

**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), 2<sup>nd</sup> 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), 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

