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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

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Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 AM, Wednesday, July 3, 2024 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Guest recognition –

- Martin Widtfeldt (TDEM)
- Jennifer Goff (TDEM)
- Troy Keller (TDEM)
- Lauren Serrato (TDEM)
- Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
- Harold Ferguson (HOTCOG)
- Tracy Blackshear (Waco FD)
- Dylan Karl (Waco FD)
- Tim Miller (Waco FD)
- Chris Meyers (HOTRAC)
- Chris Jackson (Hill County)
- Madison Pigg (Texas A&M AgriLife)

B. Member introductions –

- Phillip Cantrell
- Nancy Cross
- Heath Crossland
- Ryan Dirker
- Matt Groveton
- Danny Guerra
- Tom Hemrick
- Robert LaFoy
- Alicia Wilson
- Buffy Waldie
- Jeff Watkins

II. Determination of Quorum

- Andy Davis confirmed a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

- Andy Davis confirmed that proof of posting was provided.

IV. Public Comment

- Troy Keller, the region 8 TDEM planner, explained how the new state system for emergency operations plans works. The previous plans that included annexes would now migrate over to emergency support functions (ESFs). Mr. Keller and TDEM would be willing to provide training and support for the new system.
- Lauren Serrato, TDEM ISTF, detailed the transition from the current TDEM training site, preparingtexas.gov, into Blackboard. This change would happen on August 1st.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

- None

VI. Chair's Report

- None

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. 2025 SHSP Funding Update

- Andy Davis provided an update on the recently submitted applications for the SHSP funding program. The COG is still on standby. Funds have been conditionally approved, yet no date has been established for the release to grantees.

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments

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B. 2025 SERI Funding Update

- Andy Davis presented the current information related to the SERI grant funding opportunity which closed in March of this year.

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

A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of May 8, 2024 - EPAC Meeting Minutes

- Alicia Wilson motioned to approve, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

B. City of Waco Special Response Team Presentation

- Tracy Blackshear with the Waco Fire Department gave a presentation about the department's technical rescue team. His presentation explained the team's many capabilities and willingness to help anywhere in the region. The technical rescue team focuses on structural collapse as well as SAR operations.

C. TDEM Regional Recovery Update

- Martin Widtfeldt gave a brief update on the status of recovery funding for the disaster declared in the spring. Martin explained what funding is available per county from FEMA.
- Lauren Serrato provided a presentation concerning the Incident Support Task Force (ISTF).

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

A. Vice Chair Officer appointment.

- Andy Davis announced that the Vice Chair position currently filled by Buffy Waldie will expire on December 31st. A new vote for the appointment will occur in the next meeting.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG

XI. Adjournment

- Tom Hemrick adjourned the meeting.