

**MINUTES**  
**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 30, 2023**

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Board of Directors met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center (SBDC), 2nd Floor, 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

Item 1. Mr. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made a comment.

Item 4. The first order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors meeting held Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb. It was approved.

**Review and Comment**

Item 5. Mr. Chris Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director Report.

Mr. Brown reviewed the 2022 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) and THSSP Implementation Plan (IP) Feedback Report. Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator, received an assessment score of 17 out of a possible score of 17 points on this report.

**Regular Business**

Item 6. Ms. Lisa Reeve presented for review and consideration approval of an appointment to serve on the Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council.

- Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

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

Item 7. Ms. Veronica Williams presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase of one Dodge Ram ProMaster 3500 vehicle for the ATCOG Transportation Program.

The Dodge ProMaster 3500 bus will give communities equal access to public services and support. The vehicle will be procured through a state contract in the total amount of \$171,264.45, with both the TxDOT grant and local transportation funds.

Motion was made by Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, and seconded by David Fordinal, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Como. It was approved.

Item 8. Mr. Chris Pruitt of Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, L.L.P. presented for review and consideration for approval of the ATCOG Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

Ms. Melinda Tickle introduced Mr. Pruitt to present the Financial Statements and Auditor's report. The auditor's review depicted an unmodified opinion, meaning ATCOG financials are free of material misstatement and can be relied upon by a 3rd party; this is the highest opinion an auditor can provide.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved. Year ending September 30, 2022.

Item 9. Mr. Chris Brown presented for review and consideration approval of revisions to the ATCOG Accounting Policies. Mr. Brown discussed ATCOG's internal check signing controls and proposed the following policy revisions for approval.

- Revise the requirement of two signatures on checks to one signature on checks.
- Remove the Finance Director as a check signer.
- Addition of the requirement that check and EFT reports are to be provided to and reviewed by the Executive Director and Deputy Directors after completion of the payment process.

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

Item 10. Mr. Scott Norton presented for review and consideration approval of the recommended ATCOG Board of Directors Executive Committee member appointments.

Mr. Norton stated that the Nominating Committee met on March 23, 2023, and approved the recommendation of the following ATCOG Board Directors for appointment to the Executive Committee.

- Honorable Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
- Honorable Robert Bridges, Judge, Red River County

Motion to approve was made by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville, and seconded by Judge Lee.

Item 11. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for adoption of a resolution authorizing the recognition of April as a National Fair Housing Month. Ms. Rudel stated that April is recognized as National Fair Housing Month to commemorate the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Fair Housing Act of April 11, 1968. The President of the United States has historically acknowledged April as National Fair Housing Month.

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

### **Announcements**

The Red River Leadership Institute "Leadership & Innovation Symposium" will be held Friday, April 14, 2023, in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The next ATCOG Executive Committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 27, 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, and via teleconference/webinar.

With no further announcements, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Mr. Norton. The meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County  
Rosina Duckworth, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cumby  
David Fordinal, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Como  
Ronald Humphrey, Mayor, City of New Boston  
Brad Johnson, Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District  
Joe Kelsey, Red River Appraisal District  
Craig McDuffie, Alderman, City of Red Lick  
George Moore, Vice President, Texarkana College Board of Trustees  
Harold Nash, Councilman, City of Sulphur Springs  
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Robbin Bass, Office of United States Representative Nathaniel Moran  
Gaye Beard, Office of United States Representative Pat Fallon  
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County  
Chris Pruitt, Pattillo, Brown, & Hill, L.L.P.  
Ray Wilson, Office of Texas State Senator Bryan Hughes  
Ryan Jewell, McKinstry

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director  
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Manager  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director  
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant  
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer  
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director  
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director  
Bobby Williams, TRAX Operations Manager  
Veronica Williams, Transportation Planner



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

ATTEST:



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