

**JOINT MINUTES
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 28, 2023**

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Board of Directors met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 28, 2023, at the Sulphur Springs Country Club, 511 Country Club Road, Sulphur Springs, Texas, and via videoconference.

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

Item 2. Scott Norton, CEO/Executive Director, TexAmericas Center, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

Judge Howell recognized the following new Board members:

- Chris Brown, Hopkins County Hospital District, Hopkins County
- Greg Lewis, Clarksville Independent School District, Red River County
- Delores Simmons, City of Bloomburg, Cass County

ATCOG Board of Directors Agenda Items

Executive Closed Session

Item 4. Judge Howell announced that the Open Session would recess and go into Executive Closed Session to discuss personnel matters as allowed in the Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.074, Executive Director's position.

Open Session/Regular Business

Item 5. The Board of Directors reconvened in Open Session to discuss the Executive Director's position.

Motion to hire Mary Beth Rudel as the Executive Director of ATCOG was made by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb, and seconded by Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County. It was approved.

Judge Howell requested the Board to consider the second portion of the Executive Director's position.

Motion to pay the Executive Director an annual salary of \$135,000 was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County. It was approved.

The Board expressed their congratulations to Ms. Mary Beth Rudel.

Item 6. Ms. Rudel presented for review and consideration approval for the following consent agenda items.

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting held Thursday, August 31, 2023.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, August 23, 2023.

- Ratification of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between ATCOG and the Public Safety Office within the Office of the Governor.

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

- Item 7. Ms. Rudel presented the Commission on State Emergency Communication (CSEC) FY2022 9-1-1 Program review. CSEC concluded its review and identified ATCOG's 9-1-1 Program as low risk.

Ms. Rudel commended Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Director, and her team on all the review factors and ensuring ATCOG has accurate data and the region's Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS).

- Item 8. Ms. Rudel presented for review and consideration approval of the revised FY2024 indirect rate recommended by Texas Health and Human Services (HHS).

The ATCOG Board of Directors approved an Indirect Rate of 26.09% at the August Board meeting when the FY2024 Financial Workplan was presented.

HHS recommended using audited figures rather than estimated figures when calculating the indirect rate. With the revised calculations in place, HHS, as ATCOG's cognizant agency, recommended and approved the indirect rate of 25.33% of salary and fringe expenses.

Motion to approve was made by Chris Brown, Hopkins County Hospital District, and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved.

- Item 9. Ms. Rudel presented for review and consideration approval of the utilization of ATCOG's indirect cost rate for ATCOG employees working on behalf of the Texarkana Urban Transit District (TUTD).

TUTD will piggyback off ATCOG's rate because ATCOG has signed a contract with TUTD to provide service; therefore, ATCOG's board should give TUTD permission to charge an indirect cost rate. The indirect cost rate for Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2024, is 25.33%.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Norton and seconded by Chris Brown. It was approved.

- Item 10. Ms. Debbie Purifoy presented for review and consideration approval of a resolution selecting Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP to provide auditing services to begin October 1, 2023.

ATCOG issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for auditing services on July 11, 2023. ATCOG received three proposals in response to our RFP by the deadline of August 21, 2023: Salter Elite Consulting; Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP; and Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC.

Pattillo, Brown, & Hill's proposal was selected for recommendation to the Board based on the overall cost-effectiveness and relevant experience with similar agencies. The auditing services will begin October 1, 2023, and extend through September 30, 2024, with four possible one-year extensions if approved by the ATCOG Board of Directors.

Motion to approve was made by Stan Wyatt, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, and seconded by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County. It was approved.

- Item 11. Mr. Claude Ramsey presented for review and consideration approval of the purchase of a generator for use at the main Texarkana facility.

ATCOG's current generator was purchased in 2007, and maintenance records spanning the past 16 years reveal a significant volume of repairs performed. The generator supplies backup power at the main Texarkana facility for the 9-1-1 host public safety answering point (PSAP), the regional

emergency operations center (should it be activated during disaster situations), and other offices and parts of the facility. It is imperative to consider replacement when the generator is essential to public emergency systems. In this case, the age of the generator, the history of repairs, and the unavailability of replacement parts due to the discontinuation of the current generator model necessitate the replacement of the generator.

A proposal for a new generator of similar capacity was provided by a vendor utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) in the amount of \$74,950. CSEC will reimburse \$40,000 to ATCOG, and ATCOG local funds will pay the remaining amount.

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

Item 12. Ms. Marla Matthews presented for review and consideration approval to combine the November Executive Committee and December Board of Directors meetings into one Board of Directors meeting to be held Thursday, December 7, 2023.

According to ATCOG Bylaws, Article V, Section H, the Executive Committee shall meet monthly, and ATCOG Board Meetings have been set as the last Thursday of each month. This year, the dates fall the week after Thanksgiving Day in November and the Thursday between Christmas Day and New Year's Eve in December. Therefore, schedule conflicts arise during the holiday season, and meeting preparations become challenging.

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

This concludes all ATCOG agenda items.

NETEDD Agenda Items

Item 13. Judge Howell presented for review and consideration approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held Thursday, August 31, 2023.

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

Item 14 Ms. Toni Lindsey presented for review and consideration approval of the NETEDD 2023 – 2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023 update.

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District (NETEDD) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a pre-requisite for federal designation as an economic development district and must be updated at least every five (5) years. There are four (4) sections that must be included in the CEDS:

- 1) Summary Background – or a summary of the economic impacts of the ATCOG/NETEDD region;
- 2) SWOT Analysis – a deep analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats in the region;
- 3) Strategic Direction/Action Plan - strategies or goals and objectives that will guide the region forward; and
- 4) Evaluation Framework – performance measures used to evaluate the organization's implementation of the CEDS and its impact on the regional economy.

EDA requires that resiliency aspects be included within each section of the CEDS. City and County Hazard Mitigation Plans include resiliency planning as well. The NETEDD CEDS and jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans support each other in relation to resiliency planning.

The latest CEDS will be accessible on the Regional Development page of the ATCOG website. It will also be submitted to EDA as a PDF document for upload and to each county in the NETEDD CEDS region. The goal is to provide a living/dynamic CEDS that encourages meaningful conversation and debate about the best practices, building capacity, and the state of the region to serve our economic development best.

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

This concludes all NETEDD agenda items.

Announcements

Ms. Rudel announced that the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) 2023 Annual Training Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, November 7-10, 2023. If interested, please contact Marla or Mary Beth by October 4th.

Judge Howell announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26, 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 videoconference.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Judge Ransom and seconded by Scott Norton. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT


Chris Brown, Board Member, Hopkins County Hospital District
Rosina Duckworth, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cumby
David Fordinal, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Como
Brad Johnson, Board Member, Northeast Texas Rail District
George Moore, Board Vice President, Texarkana College
Jim Murray, Board Member, Como Pickton Independent School District
Gary Spraggins, Councilmember, City of Sulphur Springs
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Roger Feagley, Sulphur Springs Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation
Buck Haynes, Como Pickton Independent School District
L.D. Williamson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Director
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director
Hailey Neaves, Creative Media Specialist I
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer
Claude Ramsey, IT Director
Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director
Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Manager
Mary Wormington, Housing Director


Bobby Howell, President
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:

