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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Guest Recognition –

- *Justin Kerse (Hill County)*
- *Tony Serpe (CATRAC)*
- *Chris Myers (HOTRAC)*
- *Chris Clark (Hill County)*
- *Troy Keller (TDEM)*
- *Jennifer Goff (TDEM)*
- *Marcy Whiddon (HOTCOG)*
- *Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)*
- *Andy Davis (HOTCOG)*

B. Member introductions –

- Chris Cary
- Ryan Dirker
- Michael Graham
- Matt Groveton
- Danny Guerra
- Robert LaFoy
- Terry Townley
- Buffy Waldie
- Heather Wheeler
- Alicia Wilson

II. Determination of Quorum

- Wayne Stovall confirmed that a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

- Wayne Stovall confirmed proof of posting.

IV. Public Comment

- No public discussion was given.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

A. General Report

- Andy Davis presented an update on the three sub-committees established in the July EPAC Meeting:
 1. The cybersecurity sub-committee is set to have its first meeting in October. HOTCOG staff have consulted with other COGs about their guidance on membership and meeting structure. Within the future weeks staff with guidance from the committee chair will establish a full membership list.
 2. The communications sub-committee has plans to have an official kick-off meeting in October now that committee members have been selected by the chair and the communications landscape is shifting rapidly due to the previous events in Kerr County.
 3. Community Preparedness sub-committee will be meeting next week to kick off the committee and will remain focused on CERT at this time until otherwise directed.

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VI. Chair's Report

- No chair report.

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. SHSP Activities Report

- Andy Davis gave a report on the various activities and programs conducted by HOTCOG with SHSP funds. Activities included working with new CERT program manager for University High School, collaborating with various vendors to organize the October 1st Vendor Presentation Day, and planning for the yearly THIRA/SPR update. Additionally, an update on funding for SHSP based on the recent Notice of Funding Opportunity was given which showed a promising increase in funding from \$16 million to \$25.6 million in state allocated funding.

B. SERI Projects Report

- Wayne Stovall provided project updates on the three projects within the SERI fund.
 1. Hill County Penelope Tower: Currently awaiting vendor to approve radio hardware installation on the tower.
 2. Limestone County FirstNet Gateway: Project is essentially finished with Limestone County taking over the change management process by procuring more FirstNet phones in the county.
 3. Bosque County Radio System Upgrade: Current activities involve upgrading radio connectivity at the Walnut Springs site location.

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

A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of July 9th, 2025 – EPAC Meeting Minutes

- Alicia Wilson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, no discussion, motion carried.

B. Nominations and Appointment of Future Committee Chair

- The floor was open for members to nominate a new chair starting in 2026. Ryan Dirker made a motion to nominate himself for the position. No other nominations were given, and a vote was held. Ryan Dirker unanimously voted for the upcoming chair.

C. TDEM update on Texas All Hazards Planning System (TAHPS)

- Troy Keller, TDEM Region 8 Planner, gave an update on the TAHPS migration to use WebEOC instead of the current software provider, Veoci. Troy also explained how differences between Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and annexes need to be considered when uploading plans into the TAHPS system.
- Discussion was held between EMC Matt Groveton, Jennifer Goff, and other guests on the impact that new priorities from TDEM leadership have on planning and executing emergency management at the local level.

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

A. THIRA/SPR Workshop Schedule

B. FY2026 SHSP Application Workshop Schedule

C. October 1st ENS Vendor Presentation Day

X. Next EPAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG Office

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XI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM