

Open Meeting
Texas Space Commission (TSC), Board of Directors
Minutes – Friday, July 25, 2025
11:00 a.m. CDT

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Headquarters – 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. Ms. Kathy Lueders, vice chair
2. Mr. Kirk Shireman, secretary
3. Mr. Evan Loomis
4. Mr. John Shannon
5. Dr. Heather Wilson

Member, Board of Directors – Absent:

1. Dr. Nancy Currie-Gregg
2. Ms. Sassie Duggleby
3. Mr. Brad Morrison

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

1. Ms. Stephanie Murphy, chair

Guests, invited presenters – Attending, in-person:

1. Major Lauren Rogers
2. Major Whitney Hessler

Staff, TSC personnel – Attending in-person:

1. Ms. Kate Caldwell, Senior Communications Specialist
2. Mr. Blake Calvert, Deputy Executive Director
3. Ms. Erin E. Chancellor, General Counsel
4. Mr. Norman Garza Jr., Executive Director
5. Mr. Andres Ramos, Communications Director

1) Call to Order:

Roll call.

At 11:05 a.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 Chair.

Chair Griffin began her welcome by noting the ongoing activities of the Board Members on behalf of TSC and thanked them for their continued focus on scoring Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF) applications. She mentioned events that TSC Board Directors have participated, as well as key engagements, including with the U.S. Space Force (USSF).

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a) Action Item.

TSC Board Secretary Kirk Shireman made a motion to approve the Minutes, as written, for the June 24, 2025 Open Meeting of the TSC Board of Directors. Vice Chair Kathy Lueders seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the June 24, 2025 Open Meeting.

3) Executive Director Remarks.

Executive Director Norman Garza, Jr. gave an update on SEARF grant agreements, noting that five have been fully executed. He also highlighted additional engagements where he and Board Members have represented TSC, including speaking on panels, providing briefings, as well as intergovernmental meetings. He closed by discussing progress on filling the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) role.

4) TARSEC Liaison Report.

Chair Griffin turned the floor over to Ms. Stephanie Murphy, TARSEC chair. She provided an update on activities conducted by their Executive Committee, including a summary of input from all the workshops held to date. She also gave an update on TARSEC membership process, and planning on future workshops around the state.

5) Presentation by USSF SpaceWERX.

Chair Griffin then introduced Major Lauren Rogers and Major Whitney Hessler from SpaceWERX to give a presentation on their organization. They discussed the mission, vision, and structure as well as types of funding they can provide. They gave an overview of the types of organizations they work with and projects they support, and some of the outcomes of their efforts to date.

6) Consideration of SEARF Grant Applications.

a) Action Item.

Chair Griffin opened discussion about the SEARF grant program, reminding the Board – and the public – that, pursuant to TSC rules, if a Board Member has a conflict of interest, then 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.

Chair Griffin raised application #25-0049-B from SylLab Systems, Inc. for consideration, and confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

Chair 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 #25-0049-B in the amount of up to \$250,000.00 for research and development costs conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Vice Chair Lueders made a motion to approve the award and Secretary Shireman seconded the motion by Vice Chair Lueders.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the award. Chair 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.

Chair Griffin raised application #25-0227-G from the City of Midland for consideration and confirmed there were no conflicts of interest.

Chair 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 #25-0227-G in the amount of up to \$4,000,000.00 for construction costs conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of Grant Agreement terms. Director John Shannon made a motion to approve the award and Director Evan Loomis seconded the motion by Director Shannon.

The Board unanimously voted to approve the award. Chair 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.

Chair Griffin handed over the meeting to Vice Chair Lueders for further consideration of applications. Vice Chair Lueders raised application #25-0128-B from ILC Astrospace, LLC for consideration, with the understanding that Chair Griffin 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.

Vice Chair Lueders 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 #25-0128-B in the amount of up to \$4,494,354 for eligible costs

conditioned on the applicant's successful completion of the Commission's administrative background assessments and acceptance of grant agreement terms. Director Shannon made a motion to approve the award and Secretary Shireman seconded.

The nonconflicted Board Members unanimously voted to approve the award. Vice Chair Lueders directed 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.

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

7) Closed Meeting for Deliberation Regarding Defense, Military, or Aerospace Issues:


At 12:12 p.m. CDT, Chair Griffin announced that the Open Meeting was in recess for the TSC Board to adjourn into Closed Meeting, pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.092, to engage in deliberations relating to a defense, military, or aerospace issue related to either the establishment of an office, base, or major facility in Texas by the U.S. Department of Defense (U.S. DoD) or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); or an economic incentive the Board may offer to a private entity or nonprofit organization to meet a match requirement or other requirement established by the U.S. DoD or NASA in relation to grants or strategic endeavors.

At 1:29 p.m. CDT, Chair Griffin reconvened the meeting.

8) Adjournment:

At 1:30 p.m. CDT, Chair Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections, and the meeting was adjourned.


Chair or Designee


Date