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Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, November 8, 2023 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting call to order was given by chairman Tom Hemrick at 9:30 A.M.

A. Guest recognition

- *Matthew Schlaefter (TFS)* *Brent Weatherby (Waco FD)*
- *Chris Meyer (HOTRAC)* *David Maness (Waco FD)*

B. Member introductions

- *HOTCOG Staff:*
 - Andy Davis*
 - Harold Ferguson*
 - Wayne Stovall*

- *Rob Bergerson* *Danny Guerra*
- *Phillip Cantrell* *Tom Hemrick (Chairman)*
- *Chris Carey* *Ryan Dirker*
- *Michael Graham* *Buffy Waldie*
- *Matt Groveton*

II. Determination of Quorum

- *A quorum was confirmed by Tom Hemrick.*

III. Proof of Posting

- *Proof of posting was determined by Wayne Stovall.*

IV. Public Comment

- *No public comment.*

V. Sub-Committee Reports

- *HOTCOG staff informed the committee on a pending future date to have a communications sub-committee meeting involving the Texas Statewide Interoperability Communicator (SWIC). Tom Hemrick agreed to find a date soon for a meeting.*

VI. Chair's Report

- *Tom Hemrick emphasized the need to develop projects in preparation of the HSGP grants funds opening in December.*

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. Communications Project Updates

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments

1514 S. New Road • Waco, Texas 76711 • 254-292-1800 • FAX 254-756-0102

- Tom Hemrick gave an overview of how the communication projects are going in Hill County. Tom Hemrick and Matt Groveton discussed the future business of equipment transfers between counties as Hill County finishes transitioning to 800 MHz for communications and has VHF equipment to dispose. Harold gave a quick update on SERI grant projects in the region and a rough timeline of when future funding will be available. Wayne Stovall and Tom Hemrick discussed LADRIS company evacuation software which had reached out to Hill County and HOTCOG in the recent weeks.

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

- A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of September 13, 2023 - EPAC Meeting Minutes
 - Chris Carey motioned to approve, Tom Hemrick seconded the motion, the motion passed.
- B. Current and future projects Waco FD CBRNE and McLennan County Bomb Squad
 - Brent Weatherby and David Maness from the Waco FD gave a PowerPoint presentation over the activities of the regional CBRNE team and what gear/equipment was able to be purchased through grant funds.
 - EPAC member Michael Graham gave a brief update on the activities of the McLennan County Bomb Squad.
- C. Discussion of IPAWS for Public Alerts
 - Andy Davis briefly went over the steps to allow each jurisdiction within HOTCOG to use the federal IPAWS system to send alerts on the Everbridge ENS software.
- D. ENS User Training/ new features
 - Andy Davis explained changes that the current ENS software provider Everbridge is making by phasing into a new interface called "Everbridge 360". The possibility of user training in the future on the system was suggested to allow an easier experience with the software.
- E. Discuss Bylaws and future revisions.
 - HOTCOG staff mentioned changes to the bylaws, most of the changes mentioned were minor spelling and grammar edits. The major changes to the bylaws were regarding start and ending dates of member and officer terms. Harold Ferguson explained how the changes will be voted on in the January meeting due to the current bylaws needing 30 days' notice to EPAC members on changes before a vote is made.

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

- No future business items.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

- Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. Adjournment

- Phillip Cantrell motioned to adjourn; Chris Carey seconded the motion. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.