJECTS; REPORT FROM ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7

Mr. Sallese gave a presentation on efforts related to the Orange County Separable Element of Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (the "Orange County Project"). He reviewed a proposal to conduct Phase 2 environmental site assessments for the Dow Levee and ArlanxEO Levee projects (the

“Assessments”). Mr. Sallese discussed the proposed locations for the Assessments, which will begin upon receipt of environmental clearance.

Mr. Gordon updated the Board on the status of the interior drainage system optimization. He said USACE is reviewing the report previously submitted by the District’s program management team, which will subsequently be included in the Post-Authorization Change Report (“PACR”) for the Orange County Project.

Mr. Sallese then reviewed a summary of program management activities, including prior environmental site assessment results, the status of cultural investigations for the Dow Levee and Arlanxo Levee projects, a risk workshop conducted by the USACE JV contractor, the timing for beginning black rail listening surveys in the marsh areas, and discussions with Port Orange regarding the levee alignment. He reviewed a financial summary for the Orange County Project.

Mr. Sallese reviewed financial summaries for the Orange County Project and the Jefferson County Separable Elements of Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (the “Jefferson County Project”). He then updated the Board on efforts related to the Jefferson County Project.

After review and discussion, Director Guenther moved to approve and authorize execution of the proposal for the Assessments. Director Mitchell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Carona then reported on a meeting with USACE for coordination on the PACR process for the Orange County project.

#### UPDATE FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko reported on the recent meeting of the Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group.

#### SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Director Bechtel reported that the District’s next meeting is scheduled for April 17th at 10:00 a.m. at 1150 Gemini St., Houston, Texas 77058.

#### CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY

At 11:20 a.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was convening in executive session pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code, to discuss real estate matters.

#### RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 12:10 p.m., Director Bechtel announced that the Board was reconvening in open session.

RIGHT TO ENTER PROPERTY FOR PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION AND EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS

Upon reconvening in open session, Director Mitchell moved to authorize: (1) ABHR to work with the District's consultants and contractors and USACE to utilize the District's right of entry powers pursuant to Section 49.221, Texas Water Code, to perform testing and surveys on real property parcels located in Orange County, Texas, and identified by USACE as critical for the Orange County Project alignment, subject to the District's receipt of notice that the subject landowners have received letters informing them of the District's anticipated entry and the purpose thereof; and (2) the District's engagement of a right-of-way consultant to assist with future right of entries. Director Guenther seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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



*Danny Bullock*  
Secretary, Board of Directors

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES

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