

**PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2025. This meeting was held in hybrid format by videoconference pursuant Texas Government Code Section 551.127 with more than three counties in the State of Texas being represented on the Board. Board members and individuals from the public who desired to attend in person, attended the meeting at 415 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Buster Davis, Mayor, City of Gruver
- Dr. John Howard, Donley County Judge
- Shawn Ballew, Oldham County Judge
- Pat McDowell, Wheeler County Judge
- Kimberly Jones, Childress County Judge
- Kerry Symons, Mayor, City of Perryton
- Oscar Ostos, Citizen Representative, City of Amarillo
- Dan Looten, Carson County Judge
- Michael Clawson, Swisher County Judge
- Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge
- Cole Stanley, Mayor, City of Amarillo
- Phillip Self, Greenbelt Municipal & Industrial Waste Authority
- Christy Dyer, Randall County Judge
- Aldo Gallegos, Citizens Representative, City of Cactus
- Mac Smith, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Pat Sims, Commissioner, City of Dumas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Greg Lewellen, Mayor, City of Friona
- Rank Cogdell, Briscoe County Judge
- Sal Rivera, Sheriff, Castro County
- Tobe Shields, Mayor, City of Spearman
- Winston Sauls, Citizen Representative, City of Borger
- Daniel Jackson, Citizen Representative, City of Dimmitt
- Yolanda Robledo, Alderwoman, City of Bovina
- Ronnie Gordon, Hartley County Judge
- Juan Cantu, Lipscomb County Commissioner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mr. Michael Peters, Executive Director; Mr. Trent Taylor, Finance Director; Mr. Alex Guerrero, Local Government Services Director; Ms. Lori Gunn, Regional Services Director; Ms. Daphne Morcom, Regional Services Program Specialist; Mr. Shane Brown, Regional Emergency Communication & Prep Program Manager; Mr. John Schaumburg, Regional 9.1.1 Director; Ms. Khasi Campos, Regional 9.1.1 Administrative Assistant; Mr. Marin Rivas, Workforce Development Director; Ms. Heather Reid, Workforce Development Contract/Accounting Manager; Mr. Cullin Knutson, Regional Services Program Specialist; Ms. Melissa Whitaker, Executive Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joe Minshew, District Chief - TDEM; Blake Vineyard, Assistant to Senator Ted Cruz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Judge Nancy Tanner called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. **INVOCATION**

Judge John Howard gave the invocation.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

4. **MINUTES**

Mayor Buster Davis motioned to accept the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on January 23, 2025. Judge John Howard seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINORITY ELECTION FOR PRPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Michael Peters informed the Board of Directors that the PRPC Bylaws state that the Board shall call one or more meetings of minority citizens during the first quarter of the fiscal year. The place and jurisdictional makeup of the meeting shall be reviewed annually. The meeting or meetings will be held for the purpose of allowing minorities to elect their own representatives to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors needs to establish a date, time, and location for an election of minority citizens from Planning and Service Area 5 (Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Grey, Hall and Wheeler Counties) The PSA - 5 position of Ms. Karen Price is sadly now vacant. We are recommending holding a new election to fill this vacancy on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 5:05 p.m. at Pampa City Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The address is 200 W. Foster Ave, Pampa, TX 79065. This election will be published in all major newspapers serving the above counties. Any interested parties will be added to the ballot at the election and provided to the secretary/treasurer.

Judge Christy Dyer motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the above date, time and location for an election of a minority citizen from PSA 5 to serve on the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors. Judge Shawn Ballew seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. **PRPC VOUCHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025**

Mayor Buster Davis motioned to approve the vouchers for the month of January 2025. Mr. Pat Sims seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **PRPC INVESTMENT FUNDS MONTHLY REPORT**

Mr. Trent Taylor informed the Board that pursuant to the Public Funds Investment Act which was passed by the Texas Legislature in 1987 and amended in 1995 and 1997, PRPC adopted written investment policies on April 27, 2023 for funds under our control. The following was submitted for approval.

	Balance@ <u>12/31/2024</u>	Balance@ <u>1/31/2025</u>	30-Day Avg. Rate
PRPC's Money Market Fund	\$1,833,514	\$1,339,199	3.810%
9-1-1's Money Market Fund	285,843	44,083	2.510%
Total MMIA Funds	<u>\$2,119,357</u>	<u>\$1,383,282</u>	

Other Investments:

Texas Class	\$2,359,951	\$2,413,210	4.542%
Texas Class Government	1,006,487	\$1,008,438	4.281%
LOGIC	<u>1,256,683</u>	<u>\$1,261,527</u>	<u>4.500%</u>
Total Invested Funds	<u>\$6,742,478</u>	<u>\$6,066,457</u>	

The book value and the market value were the same for each fund listed above. The investment portfolio followed the Public Funds Investment Act and PRPC Investment Policies.

Judge Kim Jones motioned for the Board of Directors to accept the PRPC Investment Fund Monthly Report as submitted. Mr. Pat Sims seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Trent Taylor informed the Board of Directors that in December 2024 Judge Woodburn retired from the bench of the 108th District Court. Jerri Glover, Program Coordinator discussed the vacancy with the Advisory Board at a meeting on February 7, 2025. The board discussed candidates for replacement. After discussion of candidates for the Advisory Board that currently hold positions in the courts of Potter and Randall County, it was suggested that The Honorable Judge Dee Johnson be offered the opportunity to serve. The board instructed Jerri to send an invitation to Judge Johnson extending the opportunity to join the advisory board. Jerri sent the memorandum and Judge Johnson graciously accepted the invitation based upon PRPC Board Approval. The board currently consists of the following members:

Dave Kemp, Vaavia Rudd, Judge Dale Rabe, Judge Phil Vanderpool, Judge Nancy Tanner, Potter County Commissioner H. R. Kelly, Judge Joanna Garcia-Flores and Tacy Gamel.

Judge Christy Dyer motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to appoint Judge Dee Johnson to the Advisory Board for the Dispute Resolution Center. Judge Shawn Ballew seconded the motion; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**9. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHILD CARE CURRICULUM**

Ms. Heather Reid informed the Board of Directors that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has contracted with the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) / PRPC to utilize the Child Care Quality and Child Care Quality 4% Activities Grants to provide quality improvement activities such as technical assistance, professional development, education materials, learning materials, and outdoor equipment for Texas Panhandle child care providers. Through an application process, providers have requested curriculum. Workforce Solutions reviewed applications, previous purchases for the provider, TRS Status, and onboarding status, to select appropriate purchases. For FY2025 a Child Care Quality Budget of \$1.138 million dollars has been presented and accepted by the Child Care Advisory Committee. This purchase has been presented to the PWDB and the board has voted to approve this purchase, therefore PWDB, with PRPC, proposes- to make purchases at this time, for providers in the TRS program and onboarding to the TRS program requesting the Frog Street curriculum, this gives providers the benefit of updating and improving the learning environments as TRS-certified programs.

On August 27, 2020, PRPC board approved an interlocal agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) for PRPC to gain access to the TIPS purchasing contracts. The purchases for the project described above can be made through the TIPS purchasing contract. The total cost for this project is up to \$160,000.00 and funds for this purchase would come from existing Workforce Development Child Care Quality funds.

Mayor Kerry Symons motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to purchase the Child Care Frog Street Curriculum for the amount of no more than \$160,000.00, with grant funds from the TWC Workforce Development Child Care Quality and Child Care Quality 4% Activities grants. Mayor Cole Stanley seconded the motion; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**10. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CHILD CARE CLASSROOM MATERIALS**

Ms. Heather Reid informed the Board of Directors that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has contracted with the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) / PRPC to utilize the Child Care Quality and Child Care Quality 4% Activities Grants to provide quality improvement activities such as technical assistance, professional development, education materials, learning materials, and outdoor equipment for Texas Panhandle child care providers. Workforce Development staff has identified local Child Care Providers need for indoor and outdoor classroom learning materials. The FY2025 Child Care Quality plan allowed for the support of 26 programs going through recertification and 8 programs onboarding in FY2025. The indoor and outdoor classroom learning materials will allow the providers to select from a range of products, preselected by Workforce Development, giving each program the opportunity to purchase only what they need for their classrooms. For FY2025 a Child Care Quality Budget of \$1.138 million dollars has been presented and accepted by the Child Care Advisory Committee. This purchase has been presented to the PWDB and the board has voted to approve this purchase, therefore PWDB, with PRPC, proposes to make purchases at this time, for providers who are going through recertification or onboarding during FY2025, this gives these providers the benefit of updating and improving the learning environments as TRS-certified programs. On August 27, 2020, PRPC board approved an interlocal agreement with The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) for PRPC to gain access to the TIPS purchasing contracts. The purchases for the project described above can be made through the TIPS purchasing contracts. The total cost for this project up to \$325,000.00 and funds for this purchase would come from existing Workforce Development Child Care Quality funds.

