

**Texas Space Commission
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
Monday – February 10, 2025
11:00 a.m. CDT**

Greer State Office Building
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Board of Directors Members in Attendance, In-Person:

Gwen Griffin – chair
Brad Morrison

Board of Directors Members in Attendance, Virtually:

Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg
Sassie Duggleby
Evan Loomis
Kathryn Lueders – vice chair
John Shannon
Kirk Shireman – secretary
Dr. Heather Wilson

**Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC)
Executive Committee Liaison in Attendance, Virtually:**
Stephanie Murphy

Staff in Attendance:

Joseph Behnke – General Counsel
Katherine Caldwell – Communications
Blake Calvert – Deputy Executive Director
Erin Chancellor – Chief Compliance Officer
Norman Garza, Jr. – Executive Director

1) Call to Order:

a) Roll call of meeting attendees.

At 11:00 a.m. CDT, Chair Gwen Griffin called the meeting to order and directed the Executive Director to call roll. A quorum was confirmed to be present.

2) Chair Remarks:

Chair Griffin thanked fellow board members for their dedication and diligence in getting the process right, as well as thanked staff for their work.

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a) January 24, 2025 meeting. Action Item

TSC Board Member Brad Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the Open Meeting on January 24, 2025. It was seconded by Kirk Shireman. The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

4) Executive Director Remarks:

Executive Director Norman Garza, Jr. provided an update on the activities completed by TSC board members and personnel, beginning with briefings conducted by U.S. Space Force Major General Gregory J. Gagnon at the Texas Capitol where he provided an overview highlighting access to and the use of space systems as critical to national security interests. Garza then noted that later in the day, he and Chair Griffin would be joined by Jim Bridenstine, former NASA Administrator and former Member of Congress from Oklahoma, for meetings at the Capitol with legislators and staff. Garza then informed the Board that later in the week he and Chair Griffin would be in Washington, D.C. for the Space Commercial Space Conference and the Space Foundation Conference. He then highlighted Board Member Dr. Heather Wilson's testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology at the invitation of U.S. Rep. Brian Babin, D.D.S. the week prior. Garza closed his update by remarking that Agency personnel continue to process applications and field questions, as well as receive input unrelated to grants from many stakeholders. He then thanked the staff and the Board for their time and attention.

5) Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC) Updates:

Chair Griffin welcomed Stephanie Murphy, TARSEC Chair and Liaison to the Texas Space Commission board of directors. Murphy first highlighting their recent workshop in Austin, which was focused on infrastructure; it was the third such event held to date. She noted the workshops have been well-received and well-attended, garnering over 600 registrants. She then noted that TARSEC is developing their website, putting together a subcommittee to work on that along with project manager Jessica Sailors. Murphy referenced action by TARSEC to submit a couple of legislative updates, noting an attorney for TARSEC, Julie Masek, has been working directly with Joseph Behnke.

Murphy then said that the next event which they are planning is a workshop in South Texas; it will likely be in Brownsville during the month of May. Murphy informed the Board that TARSEC had an Executive Committee planning meeting in Austin where they decided on developing their process to distill input received at their events and turn that over to TSC personnel as a framework for guiding future funding awards; that discussion was led by Matt Ondler and Dr. Rob Ambrose. She concluded by stating that TARSEC is working on their heat map, intended to document infrastructure across the state that will be delivered to TSC

after the website has been launched. Separately, the next series of workshops may be held in Brownsville and potentially Dallas / Fort Worth.

6) **Consideration of Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF), Applications for Grant Funding: Action Item**

Chair Gwen Griffin opened the SEARF grant discussion, noting that this process would be the same as their last meeting, followed by asking for any questions from TSC Board of Directors. There were no questions. She continued by reminding the Board that, pursuant to Texas Space Commission rules, if a Board member has a conflict of interest, then the Board member must disclose that conflict of interest in this Open Meeting as the matter arises, and recuse him or herself from participating in the review, discussion, deliberation and ultimate vote on that application. She also stated that all board members have already disclosed their written notice, as required by the rules, and they have not accessed information regarding the applications in which they are conflicted.

Griffin then offered a brief reminder that the board takes seriously their responsibility, assigned by statute, and the trust placed in them by those who appointed each member on the TSC Board of Directors. Furthermore, she acknowledged that any comments made by a director in the course of this discussion and during an Open Meeting should be taken as each member carrying out their duties on behalf of the Texas Space Commission, rather than of any other company, organization or institution.

Griffin noted the breadth of experience in the aerospace, aeronautics and aviation sectors brought by each Director and their ultimate goal to apply that knowledge openly in their roles as members of the Board.

Next, Griffin raised application 25-0084-B from Intuitive Machines, LLC for consideration, with the understanding that three Board Members - Evan Loomis, Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg, and Kirk Shireman - had previously disclosed conflicts of interest on this application, and therefore would not participate in discussion or voting. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Griffin described the proposed project and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. So, she called for a motion to approve the award for application 25-0084-B in the amount of up to \$10,000,000 for eligible costs, conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. Kathy Lueders made a motion to approve the award and John Shannon seconded. The nonconflicted Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Griffin then directed the Executive Director to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms.

Next, Griffin raised application 25-0064-B from Space Exploration Technologies Corp. for consideration, with the understanding that Kathy Lueders previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application, and therefore would not participate in discussion or voting. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Griffin described the proposed project and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. So, she called for a motion to approve the award for application 25-0084-B in the amount of up to \$7,500,000 for eligible costs, conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. Brad Morrison made a motion to approve the award and Kirk Shireman seconded. The nonconflicted Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Griffin directed the Executive Director to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms.

Next, Griffin handed the chair to Vice Chair Kathy Lueders for further consideration of applications because she held conflicts with forthcoming applications for discussion. Lueders raised application 25-0100-B from Blue Origin Texas, LLC for consideration, with the understanding that Chair Gwen Griffin previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application and therefore would not participate in discussion or voting. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Lueders described the proposed project and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. So, she called for a motion to approve the award for application 25-0100-B in the amount of up to \$7,000,000 for eligible costs, conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. Dr. Heather Wilson made a motion to approve the award and Evan Loomis seconded. The nonconflicted Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Lueders directed the Executive Director to move forward on awarding this grant pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms.

Next, Lueders raised application 25-0002-B from Starlab Space, LLC for consideration, with the understanding that Chair Gwen Griffin previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application and therefore would not participate in discussion or voting. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Lueders described the proposed project and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. So, she called for a motion to approve the award for application 25-0002-B in the amount of up to \$15,000,000 for eligible costs, conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. John Shannon made a motion to approve the award and Kirk Shireman seconded. The nonconflicted Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Lueders directed the Executive Director to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms.

Next, Lueders raised application 25-0103-B from Firefly Aerospace, Inc. for consideration, with the understanding that Chair Gwen Griffin previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application and therefore would not participate in discussion or voting. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Lueders described the proposed project and asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. So, she called for a motion to approve the award for application 25-0103-B in the amount of up to \$8,200,000 for eligible costs, conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. Brad Morrison made a motion to approve the award and Sassie Duggleby seconded. The nonconflicted Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Lueders directed the Executive Director to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms.

Vice Chair Kathy Lueders then turned back over the meeting to Chair Gwen Griffin, who concluded this agenda item.

7) Establish Future Meeting Dates/Locations:

Chair Gwen Griffin noted that they are polling Board Members for future dates in March and mentioned a date set for later in February. She emphasized keeping the cadence regular. Secretary Kirk Shireman then suggested Space Day Texas as a potential opportunity for a meeting.

Griffin thanked Shireman for his idea and then stated the hope that many of those in the room, as well as those participating virtually, will attend Space Day Texas on March 25th.

Then, Griffin thanked everyone for their interest in this Open Meeting. She asked if there was any other further business to attend to from the directors. There was not.

8) Adjournment:

At 11:23 a.m. CDT, Chair Gwen Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned.


Chair or Designee

3-31-25
Date

