

# A Call To Serve



## A Salute To Public Service In The Texas Panhandle

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Photography by Shannon Richardson Photography, Amarillo

“ *Never doubt  
that a small group  
of thoughtful  
**committed citizens**  
can change the world;  
indeed, it's the only  
thing that ever has.* ”

Margaret Mead  
American Cultural Anthropologist

# Thoughts On Public Service From A Panhandle Legend...

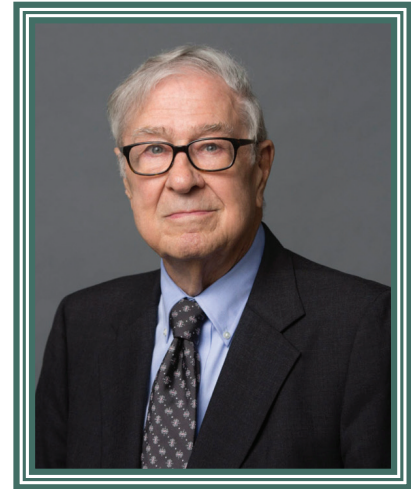
When I think of public service, I think of it as the price we pay for the space we occupy. At the simplest level, we all get up each day, turn on the water to brush our teeth and then jump in our car to head out to our destination. We take for granted that the water will be plentiful, and that the roads we drive on will be maintained. But we don't think about the fact that someone is behind the scenes performing these public service jobs to ensure that each of us has safe water and well-maintained roadways. Taxes are the way we pay for and utilize these "necessities" of life. So for starters, each of us is the recipient of public service every day and able to navigate life in a much easier and safer way thanks to work performed by public servants.

I'm often asked if I chose the path of public service or if the path chose me. My answer: a little of both. In high school I joined the debate team that helped me to broaden my outlook on life. Also my upbringing in the church taught me we are responsible for our neighbors. I spent many years serving as a lawyer learning how to help others in my community who needed counsel and a voice for positive change. Later I ran for State Senate, and became the youngest person in the Senate. My political slogan was "Max Sherman will listen to you."

And I did listen. The attribute of listening helped develop a passion and aptitude for public service, allowing me the opportunity to meet and talk with thousands of men and women across the Panhandle about a wide range of issues. Some shared similar views to my own and others held diametrically opposed views. But by listening, I began to understand that public service was not just pushing through my own agenda. It was sincerely listening to constituents and helping solve their problems.

When engaging in public service, I believe it is critical to be sure you are doing it to 'serve' others, not to feed your own ego. Who you are is more important than your title. Most people go into public service for the right reasons. To do something good. To improve something.

Make no mistake. Public service has its challenges. According to historian and biographer David McCullough, President Harry Truman once said of public service, "One of the hardest things you will



**Max Sherman**  
**53 years of public service**

do is look a friend in the eyes and say *no*." Public service is not easy. It is work – important work that must be done.

In today's environment of email, cell phones, social media and instant news, public service has become tougher. We often don't communicate in personal ways. Some people distrust public servants and do not show respect for them or what they are trying to accomplish. We as public servants start wondering if we are indeed making a difference. Often, the divisive issues being debated on the national stage make it harder to focus on and solve local and regional matters.

To those public servants who may be suffering burn out or are weary of this sometimes unconstructive environment, I recommend taking a sabbatical from serving. People need a break from time to time. They need to get away from the pressure and spend time reflecting. It may mean stepping down from a position for a year or two. It may just mean taking a weekend to go fishing without taking any calls. It may mean practicing meditation for an hour a week. Public servants need to take care of themselves in order to help others.

Something else I believe is important to the future of the Panhandle region is recruiting new men and women to serve. I recently chaired two committees at my church. When asked to chair a third, I said "no." It's easy to turn repeatedly to those who have served and done it well. I suggested recruiting some newer, younger folks to serve.

To sustain the vocation of public service, a new generation needs to engage with those who have served for years. Fresh ideas are great and melding old and new thinking is beneficial. If you have never served in a public service capacity, please consider doing so. If you are a long-time public servant, “invite” someone who has yet to serve to come aboard. Help guide them through the process of getting involved. Along with the challenges are great rewards of making your community and region a better place to live.

