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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

**Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting
9:30 AM, Wednesday, September 13, 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 AM.

A. Guest recognition –

*Frank Patterson (MCC)
Chris Meyer (HOTRAC)
Jennifer Dunn (NWS)
Oscar Lagunas (CATRAC)
Allece Brushaber (Waco PHEP)*

*Martin Widtfeldt (TDEM)
Rusty Meyers (TDEM)
David William (TDEM)
Amy Rossow (HOTCOG 211)
Marcy Whiddon (HOTCOG 211)*

B. Member introductions –

*Rob Bergerson
Phillip Cantrell
Chris Cary
Nancy Cross
Danny Guerra
Tom Hemrick (Chairman)
Alex Jakoboski*

*Rober LaFoy
Leonard Smith
Ryan Dirker (Interim McLennan
EMC)
Buffy Waldie
Jeff Watkins
Heather Wheeler*

*HOTCOG Staff:
Wayne Stovall
Andy Davis
Harold Ferguson
Lana Gudgel*

II. Determination of Quorum

Tom Hemrick confirmed that a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

Proof of posting was confirmed by Wayne Stovall.

IV. Public Comment

Frank Patterson commented to commend the use of grant funds that upgraded existing communication infrastructure in McLennan County over the past few years. Mr. Patterson also spoke of the opportunity for anyone to acquire a 420 ft. guide tower that was part of the previous radio infrastructure.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

None

VI. Chair's Report

None

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. Communications Project Update

- *Harold Ferguson gave a brief overview of the various projects that included State Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant funds. Projects included the Limestone County microwave project, building of a Marlin radio tower, and the installation of a new dispatch console in Freestone County.*

B. Current and Future Training Classes

- *Wayne Stovall and Harold Ferguson spoke on training activities that took place over the summer which were sponsored by HOTCOG. Training included ICS 300 and ICS 400. Plans were made to conduct a CERT Train the Trainer course but were not successful.*

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

A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of February 15, 2023 - EPAC Meeting Minutes

- *Nancy Cross motioned to approve, Phillip Cantrell seconded the motion, no discussion, and the motion passed.*

B. Review, Discuss, and Approval of May 10, 2023 - EPAC Meeting Minutes

- *Jeff Watkins motioned to approve, Nancy Cross seconded the motion, no discussion, the motion passed.*

C. Nominations and Election of new EPAC Vice Chair

- *Buffy Waldie nominated herself for Vice Chair, no other nominations were given, the motion passed, and she was elected Vice Chair.*

D. NWS Chat 2.0 (Jennifer Dunn, NOAA)

(Please bring your NWS Chat devices with you)

- *Jennifer Dunn provided a presentation on the transition and use of Chat 2.0 which was previously Chat 1.0.*
- *New use of Chat 2.0 will be found on the "Slack" app.*

E. TDEM Incident Support Task Force

- *David William from TDEM spoke briefly on the activities and functions of the Incident Support Task Force.*
- *Mr. William showed what training the Task Force provides such as: damage assistance, financial reporting during disasters, and debris management.*

F. Discussion of 2025 HS Grant Projects with focus on LETPA and NPA projects.

- *Wayne Stovall spoke about the needed focus on compliance with LETPA and NPA requirements to avoid problems with future funding.*
- *Andy Davis mentioned the increased focus on cybersecurity funding and training from the state's DIR.*

G. SERI Grant Programs for 2024 through 2026 Projects.

- *Wayne Stovall and Harold Ferguson talked about the increased funding opportunity from the SERI Grant after a recent amendment which allocated an additional 10 million dollars to the program.*

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

Chris Meyers introduced the idea of a “Stop the Bleed” class on October 19th, 2023.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.