

**MINUTES**  
**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 26, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, August 26, 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. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made a comment.

Item 4. Chris Brown, Executive Director, presented the following consent agenda item.

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by John Sellers, Mayor, City of Sulphur Springs. It was approved.

Mr. Brown requested to proceed with "Item 7: Update from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Judge Williamson agreed.

Mr. Brown introduced Ms. Mirielle Burgoyne, Deputy Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Mr. Brown stated that Ms. Burgoyne works closely with the Economic Development Association (EDA) and Economic Development Districts (EDDs), along with other federal partners and community development stakeholders.

Ms. Burgoyne provided the following American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (P.L. 117-2) updates:

- \$3 billion for U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- \$350 billion for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program
- \$7.25 billion for SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- \$15 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)
- \$1400 direct stimulus checks for eligible individual taxpayers
- \$300 weekly federal unemployment benefits through September 6, 2021
- And many other provisions

Ms. Burgoyne stated the \$3 billion EDA funding is intended to be used to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, and for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus." The EDA must allocate funding no later than September 22, 2022, and the funds will remain available to recipients until September 20, 2027.

The ARPA includes \$350 billion for state, local, tribal, and territorial support. The allowable uses of state and local relief funding are described in legislation; Subtitle M: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Ms. Burgoyne stated the ARPA State/Local Fiscal Recovery Fund eligible uses include the following:

- Responding to COVID-19 (Testing, contact tracing, mental health, payroll and covered benefits, public safety, healthcare, and human services)
- Responding to Negative Economic Impacts (Unemployment, housing, food assistance, economic, small businesses and non-profits, re-hiring public sector staff, and aid to impacted industries; including tourism)
- Water and Sewer (improvements water, building/upgrading facilities, transmission and distribution of storage systems, and replacement of lead service lines)
- Broadband (Services designed to meet adequate speeds and provide unserved and underserved households and businesses)

Ms. Burgoyne provided the following Transportation & Infrastructure updates:

- The current administration has initially released the two infrastructure proposals:
  - The American Jobs Plan proposal (March 2021)
  - The American Families Plan proposal (April 2021)
- In August, the Senate passed a \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
  - IIJA contains \$550 billion in new spending primarily for highways, bridges, transit, and broadband.
- The House and Senate have both approved a \$3.5 trillion budget framework along party lines, in hopes of voting in tandem with the bipartisan proposal, using a budget reconciliation process. This memorandum includes a directive for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works to allocate funding for Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Ms. Burgoyne provided NADO's contact information and encouraged ATCOG to reach out with any questions or information requests they may have. This concluded the NADO update.

### **Review and Comment**

Item 5. Mr. Brown presented, for information only, the Executive Director report. He reviewed the indirect finance reports and explained the percentages of the budget used as in-line with the fiscal year. Mr. Brown also provided updates and statistics for all ATCOG programs.

### **Regular Business**

Item 6. Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director, presented for consideration and approval of a one-year extension to the agreement with Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP to provide auditing services beginning October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

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

### **Other Business**

Item 7. Mr. Brown presented the FY2022 draft budget for discussion. A general overview was presented of the draft budget and will come before the board for final approval in September.

### **Announcements**

Judge Williamson announced that a Workforce CEO's meeting will be held immediately following this meeting.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 30, 2021, 10:00 a.m., located at 1708 Industrial

Road, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as teleconference/webinar.

With no further announcements Judge Williamson adjourned the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville  
Becky Wilbanks, Judge, Cass County  
Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County  
John Sellers, Mayor, City of Sulphur Springs  
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, President/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Travis Ransom, Mayor, City of Atlanta

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT


Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb  
Mihir Pankaj, Councilman, City of Paris  
Paula Portugal, Mayor, City of Paris  
Jean Matlock, Councilwoman, City of Texarkana

GUESTS PRESENT

April Corbit, Northeast Texas Workforce Solutions  
Duane Good, Texas Department of Transportation  
Mirielle Burgoyne, National Association of Development Organizations  
Randy Reed, Northeast Texas Workforce Solutions  
Reece DeWoody, United States Senator, John Cornyn  
Rea Donna Jones, Texarkana Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Todd Kleiboer, Sulphur Springs News Telegram

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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

ATTEST:

  
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