



Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Councilmember Andrea Barefield
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Call to Order and TOMA

- A. Proof of Posting**
 - A proof of posting was confirmed.
- B. Determination of a Quorum**
 - A quorum was present.

II. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Guest Recognition**
 - Samuel Ortiz (DSHS)
 - Chris Meyers (HOTRAC)
 - Tre Tremillo (CATRAC)
 - Marcy Whiddon (HOTCOG-211)
 - Jennifer Dunn (NWS)
 - Daniel Fenske (NWS)
 - Derek Dornish (NWS)
 - Jennifer Goff (TDEM)
 - Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
 - Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
- B. Member introductions**
 - Ryan Dirker
 - Courtney Wollard
 - Robert LaFoy
 - Michel Graham
 - Chris Jackson
 - Steve Smith
 - John Sutton
 - Damian Hullum
 - Weston Sammon
 - Chris Cary
 - Alicia Wilson
 - Terry Townley

III. HOTCOG Staff Reports

- A. SERI - FY 2025 SERI and FY2027 SERI Funding Award**
 - Wayne Stovall communicated what project activity is remaining for the FY 2025 SERI grant involving the Bosque County Project. Additionally, he presented the results of the FY2027 funding award, explaining how the region received \$1.75 million of the \$1.98 million requested. Each project submitted under the grant application will be funded or partially funded. Ryan Dirker and Wayne Stovall emphasized how significant the City of Waco Critical Connect Project portion of the funding is to expanding interoperable communication in the region.
- B. SHSP – FY 2025 Partial Funding Award**
 - Andy Davis presented the status of the FY 2025 SHSP funding for the region, explaining how projects under the SHSP-Regular solicitation are funded, but any project that was categorized under LETPA and/or an NPA is still under federal review. This means that funding is on hold for several projects,

including the HOTCOG Emergency Notification System and the impending migration back to Everbridge.

C. Sub-Committee Reports

- Andy presented two sub-committee reports, one for the Interoperable Communications Coalition, which was held in late April, and the other for the CERT Committee. The ICC report discussed topics such as the SERI grant, regional communications planning, meeting scheduling, and emerging opportunities for funding. The CERT report discussed topics such as the CERT non-profit initiative, mission packages, regional Veoci usage, and the Hill County volunteer program.
- Michael Graham motioned to approve the sub-committee reports as presented, Alicia Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

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

- A. Approve Meeting Minutes from March 12th, 2026, EPAC Meeting, and April 21st, 2026, Special Called EPAC Scoring Meeting.**
- Chris Cary made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Robert LaFoy seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- B. Discussion on Regional Radio Rodeo**
- Andy presented the concept of a Radio Rodeo in the region that would be led by the State SWIC office. He explained the planning and logistical considerations for such an event, especially considering that large communication vehicles and participant sizes would need a special equipped venue. Ryan Dirker and Michael Graham both offered the use of the fairgrounds in Waco as a host site. Additionally, since the availability of the radio rodeo date would be from September through December, late October would work best for that location.
- C. Discussion on THIRA/SPR/HSSP-IP Planning Process and DHS Special Events Program (SEP) National Special Events Data Call (NSEDG)**
- Andy explained the changes that HOTCOG Staff will be making to the annual THIRA/SPR Workshop structure. Instead of a singular workshop, there will be several smaller, functional area workshops to facilitate better discussion and time. Additionally, the use of the data collected during the Special Events Program NSEDG will assist in the planning efforts. As presented, the NSEDG will be opened in August.

V. Public Comment

- No public comment.

VI. Announcements or Future Business Items

- Chris Meyers announced that the active shooter incident management with complex incidents class is being held in the Central Texas RAC at the beginning of next month.
- Courtney Wollard announced that they successfully conducted their reunification exercise and will be planning for similar exercises in the future.

VII. Next EPAC Meeting

9:30 AM, Wednesday, September 9th, 2026 at HOTCOG

VIII. Adjournment

- Alicia Wilson motioned to adjourn, Courtney Wollard seconded, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.