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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Heart of Texas Council of Governments Board Room– 14158 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tom Hemrick, at 10:00 AM.

A. Guest recognition –

*Jennifer Dunn – NWS Fort Worth/Dallas
Shannon Rousey, Limestone County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Murray Agnew, Limestone County Sheriff's Office
Matthew Schlefer, TAMFS
Frank Patterson, McLennan Community College
Brent Weatherby, Waco Fire Department
Karen Pettit, HOTCOG 211*

B. Member introductions

<i>Phillip Cantrell</i>	<i>Chris Cary</i>
<i>Nancy Cross</i>	<i>Kirk Turner</i>
<i>Matt Groveton</i>	<i>Danny Guerra</i>
<i>Tom Hemrick</i>	<i>Rob Bergerson</i>
<i>Elizabeth Thomas</i>	<i>Eric Garretty</i>
<i>Buffy Waldie</i>	<i>Rodney Hall</i>
<i>Shane McLellan</i>	<i>Jeremy Shipley</i>
<i>Terry Townley</i>	<i>Jeff Watkins</i>
<i>Heather Wheeler</i>	<i>Martin Widtfeldt</i>
<i>HOTCOG Staff</i>	
<i>Amy Derrick</i>	<i>Tim Jeske</i>
<i>Lana Gudgel</i>	

II. Determination of Quorum

Mr. Hemrick stated that a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

Mr. Jeske stated that there was proof of posting.

IV. Public Comment

No Public Comment

V. Sub-Committee Reports

*Amy Derrick gave a brief Education Sub Committee report.
Tim Jeske gave a brief Cybersecurity Sub Committee report – the committee is currently working with the 4 agencies with full-time IT to establish the committee. Mr. Jeske identified the four agencies and asked if there were other agencies with full-time IT that*

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would like to be a part of the subcommittee to contact him. Mr. Jeske also reported that the DIR would like to be a part of the local subcommittee. There have been two meetings with the state to get the subcommittee foundation going forward. Mr. Jeske has been working with Texas A&M regarding training and support for the subcommittee, and there have been discussions regarding ISF in Austin attending the next meeting. Mr. Jeske explained the purpose of the Cybersecurity subcommittee and how it can help with grant funding going forward. Mr. Jeske recently joined the Texas Information and sharing group to get more information regarding threat assessment. EMC Matt Groveton reports that Limestone County is ready to move forward.

Tim gave a brief synopsis of the Communications Subcommittee. The last meeting for the Communications Subcommittee was on March 9th. Mr. Jeske reports that the current grants for communications are on track to be completed on time. There have been some delays in receiving equipment due to the chip shortage. Freestone County equipment has been received and is scheduled for set up next week. The second shipment of equipment is expected to arrive anytime. It has been shipped but the tracking does not provide estimated delivery dates.

VI. Chair's Report

Mr. Hemrick announced that Amy Derrick has resigned and he thanked her on behalf of the committee for her service. Mr. Hemrick also thanked the Waco Fire Department for their assistance with a recent exercise held in Hill County.

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

Mr. Jeske gave a brief explanation of recent changes in grant applications. Leftover funding will no longer be swept back to the region, and remaining unused funds will now be returned to the State to be redistributed as needed statewide.

Mr. Jeske also explained some changes that were not done until after the application review process was completed and funding recommendations were made. FEMA changed the requirements for LEFTA from 30% to 35%. The State will be dealing with this change for the current grant cycle. Also changed were the National Priorities, several priorities were added these will be looked at in the next grant cycle. The state is not going to send the priorities list back to be fixed but will need to be changed for the next cycle. Tom Hemrick asked if this could affect the funding recommendations made by the committee. Mr. Jeske advised that it could affect the funding recommendations and that some of the things recommended might not get funded. At this time we are in a wait-and-see mode until funding announcements are made. As of April the notice of funding from the Federal Government had not been released. This could delay decisions on funding at the state level until Fall.

VIII. New Business - Consideration of and/or Action On

- A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of March 2, 2022 - EPAC Meeting Minutes
Chris Cary made a motion to accept the March 2, 2022, EPAC Meeting Minutes as presented. Nancy Cross seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.

B. *Mrs. Jennifer Dunn of the NWS Fort Worth / Dallas National Weather Service gave a presentation regarding weather patterns in the region. Mrs. Dunn reported that the area temperatures have been approximately 4.2 degrees higher than normal and rainfall is below normal levels. 2022 has seen an increase in several weather warnings since January 2022. The average number of weather warnings given in prior years was 160 this year has already seen 182 weather warnings released. This year looks to have an early summer and there are still some server storms possible. Rainfall is expected to remain below normal this year. For the next 7-10 days temperatures will be in the 90's with no expected rainfall. Winds have also been higher than normal in the region. Mrs. Dunn reviewed the new format for the Tornado Warnings text two new portions are the source and the bottom of the text. Mrs. Dunn conclude the presentation with a list of resources for the members and told the members that her presentation would be made available to them following the meeting.*

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

Nancy Cross announced that today is the anniversary of the Waco tornado. Frank Patterson announced that McLennan Community College is now offering an Emergency Management certificate program. Mr. Patterson told members that MCC is working with TCOLE and TCFP to get approval for continuing education hours for Officers and Firefighters.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by Ms. Cross at 11:03 AM. Mr. Cary seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.