



Judge Don Pool
President

Councilmember Mike Thompson
Vice-President

Judge Linda Grant
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Executive Committee, in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, met in regular session, Thursday, the 23rd Day of January 2020, at 10:30 a.m. at the Heart of Texas Council of Governments, 1514 South New Road, Waco, Texas.

Members Present

Judge Don Pool, <i>President</i>	Bosque County
Councilmember Mike Thompson, <i>Vice-President</i>	City of Groesbeck
Judge Jay Elliott	Falls County
Judge Justin Lewis	Hill County
Judge Richard Duncan	Limestone County
Co. Treasurer Jeannie Keeney	Freestone County
Commissioner Kelly Snell	McLennan County
Commissioner Nita Wuebker	Falls County
Mayor Andy Smith	City of Hillsboro
Councilmember Jim Holmes	City of Waco
Councilmember John Kinnaird	City of Waco
Mayor Johnnie Hauerland	City of Meridian
Councilmember Jimmy Rogers	City of Robinson

Members Absent

Judge Linda Grant, <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Freestone County
Judge Scott Felton	McLennan County
Mayor Kyle Deaver	City of Waco
Mr. Calvin Rueter	Special Districts

Staff Present

Russell Devorsky	Executive Director
John C. Minnix	Director of Administration
Gary Luft	Director of Health & Human Services
Mary McDow	Personnel Manager
Harold Ferguson	Homeland Security Manager
Rep Pledger	Transportation Manager
Dorthy Jackson	Community/Economic Dev Manager

Visitors Present

I. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum

President Don Pool called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

II. Proof of Posting of notice in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended, known as the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Proof of posting of the meeting was confirmed by Mary McDow.

III. Introduction of Guests

Guests and staff members were introduced.

IV. Consideration of and/or action on the following:

A. Approval of the October 24, 2019 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve the October 24, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

B. New Business

1. Texas Silver-Haired Legislature-Legislature representing HOTCOG in the 18th Legislative Session

Mr. Gary Luft presented a recommendation from the Health and Human Services Advisory Council (HHSAC) to appoint Mr. Presley Donaldson, a resident of Hill County and longtime member of HHSAC to serve as a Texas Silver Haired Legislator (TSHL) representing the HOTCOG district as an “at large” TSHL representative. Mr. Luft noted that Mr. Donaldson is a former TSHL representative who served faithfully and effectively in 4 consecutive terms from 2006 through 2014. If approved, Mr. Donaldson will join Barbara Aydlett from Aquilla, Lynda Mitchell from Tehuacana, Linda Timmerman from Streetman and Danny Volcik from Waco.

A motion was made by Judge Justin Lewis and seconded by Judge Jay Elliott to approve and recognize Presley Donaldson from Hillsboro as “elected unopposed” to represent HOTCOG as a Texas Silver Haired Legislator in the 18th Legislative Session. Motion passed.

2. Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Reappointments

Mr. Harold Ferguson presented a list of current members recommended to be

reappointed to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) as well as two new members:

Bosque County: Scott Ferguson, Jay Sparkman (new)

Falls County: Milton Albright, Nita Wuebker

Freestone County: Cathy Beckwith, Bill Madding

Hill County: Katie Cole (new)

Limestone County: Glenn Shoemaker, Brian Swick (Chair), David Echols

McLennan County: Regina Harris, Jim Newkham (VChair), Dick Van Dyke,
Mark Norcross, Tuck Saunders

A motion was made by Judge Jay Elliott and seconded by Judge Justin Lewis to approve the reappointments of current members and new appointments to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee as presented. Motion passed.

The Executive Committee discussed the length of term of office for the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee members currently being a one-year term. After discussion the committee recommended the term of office for the CJAC be two year "staggered" terms for members. Mr. Devorsky will bring the recommended change to the Board at the February meeting which will require a change to the bylaws to reflect the recommendation. Mr. Ferguson noted the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC) members have terms set on the fiscal year (October 1st) rather than the calendar year. The committee will consider a change to the Bylaws reflecting the calendar year for terms at the February meeting.

