

Open Meeting
Texas Space Commission, Board of Directors
Minutes, Wednesday - April 16, 2025
2:00 p.m. CDT

Headquarters: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) - Greer State Office Building
125 East 11th Street - Austin, Texas 78701

Members, Board of Directors – Attending in-Person:

1. Ms. Gwen Griffin, chair

Members, Board of Directors – Attending virtually:

1. Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg
2. Ms. Sassie Duggleby
3. Ms. Kathryn Lueders, vice chair
4. Mr. Brad Morrison
5. Mr. John Shannon
6. Mr. Kirk Shireman, secretary
7. Dr. Heather Wilson

Member, Board of Directors – Absent:

1. Mr. Evan Loomis

Member, Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC) Executive Committee – Attending virtually :

1. Mr. Brian Freedman, vice chair

Guests, invited presenter – Attending virtually:

1. Retired Colonel William “Hippie” Woolf, U.S. Air Force
President/CEO, Space Force Association

Staff, TSC personnel – Attending in-person:

1. Mr. Joseph Behnke, General Counsel
2. Ms. Kate Caldwell, Senior Communications Specialist
3. Mr. Blake Calvert, Deputy Executive Director
4. Ms. Erin Chancellor, Chief Compliance Officer
5. Mr. Norman Garza Jr., Executive Director

1) Call to Order:

2) Roll call.

At 2:00 p.m. CDT, Board Chair Gwen Griffin called the meeting to order and directed the Executive Director to call the roll of TSC board members. A quorum was confirmed to be present.

Remarks by Board Chairman:

Board Chair Gwen Griffin offered welcome remarks that began by noting those presentations given at the last meeting from Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) representatives. She also gave an update on the annual Space Symposium, held the week prior in Colorado, as well as activities completed by officials from the state of Texas.

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a) Action Item.

Board Director Kirk Shireman made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes, as written, for March 31, 2025 of the Texas Space Commission board of directors. Board Director Sassie Duggleby seconded the motion by Mr. Shireman. The board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of their March 31, 2025 Open Meeting.

4) Remarks by Executive Director:

Executive Director Norman Garza, Jr. gave an update on House Bill 5246, a “clean-up” bill regarding state statute authorizing the Texas Space Commission and TARSEC activities. He also gave an update on the Texas Senate confirmation process for the appointments of Chair Gwen Griffin, Vice Chair Kathy Lueders, and Board Director John Shannon.

5) Update from Texas Aerospace Research & Space Economy Consortium (TARSEC) Executive Committee:

Board Chair Gwen Griffin turned the floor over to Mr. Brian Freedman, TARSEC vice chair. Mr. Freedman began by commenting on the TARSEC workshop currently taking place in Fort Worth. He then updated on the TARSEC website, features it will offer, and vendor selection. Mr. Freedman also remarked that Executive Committee Member Matt Ondler is leading a TARSEC subcommittee to develop a process for recommendations to the Texas Space Commission board of directors regarding areas of priority for SEARF grant program funding.

6) Consideration of Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) Grant Program Applications for Funding

a) Action Item.

Board Chair Gwen Griffin opened discussion about the SEARF grant program, reminding the Board – and the public – that, pursuant to Texas Space Commission rules, if a Board member has a conflict of interest, the Board member will disclose that conflict of interest during this Open Meeting as the matter arises and recuse him or herself from participating in the review, discussion, deliberation and 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.

Ms. Griffin raised application #25-0066-B from **Aegis Aerospace, Inc.** for consideration, and confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

Ms. Griffin then 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 #25-0066-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. Vice Chair Kathy Lueders made a motion to approve the award and Board Director Brad Morrison seconded the motion by Ms. Lueders.

The board unanimously voted to approve the award. Ms. Griffin directed agency staff to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of an administrative background assessment and acceptance of the Grant Agreement terms.

Ms. Griffin raised application #25-0144-B from **ICON Technology, Inc.** for consideration, with the understanding that Board Director Evan Loomis (absent) previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Ms. Griffin then 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 #25-0144-B in the amount of up to \$694,350 for eligible costs conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Secretary Kirk Shireman made a motion to approve the award and Board Director Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D. seconded the motion by Mr. Shireman.

The board unanimously voted to approve the award. Ms. Griffin directed agency staff to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of an administrative background assessment and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms.

Ms. Griffin raised application #25-0167-B from **Interlune Corporation** for consideration, with the understanding that Board Directors Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D., Evan Loomis (absent), and Kirk Shireman previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Ms. Griffin then 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 #25-0167-B in the amount of up to \$4,840,000 for eligible costs

conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Board Director John Shannon made a motion to approve the award and Board Director Sassie Duggleby seconded the motion by Mr. Shannon.

The board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Ms. Griffin directed agency staff to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of an administrative background assessment and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms.

Ms. Griffin raised application #25-0071-B from **KULR Technology Group** for consideration and confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

Ms. Griffin then 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 #25-0071-B in the amount of up to \$6,703,500 for eligible costs conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Board Director Brad Morrison made a motion to approve the award and Secretary Kirk Shireman seconded the motion by Mr. Morrison.

The motion carried 7-1 as Board Director Heather Wilson, Ph.D. voted "no" on the motion to approve this application. With the approval of the majority, Ms. Griffin directed agency staff to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of an administrative background assessment and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms.

Ms. Griffin raised application #25-0213-B from **Venus Aerospace Corporation** for consideration, with the understanding that Board Directors Sassie Duggleby and Evan Loomis (absent) previously disclosed a conflict of interest on this application. She then asked if any other Board Members have a conflict of interest, which they did not.

Ms. Griffin then 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 #25-0213-B in the amount of up to \$3,940,000 for eligible costs conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Board Director Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D. made a motion to approve the award and Vice Chair Kathy Lueders seconded the motion by Dr. Currie-Gregg.

The Board members unanimously voted to approve the award. Ms. Griffin directed agency staff to move forward on awarding this grant, pending the applicant's successful completion of the administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms.

7) **Presentation by Space Force Association (SFA) on Activities in Texas:**

Board Chair Gwen Griffin introduced Retired Colonel William “Hippie” Woolf, USAF - Founder, President & CEO of the U.S. Space Force Association (SFA), to provide an overview of the organization.

Col. Woolf then described the inception and founding of the organization, and the creation of satellite offices in Texas for SFA chapters. He also discussed the accomplishments of the organization, to date, as well as the advocacy growth and representation. He touched on the Space Power Conference, their annual gathering, and the vision to establish a Space Power Center around Houston. He answered questions from Board Director Heather Wilson, Ph.D. regarding the relationship between his organization and the Air Force Association. Then, he answered a question from Ms. Griffin regarding programs that are offered to U.S. Space Force veterans and their families.

8) Adjournment:

At 2:36 p.m. CDT, Board Chair Gwen Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned.


Chair or Designee

June 3, 2025
Date