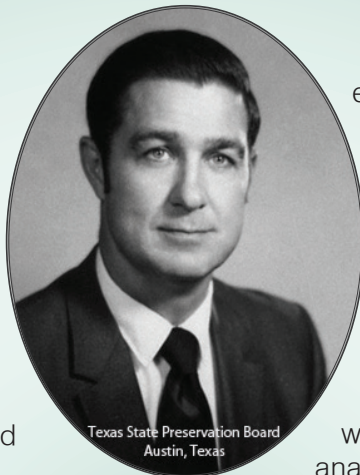
Those of us who live or have lived in the Panhandle have been blessed by public servants. Public service work performed by thousands of men and women

through the decades since the region was founded has helped make the 26-county region the wonderful place it is today. There is a richness in the Panhandle. It is a unique part of the country.

We must continue the commitment to public service so that our Texas Panhandle heritage continues to grow stronger. There is something each of us can do to serve – whether it’s a small volunteer effort or a more demanding leadership position. I encourage everyone to take a step in the direction of public service. You’ll reap unexpected rewards and have no regrets about the time and energy you put forth. ➔

Few people know the value, challenges, and rewards of public service better than the Panhandle’s own Max Sherman. As an infant, Max and his family moved from northern Arkansas to the community of Phillips in Hutchinson County, Texas. At Phillips High School he served as student body president. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Baylor University where again he was elected student body president and also chosen as the “Most Representative” senior male student. While at Baylor, he was elected President of the Texas Intercollegiate Students’ Association, which at that time was representative of all of the public and private colleges and universities in Texas. Max then enrolled in the University of Texas School of Law from which he graduated in 1960. Following graduation, he enlisted and served seven years (both active duty and the reserves) in the U.S. Army commissioned as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps

Upon leaving the Army, Mr. Sherman returned to his Texas Panhandle and joined a large Amarillo law firm. In November of 1970, at the age of 35, the people of the Panhandle elected the young, enthusiastic Democrat to Texas State Senate District 31. He quickly became a leader in the Senate where he chaired a number of committees and in 1973, on a unanimous vote of his colleagues, was



Circa 1971

elected President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate, subsequently serving as Governor of Texas on April 27, 1974.

In 1977, Mr. Sherman left the Senate to become President of then West Texas State University in Canyon. During his five-year tenure as President, the University’s administrative structure was streamlined and education requirements were raised with increased emphasis on analytical reasoning, communications skills, and cultural heritage.

**Max Sherman**  
**Chair Emeritus in State and Local Government**  
**Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**

Mr. Sherman was named Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in July of 1983 and served in that post through September of 1997. When Max announced his

retirement as Dean, the Texas Senate passed a resolution to honor him. At the ceremony, the late Amarillo Republican Senator Teel Bivins described Sherman as “our most distinguished Panhandle resident.”

Mr. Sherman was named “Texan of the Year” by the Advisory Committee of the Texas Legislative Conference in 1998 and in 2000 was honored as one of the “100 Most Influential Persons of the High Plains in the 20th Century”.

Max and his wife, the former Gene Alice Wienbroer of Borger, are retired from public service and reside in Austin. ➔



## Letter from the Board Chair

### Kerry Symons

Mayor Pro-Tem,  
City of Perryton

#### **15 years of public service**

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Board Chair for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission for the past year. Working with fellow Board members, as well as the PRPC staff, committee chairs and members, and dozens of volunteers, has been a rewarding experience. Working together on important issues that impact our region has reinforced my belief that when people come together focused on a common goal of making the Panhandle a better place to live and work, great things happen.

As you look through this annual report, the importance of public service is clearly highlighted as this year's report theme. You will notice photos of a number of individuals who have led the key programs, from Aging to Water Planning, that make up the PRPC initiatives. These men and women have been selected to lead because of their expertise, commitment, and knowledge about the areas they are overseeing. These are public servants who have given tirelessly of their time and talents for years in their communities to ensure our region thrives. Beside each person's name you will note a number representing the total years he/she has served the public. Many of these individuals have devoted two, three, and even four decades of their lives to public service. The PRPC staff, for example, has collectively given more than 400 years of public service to our region.

The comments that Max Sherman has shared about public service are very insightful. His words are applicable to those who have spent many years in such public endeavors, as well as those who are new to the public service environment or those who may be contemplating such a career. As Max pointed out, there is something that each of us can do — large or small — to make our region exceptional.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate and thank the PRPC Executive Director Gary Pitner as he retires from his post after 40 years of service with the PRPC. His leadership, and that of his staff, has been instrumental in growing our region significantly, and ensuring that important issues facing our cities and counties have been dealt with professionally, expediently, and knowledgeably. Under Gary's guidance, the PRPC has developed creative ways for our communities to work together and share resources even when funds were unavailable or insufficient. Gary will be missed, and we wish him the best as he moves to the next chapter of his life.

