

**JOINT MINUTES
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 9, 2021**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) and Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 9, 2021, at the Titus County Extension Office, located at 1708 Industrial Road, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as, via teleconference/webinar.

Item 1. L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made a comment.

NETEDD Agenda items

Item 4. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday, September 30, 2021, at the Titus County Extension Office, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

Motion to approve was made by Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County, and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

Item 5. Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director, presented for review and consideration approval for NETEDD to request release of the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) federal interest in the NETEDD Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program.

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

Item 6. Ms. Harmon presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of a NETEDD request to modify the NETEDD Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program Plan.

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

Item 7. Ms. Harmon presented for review and consideration approval of the utilization of defederalized revolving loan funds as a match for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant RLF application.

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

This concluded all NETEDD agenda items.

ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items

Item 8. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented for approval of the minutes for the ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting held Thursday, September 30, 2021.

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

Regular Business

Item 9. Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director, presented for review and consideration approval of the submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Program Revolving Loan Fund grant.

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

Item 10. Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director, presented for review and consideration approval of the region-wide Billboard Advertising contract renewal as part of the 9-1-1 Public Education Program.

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

Item 11. Ms. Allen presented for review and consideration approval of the 9-1-1 equipment replacement purchases for the region's thirteen Public Safety Answering Points.

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

Item 12. Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator, presented for review and consideration approval of a 2-Year contract with East Texas Police Academy/Kilgore College.

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

Item 13. Ms. Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Bylaws.

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

Item 14. Ms. Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the revisions to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee local priorities and the grant application scoring instrument.

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

Item 15. Judge Brian Lee, ATCOG Nominating Committee representative, presented for review and consideration approval of the following appointments of ATCOG Board of Directors members to the Executive Committee and Audit Committee.

Executive Committee – Honorable Mihir Pankaj, Council Member, City of Paris
Audit Committee – Honorable Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County

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

Other Business

Item 16. Ms. Haley updated the Board regarding the passage of SB 476; 87th Texas Legislature (SART Teams). The Sexual Assault Response Teams are required for all Texas Counties, as mandated by SB 476; 87th Texas Legislature, to create a statewide infrastructure of resources, awareness, connection, and coordination to address sex crimes locally. The SART is separate from any child, teen, or multidisciplinary team, strictly for adults.

Ms. Haley defined a SART's mandatory membership as follows:

- Chief Administrator of the Sexual Assault Program
- A prosecutor
- Sheriff of the county or their designee
- Chief of the largest municipal law enforcement agency, if one exists, or their designee
- Sexual assault nurse examiner or forensic examiner
- Mental, behavioral health provider
- Or other persons or professionals the SART deems necessary

A discussion was held regarding possible regional SART's. Ms. Haley extended an offer to assist those interested in setting up a regional SART.

Item 17. Mr. Brown provided an ATCOG building renovations update.

Item 18. Mr. Brown introduced Ms. Ginny Lewis Ford, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC). Ms. Ford presented the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Board President, The Honorable L.D. Williamson, with the prestigious **2021 Wilbur R. Dunk Leadership Award**.

The Texas Association of Regional Councils gives the Wilbur R. Dunk Regional Leadership Award in recognition of an **elected official** who has shown extraordinary dedication to the purposes and possibilities for regional cooperation through councils of government.

The nomination letter was read aloud during the meeting, followed by the award presentation to Judge Williamson.

Announcements

Judge Williamson announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Northeast Texas Small Business Development Center, 105 North Riddle Avenue, Mt Pleasant, Texas, and via teleconference/webinar.

With no further announcements, Judge Williamson adjourned the meeting.

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville
Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT


Brad Hyman, Mayor, City of Mt. Vernon
Gary Spraggins, Councilman, City of Sulphur Springs
Harold Nash, Councilman, City of Sulphur Springs
Jean Matlock, Councilwoman, City of Texarkana
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb
Ronald Humphry, Mayor, City of New Boston

GUESTS PRESENT

Ginny Lewis Ford, Texas Association of Regional Councils
Kathy Comer, Office of United States Senator John Cornyn
Kimberly Dowty, Texas Association of Regional Council
Ray Wilson, Office of United States Senator Bryan Hughes
Taylor Nye, Chad's Media

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Brown, Executive Director
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director
Mark Compton, Transportation Director
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Manager
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Manager
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator



L.D. Williamson, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST: