



Judge Linda Grant
President

Judge Jay Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer

Councilmember Jim Holmes
Vice-President

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, September 15th, 2021

*** VIRTUAL ONLY – GoToMeeting ***	
Computer: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/454762773	Telephone: United States (Toll Free): 1 877 309 2073
Access Code: 454-762-773	

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Guest recognition
- B. Member introductions

Members present were:

<i>EMC Kirk Turner</i>	<i>EMC Jeff Watkins</i>	<i>Nate Smith</i>
<i>Rodney Hall</i>	<i>Chris Cary</i>	<i>EMC Tom Hemrick</i>
<i>Lee Cox</i>	<i>Chief Robert LaFoy</i>	<i>EMC Matt Groveton</i>
<i>Michael Graham</i>	<i>Danny Guerra</i>	<i>Ryan Dirker for ET</i>
<i>Chief Rob Bergerson</i>	<i>Kent Munden</i>	<i>Stephanie Alvey</i>
<i>Nancy Cross</i>		

COG Staff:

<i>Tim Jeske</i>	<i>Lana Gudgel</i>	
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Visitors:

<i>None present</i>		
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II. Determination of Quorum – 09:36

III. Proof of Posting – 09:37

IV. Public Comment – 09:38

V. Sub-Committee Reports – 09:38

- A. *Education Sub-Committee – Mr. Jeske stated the Education Sub-Committee is on hold at this time due to COVID resurgence. Chairman Hemrick stated this will be an ongoing committee item until we get it going. Nancy Cross added that we need*

to frame the discussion around understanding of the school's roles and responsibilities and that EM can help in this area.

VI. Chair's Report – 09:40

Chairman Hemrick advised everyone that we are virtual due to COVID being back in our region at a level that makes meetings unnecessarily dangerous for possible infection. Chairman Hemrick thanked everyone who has been working through this very long pandemic.

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports – 09:43

A. Radio Infrastructure Project Update

HS Manager Tim Jeske stated that the project continues with NEPA studies having begun for the Woodway tower. A Purchase Order will be issued for the regional VHF project by the HOTCOG Executive Committee at the upcoming meeting in September.

B. Regional Recovery Presentation and Discussion w/ Jordan Gamez (TDEM)

Jordan Gamez with TDEM Recovery gave a quick presentation about the new Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF) that has been created at the state level. The DRTF is under the Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT) umbrella which is now the blanket organization for all state disaster recovery teams and programs to help local jurisdictions in the field. TDEM is currently taking applications for the DRTF if anyone at a local jurisdiction is interested in applying.

HS Manager Tim Jeske talked about the desire to put together a regional disaster recovery group to establish relationships between local EM's and disaster recovery service organizations in the area. This is a lesson learned from the winter storm in February and will likely play a larger role moving forward due to the rising thresholds at the Federal level after disasters. Chairman Hemrick stated he was in support of the project and would like to see it move forward as the next generation of Emergency Managers in the region need the information they have to be passed on to them.

C. SHSP Grant Update

HS Manager Tim Jeske advised we are seeing delays in the awards of many grants including the Homeland Security grant. This is due to delays at the federal level with awarding the state. The grants are still expected to be awarded; we are having to wait for the log jam to be cleared.

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

A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of July 14th, 2021 - EPAC Meeting Minutes
Motion by and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved.

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

HS Manager Tim Jeske advised a CERT class is ongoing at University High School in Waco.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 10th, 2021, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. Adjournment