Meeting Date: May 4, 2012

Meeting Location: Trout Street Bar & Grill, Port Aransas, Texas

I. General Meeting

• Meeting called to order by Jerry Mohn at approximately 12:25. Board members in attendance were introduced and sponsors recognized. Public officials at the meeting were also recognized.

• Port Aransas Mayor Keith McMullin provided welcoming remarks. The mayor described continuing challenges related to Texas Windstorm Insurance and new rule changes that have been proposed that would require a surcharge that would unfairly burden coastal residents.

• Board members were approved to serve another three years. Board members elected were:
  - Cameron County - Joni Clarke
  - Nueces County – Dan Heilman
  - Brazoria County – County Commissioner Dude Payne
  - Jefferson County – Andy Elms
  At Large Positions
  - David Parsons – City of Port Aransas
  - Peter Ravella – Austin, PAR Consulting

• Officers elected after the meeting include:
  - Jerry Mohn -- President
  - John Lee -- Vice-President, Upper Coast
  - David Parsons -- Vice-President, Mid Coast
  - Joni Clarke -- Vice-President, Lower Coast
  - Dan Heilman -- Secretary
  - Larry Wise -- Treasurer

• Helen Young, GLO Deputy Commissioner for Coastal Resources, provided a presentation on the Severance legal case and implications for Texas Coast.
  - The ruling only applies to west Galveston Island, not the entire coast.
  - Public beach easements can still be obtained through prescription and/or expressed dedication.
  - Even if lawsuit was to be withdrawn, the Supreme Court’s decision will stand.
  - Several noteworthy implications of the ruling:
1. Without public beach easements, there are unlikely to be any state-funded projects along WGI.
2. Public beach access requirements and building standards still apply.
3. The continuation of beach maintenance activities is in question because public funds are unlikely to be spent cleaning beaches that are considered private.
4. Government-funded post-hurricane cleanup efforts may be restricted or limited.
5. It may no longer make sense for GLO to monitor and maintain previous beach nourishments along WGI if FEMA-funded post-disaster renourishments can’t be implemented.
6. The state might need to perform surveys to re-establish the coastal boundary on a more frequent basis (such as annually).

- GLO will continue working with Attorney General’s office to establish requirements for demonstrating public beach easements.
- GLO has scheduled a June 4 workshop with Galveston local government to coordinate and align understanding and challenges of Severance decision. Please contact Helen if you have agenda suggestions.
- There has not yet been a potential legislative “fix” that wouldn’t be considered a taking.

• Helen Young introduced Val Marmillion, Managing Director of the American Wetlands Foundation “Blue Ribbon Resilient Community Forum.” American Wetlands is teaming with GLO to help Texas package a stronger message for state-wide support of coastal issues. Val described one of our largest hurdles as being too much conflicting regulation and red tape at the federal level, which inhibits cost-effective and timely implementation of coastal restoration efforts. The Gulf States are being branded as “America’s Energy Coast” to help elevate the voice of all five Gulf States including Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Val made the following comments:

  - Convening 11 “Blue Ribbon Resiliency Community” events to make aware of the problems with the Gulf Coast with the phrase “Envisioning the Future of America’s Energy Coast”
  - Global Cooperation – fostering international coalitions in critical energy and environmental regions of the world.
  - Protecting the wetlands is a key component of the program
  - Coastal sustainability is tied to economic development
  - The U.S. Intercoastal waterways will be gone in 30 years unless something is done to stabilize the structures
  - Executive Briefings and conducting public events – informing the Washington Administration, other policy and legislative leaders at the federal, state and local levels; engaging citizens through information dissemination, media activities, and high profile events.
- Raise public awareness of the impact of coastal degradation has on the state, nation, and world and gain support for efforts to conserve and sustain economic, community, and ecological assets of the Texas coast.

- Marisa Weber, Chair of the Technical Committee introduced the Technical Presentation

  Mark Dumesnil (The Nature Conservancy) gave a presentation with Paul Jensen and David Buzan (Atkins) on an oyster restoration project in Matagorda Bay. They reported that more than 85% of the world's oyster reefs have been completely lost. In most bays around the world, shellfish reefs are at less than 10% of their original abundance.

- John Lee, Chair of the Membership Committee, encouraged new membership. He announced that the Texas Chapter is the most active in ASBPA. The ASBPA conference will be held at South Padre Island in October 2013.

- Peter Ravella (PAR Consulting) provided a presentation on financing beach projects.
  - Severance decision makes funding beach projects even harder.
  - Build financial support and capacity locally first, then move inland
  - Beach towns in other states are tackling erosion problems locally; establishing dedicated funds through ordinances and local taxes (ad valorem landowners, hotel tax, sales tax, etc.). Provided Topsail Beach, NC as an example of how it can be done.
  - Encouraged local communities to develop a beach financing plan.

- Joni Clark, City Manager with the City of South Padre Island, announced that SPI has a beach economic impact study underway and is developing a beach financing plan with PAR’s help. She also requested support from coastal advocates at the upcoming Texas Municipal League meeting and stressed the importance of having a strong presence at the meeting.

- Cris Weber, Chair of the Education/Communication Committee, encouraged submittals for the Texas Chapter newsletter (The Strandline). In particular, the newsletter is a great way to disseminate information from the Chapter meetings to a broader portion of our membership.

- Cameron Perry and Marie Robb provided an update on our legislative agenda.

- Cameron Perry encouraged abstract submittals on Texas projects to the upcoming ASBPA conference in October at Mission Beach in San Diego.

- Next meeting date/location is TBD. Meeting adjourned 3:06 PM