

MEETING MINUTES
GULF COAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
April 9, 2021

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

The following members of the Board of the Gulf Coast Economic Development District attended all or a portion, by phone or by proxy, of the April 9, 2021 board meeting:

Chad Burke, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Dane Carlson, Galveston County Representative
Andrew Van Chau, Fort Bend Representative
Carlos Guzman, City of Pasadena Representative
Jimmy Henry, Walker County Representative
John Isom, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Guy Robert Jackson, Chambers County Representative
Frank Jordan, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Jake Kelly, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Garrett McLeod, Texas City Representative
Wendell Null (proxy Ann Miller), Liberty County Representative
Joshua Owens, Wharton County Representative
Mike Rozell, Private Sector Representative
Danielle Scheiner, City of Conroe Representative
B.J. Simon, Regional Economic Interests
Brandon Willis, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Vince Yokom, Waller County Representative

The following members of the Gulf Coast Economic Development District Board were not marked in attendance at the April 9, 2021 Board meeting:

Gary Basinger, Brazoria County Representative
Michael Ferdinand, Matagorda County Representative
Dianna Grobe, Austin County Representative
Jimmy Henry, Prairie View A&M University Representative
Marlon D. Mitchell, Regional Economic Interests Representative
Charles Rogers, Colorado County Representative
Jessica Russell, Bay City Representative
Gwen Tillotson, City of Houston Representative
Mike Walker, Montgomery County Representative
Annie Yang, Harris County Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Board president Mike Rozell called the virtual meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:01 a.m. via Zoom conference call.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made by the public during this time.

1. ACTION ITEM

Approval of minutes from January 29, 2021 Quarterly Meeting.

Motion: Andrew Van Chau

Second: Joshua Owens

2. ACTION ITEM

Approval of GCEDD and Revolving Loan Fund financial reports.

Motion: Frank Jordan

Second: John Isom

3. MEMBERSHIP

Approval of two requests to join the GCEDD board as representatives of Regional Economic Interests: Courtland Holman with the City of Freeport Economic Development Corporation and Lance Dean, an economic development specialist with Hawes Hill.

Motion: B. J. Simon

Second: Carlos Guzman

H-GAC staff will initiate an internal review of GCEDD bylaws to access procedure for current vacancies. All board members will be notified of suggested changes.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Margaret Cook, Research Associate at the Houston Advanced Research Center, gave a presentation to the Board about the winter storm power outages in February 2021 and recommendations for strengthening the power grid. Dr. Cook highlighted the interdependencies of water and energy systems, and the critical need for home, energy, and water system resilience.

Brett Perlman, CEO of the Center for Houston's Future, presented on the energy transition in the Houston region. He shared a high-level overview of the Center's recent report *Houston: The Low-Carbon Energy Capital*, focusing on major opportunities for carbon capture and an emergent hydrogen industry in the Gulf Coast region.

GCEDD Updates

The Board heard from Jillian Donatto on the status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy action plan assessment. In the coming months, the GCEDD will launch a Starter Hub initiative, a train the trainer program for entrepreneurship support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GCEDD will soon announce a launch event for the newly developed Regional

Broadband Mapping Tool. H-GAC is hiring a new economic development planner and is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA for economic development.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The GCEDD will request defederalization of the Revolving Loan Fund from the Economic Development Administration. In the coming months, staff of the Houston-Galveston Area Local Development Corporation (H-GALDC) and the Houston-Galveston Area Council will develop a memo for the Board's approval and signature. Contact: Isaac Perez, H-GALDC
 - o The Revolving Loan Fund will still provide business lending across 13-county region, but fund will gain the flexibility to support other initiatives.
- GCEDD staff will continue to monitor the legislature and bills pertaining to GCEDD interests. Contact: Jillian Donatto, H-GAC
- The next Board meeting will be July 9, 2021 at 10 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Rozell at 11:30 a.m.