



**Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (EPPC) Meeting
Minutes
NCTCOG, Microsoft Teams
May 20, 2021
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Pledge to United States and Texas Flags (9:30 AM) Rick Grady, EPPC Council

Welcoming of Members / Guests (9:32 AM) Rick Grady, EPPC Chair

- Rick Grady allowed Guests to introduce themselves

Rollcall (9:34 AM) NCTCOG Staff

- Quorum was met

EMAT Award Recognitions (9:38 AM) Molly McFadden, NCTCOG

- Excellence in Emergency Management Award
 - Tonya Hunter, Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Midlothian
- Rising Star Award
 - Daniel Ringhauser, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator, City of Grand Prairie

Approval of October 29, 2020, Meeting Minutes (9:44 AM) Rick Grady, EPPC Chair

- **Motion:** Rick Grady made a motion to approve the October 29, 2020, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kit Marshall. The motion carried at 9:45 a.m.

Administrative Business (9:45 AM) NCTCOG Staff

- EPPC Open Seat Nominations
 - Nominations will be accepted through 5:00 PM on June 18, 2021
 - New Members will be sat at the August 19 meeting

| Population | Number of Seats Available | Seats up for Appointment |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5,000 - 14,999 | 1 | Decatur |
| 15,000 – 29,999 | 3 | Addison, 2 Vacant Seats |
| 30,000 – 49,999 | 2 | Cedar Hill, 1 Vacant Seat |
| 120,000 – 169,999 | 1 | Carrollton |
| 170,000 – 249,999 | 1 | Frisco |
| Counties | 2 | Hood, Navarro |

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update (9:46 AM)

Prit Patel, NCTCOG

- Prit Patel did a presentation on Regional Economic Development.
- Rick Grady requested that the presentation be shared in the notes.
- The Regional Economic Development presentation and the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board information was emailed to EPPC members on May 20, 2021. The Regional Economic Development presentation was posted in the chat also.
- The next District Board meeting is Monday.
- Molly stated that recovery is a need and is delighted to have this resource available.
- Kit Marshall wanted to know what is the term commitment and eligibility requirement for a board member? Prit responded the commitment is to attend three to four meetings, and the eligibility is to have your county mayor or judge write a letter of recommendation nominating you to an empty seat.
- Kit Marshall would like for Prit Patel's contact information post in the chat.
- Rocky Vaz want to know if there is representation for the City of Dallas/Dallas County? Prit will get back to Rocky.
- The NCTCOG Economic Development Resource page and funding information link was provided in the email to EPPC members.

Information Items (10:14 AM)

Marcie Bruner, NCTCOG

- FY21 Projects
 - There are some HSGD program changes – see power point presentation for program changes.
 - The state took a 4% cut from the overall funding for the Homeland Security grant program. We don't know if we will end up taking a 4% cut.
 - This year they added Combating Domestic Violence – 5%.
 - The Cyber Security project is for a contract to conduct a risk assessment for the jurisdictions.
 - We may be able to use 2020 reallocation funds to fund 2 of the projects.
 - Rick thanked everyone for their hard work on scoring the projects.
 - Kit concurred with Rick. She stated she seen more requirement changes this year, that this was the hardest year trying to manage virtually.
 - Kit commended COG staff for making a difficult job easier with the project scoring meeting virtually.
 - When the state evaluated the projects, they tried to make all their projects fit.
 - The state felt there were 10 projects that would fit the Domestic Violence category.
 - Braydon Williams left the COG to go to work for FEMA.
 - We must fund 9, 10, and 11 because they are a part of the Domestic Violence program, Hazardous Material, Public Education, and Fusion.
 - OOG has worked with us because we have a process that is transparent.
 - Molly thanked everyone for their hard work.

