



**Oversight Committee:** Minutes of Regular Meeting: March 26, 2013

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING:

Theldon R. Branch, III, Chair – **President**  
Ann Lents, Vice Chair – **Present**  
Frances Castaneda Dyess, Working Group Chair – **Present**  
Edward Taravella – **Present**  
C.P. “Chip” Bryan – Absent, with notice  
Bert Keller, Working Group Chair – **Present**  
Gilbert Herrera, Working Group Chair – **Present**  
Jeff Ross, Working Group Chair – **Present**  
Council Member Oliver Pennington – **Present**

**1. Call to Order / Welcome**

Chairman Theldon Branch called the meeting of the ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee to order at 10:37 a.m. Mr. Dale Rudick introduced Ms. Katherine Mestousis who has been hired as an administrative specialist to assist with the ReBuild Houston initiative. Chairman Branch welcomed Ms. Mestousis and thanked guests for attending. Also in attendance were Council members Costello, Davis and Green.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Branch asked for review of the February 26, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Bert Keller stated he would like to further clarify his motion approved at the February meeting regarding the role and function of the Oversight Committee. Mr. Keller proposed the minutes to be stated as follows: “The Oversight Committee respectfully requests the Mayor to refine the role of the Committee as laid out in both the mission statement and in the official description (attached) citing General Powers & Duties of the Committee. This reassessment of the Committee’s role should take into account the tasks

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completed during the inaugural period of the ReBuild Houston initiative as well as the tasks necessary to continue the advisory role of the Committee.” Motion to approve the February, 26, 2013 meeting minutes as amended was made by Ms. Frances Castaneda Dyess and seconded. Motion carried.

### **3. FY 14-18 CIP District Town Hall Meeting Update**

Mr. Dale Rudick announced that the public input period is coming to a close on March, 31 2013 with the last CIP District Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 27 for District E in Clear Lake. Mr. Rudick briefly described a new “open house” concept that has been utilized by two district council members (Districts H & B) that were structured to offer the public a faster, more efficient experience as well as to ensure that every member of the public who attends a meeting will be able to receive personal attention from a representative of the City of Houston. Mr. Jeff Ross asked about the type of questions we are hearing from the public. Council Member Jerry Davis stated that he hears questions related to water quality and how we choose CIP projects.

Ms. Ann Lents suggested that the Committee should further review the information we are receiving from the questionnaires and from individuals at the Town Hall Meetings in an effort to better evaluate the data and the process by which ReBuild Houston uses to recommend projects. Mr. Rudick stated he is encouraged by the number of completed questionnaires we are receiving. The questionnaires are distributed at each of the District Town Hall Meetings and are designed for residents who have been affected by flooding to report such information to be added to the data base if it has not already been recorded.

Ms. Lents also suggested that in the future, upon the completion of the public input period, the Oversight Committee should re-evaluate the Need Areas selected for pre-engineering. Council Member Larry Green agreed that the pre-engineering selection process needs to be re-evaluated and is concerned that the projects are not distributed proportionately throughout the districts of the City. Mr. Rudick stated that he is appreciative of Council Member Green’s input and reminded committee members that recommended ‘candidate projects’ stem from Need, not by district. Mr. Rudick also offered to meet with Council Member Green to discuss ReBuild Houston in more depth. Chairman Branch reminded members that a key point is that we are still under investing in our street and drainage infrastructure by about \$400 million/year. We can review the data to see if that data is producing the right projects and that we are attacking the worst first. Council Member Oliver Pennington inquired about what ReBuild Houston is doing to attain data for future projects. Mr. Rudick responded that ReBuild Houston gathers data from multiple sources including LiDAR, flood reports, 311 calls, FEMA claims, and more. And data is continuously being added to the data base.

Mr. Rudick reviewed the next steps for the draft “5+5” year plan. With the completion of the District CIP Town Hall Meetings and the public input process, a revised Draft Final CIP (FY 14-18) will be forwarded to the administration in early April. The SWEET model will be rerun for the FY 19 – 23 “+5” plan utilizing the additional information received during the public input period. The Committee will receive these updated versions of the “5+5” with highlighted changes from the original draft plan.

