

**MINUTES OF VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING NO. 2442
COMMISSIONERS OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7**

Place: 3400 Highway 73
Port Arthur, Texas

Date: May 6, 2025

Present: Commissioners
Lester Champagne
Matthew Vincent
Allen Sims, General Manager

Absent: Richard Beaumont
James Gamble, Sr.
Albert Moses, Jr.

Visitors: Toby Davis, DD7
Garrett Boudoin, DD7
Barron Cook, DD7
Brady Girouard, DD7
Rene Jackson, DD7
Kirby Johnson, DD7
Brian McZeal, DD7
Terry Wade, DD7
Ike Mills, Mills Consulting

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Champagne after ascertaining that the Notice of Meeting had been posted in accordance with the law. Commissioner Vincent gave the invocation.

After ascertaining that there was not a quorum present, it was determined that no official action would be taken. Several items on the agenda would be tabled and all discussion would be informal and informational.

Public Comments

Mr. Ike Mills of Mills Consulting addressed the board questioning when the next meeting would be held as no quorum was present today. Mr. Allen Sims informed Mr. Mills that the meeting would not be rescheduled, and all business would be tabled until the next regularly scheduled commissioners meeting on May 20, 2025.

Minutes of Meeting No. 2441

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2441 were tabled.

Consider Approval of Certificate of Completion for the Discharge Pipe Support Replacement for West Port Arthur Road Pump Station (Pump Station #3)

Approval of Certificate of Completion for the Discharge Pipe Support Replacement for West Port Arthur Road Pump Station (Pump Station #3) was tabled.

Consider 2nd and Final Pay Request to Elite Contractors and Equipment, Ltd. for the Discharge Pipe Support Replacement for West Port Arthur Road Pump Station (Pump Station #3)

The 2nd and Final Pay Request to Elite Contractors and Equipment, Ltd. for the Discharge Pipe Support Replacement for West Port Arthur Road Pump Station (Pump Station #3) was tabled.

Consider Approval to Advertise for Bids for Construction of A3A Detention Pond and Groves Detention Pond

Approval to Advertise for Bids for Construction of A3A Detention Pond and Groves Detention Pond was tabled.

Consider Approval to Attend TWA Summer Conference

Approval to Attend TWA Summer Conference was tabled.

Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Summary

Mr. Sims informed the board that the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") held Cost Schedule Risk Analysis Meetings last week to determine what could happen that would cause scheduling delays and increase project costs. USACE is in the process of updating their P2 schedule, which is the overall project schedule. Both will be provided to the District upon completion.

Mr. Sims also informed the board that USACE was questioning if the Orange County Project was going to continue. The Orange County project was approved by Congress as part of the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project. Mr. Sims is working to ensure that the District's project does not become collateral damage. USACE is trying to prevent this but does not yet have answers. Commissioner Champagne stated that the District should take the stance that the District has an existing levee system. He stated that the District has received funding from the state for the improvement of the District's levee per USACE recommendation, while Orange County's levee is a new construction. Mr. Sims agreed but the concern is that the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay project was passed by Congress as one single project and if one part of the project is discontinued, USACE will need to figure out how to separate the District's project from the Orange County Project.

Manager Reports

Mr. Sims stated that he would be going to Austin this week to attend a hearing on the District's proposed election bill. This bill would ensure that the District will always be able to partner with Jefferson County for its elections. The cost to run a stand alone election is very expensive.

Mr. Sims stated that the renewal of Ron Lewis's Consulting contract was received. Based on discussions with the board in January 2025, a new lobbyist was contracted for the State of Texas affairs. Unless otherwise informed, Mr. Sims stated that he would be graciously declining to renew Mr. Lewis's contract.

Mr. Sims informed the board that the District has received its preliminary appraisal from Jefferson Central Appraisal District, before taxpayer protests. He noted an increase of \$222,747,000 but this increase will not be final until June or July. This change could be attributed to the rise in property values, business values, and inventory in businesses.

Executive Session - Consider and Take Action, if any, on Items Discussed in Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Permits

Approval of the Entergy Legend Power Station Stormwater Drainage Plan permit was tabled.

Approval of the Centana Pipeline Underground Crossing of County Jail Outfall permit was tabled.

Checks and Purchase Orders

Approval of Checks and Purchase Orders was tabled.

At 2:12 p.m., Commissioner Vincent moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Champagne seconded the motion. The motion carried.


Matthew Vincent, Assistant Secretary


Lester Champagne, Vice Chairman