Open Discussion (10:32 AM)

EPPC Members

- **Lessons learned from Pandemic and Texas Reopening**
 - Rick that Larry Woolley for how he added the Pandemic and Winter storm to our emergency planning lessons learned.
 - Larry stated there were some frustrations with communication, Kit concurred.
 - Molly worked with county judges and Mike Eastland and the support they received from the state created a challenge.
 - Want to create an informal network to support counties that weren't supported

- Kit stated that Parker County has a very strong local health authority. There were mixed messages coming out that were confusing and was hard to determine who was in charge DSHS or TDEM. There were challenges, however, Parker County didn't experience what some of the other counties had experienced.
- Rick stated there was a lot of colliding information from the state, local, federal governments. A significant amount of lack of material provided.
- Molly stated that we have been in response since 2020, and that she needs help from the elected officials with emergency management relief after a major event. There are a couple that have retired. Maybe look at offering paid time leave after a major event or some type of an incentive.
- Kit thinks it's important to stir the political pot, that we are all impacted from the same events, and we should take care of the ones that take care of us.
- Molly would like to include documentation in the regional plan.
- **Lessons learned from Winter Storm Uri**
 - Larry wants Johnson County to have a "Know-What-We-Know" meeting.
 - Larry – there was no water for 2 days. Coordinated with water companies, such as Nestle to distribute water.
 - There was little cooperation from Oncor regarding the water issue.
 - United Coop worked well with assisting Johnson County.
 - Some of the major issues were:
 - Communication towers that were powered by diesel.
 - Back-up generators worked well but had some trouble with getting propane trucks.
 - There were in-home oxygen shortages.
 - Ambulances were called to take residents somewhere warm.
 - There were 8,000 residents without electricity.
 - Officials having daily briefing calls would have been valuable.
 - Major livestock feed stores were bare due to no water and lights – coordinated an effort to secure livestock with 1400 – 1500 bales of hay.
 - Rick stated that Plano experienced:
 - Electrical shortages.
 - Building code need to be reviewed.
 - Need to educate staff with the Parks and Wastewater departments on how to shut off water.
 - Need to look at older apartment complexes and how to shut the water off to prevent pipes from bursting.
 - Molly captured information from E&D's Code Coordination Group.
 - Molly stated that all of us learned that we have a lot more critical infrastructure facilities in our jurisdictions and in our region than we realized. The Emergency Management folks have submitted a project to update our critical infrastructure list.
 - Nicole Raphiel from Desoto stated that apartment complexes seem to be in silos, they were taught how to reach out to Emergency Management on how to access emergency services and stay connected. This goes for senior living facilities also, which was in silos as well. Wellness checks were performed. They made sure that all members of the community would be included.
 - Many apartment complexes had water outages, and had to evacuate, and had to facilitate emergency evictions.
 - It was a very daunting task.
 - They didn't realize how important American Red Cross is.

- There need to greater outreach in our community with regards to emergency services.
- We are rethinking and thinking about some of the things that transpired.
- Should be a priority.

- **COG Updates/Announcements (11:13 AM)**

NCTCOG Staff

- COG building is in the process of reopening.
- Expect to have EPPC and REPAC August meetings in-person at COG.
- COG staff will begin to come back into the office beginning in July.
- We are now down to six employees in Emergency Preparedness.
- As mentioned previously, Braydon left to take a job with FEMA.
- We are planning to hire someone to take Braydon’s place as well as a mitigation intern.
- We won’t to continue to ensure deliverables are met

- **Upcoming Events (11:16 AM)**

- Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA Ex) Open House June 2, 2021
- REPAC Quarterly Meeting June 3, 2021
- Emergency Management Working Group Meeting June 10, 2021
- Cyber Security Working Group Meeting June 17, 2021
- Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA Wx) Open House July 7, 2021
- National Homeland Security Conference, Las Vegas, NV August 30 – September 2, 2021

Member Comments/ Public Comments (11:19 AM)

- COG staff will work to have the next EPPC meeting virtual for those that are not ready to come in, and in-person

Resources:

October meeting minutes
 New member nomination forms
 Alternate nomination forms

Emergency Preparedness: www.nctcog.org/ep/
 State Training Website: www.preparingtexas.org

No Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM

Next Meeting

August 19, 2021

Meeting Location: NCTCOG Transportation Council Room / Virtual

Meeting time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM