

**MINTUES**  
**ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 27, 2021**

The Executive Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 27, 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. Brian Lee, Judge, Titus 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 items:

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, April 29, 2021.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Stan Wyatt, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District representative. It was approved.

**Regular Business**

Item 5. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval of additional guidance to submit to the Office of the Governor (OOG) regarding the VOCA projects funding.

She stated that at the April 29th ATCOG Board Meeting, the ATCOG Executive Committee voted to adjust the VOCA recommended funding distribution to reflect a recommendation of 100% funding for all three VOCA applicants, rather than sending the recommendation that reflected the funding distribution based on the scores, order of ranking, and the estimated regional allocation available. By making the adjustment, the Executive Committee's goal was, and still is, to stress the importance of all three VOCA programs in the ATCOG region, the need for their sustained services, and the funding required to keep those programs going, with the hope of OOG/CJD adding funding to the current estimated VOCA allocation for the ATCOG region. Ms. Haley updated the Executive Committee members on discussion and information received from the OOG since the last meeting. She stated that ATCOG feels it is in the best interest of the VOCA applicants in our region to give OOG/CJD further guidance in the event that funds are not available to cover 100% of the three application requests.

Ryan Shriver, Executive Director, Safe-T Crisis Center, spoke regarding the importance and impact of the funding to his agency as well as the other applicants. He provided many letters of support to be submitted to the Executive Committee and Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division.

Judge Scott Lee stated that he discussed the situation with the Hopkins County applicant. Hopkins County would try to cover the expenses of the VOCA services themselves. After much discussion, a recommendation was made that the following percentages be used to determine funding allocation up to the total amounts of the Safe-T and DVP applications:

SAFE-T = 69.5925599%  
DVP = 30.4074401%  
Hopkins County = 0%

If the ATCOG region is allocated more than enough funding to fulfill both SAFE-T and Domestic Violence Prevention's original requested amounts, then any remaining funds available should be awarded to Hopkins County.

Motion to approve the adjusted percentages and for letters of support to be submitted upon a favorable review by ATCOG staff was made by Judge Scott Lee and seconded by Bob Thorne, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Daingerfield. Motion was opposed by Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County. It was approved.

Item 6. Sheena Record, Transportation Coordinator, presented for review and consideration approval of grant applications to United Way of Lamar County (UWLC) and United Way of Greater Texarkana (UWGT) to support ATCOG transportation services.

- UWLC application in the amount of \$25,000 for the Paris Metro Bus System.
- UWGT application in the amount of \$7,200 for the TRAX Rural Public Transportation Program

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

Item 7. Mr. Brown presented for review and consideration authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Halff Associates, Inc., for engineering services for the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group.

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

#### **Other Business**

Item 8. Mr. Brown provided updates on COVID operations and reviewed a draft telecommuting policy. He stated that ATCOG staff are returning to the office full time on June 1<sup>st</sup> and reviewed the draft telecommuting policy that would be presented to the ATCOG Board of Directors in June.

Item 9. Mr. Brown recognized Ms. Record and the ATCOG transportation program for receiving a Texas Veteran's Commission grant in the amount of \$5,000 for bus passes for veterans.

Item 10. Open discussion regarding American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery funds.

Mr. Brown noted that federal dollars will require different procurement procedures than that of local funds and to reference 2 CFR 200 for guidance. He also stated that each jurisdictions auditor's office should be able to administer the funds, but ATCOG staff are more than willing to review documents and provide advice.

#### **Announcements**

Mr. Brown announced that the next Board of Directors meeting will be held on June 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., at the Titus County Extension Office in Mt. Pleasant, Texas, as well as, via teleconference/webinar.

With no other announcements, motion to adjourn was made by Judge Scott Lee and seconded by Scott Norton, TexAmericas CEO. The meeting was adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville  
Becky Wilbanks, Judge, Cass County  
Bob Thorne, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Daingerfield  
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Brian Lee, Judge, Titus County  
L.D. Williamson, Judge, Red River County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Hooks  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Scott Norton, President/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Stan Wyatt, President, Northeast Texas Municipal Water District

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Hart, Councilwoman, City of Texarkana, Texas

GUESTS PRESENT

Ryan Shriver, SAFE-T Crisis Center  
Todd Kleiboer, Sulphur Springs News Telegram  
Janeth Moreno, Mt. Pleasant Economic Development Corporation

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator  
Chris Brown, Executive Director  
Lisa Reeve, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Leslie McBride, Human Resources Director  
Mae Lewis, Housing Director  
Mark Compton, Transportation Director  
Mary Beth Rudel, Deputy Director  
Melinda Tickle, Finance Director  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director  
Sheena Record, Transportation Coordinator  
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Manager  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator

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

ATTEST:

  
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