



Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA WX)
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
NCTCOG Microsoft Teams
March 26, 2025, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Call to Order and Opening remarks (9:30 am)

William Wessel, CASA WX Chair

Item 1: Vote on November 2024 meeting minutes (9:33 am) CASA WX Members
Motion: Michaela Sandefer made a motion to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes; Edgardo Barreto second, the motion passed. No opposed.

Item 2: Vote on Statement of Work for CSU/Umass (9:34 am) CASA WX Members
Motion: Edgardo Barreto made a motion to approve the Statement of Work for CSU/Umass; Michaela Sandefer second, the motion passed. No opposed.

Items 3: Radar Website Updates

Brenda Philips, CASA

- **Johnson Co.** The radar in Johnson County was given to us by EWR radar, for use and they recently wanted to upgrade some of the panels. They're going to do that at some point. We thought they might want to remove it, but they decided to keep it there.
- All 5 radars are up and running.
 - o Denton - We had a failed external hard drive that had to be repurchased and replaced. There was an event on March 4th which was that strong line that came through in 3 hours where there were some tornadoes and a lot of wind damage around the Metroplex.
 - o The dead radar data looked great as it came in, but the entire campus lost power for about 15 minutes.
 - o Denton had a backup computer which has been useful.
 - o Our DROC, which is our radar operations and that went down and did not come back up. We really had a lot of problems with heat at that radar. Last summer, Eric built a little enclosure around the computer box to keep the sun off of it. It's at the base of the tower as an external computer box. Last summer we had no outages relating to heat for that. So that's held up pretty well.

Item 4: Radar Network Updates

Brenda Phillips, CASA

- **Denton Radar** – There was a failed external hard drive that had to be purchased and replaced due to a power outage during a storm on March 4th. The radar data looked good, but the campus lost power for 15 minutes. Eric plans to visit Denton to fix a backup computer that went down and did not come back up. This back-up computer is useful when the Radar Operations Center (DROC) goes down. Eric built an enclosure around the external computer to protect it from heat. The enclosure has been effective in preventing heat-related outages.
- **Midlothian Radar** – Eric mentioned that the Midlothian radar had some computing issues, IP address changes, and sensitivity problems. He performed a multi-day debugging effort in November and plans to calibrate the radar this year. There have been periodic pedestal stoppages that are believed to be due to its age. Eric is managing this manually. Eric plans to calibrate the Midlothian radar this year to improve its performance.
- **Fort Worth Radar** – The Fort Worth radar's a/c and computer may need to be replaced. The radar required air conditioning repairs. The radar also has aging computers that were purchased in 2018.

Eric noted that these computers are starting to show signs of degradation. He estimated that replacing these computers would cost around \$2000 each.

- **Mesquite Radar** - The Mesquite radar experienced a core part failure, which was not very expensive to replace. Eric mentioned that the last time this part was replaced, it cost about \$1000. The radar had a major wasp infestation, which the city resolved. The city also fixed a broken air conditioner at the base of the radar tower.
- **D-ROC Outage:** The D-ROC experienced an outage during a storm on March 4th, affecting connectivity to the Massachusetts center. The outage was resolved quickly, but it caused a temporary loss of network products on the website. The outage occurred around 3:00 AM. The outage was resolved relatively quickly. Eric noted that the website itself remained available, and single radar data was still accessible. Chase and Brenda discussed the need for better notification processes when radars are down.
- **QPE Data Performance:** The QPE data performed poorly during a flooding event on January 30th, particularly in the Midlothian and Fort Worth areas. The issue may be related to calibration problems, and they are investigating further. They have sent the data to CSU for further investigation and are looking into the issue to determine if it is consistent across other events.
- **NWS Watch and Warning Polygons:** The NWS watch and warning polygons went out during the March 4th event due to an expired SSL certificate. The issue has been fixed, but it highlights the need for better notification processes. Eric mentioned that they have started sending QPE data into the Fort Worth production environment, which can be extended to other customers with GIS implementations.
- **NEXRAD Data Feed:** Eric reported that they have changed their NEXRAD data feed to a Tier 1 distributor, costing \$1000 per year, to improve resilience and reduce the load on NOAA.

Training Sessions: Brenda provided an update on recent training sessions, including general CASA usage and stormwater-focused training. Additional training is scheduled for Midlothian, and other areas can request training sessions. Please contact Amanda to arrange them.

Grant-Related Efforts: There is a Department of Transportation Smart Grant with Fort Worth, a DFW Airport to receive data, and an Intercept Planning Gant for human-centered warning.

Item 5: Funding Subcommittee Update:

Chase Wheeler

- Chase provided an update on the funding subcommittee, explaining that while the total funding was approved, the specific line items are unclear. They are reaching out to legislative members to clarify the next steps for confirming budget allocation for the project.

Next Steps/Priorities

CASA WX Members

- We will continue to tap into legislature. We were approved \$4.5 million to replace radars. One of our strategies will be to have Ellzey's office take over this project since his office is over appropriations.

Membership Dues: Amanda provided an update that we have received about \$105,000, but that we are still waiting on dues from five or six jurisdictions, which would bring the total closer to last year's amount.

Adjournment (10:20 am)

Resources: CASA WX Website: www.nctcog.org/ep/casawx-1

Next CASA WX Executive Council Meeting:

August 13, 2025

9:30 AM- 11:30 AM