3. Executive Committee recommendations of Officers and Members for 2020

Judge Justin Lewis representing the Nominating Committee (Judge Lewis, Judge Felton and Mr. Rueter) presented the recommendations for the 2020 Officers and Executive Committee members:

Officers:

President: Don Pool, County Judge, Bosque County

Vice President: Mike Thompson, Councilmember, Groesbeck

Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Grant, County Judge, Freestone

Members:

Justin Lewis, County Judge, Hill County

Andy Smith, Mayor, City of Hillsboro

Jay Elliott, County Judge, Falls County

Nita Wuebker, Commissioner, Falls County

Richard Duncan, County Judge, Limestone County

Scott Felton, County Judge, McLennan County

Kelly Snell, Commissioner, McLennan County

Jimmy Rogers, Councilmember, City of Robinson

Jeannie Keeney, County Treasurer, Freestone County

Johnnie Hauerland, Mayor, City of Meridian

Kyle Deaver, Mayor, City of Waco

Jim Holmes, Councilmember, City of Waco
John Kinnaird, Councilmember, City of Waco
Calvin Rueter, Member, Special Districts

A motion was made by Jeannie Keeney, Freestone County Treasurer and seconded by Jim Holmes, Waco City Councilmember to approve the slate of Officers and Executive Committee members and recommend approval to the Council Representatives at the Annual Meeting, January 23, 2020. Motion passed.

C. Report of the Executive Director and Staff

1. Department of Administration

a. Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports

Mr. Minnix gave the Financial, Personnel and Investment Reports to the Executive Committee.

2. Health & Human Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mr. Gary Luft presented the Health and Human Services program reports to the committee including the Area Agency on Aging, Heart of Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center, Heart of Texas 2-1-1 Call Center and Heart of Texas Rural Transit District. Highlights include:

-Mr. Luft noted the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 accreditation process is going well. Every five years, the Heart of Texas 2-1-1 must be re-accredited by AIRS (Alliance of Information and Referral Systems). The number of calls for 2019 is projected at 33,324 up from the previous year of 33,017.

-Mr. Luft noted that notification was given from the Texas Department of Transportation that money would be available to purchase 5 more new buses which would make a total of 13 buses purchased for the program.

3. Regional Services

a. Department Activities Report

Mrs. Dorthy Jackson gave a report on the Economic and Community Development program activities for the month. Mrs. Jackson reminded the committee about the 2020 Census and the importance to the communities. Judge Lewis also commented on how important it is to get information out to the rural communities about the 2020 Census by using social media channels. For questions, Bob McClendon is a good contact bobmcclendon@hotmail.com. Mrs. Jackson noted that Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is changing the Regional Review Committee process that directly affects the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TCDBG) funds that communities apply for every biennium for critical

water and sewer projects within the communities . HOTCOG is working with TARC on expressing the need for local control. Mr. Devorsky stated that TDA wants to create a statewide board and TARC is working on getting local/regional board representation.

Mr. Harold Ferguson noted that grant workshops were held for Homeland Security and Criminal Justice program in January. Mr. Ferguson stated that the State will issue a new grant that only COGs and State Agencies can apply for to be used for infrastructure communications. Staff is communicating with each of the counties and City of Waco regarding the grant and possible projects that the funds can be used for.

4. Executive Director’s Report – Mr. Devorsky noted that community and regional outreach continues to include attendance at Chamber of Commerce meetings as well as staff presentations to Chamber meetings in the region. Mr. Devorsky introduced former Bosque County Judge Cole Word to address the committee on information regarding the Stonegate Center, a substance use recovery program. Judge Word let the committee know about the third Annual MHMR Recovery and Practices Conference on February 18th at McLennan Community College with sessions geared toward “court ordered treatment”.

Mr. Devorsky let the committee know that as of a few weeks ago, Judge Justin Lewis is now serving as President of the TARC Board of Directors.

V. Other Reports

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment - the Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Don Pool, President
Bosque County Judge

Mike Thompson, Vice-President
Councilmember, City of Groesbeck