Mayor Cole Stanley motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to purchase the Child Care Learning, Social Emotional and Self-Regulation materials as described above from Lakeshore Learning, for the amount of no more than \$325,000.00, with grant funds from the TWC Workforce Development Child Care Quality grant. Mayor Buster Davis seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**11. REGIONAL 9-1-1 MULTIPROTOCOL LABEL SWITCHING NETWORK UPGRADE**

Mr. John Schaumburg informed the Board of Directors that the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network has been upgrading Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) circuits at all of the PSAPs throughout the Texas Panhandle. Due to the fact that most telecommunications vendors no longer allow new orders over the outdated copper infrastructure, the companies require new MPLS circuits to move through optical fiber. We placed the order with the Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) and AT&T in October and have currently completed circuit upgrades on 9 of the 22 locations and have pending dates for the remaining sites. As site visits have been completed, AT&T, has returned with some unexpected and unquoted special construction costs. One of the sites, Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office, is requiring an unexpected buildout cost of more than a million dollars. Additionally, Oldham County Sheriff's Office and Castro County Sheriff's Offices have been given additional buildout costs. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is currently working with the AT&T and DIR administration to remedy these added costs. The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network is currently pursuing other options to remedy the situation if AT&T is incapable of removing the special construction costs. Another vendor, Windstream Enterprise has provided a more affordable DIR contract quote for the Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office with a monthly recurring cost of \$207.10, and a special construction buildout of \$39,779.00. In order to make this function properly, an MPLS circuit must be added at the PSAP and the host in order to allow 9-1-1 functionality. Windstream has quoted a 50 Mbps circuit at the Pampa host for the monthly recurring cost of \$522.00 and no special construction. We are waiting for official pricing from Windstream on the additional two sites but they have tentatively quoted no construction and lower monthly rates under a DIR contract. If AT&T cannot provide reasonable construction costs, then CSEC has granted us funding availability to pursue the contracts with Windstream.

Mayor Kerry Symons motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts for MPLS circuits at the four public safety answering points, and the special construction cost for the Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office, contingent upon necessity. Judge Dan Looten seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**12. REGIONAL 9-1-1 NETWORK INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR E9-1-1 SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT EQUIPMENT**

Mr. John Schaumburg informed the Board of Directors that a requirement of the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is to maintain interlocal contracts between the Texas Councils of Government and the agencies responsible for each 9-1-1 PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point. The interlocal agreements explain the requirements of both the PRPC and the agency responsible for the PSAP. These contracts renew in conjunction with the State's fiscal biennium. This new two-year cycle begins September 1st, 2025. As we are nearing a new funding cycle, the old contracts will soon expire, and we have begun the process of renewing these agreements with the 21 cities or counties that are responsible for operating the program's 9-1-1 call taking centers. The only change to the agreements will be to renew the term of the document to expire with the next biennium or August 31st of 2027 in Article 12 page 7.

Mr. Pat Sims motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to execute interlocal agreements for 9-1-1 service and call handling equipment with each of the 21 regional cities or counties operating 9-1-1 PSAPs. Mayor Buster Davis seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**13. REGIONAL 9-1-1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Ms. Khasi Campos informed the Board of Directors that a requirement of the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is to maintain interlocal contracts between the Texas Councils of Government and the agencies responsible for each 9-1-1 PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point. The interlocal agreements explain the requirements of both the PRPC and the agency responsible for the PSAP. These contracts renew in conjunction with the State's fiscal biennium. This new two-year cycle begins September 1st, 2025. As we are nearing a new funding cycle, the old contracts will soon expire, and we have begun the process of renewing these agreements with the 21 cities or counties that are responsible for operating the program's 9-1-1 call taking centers. The only change to the agreements will be to renew the term of the document to expire with the next biennium or August 31st of 2027 in Article 12 page 7.

Mayor Kerry Symons motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to execute interlocal agreements for 9-1-1 service and call handling equipment with each of the 21 regional cities or counties operating 9-1-1 PSAPs. Judge Kim Jones seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**14. REGIONAL 9-1-1 CALL HANDLING EQUIPMENT (CHE) SOFTWARE SUPPORT RENEWAL**

Mr. John Schaumburg informed the Board of Directors that since 2009, the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission has maintained contract services for software support, telephone support and antivirus updates from Intrado Life & Safety Solutions Corporation. The existing contract expires on April 30th, 2025. The 9-1-1 network will be changing equipment vendors in the upcoming months, so the HGAC-Buy Contract #EC07-23 pricing was prorated for six months costing a total of \$58,797.00. Intrado has agreed to bill PRPC monthly, and as PSAPs transition to the new equipment vendor, they will be re-motioned from the following month's bill. If we choose to maintain this support contract, it allows newer software versions at no additional cost. Typically, the best benefit of this service is to correct any software issues that may develop and to future-proof the technology. This contract also provides a 24/7 support hotline to remedy any issues that staff or the local technicians cannot immediately solve. The help desk has the ability to troubleshoot at a much

higher level with access to system engineers and software developers. Lastly, the maintenance contract provides mailed antivirus updates for all computers and servers, as the 9-1-1 network is restricted from the internet.

Mayor Buster Davis motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract for maintenance renewal with Intrado Life & Safety Solutions Corporation for the 6 months covering April 1st through September 30th, 2025. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES LOCAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES INTERLOCAL CONTRACTS – TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

Mr. Alex Guerrero informed the Board of Directors that for over twenty years, PRPC Staff has assisted cities with the development of Master Parks Plans and applications to Texas Parks & Wildlife under their available recreation grant programs. This past year, PRPC Staff assisted three communities in building applications through Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Local Parks grant programs. Staff has been notified that the City of Perryton, Spearman and Stinnett have been selected for funding. The City of Perryton sought assistance from the Local Government Services (LGS) Department to apply for funding under the Small Community Grant Program for the rebuild of Murphy Park's baseball and soccer fields, which were destroyed in the June 15, 2023, tornado. The City was awarded \$150,000, requiring a 1:1 match, to furnish and install new baseball and soccer fields. Perryton has also requested that PRPC be contracted through an interlocal agreement to provide project administration, with \$30,000 allocated for administrative services. Additionally, LGS staff worked with the City of Spearman to apply for funding under the Small Community Grant Program to acquire inclusive and accessible playground equipment to serve children with disabilities. The City was awarded \$150,000 in grant funding and has requested PRPC's administrative services for this project for \$10,000. Finally, LGS assisted the City of Stinnett in developing an application under the Small Community Grant Program to support the purchase and installation of new playground equipment and benches. The City was awarded \$37,500 for the project and has requested PRPC's administrative support for a sum of \$7,000.

Mr. Mac Smith motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director of the PRPC to execute three respective Interlocal Cooperation Contracts between the above-mentioned cities and for the PRPC to provide Project Administration Services for their Texas Parks & Wildlife grant funded projects. Judge Cristy Dyer seconded the motion. Mayor Kerry Symons abstained; the motion carried with a sufficient number of votes.

**16. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TxCDBG 2025 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Mr. Alex Guerrero informed the Board of Directors that PRPC Staff has worked with Panhandle communities to write applications and implement various projects through the Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program since 1983. Through the CDBG program the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) offers different funding opportunities that include: Community Development Fund Program; State Urgent Need (SUN) disaster relief and the Downtown Revitalization Program. The Downtown Revitalization Program (DRP) aims to eliminate slum and blight conditions in downtown areas by funding public infrastructure improvements within a community's downtown district, economic commerce area and areas around city squares primarily serving non-governmental buildings. Several cities have already expressed interest in applying for funding to improve blighted conditions through infrastructure upgrades in their downtown areas.

For the 2025 DRP funding cycle, key changes include:

- Increased maximum grant award from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.
- Continuation of the two-phased application process.
- Eligibility limited to communities within the state's allocation range for the DRP/Main Street Set-Aside Program (2025 Statewide Allocation: ~\$8-10 million).