I look forward to continuing my work with the long-term public servants at the PRPC who I have been privileged to work with throughout my involvement with the organization. I also look forward to meeting the next generation of public servants who can begin their tenure serving our region. ➔

*Kerry Symons*

2017 PRPC Board Chair

# 2017 PRPC Board of Directors



**Kerry Symons (15)**  
Chair  
Mayor Pro-Tem, City  
of Perryton



**Dr. John Howard (11)**  
Vice Chair  
Judge, County of  
Donley



**Ricky White (4)**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Mayor, City of  
Friona



**Don Allred (35)**  
Judge, County of  
Oldham



**Juan Cantu (26)**  
Commissioner,  
County of Lipscomb



**Cleo Castro (12)**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Cactus



**Buster Davis (15)**  
Mayor, City of  
Gruver



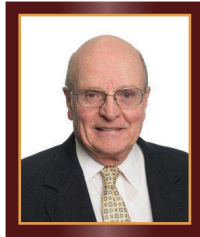
**Irene Favila (18)**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Hereford



**Bob Gober (42)**  
Alderman, City of  
Canadian



**Ronnie Gordon (24)**  
Judge, County of  
Hartley



**Dr. Bill Hallerberg (23)**  
Canadian River  
Municipal  
Water Authority



**Paul Harpole (8)**  
Mayor, City of  
Amarillo



**Saul Hernandez (8)**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Amarillo



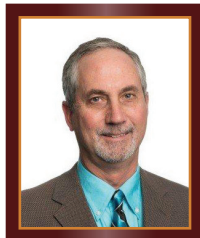
**Ernie Houdashell (15)**  
Judge, County of  
Randall



**John James (13)**  
Judge, County of  
Collingsworth



**Harold Keeter (29)**  
Judge, County of  
Swisher



**Dan Looten (17)**  
Judge, County of  
Carson



**Jay Mayden (15)**  
Judge, County of  
Childress



**Wayne Nance (22)**  
Judge, County of  
Briscoe



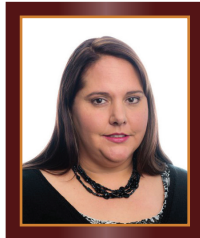
**Karen Price (20)**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Pampa



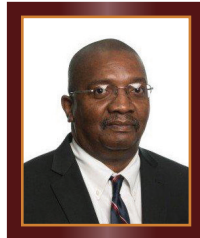
**Walter "Four" Price (8)**  
Texas House of  
Representatives,  
District 87



**Salvador "Sal"  
Rivera (28)**  
Sheriff, County of  
Castro



**Amelia Salazar (10)**  
Councilwoman,  
Palisades Village



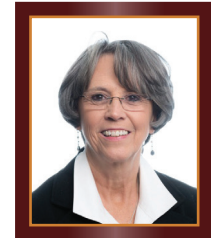
**Winston Sauls (17)**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Borger



**Pat Sims (19)**  
Mayor, City of  
Dumas



**Phillip Self (17)**  
Greenbelt Municipal  
and Industrial  
Water Authority



**Nancy Tanner (28)**  
Judge, County of  
Potter

# Letter from the Executive Director

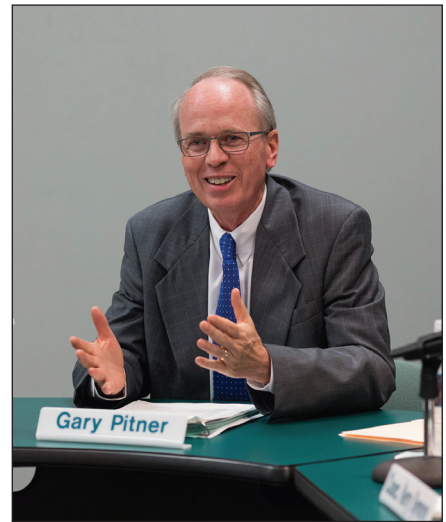
*Allow* me to begin my brief note by thanking Max Sherman for sharing his thoughts on public service on the first few pages of this year's annual report. Max signed my college diploma and handed it to me on graduation day back in the 1970's from what was then West Texas State University. That public administration degree was the beginning of what turned out to be my 40-year public sector career with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission. Therefore, it seems so fitting that as I retire, Max Sherman is once again offering words of wisdom and encouragement to those of us involved in service to the public.

