



Judge Richard Duncan
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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

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Russell Devorsky
Executive Director

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:30 AM, Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

Virtual Option
Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
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Meeting ID: 289 349 086 527 4
Passcode: Wx9ow9yg

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Guest Recognition –

Marcy Whiddon (HOTCOG)
Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
Chris Clark (Hill County)
Boyce Wilson (Waco OEM)
Tim Jeske (Waco OEM)
Chris Meyer (HOTRAC)

Briana Pizarro (CATRAC)
David Pruitt (Hillsboro OEM)
Matthew Schlaefter (TFS)
Jacob Bertram (Civic Plus)
Beth Farino (Civic Plus)
Adam Terry (Civic Plus)

B. Member introductions –

Phillip Cantrell
Ryan Dirker
Matt Groveton
Danny Guerra
Tom Hemrick
Robert LaFoy

Leonard Smith
Terry Townley
Buffy Waldie
Jeff Watkins
Alicia Wilson

II. Determination of Quorum

- Wayne Stovall confirmed a quorum was present.

III. Proof of Posting

- Andy Davis confirmed proof of posting.

IV. Public Comment

- None

V. Sub-Committee Reports

- None

VI. Chair's Report

- None

VII. HOTCOG Staff Reports

A. SERI/SHSP Activity Report

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments

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- Andy Davis presented a report on COG staff activities directly related to SERI grant and SHSP grant programs.
- CERT Program
 - o Andy explained the phenomenal job regional CERT programs had in response to volunteer services during the Marlin water crisis last week. Informational flyers with the logged times and positive impacts were created by Waco OEM Tim Jeske and passed out to committee members.
 - o Jefferson Gunn, and other CERT teachers for Waco ISD are moving on to different roles in education which will leave a gap in instructors moving forward.
 - o Jeff Watkins gave a quick comment to show his appreciation to the surrounding CERT teams and their help with the Marlin water crisis.
- Planning
 - o No implementation plan will be required for submission this year from HOTCOG since the state is preparing the 2026-2030 HSSP plan.
 - o HOTCOG, in conjunction with CATRAC, hosted a TTX May 7th for the region that looked particularly at communication and coordination issues.
 - o The expected agenda for next EPAC meeting will include TDEM staff updates on county emergency plans.
- Communication
 - o 2023 SERI grant has been given an extension and COG staff are currently finalizing projects that will expend the remaining funds such as generators for Falls County communication towers and CAD systems.
 - o 2025 SERI grant has ongoing projects such as the Hill County Penelope Tower Site, Bosque County System, and Limestone County Gateway Project.
- Training Opportunities will become available in the summer for cybersecurity, ICS, disaster finance, and CERT.
- COG staff are awaiting further guidance and information on currently scored projects being processed by the OOG-PSO.

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

- A. Review, Discuss, and Approval of March 12th, 2025 – EPAC Meeting Minutes**
- Leonard Smith made a motion to approve minutes, Danny Guerra seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- B. Presentation and discussion from Civic Plus Mass Notification Vendor**
- Vendor Civic Plus representatives joined the meeting virtually to provide a vendor demonstration on their mass notification system and how it would compare to the current vendor Everbridge. Many committee members asked questions during the demonstration and highlighted aspects of the software they would use most. After the demonstration, debate around the transition to Civic Plus or any ENS software cited key concerns members had on transitioning to a new system. Tom Hemrick cited cost increases and decreased funding for SHSP as a major driver to procure other vendors. Matt Groveton questioned the reliability of transferring data. Ryan Dirker and Tim Jeske, while impressed with particular features of the Civic Plus platform, noticed critical features missing. Tim introduced the idea of vendor testing prior to migrating over. Boyce Wilson mentioned how in the past, a major process for vendor selection was used by hosting an all-day demonstration event from various companies. Ryan Dirker formally asked if HOTCOG would be willing to host such an event.

IX. Announcements or Future Business Items

- Ryan Dirker discussed the idea of creating a Type 4 Regional Incident Management Team. Ryan explained that recent events during the Marlin water crisis exemplified the idea as well as information obtained at the COML training in Arlington earlier this month Boyce Wilson. The goal is to obtain a roster of 30-40 training individuals to assemble this team within the following year.

X. Next EPAC Meeting

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

XI. Adjournment

- Tom Hemrick adjourned the meeting at 11:34AM.