- Expanded eligible activities for communities with a low-to-moderate income (LMI) percentage above 51%.

In order to comply with TDA requirements it is necessary for the below cities to enter into an interlocal agreement with PRPC for application development activities to ensure programmatic compliance. Communities applying to the Downtown Revitalization Program for 2025 include the following: Memphis, Clarendon, Miami, Quitaque, Childress and Hart.

Judge Kim Jones motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director of the PRPC to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the above noted communities respectively and the PRPC to provide TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization application services at no cost with contingency for administrative services to be amended at the localities' discretion if their project is funded. Mayor Buster Davis seconded the motion; the motion carried with a sufficient number of votes.

**17. REGIONAL SERVICES PANHANDLE REGIONAL BREACHING TRAINING PROJECT RESOLUTION**

Ms. Daphne Morcom informed the Board of Directors that each year, the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) contracts with PRPC to facilitate the distribution of funds under the following funding blocks for the Panhandle Region:

- Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)
- Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA)
- Violence Against Women Act of 2013 (VAWA)

On December 16, 2024 the funding announcement for these funding blocks was sent to all eligible entities. During stakeholder and strategic planning meetings, the need for breaching training doors, training on how to breach the doors, and use of the breaching tools has come up numerous times during meetings. PRPC staff is proposing to address this particular regional training need for our law enforcement officers through the Panhandle Regional Breaching Training Project. PRPC will contract with Amarillo College's Criminal Justice Department to coordinate the purchase of the breaching training doors and breaching tools to add to the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy In-Service training program. Amarillo College will also secure professional trainers to provide the necessary training for breaching doors.

Judge John Howard motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to favorably consider the resolution which authorizes PRPC staff to submit a grant application to the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office under JAG for the Panhandle Regional Breaching Training Project. PRPC staff also recommends that the PRPC Board of Directors authorize the PRPC Executive Director to execute a contract with Amarillo College for the delivery of the Panhandle Regional Breaching Training Project services upon approval of the grant. Judge Michael Clawson seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**18. REGIONAL SERVICES PANHANDLE REGIONAL INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (PANCOM) TOWER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

Mr. Shane Brown informed the Board of Directors that once again, the PRPC received funding under the Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure grant program to build four new PANCOM Towers. In our original grant application, we proposed to replace the two most expensive leased sites in the PANCOM system with PRPC-owned towers as a means of reducing the system's annual operating budget. So, we're now working to replace a tower in Briscoe County and another in Hall County. The grant does not allow purchase of land and we'd planned on purchasing the sites we need with the funding we receive from the Panhandle's cities and counties as part of our annual Fair Share Contribution request. However, in the case of the Briscoe County tower, we've been given the opportunity to build a tower on land owned by Briscoe County that happens to be inside the city limits of Silverton. The County will graciously allow us to put our tower on their land at no cost and we've offered to do the following in exchange:

1. At our expense, PRPC will transfer the radio equipment the City of Silverton and/or Briscoe County is actively operating on a leased tower to the new tower.
2. PRPC will provide backup power and security fencing around the property.
3. PRPC will run electrical power to this new tower and would be responsible for paying all recurring utility costs.
4. PRPC will be responsible for ensuring the tower is kept appropriately insured and well-maintained.

The Briscoe County Commissioners Court has already approved the ILA. PRPC staff is recommending the PRPC Board of Directors approve this agreement.

Judge Dan Looten motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize the execution of the interlocal agreement with Briscoe County which will enable the PRPC to build a new PANCOM tower on County-owned land. Judge Michael Clawson seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**19. REGIONAL SERVICES TORNADO SAFE ROOM REBATE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Ms. Daphne Morcom informed the Board of Directors that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The amount of dollars available for mitigation equals 15 percent of the amount FEMA spends to assist disaster survivors and communities in the recovery process. Since 2006, the PRPC has received over \$7 million through the HMGP to support the implementation of the Regional Residential Safe Room Rebate Program. The rebate program provides residents up to 50% of the cost of installing a tornado shelter in their home in an amount not to exceed \$3,000. Over the past 12 years, nearly 3,000 shelters have been installed in homes throughout the Texas Panhandle as a result of this program. On July 9, 2024, a federal disaster declaration was issued in response to Hurricane Beryl. This disaster has been designated by FEMA as DR-4798. On May 17, 2024, a federal disaster declaration was issued in response to the Texas Severe Storms and Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes and Flooding. This disaster was designated by FEMA as DR-4781. In both DRs Federal funding coming to the State will be used to assist with the recovery efforts; with 15% motioned for availability of for HMGP projects. While the jurisdictions in the disaster's impact area will be given priority for this funding, any jurisdiction in Texas with a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is eligible to apply for these funds. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) administers the HMGP grant program in Texas. PRPC plans to submit an application under both DR-4798 and DR-4781 to TDEM for funding to continue the Regional Residential Safe Room Program. The rebate program continues to be extremely popular in the Panhandle region and it has always been operated on a first come, first served basis. There are no eligibility requirements for residents to participate in the program other than owning the home in which the shelter is to be installed, not lying within a flood plain, and having the means to pay for the shelter costs not covered by the FEMA grant. With this latest application, the PRPC is requesting around \$1.5 million in either DR-4781 or DR-4798 for funding to install at least 500 more shelters in homes across the Panhandle. Typically, the HMGP requires a 25% match by the grantee but that is not the case with the Individual Safe Rooms projects. No match would be required of the PRPC; instead the match will be met by the residents who are receiving the shelter rebates. All-in-all, the shelter program has been extremely beneficial to the Panhandle region and we're hopeful it will continue to be so in the future.

Mayor Buster Davis motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize, by resolution, the submission of a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application to TDEM/FEMA under DR-4798 and DR-4781 for funding to continue the operation of the Panhandle Regional Residential Safe Room Rebate Program. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**20. REGIONAL SERVICES FY25 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM PROJECT PRIORITIZATION APPROVAL**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that on February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PREMAC) met to evaluate



the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) proposals submitted for consideration under the Panhandle's FY25 SHSP grant program. In total, the PREMAC will evaluate seven applications. The application evaluation and ranking process the PREMAC predominantly follows is a Risk-Informed Methodology (RIM), the committee developed at the start of the grant year. The RIM acts as a guide for the PREMAC in prioritizing projects deemed to be of highest value to improving the region's ability to prevent, prepare, and/or respond to hazards most apt to impact the Panhandle. This year, the PREMAC will follow the RIM with the caveat that the National Priority Areas are considered as well as meeting the minimum LETPA percentage of 35%. LETPA projects or Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities has a narrow number of project options. For FY25, we have 6 National Priority Areas (NPA), only 3 of these have a regional required percentage attached to them. The NPA and their respective percentage include:

- Enhancing Community Preparedness & Resilience (at least 3%);
- Protection of Soft Target/Crowded Places (at least 3%);
- Intelligence and Information Sharing & Analysis (at least 3%);
- Combating Domestic Violent Extremism (3% under competitive area);
- Enhancing Election Security (3% under competitive area); and
- Enhancing Cybersecurity (apply under SLCGP).

The Office of the Governor's, Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) has advised planners across the state to operate with the same six NPAs mentioned above. In review of the NPAs from this administration's previous time in office, they are very similar to the current NPAs. As such the HSGD believes that we will be able to still fit projects in should a change occur because they believe it will be minimal. Unfortunately, the Department of Homeland Security will not release the Notice of Fund Availability to the states until well after applications are submitted and this body approves the priority list. So, we will move forward as planned. Also, at play, is a moving target in terms of a deadline for submission of priority lists. The Department of Homeland Security requires a 14-day turnaround once the HSGD batches applications to the COGs. In an effort to allow the PREMAC and this Board to review and approve the prioritization, as well as prevent missing the deadline, we will have the PREMAC meet after applications are submitted. The prioritization list will be presented at the Board Meeting. The seven projects that will be reviewed by the PREMAC are summarized as follows (in no particular order):

1. FY25 Regional PANCOM M&O Project
2. FY25 Non-EMPG Emergency Operations Plan Update Project
3. FY25 PARIS Maintenance Project
4. FY25 Regional Planning & Coordination Project
5. FY25 Amarillo Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Enhancement Project
6. FY25 Amarillo Regional Bomb Squad Enhancement Project
7. FY25 Amarillo Regional Crime Center

In conclusion, considering all the different nuances in play the PREMAC's prioritization list will be provided to the Board of Directors at the meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. As with recent years, the PREMAC will develop an if/then set of scenarios to give you as well as the Office of the Governor's, Homeland Security Grant Division an idea of how they would like to see the region's funding allocated across the seven projects submitted depending upon the funding level the region should receive.

Judge Cristy Dyer motioned for the Board to consider approving the FY25 State Homeland Security Program project prioritizations recommended by the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee for submission to the Homeland Security Grant Division of the Governor's Office by the prioritization deadline. Mayor Cole Stanley seconded the motion; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

**21. REGIONAL SERVICES REGIONAL SOLID WASTE GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that under Section 361.014 of the Health and Safety Code the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sends roughly one-third (1/3) of the tipping fees received from landfills around the state to go towards local and regional solid waste projects that are consistent with the municipal solid waste geographic planning regions for use by local governments and regional planning commissions. Each region must produce a biennial report to the legislature detailing how the revenue is spent. Each of the 24 Councils of Government have compiled a combined report each biennium to the legislature. H-GAC graciously compiles the report on behalf of all the COGs and Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and delivers the report to our legislators. The most recent legislative report was completed for fiscal years 2022/2023. All of the legislative reports since 2010/2011 can be found at: <https://txregionalcouncil.org/regional-programs/municipal-solid-waste/>. In recent years, the highlights across the State of Texas have been household hazardous waste, illegal dumping, recycling and scrap tires. The Regional Solid Waste Grants Program is an important program across the state. It has provided crucial funding for projects that protect the environment, safeguard the health of residents, general welfare and physical property. The appropriation of these funds is how the Panhandle Environmental Partnership or PEP was established in 1996 and continues to divert materials from our region's landfills daily. Within our 26 counties, we regularly see cardboard (OCC), office paper, mixed paper, plastics, scrap metal, scrap tires and used motor oil get recycled. This agenda item is to highlight that the funds are accomplishing less and less over the years.

This agenda item was informational only. No action was needed.

**22. PRPC TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Mr. Mike Peters informed the Board of Directors that PRPC Staff attended the Texas Association of Councils (TARC) Bi-Annual Staff Training and Board of Directors Meeting this month in Austin, Texas. The Texas Panhandle is well represented on the Board of Directors by Tobe Shields, the Mayor of Spearman. As we are in the 89th Legislature's regular session that began on January 14th and runs through June 2nd until they call special sessions, there have been many bills that are introduced that TARC staff provided for our review. These bills may affect councils of governments, municipalities, or county government. The topics range from general appropriations, economic development, emergency communications, environmental quality, health and human services, political subdivisions, transportation and water. As we continue through the legislative session we want to provide this information to the leadership within the Texas Panhandle to allow you time to make comments to our local leaders related to any possible new legislative actions that have any impact to our region.

This agenda item was informational only. No action was needed.

**23. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**24. MISCELLANEOUS NON-ACTION INFORMATION ITEMS**

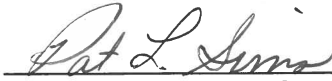
- A. Comments from the Executive Director.
- B. Report on the following recent Planning Commission sponsored regional meetings:
  - 12/11/2024 – Panhandle Workforce Development Board Meeting
  - 12/12/2024 – Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium's Governing Board Meeting
  - 12/12/2024 – Matter of Balance, Stinnett Senior Citizens
  - 12/17/2024 – READY/SET/THRIVE, Childress Senior Citizens
  - 12/17/2024 – Cyber Safety for Seniors, Jan Werner

- 12/17/2024 – Region A Panhandle Water Planning Group Agricultural Meeting
- 12/17/2024 – Region A Panhandle Water Planning Group Full Committee Meeting
- 01/15/2025 – Transfer on Death Deed, Prince of Peace Seniors
- 01/21/2025 – Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning Meeting

C. Announcement of tentatively scheduled Planning Commission sponsored regional meetings:

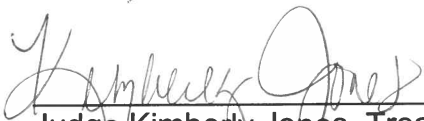
25. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.



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Commissioner Pat Sims, Vice Chairman  
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Kimberly Jones, Treasurer/Secretary  
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission  
Board of Directors

