

RTCC Meeting

07-15-21

Attendees:

Misty Hendon (HOTCOG)
Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG)
Gary Luft (HOTCOG Health and Human Services)
Judge Linda Grant (Freestone County)
Judge Jay Elliott (Falls County Judge)
Melissa Ingriola (HOCTILC)
Ken Hosen (KFH)
Debbie Tahiri (TxDOT)
Carey Amthor (HOTR – MHMR)
Serena Stevenson (Waco Transit Systems)
Jonathan Mize (Texas Workforce Solutions)

Call to Order: 10:05 am

Misty: Listed items on the agenda.

Russell: Read proof of posting.

Ken: First agenda item is what members we want to comprise the committee. Currently we are unable to meet the requirements for a quorum under our current bylaws. TxDot no longer has rules requiring a certain number of members, it is more relaxed. This change was made in 2016. For the RTCC Committee we want to have key representatives of each entity instead of specifically named persons.

Committee should be comprised of at least the following:

- Representative from each county, preferably the judge from that county or their appointed representative. 5 total
- Transportation representative. 2 total
- MPO. 1 total
- RPO. 1 total
- Health and human services representative. 1 total

Russell: Agreed that it is important to have community partners in attendance.

Ken: Any issues on the size of the committee?

Russell: Concur that the smaller we keep the committee the more effective it becomes. If we make it too large, then we can run into the same issue we have now where there are not enough members in attendance. Also notes that with larger groups you have so much input that you are unable to make decisions.

Serena: Reminder of the importance for members to represent their communities and attend. Discussed the number of attendees for this meeting compared to the attendance of our last meeting.

Russell: Agreed we can continue to invite as many people as we need to, we just need the board portion to be more specific.

Serena: We need to be transparent in the group and make sure everyone understands that they need to be active participants held accountable.

Russell: Gary Luft can technically represent several different groups.

Melissa: HOCTILC represents health and human services as well elderly and disabled.

Carey: Advised he had sent notes to Misty regarding this and agrees that we need to narrow down the members to those we will require to be represented in voting. Every group will still be invited but we only require votes from certain members. That way we can still accomplish our goals when we don't have many in attendance.

Johnathan: Confirmed he can represent Texas Workforce Solutions. His customers primarily need transportation for employment and work purposes.

Ken/Russell: Discussed needing a representative from Marlin and could Serena fill that position.

Serena: Even though she transports to Marlin, she doesn't represent the needs of the community. There will need to be a separate representative for that purpose.

Russell: Judges must be a part of this board because they provide the funding. If a judge cannot attend, they must appoint someone to attend in their absence.

Gary: Discussed that health and human services, MHMR, workforce, and HOCTILC could meet in small separate groups in advance of RTCC meetings to discuss needs, then send one person to represent them all. He would be there to represent everyone, not just HOTCOG.

Ken: Agreed that's a good approach.

Carey: Agreed.

Russell: Whomever each county judge appoints must be in attendance.

Ken: Presented the draft of the bylaws and discussed each item listed.

Russell: Article II, Item F, the word 'recommend' should be changed to 'advise' since this is an advisory committee.

General discussion on how to approach things if a member misses multiple meetings.

Russell: This would fall on him as executive director to contact that judge and find a replacement.

Ken: We can list this in our guidelines.

Russell: Every month they give the board of directors an attendance report.

Ken: The members that attended today's meeting would be a good start for our core group. How do we want to go about adding new members?

Russell: The advisory committee can regulate themselves for adding new members.

Ken: Suggested that the frequency of meetings should remain at quarterly. Special meetings can be called to discuss any urgent items that arise. Suggested that 51% of members be present for anything requiring a vote and that we can do away with the quorum.

Russell: Agreed this is good.

Serena: Confirmed she will either attend or have someone attend in her place.

Russell: Reiterated that this is not a legislative commission, it is an advisory group, and each person there is representing their constituents.

Serena: Believes we are all there to represent our community's transportation needs.

Gary: Agreed he will be able to have someone represent his area in his absence.

Johnathan: Agreed he will be able to have someone represent his area in his absence.

Judge Grant: Likes the idea of being able to appoint someone that can attend in her place.

Judge Elliott: Confirms he will attend most meetings himself but if he is unable to attend, he will appoint someone to come in his place.

Judge Grant: Making sure members know that we need a majority present for votes does give you the incentive to attend.

Serena: She already attends the rural commission for McLennan County, and she will be able to convey needs and concerns brought up during those meetings.

Russell: There is an interlocking board of directors and members sit on multiple boards, so information won't be withheld from anyone.

Ken: Discussed the conflict of interest clause in the draft and then discussed who is in charge of amendments.

Russell: Amendments are decided by the Board of Directors, as required.

Ken: Concluded our meeting. If anyone has any information to share, they can email him or Misty and he'll make sure those comments are noted.

Meeting adjourned: 10:34 am