

**JOINT MINUTES
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 26, 2023**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Executive Committee met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mount Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. At this time the Committee introduced themselves.

Item 4. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

NETEDD Agenda Items

Item 5. The first order of business was to review and consider approval for the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday September 29, 2022.

Motion to approve was made by Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, and seconded by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County. It was approved.

Item 6. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented for review and consideration to authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Carollo Engineers, Inc to provide consultation services for a population study

Mr. Brown stated that a population study and projections would assist ATCOG with various data needs: housing, community development, pandemic and emergency response, economic development, and other potential needs

Motion to approve was made by Judge Ransom and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved

This concluded all NETEDD agenda items.

ATCOG Executive Committee Agenda Items

Item 7. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, August 25, 2022, via teleconference/webinar.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held Thursday, December 1, 2022, via teleconference/webinar.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Judge Reed. It was approved.

Review and Comment

- Item 8. Mr. Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director Report. He reviewed the indirect finance reports and explained that the overall budget percentages align with the fiscal year. Mr. Brown provided updates and statistics for all ATCOG programs.

Mr. Brown reported that ATCOG must have an interlocal agreement with its cities and counties within the region to provide Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant writing assistance. This agreement will not prohibit the cities and counties from using an alternate grant writing source. However, an interlocal agreement is required for ATCOG to provide grant writing services. ATCOG will email a resolution template to its cities and counties.

Regular Business

- Item 9. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Rural Business Development Grant Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Ransom and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved.

- Item 10. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and consideration approval authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Sparklight Advertising to provide region-wide digital advertising.

Ms. Rudel stated that the digital advertising campaign would replace billboard advertising. The new campaign would cost a total of \$50,000 for a 12-month campaign and provide a broader reach.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Mr. Scott Norton, CEO/Executive Director, TexAmericas. It was approved.

- Item 11. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of a grant to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division for the Purchase of Juvenile Justice Services Project for FY2024.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Ransom and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved.

- Item 12. Ms. Haley presented for review and consideration approval for the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division to provide regional law enforcement training in the ATCOG region for FY2024 and FY2025.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Mr. Norton. It was approved.

- Item 13. Mr. Mark Compton presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase of six (6) ADA minivans for ATCOG service expansion of non-emergency medical transportation.

Mr. Compton stated that the six (6) Chrysler Voyager Minivans would cost \$523,668.00 (\$87,278.00 each). TxDOT has approved ATCOG to make the purchase using 5311 federal funding. The vehicles will be purchased through a State contract.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Norton and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved.

Announcements

Mr. Chris Brown announced that the Northeast Texas Regional Alliance 2023 Legislative Summit & Reception is scheduled to be held on March 1, 2023, in Austin, Texas. The Final agenda will be distributed soon. An informational flyer was provided to the Board.

Mr. Brown announced that the NADO Washington Policy Conference would be held on March 12-15, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. A draft agenda was provided to the Board.

Judge Howell announced that the Workforce CEOs meeting would be held immediately following the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting.

Lastly, Judge Howell announced that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held on February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, located at 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as via teleconference/webinar.

With no further business, Judge Howell adjourned the meeting.

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Stan Wyatt, NETX Municipal Water District Board

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Harold Martin, Mayor, City of Queen City
Harold Nash, Councilman, Sulphur Springs
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb


GUESTS PRESENT

Sara Butler, Office of United States Senator John Cornyn
April Corbit, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
KiAnn Richardson, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Randy Reed, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Ray Wilson, Office of United States Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director
Jenny Butler, Areas Agency on Aging Manager
Mark Compton, Transportation Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator

Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Manager
Mae Lewis, Housing Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Manager
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director



Bobby Howell, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:

R. Travis Ransom Feb 24, 2023
[R. Travis Ransom \(Feb 24, 2023 08:18 CST\)](#)