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### 4. Executive Report

Mr. Rudick announced the following:

- **Drainage Impact Fee Ordinance** goes before City Council for consideration tomorrow, March 27, 2013.
- **Verification & Correction Update:** It was expected to see a large decline in the number of verification & correction cases since the initial year of implementation of the drainage utility fee. Comparing the first nearly 10 weeks of CY 2012 to the first 10 weeks of CY 2013, there was a drop of over 98% in the number of verification & correction cases. The number of appeals in that same period dropped by more than 96%.
- **Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee (TTI)** is tentatively scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.
- **Next Oversight Committee Meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

### 5. Old Business/New Business

Mr. Ross raised questions regarding the Quarterly Drainage Utility Collections table and the Quarterly DDSRF worksheet which were included in the February 26, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Rudick stated that the Quarter 2 reports are a snapshot as of December 31, 2012 and does not show the collection of revenue that was billed in December. The Quarter 4 report will include the completion of the last billing cycle in FY 13 consistent with standard accounting procedures. These reports indicate projections based on our best estimate.

### 6. Public Comments

Ms. Gregory, a home owner in the Spring Branch community within District A, commented on concerns she has in regards to drainage projects within her community. Ms. Gregory also had questions about the Public Works and Engineering flood map on the website. Mr. Krueger clarified that the need map is not intended to represent "wet" areas but is intended to denote need intensity by geographic division with drainage need comprised of data related to structural flooding history, capacity of storm sewer system, and potential for street ponding. Mr. Rudick thanked Ms. Gregory for taking time out of her schedule to attend the Committee meeting and for her input on the issues she is having in her community.

### 7. Adjourn:

Motion made to adjourn by Mr. Ed Taravella, seconded by Ms. Lents. Meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Attachment:

- ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee Boards & Commissions document via the COH Website



## Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee

Houston, TX

Contact: Daniel Krueger

Phone: (832)395-2474 Fax: (832)395-2474

Email:

Updated as of: 5/18/2012

### LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR CREATION AND OPERATION(City)

Article XIV of Chapter 47, Section 47-861 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances. Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee to advise the city on drainage project priorities and process. Ordinance No. 2011-254.

### GENERAL POWER AND DUTIES

To be an Independent Advisory Committee whose role is to advise the City on "project priorities and process". The Committee will report directly to the Mayor. In performing this advisory role the Committee will:

- Review the criteria established by Public Works and Engineering to prioritize street and drainage projects and recommend any changes.
- Create a forum that ensures citizens are informed of project priorities and have an opportunity to input their views.
- Monitor the appeals process and , if necessary, suggest procedural changes generally applicable to the process.
- Review community communications of all projects and recommend improvements to Public Works and Engineering.
- Evaluate the execution of projects and recommend changes to the process and priorities.
- Review the initial 10 year Rebuild Houston plan in the 1st half of CY2012 and recommend any changes.
- Participate in the creation of a mentoring program (similar to the Greater Houston Wastewater Program).
- Participate in the creation of a job training/apprenticeship/internship program in partnership with education, business, non-profit and labor organizations.
- Review and recommend changes to the W.A.T.E.R. fund usage criteria.
- The Committee will provide quarterly reports to the appropriate Council Committee.

### MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

### COMPOSITION

The members of the Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee must be residents of the City of Houston. City employees or contractors, engineers or firms participating in any city street and/or drainage system project are ineligible to serve.

Positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5: Appointed by the City Council.

Positions 6, 7, 8, 9: Appointed by the Mayor.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER: Chair of Flooding and Drainage Committee will serve as an Ex-Officio member of the Oversight Committee.

QUORUM: A majority of the members (5) of the Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee shall constitute a quorum.

TERM: Each member shall serve for a term of two years (with the exception of the initial term of positions 2, 4, 6, 8 which shall be one year) and shall hold over until the member's successor is nominated and confirmed. The terms of each even-numbered position shall end on May 1 of even-numbered years, and the terms of each odd-numbered position shall end on May 1 of odd-numbered years.

CHAIRPERSON: The chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Mayor.

COMPENSATION: None

### FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Entity is NOT included in the financial reporting for the City of Houston.

### MEMBER LIST

Member Name	Position #	Chair
Oliver Pennington	00	Ex-Officio
Frances Castañeda Dyess	01	
Dwight Boykins	02	
Edward Taravella	03	
C.P. 'Chip' Bryan	04	
Bert Keller	05	
Gilbert A. Herrera	06	
Theldon R. Branch, III	07	Chair
Ann Lents	08	
Jeff Ross	09	

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