

***WEST GALVESTON ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
Annual Members meeting held on February 16, 2013***

The West Galveston Island Members meeting was held at the Galveston Country Club. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jerry Mohn, President. A quorum of Directors was present.

Directors present: Bermuda Beach - Mary Jan Lantz, Dunes of the West Beach-Jeff Southard, Isla Del Sol -Boyd Carr, Jamaica Beach Improvement Committee-Al Galli, Laffites Cove – Taras Romanchuk, Pirates POA – Lee Slataper,, Pointe West - Lee Petros, Spanish Grant Bay – Chris Kasper, Spanish Grant Beach – Peggy Zahler, West Beach Grand – Tom Boothe, Seal Isle – Tom Gillespie, and Sportsman Road – Clay Lewis.

Jerry Mohn recognized: Michael Kovacs – City Manager, District 6 City Council Marie Robb, Mayor Lewis Rosen, and Judge Jim Schweitzer.

Corporate Sponsors: present were Peggy Zahler - -Johnson Space Center Credit Union, Marie Robb with Coastal Solutions and Clay Lewis – Operation Integrity.

The Board reviewed the January 19, 2013, minutes, and Financial Statements. Motion by Clay Lewis, and seconded by Boyd Carr. The Board approved the minutes and financial statements as presented by unanimous vote.

Nominating Committee made a presentation. Lee Petros, Chair, stated the Nominating Committee recommend for three (3) year term Isla del Sol, Jamaica Beach, Dunes of the West, Sportsman Road and new members Laffites Cove POA and Sea Isle. A request for recommendations from the floor was made. Closed recommendations. Election results were the nominees as stated. Tom Gillespie will represent Sea Isle and Taras Romanchuk was standing in for Bet Jennings for Laffites Cove.

District 6: City Council Member Marie Robb advised if members have a request can be sent to her who will forward on to the correct person. Requests must go to the City Manager. The issues are to go to the head of the department and to the City Manager. Fire Hydrants are being installed next to fields and yet there are missing fire hydrants to be repaired or replaced by the properties. Marie has asked to receive regular reports on the fire hydrants. She is receiving a list and map location. If a subdivision is missing fire hydrants to email Marie Robb the locations.

Beach Cleaning – there had been a requirement that all property owners had to sign a release or easement to allow beach cleaning, this has been changed to acceptance of a copy of the minutes from the applying association stating that the Board has approved the beach cleaning.

LDR language is being reworked as it is still in draft language. Section 1 & 2 and definitions are the most important sections to be reviewed and or revised. The process has been extended to allow more time for review.

Austin – Windstorm Insurance: there were four (4) plans now melted into 1 plan. Draft went in for windstorm; the whole coast is unified, looking to unify the entire state.

March 4 & 5, 2013, are important dates in Austin: Texas Association of American Beach & Shore Preservation lunch meeting and on March 5th is Texas Windstorm Insurance Rally. There are buses being organized to go up and expect over 100 people to rally. Look on the Chamber of Commerce website to obtain information on the Rally.

For the IKE Dike Study to be conducted by Texas A & M by Dr. Bill Merrell. The City through the Industrial Development Corporation donated \$250,000, which will be matched by Texas A & M. Dr. Merrell needs \$1.5 million to do the study of the Ike Dike.

Mayor Lewis Rosen commended Marie Robb for her hard work and dedication.

Marie Robb: 409-256-4518, marierobb@cityofgalveston.org, or marie@coastalsolution.com

GARM: Lt. Joel Caldwell with GARM stated that there were few issues this year even during Mardi Gras. If there are homes not using a rental agency and issues arise call the police.

Burglaries 468 – 527, west of 103rd st, 59 in 2011, 35 in 2013. This reduced crime can be contributed to increased coverage.

WGIPOA Newsletter: Peggy Zahler – For the first 2013 newsletter, gave appreciation to Michael Kovacs, Galveston City Manager. Peggy asked Colonel Sallesse for an article. Need a volunteer to upload information on the website.

US Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) – Galveston District – Colonel Christopher Sallesse is the Commander of the Galveston District. The Corp has over 300 of highly trained staff. USACE projects and the water resources managed valued at some \$9 billion,

USACE projects and the water resources managed—valued at some \$165 billion—generate jobs and contribute to a stronger economy, environment and quality of life for all Americans.

USACE is the nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation opportunities.

USACE is the largest owner and operator of hydroelectric power plants in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world.

USACE owns and operates 702 dams and maintains 12,000 miles of waterways.

USACE' Regulatory Program protects the nation's aquatic resources while allowing effective and efficient economic development.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Galveston District have been deeply rooted in Texas history since its establishment in 1880 to facilitate navigation along the Texas coastline.

In the 1880s, Congress authorized the first deepening of Sabine-Neches and Houston-Galveston ship channels and the construction of breakwaters known as jetties, which protect harbor and inlet entrances.

