

**MINUTES OF VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING NO. 2446
COMMISSIONERS OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7**

Place: 3400 Highway 73
Port Arthur, Texas

Date: July 1, 2025

Present: Commissioners
Richard Beaumont Allen Sims, General Manager
Albert Moses, Jr. Nathan Brandimarte, Attorney for District
Matthew Vincent
Lester Champagen (Via Zoom)

Absent: James Gamble, Sr.

Visitors: Toby Davis, DD7
Terry Wade, DD7
Brady Girouard, DD7
Kirby Johnson, DD7
Garrett Boudoin, DD7
Brian McZeal, DD7
Keith Zotzky, Arceneaux Wilson and Cole
Kim Carroll, Texan Engineering & Consulting
Charles E. Reed & Associates, P.C.
Nicole Sunstrum

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chairman Beaumont after ascertaining that the Notice of Meeting had been posted in accordance with the law. Commissioner Vincent gave the invocation.

Minutes of Meeting No. 2445

The Minutes of Meeting No. 2445 were approved as read.

Consider Approval to Advertise for Bids for Construction of Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at Lake Charles Lift Station along Lakeshore Drive and Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at City Hall Along Lakeshore Drive to Waco Avenue in Relation to Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project

Mr. Sims requested approval to Advertise for Bids for the Construction of Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at the Lake Charles Lift Station along Lakeshore Drive and the Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at City Hall along Lakeshore Drive to Waco Avenue in relation to the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project. Mr. Barron Cook stated that these projects are to facilitate the construction of the levee improvements from Rose Hill Park to the Port of Port Arthur. These will be funded by the General Land Office and the Gulf Coast Protection District. Commissioner Vincent moved to approve the request to Advertise for Bids for the Construction of Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at the Lake Charles Lift Station along Lakeshore Drive and the Sanitary Sewer Line Relocation at City Hall along Lakeshore Drive to Waco Avenue in relation to the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Project. Commissioner Moses seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Pay Request No. 1 to Norman Highway Constructors, Inc. for Improvements to Blocks Bayou Ditch Phase II Project

Mr. Allen Sims presented Pay Request No. 1 to Norman Highway Constructors, Inc. for Improvements to the Blocks Bayou Ditch Phase II Project for approval. Mr. Garrett Boudoin submitted the invoice for Norman Highway Constructors, Inc. for materials on hand, (reinforced concrete box), clearing and grubbing, traffic control (barricades and signs), and stormwater permit compliance. The contractor has completed 1% of the work using 8% of the contract time. The request has been reviewed, and it is recommended that the District approve Pay Request No. 1 in the

amount of One hundred Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Seven and 31/100 (\$108,477.31) Dollars. Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Pay Request No. 1 from Norman Highway Constructors, Inc. for Improvements to the Blocks Bayou Ditch Phase II Project in the amount of One hundred Eight Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Seven and 31/100 (\$108,477.31) Dollars. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation of Audit and Financial Statement for 23/24 Fiscal Year by Charles E. Reed & Associates

Mr. Sims introduced Mr. Charles Reed of Charles E. Reed & Associates. Mr. Reed gave a detailed report on the audit and financial statements for the fiscal year 2023/2024. Mr. Reed stated the District's audit went very smoothly and that his team received full cooperation from the District's management and staff, as well as from FMW, P.C., the District's accounting firm. He further stated that the audit reflects a clean audit opinion, the District is financially healthy, and its books and records are in good shape.

Commissioner Vincent made a motion that the audit be approved as presented, the Chairman be authorized to sign the Annual Filing Affidavit, and that a copy of the audit, and financial statements be forwarded to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Commissioner Moses seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation by Nicole Sunstrum with Capitol Law Group, PLLC on Actions During the Texas 89th Legislative Session

Mr. Sims introduced Ms. Nicole Sunstrum with Capitol Law Group, PLLC. Ms. Sunstrum represents the District interests at the state legislature. Mr. Sims gave a

summary of Ms. Sunstrum's professional profile and described the role she plays as a lobbyist. Ms. Sunstrum stated that 9,014 bills were filed with 1,200 passing and 28 vetoed. Key bills included property tax relief, homestead exemption increase, and water infrastructure funding. Governor Abbott declared seven emergency items. All seven passed. The property tax relief bill was passed, and the homestead exemption was raised from \$100,000 to \$140,000. The multi-billion-dollar Senate Bill 7 passed to aid new and old water projects with the Water Development Board. Ms. Sunstrum stated that she was tracking House Bill 500 which is the supplemental budget where Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) had asked for funding for the District, Orange County Drainage District and itself. The full \$230 million was included in the House version but was zeroed out in the Senate version of the bill. House Bill 1089 created the Gulf Coast Protection Account, also known as the trust fund. This permits the GCPD to transfer funds received after 2025 into the trust fund to ensure their preservation for future disbursements, should they remain unexpended within the five-year period. Senate Bill 1 did not contain any funding for GCPD, but it does allow the GCPD unexpended balance authority, so any remaining funds will stay with GCPD and stay accessible. It also allows GCPD \$4 million annually for administrative expenses. House Bill 5693 authorized the District to change its elections from May of even number years to November of odd number years. This will allow the District to always be able to partner with Jefferson County for elections which will save the District over \$150,000 per election. Senate Bill 7, authored by Senator Perry, known as the big water infrastructure bill, dedicates \$1 billion a year for the next 20 years, beginning in 2027. The money will be split evenly between projects to repair existing water infrastructure

and projects to create new water supply. This includes conservation and flood mitigation projects. There will be a special session beginning July 21, 2025.

Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Summary

Mr. Allen Sims stated that it appears that the Corps is still considering terminating the Orange County Drainage District project. The Corps is working on a way separate the District and Orange County Drainage District and keep the District's project moving forward and active. Eddie Belk, the USACE-HQ Director of Civil Works is retiring. A meeting is being set for some time the next few weeks, before he retires to ensure that our projects do not get lost in the transition. Our Corp consultants, Ray Russo and Mark Mazzanti are working with headquarters to get this meeting scheduled. There was a kickoff meeting for PAV04 which stretches between Rose Hill Acres to Lakeview. The project is moving faster than expected. Mr. Sims stated that we will present at the City of Port Arthur City Council meeting either on August 5th or 19th. A public meeting will be set for the evening following the City Council meeting. St. Joseph's Church looks to have plenty of room and parking. He will reach out to them to check the availability. If the church is not available, the Carl Parker Center is the second proposed venue. A copy of the PACR, the Post Authorization Change was received this morning. The District must review the PACR by July 14th.

Manager Reports

Mr. Allen Sims presented a letter the District received from Charles E. Reed & Associates, who is the company that is performing the District's annual financial audit. The letter sets forth information regarding the company's significant audit findings that is required under the generally accepted auditing standards. No action is required on this

matter. Auditing standards simply require the District to note receipt of the letter by the Board of Commissioners.

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

No Executive Session was held.

Checks and Purchase Orders

Maintenance Fund

Ck. No. 26702 – Albert Moses, Jr.
\$529.00 – Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 26703 – Alexandra Thibodeaux
\$982.19 – Truth in Taxation Seminar

Ck. No. 26704 – Bryant James
\$273.70 – Hotel Expenses – TAPMS Conference

Ck. No. 26705 – Charles E. Reed & Associates, P.C.
\$20,000.00 – 2024 Auditing Services

Ck. No. 26706 – Cintas Corp
\$84.06 – Traffic Mat Service – Admin Building

Ck. No. 26707 – Dan Delich Consulting
\$3,500.00 – Legislative Consulting Services

Ck. No. 26708 – Electrical Specialties, Inc.
\$45.00 – Monthly Alarm System Monitoring

Ck. No. 26709 – Gregory Bostwick
\$500.00 – Weather Services – June 2025

Ck. No. 26710 – Groves Equipment Rental Co., Inc.
\$2,700.00 – 15 Ton Crane Rental

Ck. No. 26711 – James Gamble, Sr.
\$270.00 – Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 26712 – Jefferson County, Texas
\$153,571.95 – Crane Bayou Pump Station #7

Ck. No. 26713 – Jeffrey S. Ward & Associates, Inc.
\$5,000.00 – Grant Administration Services – Flood Risk Management

Ck. No. 26714 – Johnny's Towing & Recovery
\$75.00 – Transport Truck

Ck. No. 26715 – LJA Engineering, Inc.
\$266,460.34 – Engineering Services – Multiple Projects

Ck. No. 26716 – Mazzanti & Associates LLC
\$2,500.00 – Legislative Consulting Services

Ck. No. 26717 – Nerbert Frelow
\$3,800.00 – Dump Truck Services

Ck. No. 26718 – Ray Russo
\$4,187.50 – Legislative Consulting Services

Ck. No. 26719 – Richard Beaumont
\$142.33 – Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 26720 – Richards, Rodriguez & Skeith LLC
\$960.00 – Legal Services – Star Lake

Ck. No. 26721 – Ritter Forest Products Nederland
\$525.00 – Pump Station 7 Mat Rental

Ck. No. 26722 – Sam & Tash Services, Inc.
\$3,139.24 – Janitorial Services – Administrative Building

Ck. No. 26723 – FNBO
\$1,887.85 – Meeting, Travel & Education Expenses

Ck. No. 26724 – Texan Engineering & Consulting LLC
\$11,180.00 – Engineering Services – General & Blocks

Ck. No. 26725 – Thorpe Plant Services, Inc.
\$3,507.73 – Pump Station 10 – Scaffold Rental

Ck. No. 26726 – TWCA Risk Management Fund
\$823,287.00 – 25-26 Annual Insurance Renewal

Ck. No. 26727 – United of Omaha
\$2,245.97 – Health Insurance Payment

Ck. No. 26728 – United States Treasury
\$690.69 – 2025 PCORI Fee

Ck. No. 26729 – W. Williams Refrigeration & AC
\$1,013.31 – Pump Station 7 & Control Room AC Repairs

Ck. No. 26730 – Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Inc.
\$4,662.00 – Soil Compactor Rental

Ck. No. 26731 – Wave Solutions LLC
\$4,531.00 – Monthly Computer Software & IT Service

Ck. No. 26740 – Wave Solutions LLC
\$976.94 – Monthly Phone Service

Maintenance Note Account

Ck. No. 1085 – Norman Highway Constructors, Inc.
\$108,477.31 – Blocks Bayou Phase II

Commissioner Moses moved that the checks from the Maintenance Fund Account and GLO Account approved for payment. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Beaumont asked if there was any other business to come before the Board. There was none.

At 2:53 p.m., Commissioner Vincent moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Moses seconded the motion. The motion carried.



Albert Moses, Jr., Secretary



Richard Beaumont, Chairman



VISITOR SIGN-IN SHEET
MEETING NO. 2446
Tuesday, July 1, 2025

	Name	Email Address	Telephone Number	Public Comment	
1	<i>Charles Reed</i>		<i>409 983327</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
5				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
6				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
7				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
8				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
9				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
10				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
11				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
12				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
13				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
14				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
15				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>