



Judge Richard Duncan
President

Councilmember Jimmy Rogers
Vice-President

Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Judge Cindy Vanlandingham
Secretary/Treasurer

Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, March 12th, 2025 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Guest Recognition –

- Amy Rossow (211)
- Marcy Whiddon (211)
- Harold Ferguson (HOTCOG)
- Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
- Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
- Nancy Cross (School/Previous Member)
- Chris Clark (Hill County OEM)
- Chris Jackson (Hill County OEM)
- David Pruitt (Hillsboro OEM)
- Boyce Wilson (Waco OEM)
- Martin Widtfeldt (TDEM)
- Jennifer Goff (TDEM)
- Samantha Fabian (TDEM)

B. Member introductions –

- Brian Messman
- Rob Bergerson
- Michael Graham
- Matt Groveton
- Danny Guerra
- Tom Hemrick (Chair)
- Robert LaFoy
- Leonard Stewart
- Buffy Waldie
- Jeff Watkins
- Alicia Wilson
- Courtney Wollard

II. Determination of Quorum

- Tom Hemrick determined a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

- Wayne Stovall confirmed proof of posting.

IV. Public Comment

A. Past Member Recognition

- Nancy Cross was recognized with an award from Tom Hemrick for her dedicated service to the EPAC Committee after stepping down last year. Nancy had served the committee since 2007 and has been one of the longest serving members of EPAC since its inception in 2004.

V. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Interoperable Communications Committee

- Andy Davis provided a report summarizing the key topics discussed during the January ICC meeting. During that meeting a small working group conducted the focus group survey with assistance from the SWIC, discussed the technical assistance request submitted to the state for the RICP plan, and feasibility of migration to a regional radio system.

VI. Chair's Report

- None

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

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- Wayne Stovall confirmed that the prioritization list for the FY2025 SHSP Grant applications was officially approved by the HOTCOG Executive Committee and submitted to the State OOG.
- Andy Davis commented on the recent completion of Hill County's CERT Team training and advised any future interests on CERT to reach out to him for training support.

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

- A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of November 20th, 2024 – EPAC Meeting Minutes**
 - Alicia Wilson motioned to approve, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, no discussion, motion carried.
- B. Review, Discuss, and Approval of February 19th, 2025 – EPAC Special Meeting Minutes**
 - Jeff Watkins motioned to approve, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, no discussion, motion carried.
- C. Texas SCIP Executive Council (SEC) Appointments**
 - Andy Davis presented the HOTCOG recommended voting delegates. Boyce Wilson (Waco OEM) would serve and the official voting delegate for the region and Chris Jackson (Hill Co OEM) would serve as the alternate delegate. Robert LaFoy motioned to approve the selections to the Texas SCIP SEC, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, no discussion, motion carried.
- D. Texas STEAR Registry Presentation**
 - Samantha Fabian, the State Coordinator for the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR), provided a presentation on local use of the registry for vulnerable populations such as special needs, and the medically fragile. This registry is a tool for local emergency management to keep a database of vulnerable populations in their communities during disasters. Tom Hemrick asked what languages are translated during sign-up and what the requirement or expectation is of local emergency management once someone does sign-up for the system. Courtney Wollard provided the use case for the City of Waco and how the data collected from STEAR is uploaded to Everbridge ENS for local alerts to those specific groups. Marcy Whiddon shared the role that 211 has in transferring callers that wish to register for the system and that sparked more discussion from committee members on the responsibilities local emergency management has for signing up to access this system.

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

- Tom Hemrick announced that Daily Wells Communications will be providing a presentation on what a regional 800MHz Trunked system could look like after the EPAC meeting and for anyone wishing to attend to stay close.
- Andy Davis mentioned that sometime late April to early May him, and the HPP Planner Briana Pizarro from CATRAC plan to host a table top exercise (TTX) mimicking the SWAT incident that unfolded in Limestone County a few months prior. Those that wish to take part will receive more information on the exercise at a later date.
- Wayne Stovall announced that HOTCOG plans to bring Civic Plus, an alternate mass notification software, to the May EPAC meeting for demonstration.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

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Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, 9:30 AM at the HOTCOG Office

XI. Adjournment

- Buffy Waldie motioned to adjourn the meeting, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:36AM.