

# ***West Galveston Island Property Owners Association***

September 21, 2024

## **0900 Call to Order**

## **0900 Introduction of Board Members**

The WGIPOA meeting was held on August 3, 2024, at Courtyard by Marriott on Seawall Boulevard. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President. A quorum was established with the attendance of Jerry Mohn – President; John Lightfoot - Pointe San Luis; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Craig Vance – Terramar; Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach; Sarah Hawkes – Sportsman’s Road; and Rosemarie Gonzales – Acapulco Village.

## **0902 Introduction of Elected Officials**

State Representative Terri Leo Wilson who mentioned that TWIA is speaking on Monday at Moody Gardens at 9:00 am regarding increasing insurance rates. Please do come and voice your opinion on the 10-23% increase that is being proposed to our rates. She also indicated there is a meet and greet on Thursday at 5:30-7:30 pm at Lascar Inn. You can reach Terri on her cell phone at (713) 249-5046.

<https://www.twia.org/twia-to-file-for-10-increase-in-rates/>

[TWIARateComments@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:TWIARateComments@tdi.texas.gov)

Our district representative Marie Robb is also in attendance and speaking later. House Doctors of Galveston (Luke Mazur) and Wellby Financial are our corporate sponsors.

## **0907 Approve August 31 minutes and financials.**

Moved by Rosemarie and seconded by Chris.

## **0908 Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Project - Dr. Kelly Burks-Cope, USACE**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District’s interim Program Manager for the recently-authorized– a \$34-billion megaproject which will provide coastal risk reduction and ecosystem restoration along a significant portion of the Texas coast. This is split up into gulf defense 69%, bay defense 22%, and ecological repairs at 9%. This plan is expected to take 20-years with the bulk of the time being taken up by the gate system (see below).

Currently, USACE has received \$500,000 to start vetting contractors for the project. These contractors will be working across the entirety of the coast of Texas to add multiple lines of defense to keep storm surges out of Galveston Bay, increase our natural inland defense systems, and to widen and deepen the ship channel. This includes the Bolivar Roads Gate System which includes 2 deep section sector (swing) gates and 2 small sector (lift) gates. As in the name, there is a road across this gate system.

Additionally, there will be an increase in beach and dune heights. There will be permeable pavers placed over the dunes for vehicular access to the beaches. The Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) is responsible for the beach and dune construction. Breakwaters will be placed on the bay side of the island to prevent flooding on the bay side of Galveston. These breakwaters are planned for construction in September 2025.

Clear Lake and Dickinson Bay will also have gate systems. Multiple breakwater, marshes, oyster reefs and other ecological/natural defense systems are also included in the design.

In general, the system is intended to protect the regional area. Not just the petrochemical plants and ports, but the homes of the workers as well.

<https://coastal-texas-hub-usace-swg.hub.arcgis.com/>

#### **0950 Sally Bakko – Gulf Coast Protection District**

The gate system design agreement (G28) is in the works and covers the breakwaters off of the coast and in the bay. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued approval for the 2025 plan to include \$500,000 for the projects in the breakwaters off of the Bolivar Peninsula. This money is for plans and is then entered into the “new start” designation which occurs prior to construction.

The current federal legislature is currently looking at including a \$5 million earmark for additional appropriations for the federal portions of the projects (mainly gate design). Meanwhile, our state legislature is moving to appropriating \$225 million to fund the “new start” projects.

The more quickly we start beach nourishment efforts, the faster we get into a maintenance schedule that will nourish the beaches on a 6-year maintenance cycle. This is a short-term win for the beginning of this large-scale project.

#### **1000 District 6 Happenings – City Council Member Marie Robb (and Mayor Pro-Tem)**

Marie has been reviewing the City budget. Taxes are being increased by 4.5%. The intent is to keep taxes down to a no-net tax increase in the future. This includes looking at short-term rentals as businesses and potentially increasing their trash and wastewater rates for these “businesses”.

The driver of the tax increases is the capital projects that are being increased across the island. These projects include upgraded sewer lines, pump stations, and road projects.

The City has 2 projects that are currently moving forward. These projects are using beneficial reuse of sands to renourish beaches from Delanera RV Park through 13-Mile Road. These projects are planned to start at in May or June of next year.

There are additional electric infrastructure improvements and there are continued discussions for gas transmission lines to our neighborhoods. Electrical infrastructure has been and is continuing to be updated by CenterPoint including the installation of fiberglass transmission line poles. CenterPoint is also replacing parts of the transformers with parts more suitable for the coastal environment. The delay in gas line transmission lines were initially slowed due to the

lack of home connections to these lines. Since the storms, over half of the houses near these lines have converted and connected to the gas lines. This increase is expected to increase the gas line connectability to the West End.

Internet connectivity on the West End is showing an increase through the use of AT&T over Xfinity. There is an increased showing of community support as additional fiberoptic lines are being installed.

The police are utilizing neighborhood “flock” cameras to identify stolen or “flagged” vehicles. The City is looking at installing these cameras on the Causeway, ferry crossing lanes, and other strategic locations. They have also increased driving down the beach to ensure no-one is living on the beach. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are being worked on to allow county police (sheriffs) to be able to create city reports for issues that they address. Doing this will allow sheriffs to enforce city by-laws and allow calls received to count towards enforcement requirements for the West End.

If you have any questions or concerns, please text Marie Robb at (409) 256-4518 or email at [Marie@MarieRobb.com](mailto:Marie@MarieRobb.com), and she will answer and/or forward the issues to the appropriate agencies.

### **1053 Chris Lauer – BMAC Report**

Jason Worthen (former president) mentioned that there is a mass notion that fireworks bring people to the island who then stay on the island. There were many previous discussions that the Park Board, being the environmental stewards for the island, would not fund firework displays on the island. BMAC made a commitment to continue to be stewards of the environment and not recommend using Park Board funds for fireworks.

Dr. Hal Needham reviewed current satellite photos indicating that the western Caribbean and Gulf were mainly sargassum free. This year’s ocean currents through the Caribbean and Gulf were lower and thus did not move sargassum toward Galveston. It remains unlikely that Galveston beaches are going to see a sargassum inundation this year.

Dr. Hal pleaded to remember that storms don’t care if you already were struck by a storm this year, they are just a matter of physics. Also remember that just because you may have survived the previous Category 1 Hurricane Beryl this year, please be well informed and prepared during the rest of the season. Action items include making a disaster check list, trim trees away from buildings, have battery backups/generators maintained, and have lights/headlamps ready.

- Adopt-A-Beach has been pushed back to September 28, 2024.
- ASBPA Conference is at the end of the month August 26-28.
- National Beach Day is August 30, please look for reusable beach baskets and beach cleanups on the Seawall on the east side of 61<sup>st</sup> Street Pier.
- The Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network will be meeting in Jamaica Beach to host a fundraiser. To find more information, feel free to follow on Facebook.

There is no BMAC meeting in September or October and the next meeting is November 1, 2024.

### **1056 Facebook and online recommendations – Jerry Mohn**

Please visit and share the WGIPOA Facebook page. It will be utilized to spread knowledge regarding the West End. There are currently 560 members. In addition, if there is anything that you'd like to share on this page, please send your recommendations to the WGIPOA Board.

**1157 Adjournment**

**The next WGIPOA meeting will be October 19, 2024, at West Isle Presbyterian Church.**