In addition to the deepening projects and jetty construction, the iconic Galveston Seawall, which has protected the city of Galveston for more than 100 years, was also completed in partnership with Galveston County after the 1900 hurricane.

133 Years of Building Strong!

50,000 square mile district boundary (encompassing the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico)

1,000 miles of channels (750 miles shallow draft, 270 miles of deep draft)

700 miles of coastline

311 full time employees

28 ports (15 deep drafts, 13 shallow drafts)

16 congressional districts

48 Texas counties

18 counties (coastal bay estuaries)

9 water sheds

2 Louisiana parishes

Major Business lines: Navigation, Flood Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration, Regulatory, Emergency Management, Military Construction and Interagency/International Support (IIS)

High Priority Projects:

Brazos Island Harbor deepening study,

Corpus Christi LRR,

Houston section 902 report, Freeport Harbor deepening study,

Upper Houston ship channel deepening study,

Sabine Neches Waterway PED, and

La Quinta deepening- under Construction.

Economic Factors:

Positive Factors: Texas ports create over 1.0 million direct jobs regionally and ~1.3 million indirect jobs nationally, Port of Houston alone helped generate \$4.5 billion in local and state tax revenue, Current and future exports help stabilize the dollar the reduce the value of the federal deficit (national revenue)m, Allows nation to optimize the benefits of prior year strategic investments in navigation and supply chain infrastructure, and GIWW provides a intermodal linkage through domestic and international markets and facilities.__

Negative Factors

1' of draft restriction = lost benefits due to lightering and lightening loads, Houston - \$188 million/year, Matagorda - \$80 million/year, GIWW - Texas – 130 million/year, Texas ports receive less than \$.25 on the dollar of HMTF contributions for O&M, From

a study aspect ready to take advantage of Panama Canal expansion, Two channels authorized at > 50 ft with two more pending...one constructed, and the current channels depths do not optimize transportation or supply chain efficiencies

Recreation Facilities:

How we facilitate recreation:

Wallisville: First-class nature-oriented facilities, Existing partnership with Houston Wilderness, and Paddle trail, soon to be under construction

Addicks and Barker Reservoirs – leased space

4 recreation leases, 2 Harris County, 1 City of Houston, 1 Fort Bend County; Player in development of West Houston Master Plan; Currently reviewing Harris County/George Bush Master Plan.

Opportunities:

Sims Bayou Recreation, 19 miles of trails, associated park amenities including benches and tables, and is a Partner with the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control District

East End Flats – Galveston Island

211 (f) studies: Federal authorization for incremental reimbursement
Water Resources Development Act

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WHY A TEXAS COASTAL STUDY

LIFE-SAFETY-HEALTH

18 county coastal region is home to approximately 6.1 million people – 26% of state's population.

Mineral production value of nearly \$1 billion per year. Commercial fisheries generate another \$156 million. Agriculture generates approximately \$500 million of product per year.

4 of nation's top 10 ports located in Texas.

40% of the nation's petrochemical industry, 25% of national petroleum-refining capacity, 8 deep draft ports, 750 miles of shallow draft channels.

3.9 million acres of wetlands; 235,000 acres of sea grass; 367 miles of sea turtle nesting habitat; 380,000 acres of piping plover critical habitat; 328 square miles of whooping crane critical habitat; 21 state and federal wildlife refuges.

Significant environmental and economic impacts have been caused by continual erosion of the entire Texas coastline.

Study would develop a comprehensive protection and restoration plan to reduce risk and damages to public safety, property and environmental resources from storms and erosion.

Strategy would incorporate integrated plans for ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction, coast-wide beach and dune ecosystem restoration, and comprehensive barrier island restoration.

Study would identify a programmatic plan and identify priorities for potential solutions including components that could be implemented quickly.

The Coastal Texas Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Plan would provide the basis for informed decision-making by the federal government and non-federal sponsors.

Texas is a **ready and supportive** partner for federal investment into required **navigation improvements** which have national benefits

Keys to success

- o Port partnerships
- o Partnership with A/E, dredging, construction Industry
- o Managing expectations
- o Strategic communications
- o Facilitating private investment (risk reduction)

Texas is in need of a comprehensive coastal study to mitigate hurricane risks.

Other:

Sampson Seismic Surveys – after researched it does not appear to be a problem. Jerry may send out a map with the locations

Signage – still working with the City and Parks Board.

Land Development Regulations (LDR) – Article 4 Beach & Dune portion, committee has met and will continue to work on the issues.

HB 325/HJR 54: Two Bills have been submitted to reverse the Texas Supreme Court Severance decision.

FEMA Flood Maps – are at the Moody Methodist Church on Tuesday from 2 -4:00 pm.

TWIA (Windstorm Insurance) – Big Rally March 5th in Austin.

Noise Ordinance – to be reviewed in March, Sea Isle and Wes Hayes concerned about restaurant noise.

Walkovers – issue has to do with ADA walkovers and getting permission from owners.

Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

