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Heart of Texas Council of Governments

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 1st, 2025 HOTCOG – 1514 S. New Road, Waco, Texas

I. Call to Order, Proof of Posting, and Determination of a Quorum

The current Chair, Tom Hemrick, was not present at the meeting, and Buffy Waldie was absent at the start. The committee selected Future EPAC Chair, Ryan Dirker, to preside and call the meeting to order.

Proof of posting was confirmed in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. A quorum was established once member Buffy Waldie arrived, during the CivicPlus demonstration under New Business.

II. Welcome and Introductions

A. Members

- Chris Cary
- Ryan Dirker
- Michael Graham
- Matt Groveton
- Robert LaFoy
- Alicia Wilson
- Jeff Watkins
- Buffy Waldie
- Chris Jackson (de facto member)

B. Guests

- Wayne Stovall (HOTCOG)
- Andy Davis (HOTCOG)
- Harold Ferguson (HOTCOG)
- Martin Widtfeldt (TDEM)
- Jennifer Goff (TDEM)
- Jim Hollister (TDEM)

III. Public Comment

None

IV. New Business

A. Software Vendor Demonstrations for the HOTCOG Emergency Notification System – Andy Davis provided a brief overview of the meeting structure and the need for feedback and interaction with vendors for future selection.

1. Civic Plus
 - i. Jacob Bertram with Civic Plus provided a virtual presentation of their software and brought in-person representation for any additional questions.
2. Rave
 - i. Sales representative Cody Roden gave a PowerPoint presentation over the Rave company and also brought in a virtual solutions engineer to demonstrate the system which included interactive alerting with the committee.
3. Hyper-Reach

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- i. Lisa Cantali with Hyper-Reach provided the virtual demonstration for the mass notification system and will take over as the new sales representative for future communications with HOTCOG

Break for Lunch

4. CodeRED

- i. Peter Applegarth with CodeRED had a virtual presentation and verified with the group CodeRed's dedication to provide service that align with the features rubric.

5. Regroup

- i. Jeff Brainard with Brian Fischer finished the demonstrations with a final virtual demonstration of their product.

Final Discussion of Presentations

- The EPAC Committee discussed the vendor presentations and identified which systems stood out in terms of features and user interface. Members expressed concern that any migration to a new system should be seamless to avoid gaps in alerting capabilities. The committee also discussed whether selecting a higher-cost vendor would provide sufficient added value to justify the expense.

V. Announcements of Future Business Items

- Selection of a preferred vendor was agreed upon for the next official EPAC meeting.

VI. Next EPAC Meeting

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

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM