

MEETING MINUTES
GULF COAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
January 29, 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 January 29, 2021 board meeting:

Gary Basinger, Brazoria County Representative
Chad Burke, Regional Principal Economic Interests Representative
Dane Carlson, Galveston County Representative
Andrew Van Chau, Fort Bend Representative
Jimmy Henry, Prairie View A&M University Representative
John Isom, Waller County Representative
Guy Robert Jackson, Chambers County Representative
Jake Kelly, Regional Principal Economic Interests Representative
Garrett McLeod, Texas City Representative
Marlon D. Mitchell, Regional Principal Economic Interests Representative
Joshua Owens, Wharton County Representative
Mike Rozell, Private Sector Representative
Danielle Scheiner, City of Conroe Representative
B.J. Simon, Regional Principal Economic Interests
Gwen Tillotson (Proxy Jennifer Curley), City of Houston Representative
Mike Walker, Montgomery County Representative
Brandon Willis, Regional Principal 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 January 29, 2021 Board meeting:

Michael Ferdinand, Matagorda County Representative
Dianna Grobe, Austin County Representative
Carlos Guzman, City of Pasadena Representative
Frank Jordan, Regional Principal Economic Interests Representative
Wendell Null, Liberty County Representative
Charles Rogers, Colorado County Representative
Jessica Russell, Bay City 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 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 October 2, 2020 Quarterly Meeting.

Motion: Andrew Van Chau

Second: Guy Robert Jackson

2. ACTION ITEM

Conditional approval of District and Revolving Loan Fund financial reports, pending further information to members of the board on the Revolving Loan Fund report.

Motion: Joshua Owens

Second: B.J. Simon

PRESENTATIONS

Tom Stephenson, Community Technology Advisor for Connected Nation, summarized Connected Texas' work with communities in the GCEDD region, including recommended actions related to trends in local online shopping and teleworking in light of COVID-19. Mr. Stephenson provided an overview of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I preliminary winners in the GCEDD region and previewed the RDOF Phase II auction, which will allow bids for partially served areas.

Juliana Garaizar, Launch Director for Greentown Labs-Houston, explained the model Greentown Labs uses to engage corporate partners and incubate startups in cleantech industries. With their impending expansion into the City of Houston, Greentown Labs aims to catalyze the energy transition in Houston and the surrounding region.

Discussion of End-of-Year Survey Results

The Board heard from Jillian Donatto on the End of Year Survey summarizing responses on the impacts of COVID-19 and outlook for recovery. Board members identified a wide range of areas for potential collaboration and partnerships. The board discussed the year ahead, including actions identified in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Action Plan. It was decided that volunteers from the board would meet before the April Board meeting to update the CEDS action plan for the upcoming 12-18 month period.

OTHER BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next board meeting will be April 9, 2021 at 10 a.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Rozell at 12:01 p.m.