TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

QUARTERLY MEETING

Minutes

Meeting Date: March 8, 2017

Meeting Location: Scholz Garden, Austin, Texas

- Meeting called to order by Jerry Mohn at approximately 12:30. Board members and officers in attendance were introduced and corporate sponsors were recognized. Public officials at the meeting were also recognized. AECOM was recognized as the lunch sponsor.

- George P. Bush, Land Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, provided a presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to these meeting notes.

  - Commissioner Bush emphasized the importance of the Texas coast for national security and the national economy, and that issues along the coast are relevant to all Texans and U.S. citizens. The GLO continues to work towards increasing awareness about the significance of Texas coastal issues to citizens who don’t live in coastal regions.

  - Commissioner Bush highlighted the efforts that are being taken to improve coastal resiliency in Texas, including the Coastal Master Plan being led by GLO and the Coastal Texas Study being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with GLO as a local sponsor.

  - Commissioner Bush endorsed the “coastal spine concept” developed by Texas A&M University in Galveston.

- Jerry Mohn introduced Babe Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz is a former member of the Texas Legislature and served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1955 to 1959 and the Texas Senate from 1960 to 1981, representing Galveston, Texas. The recently-completed beach nourishment project to the west of 61st Street along the Galveston seawall was named “Babe’s Beach” in his honor.

- Representative Wayne Faircloth, who serves the Texas House of Representatives District 23 (composed of Chambers and Galveston Counties) provided background on the House Select Committee on Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure, as well as the important role the GLO provides in advocating the Texas coast.

- Cris Weber solicited articles for the TX ASBPA newsletter and abstracts for the upcoming symposium. The symposium will be held in Port Aransas at UT-MSI on April 25, with a field trip being led by Skip Davis on April 24. Abstracts are due March 31. Cris also described ongoing collaboration between TX ASBPA and the Houston Chapter of COPRI, and explained that COPRI membership is not exclusive to engineers.
• John Lee provided an update on the TX ASBPA 2017 state legislative agenda:
  
  - RESTORE money should be spent for coastal issues as intended
  - Dedicated funding source for CEPRA
  - Support coordination between TDEM and FEMA to ensure public assistance funding eligibility for BUDM projects
  - Affordable windstorm insurance
  - Support for surge protection/suppression project along upper Texas coast
  - Support for state and federal coastal studies (Coastal Master Plan and Coastal Texas Study)
  - Support for coastal projects and programs to protect and enhance the Texas coast
  - Support ASBPA national efforts at state level

• The ASBPA fall conference will be held in Fort Lauderdale, FL October 24-27, 2017. The 2018 conference will be held in Galveston.

Respectfully Submitted
Dan Heilman - Secretary