

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**May 13, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Drainage District was held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 8081 Old Highway 90, Orange, Texas. A quorum of the Board of Directors was present for this meeting of the Board of Directors at the location set forth above.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Russell Covington	Director, Precinct No. 1
Larry Ancelot	Director, Precinct No. 2
James Scales	Director, Precinct No. 3

**DIRECTORS BY VIDEO CONFERENCE:**

Brent Peveto	Director At-Large (joined meeting @10:15 a.m.)
--------------	--

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

Hal LaPray	Director, Precinct No. 4
------------	--------------------------

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Neal Ford	General Manager
Douglas Manning	Assistant General Manager
Andrea Fabacher	Recording Secretary
Don Carona	Attorney
Keri Mitchuka	Accountant

**MEETING OPENED**

Mr. Scales called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Drainage District to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Manning led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Covington made a motion to dispense with the reading of, and to approve, the minutes of the April 8, 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Ancelot seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**VISITORS**

None

**RECOGNIZE ACCEPTANCE OF TEXPOOL APRIL 2025 REPORT**

No action required.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 2025 BILLS**

After review and discussion, Mr. Covington made a motion to approve the bills for April 2025. Mr. Ancelot seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF HIRING WATHEN, DESHONG & JUNCKER, LLP TO CONDUCT THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

Mr. Ancelot made a motion to approve hiring Wathen, Deshong, & Juncker, LLP to conduct the District's annual audit for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORANGE COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF BRIDGE CITY REGARDING THE BRIDGE CITY MARSH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Covington made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement between the Orange County Drainage District and the City of Bridge City regarding the Bridge City Marsh Drainage Improvement Project. Mr. Ancelot seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL FOR THE DISTRICT PURCHASER TO REGISTER THE DISTRICT IN EQUALIS GROUP COOPERATIVE**

Mr. Ancelot made a motion to approve the District Purchaser to register the District in Equalis Group Cooperative, at no cost to the District. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER, UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT'S ATTORNEY, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH TIDEWATER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LLC, THE ENGINEERING FIRM SELECTED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON JULY 11, 2023 (RFQ-2023-04-LAWRENCE ROAD DETENTION POND-HMGP), FOR THE LAWRENCE ROAD DETENTION POND PROJECT**

Mr. Covington made a motion to authorize the General Manager, upon consultation with the District's Attorney, to execute a contract for Engineering Services with Tidewater Professional Services LLC, the engineering firm selected and approved by the Board on July 11, 2023 (RFQ-2023-04-Lawrence Road Detention Pond-HMGP), for the Lawrence Road Detention Pond project. Mr. Peveto seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER, UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT'S ATTORNEY, TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND LJA ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE BESSIE HEIGHTS DRAINAGE DITCH PROJECT (DR 4466-0015) FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING THE TERM OF CONTRACT, AND FOR AMENDMENT OF ANY OTHER TERMS DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE BY THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Ancelot made a motion to authorize for the General Manager, upon consultation with the District's Attorney, to amend the Professional Engineering Services Agreement between the District and LJA Engineering, INC. for the Bessie Heights Drainage Ditch project (DR4466-0015) for the purpose of extending the term of contract, and for amendment of any other terms determined to be necessary and appropriate by the General Manager. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER, UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT'S ATTORNEY, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH TIDEWATER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LLC, THE ENGINEERING FIRM SELECTED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON JUNE 13, 2023 (RFQ-2023-02-BESSIE HEIGHTS-HMGP), FOR PHASE II OF THE BESSIE HEIGHTS DRAINAGE DITCH EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Covington made a motion to authorize the General Manager, upon consultation with the District's attorney, to execute a contract for Engineering Services with Tidewater Professional Services LLC, the engineering firm selected and approved by the Board on June 13, 2023 (RFQ-2023-02-Bessie Heights-HMGP), for Phase II of the Bessie Heights Drainage Ditch Extension and Improvement Project. Mr. Ancelot seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER, UPON CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT'S ATTORNEY, TO AMEND THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND LJA ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE RELIEF DITCH STUDY PROJECT --TWDB PROJECT # 40019**

Mr. Ancelot made a motion to authorize the General Manager, upon consultation with the District's attorney, to amend the Professional Engineering Services Agreement between the District and LJA Engineering, INC. for the Relief Ditch Study Project—TWDB Project #40019. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT STAFF TO APPROVE THE DRAINAGE PLAN FOR THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGE ACCESS DRIVE PROJECT TO BE LOCATED AT 7637 M.L. KING DRIVE, ORANGE, TEXAS, PREPARED BY DONALD R. KING, P.E., DATED MARCH 5, 2025**

Mr. Covington made a motion to authorize the Drainage District Staff to approve the Drainage Plan for the First Baptist Church Orange Access Drive project to be located at 7637 M.L.K. Drive, Orange, Texas, prepared by Donald R. King, P.E., dated March 5, 2025. Mr. Peveto seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT STAFF TO APPROVE THE DRAINAGE PLAN FOR THE MELTON'S BLUFF EVENT CENTER PROJECT TO BE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAKEVIEW ROAD AND NECHES STREET, VIDOR, TEXAS. THE DRAINAGE REPORT FOR CERTIFICATE OF NO RISE DATED MARCH 7, 2025, AND THE ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE PLAN DATED MAY 1, 2025, WERE PREPARED BY JEREMY J. MITCHELL, P.E.**

Mr. Covington made a motion to authorize the Drainage District Staff to approve the Drainage Plan for the Melton's Bluff Event Center project to be located at the intersection of Lakeview Road and Neches Street, Vidor, Texas. The Drainage Report for Certificate of No Rise dated March 7, 2025, and the associated Drainage Plan dated May 1, 2025, were prepared by Jeremy J. Mitchell, P.E. Mr. Ancelot seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT STAFF TO APPROVE THE DRAINAGE PLAN FOR THE VIDOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND OAK FOREST ELEMENTARY EXPANSION PROJECT TO BE LOCATED AT 2400 TX-12, VIDOR, TEXAS, PREPARED BY BERNARDINO TRISTAN, P.E., DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

Mr. Ancelot made a motion to authorize the Drainage District Staff to approve the Drainage Plan for the Vidor Middle School and Oak Forest Elementary expansion project to be located at 2400 TX-12, Vidor, Texas, prepared by Bernardino Tristan, P.E., dated February 20, 2025. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**BOARD GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 10:26 a.m. Mr. Ancelot made a motion to enter into Executive Session to consult with the District's attorney concerning legal matters pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.071. Mr. Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

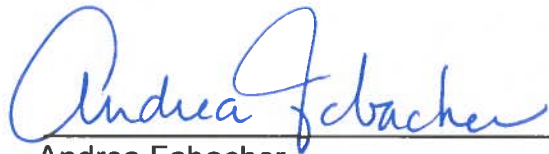
The Board reconvened in open session at 11:38 a.m.

**BOARD ADJOURNS**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Ancelot made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Peveto seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.



James Scales  
President



Andrea Fabacher  
Recording Secretary