It has been my privilege to have worked for and with the good folks of the Texas Panhandle for all of these years. The gracious civility which marks regionalism in the Panhandle is truly unique, amazing, and immensely valuable. Thanks so much to the hundreds of area elected officials and the dozens of PRPC Board members who have supported and led this organization during my tenure of service.

I also want to say a special thank you to my colleagues who have served with me on the staff of the Planning Commission. You guys have proven time and time again that you are the very best at what you do. Keep up the good work!

Finally, I'm proud of what the Panhandle has been able to accomplish through regional cooperation. I will not even begin to articulate those achievements as the list would be much too long. However, I think it is more than fair to say that the Texas Panhandle is a far better place because we work together.

Thanks for putting up with this shy, skinny, West Texas "kid" for all these years. It's been a great ride!



**Gary Pitner**  
**40 years of public service**

*Gary Pitner*, Executive Director





# 2017 PRPC Staff



Gary Pitner (40)  
 John Kiehl (30)  
 Sharee Bailey (28)  
 Rebecca Rusk (27)  
 Janet Schulte (24)  
 Heike Bowen (24)  
 Cristy Henderson (23)  
 Cindy Boone (23)  
 Inger Williams (23)  
 Julie Lyles (19)  
 Melissa Carter (17)

Michael Peters (17)  
 Leslie Hardin (17)  
 Emily Nolte (14)  
 Kyle Ingham (13)  
 Lisa Hancock (11)  
 Pamela Frisk (9)  
 Gracie Aragon (9)  
 Yvette Gaytan (9)  
 John Schaumburg (7)  
 Christina Montana (7)  
 Shane Brown (7)

Sundee Rossi (6)  
 Khasi Campos (5)  
 Randy Braidfoot (4)  
 Jaime Morales (4)  
 Laurie McAfee (4)  
 Lori Gunn (3)  
 Dustin Meyer (3)  
 Felicia Shaffer (3)  
 Marin Rivas (3)  
 Becky Blair (2)  
 Kathy Cabezuela (2)

Georgette Pond (2)  
 Josie Mayorga (1)  
 Stephine Neuwirth (1)  
 Jacy Faulkner (1)  
 Craig Wolf (1)  
 Kathryn English (1)  
 Patricia Baca (1)  
 Kurt Grant (1<)  
 Jamie Hall (1<)

# AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves as the advocate for the Panhandle's elderly population. The AAA offers a range of comprehensive and coordinated programs designed to assist the region's elderly population and those who care for them.

“ *I shall pass through  
this world but once.  
Any **good** therefore  
that I can do  
or any **kindness** that  
I can show  
to any human being,  
**let me do it now.**  
Let me not defer  
or neglect it,  
for I shall not  
pass this way again.* ”

Mahatma Gandhi  
Global Humanitarian

## Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council

Darrell Cook, Chair . . . . . Amarillo  
Alan Abraham . . . . . Amarillo  
Erin Bergin . . . . . Perryton  
Elvira Blakemore . . . . . Amarillo  
Desha Butler . . . . . Amarillo  
Andy Crocker . . . . . Amarillo  
Jessica Martinez-Garcia . . . . . Lubbock  
Jacob Reed . . . . . Amarillo  
Joe Rogers . . . . . Amarillo  
Todd Town . . . . . Amarillo  
Lisa Underwood . . . . . Amarillo  
Clara Valdez . . . . . Amarillo  
Joyce Williams . . . . . Amarillo  
Brad White . . . . . Amarillo

Fiscal Year 2017 was a very productive year for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff. Nearly 140,000 meals were provided for seniors, including both congregate meals and those delivered to seniors' homes. The AAA staff provided more than 2,200 hours of counseling for seniors wanting advice on Medicare and Medicaid. More than 4,000 hours of respite care were provided to caregivers, providing them much-needed time to recuperate from the stresses of caregiving.

The Matter of Balance class attendees more than doubled to 1,420 over the previous fiscal year. One-way trips for seniors, transporting them to doctor visits and other necessary destinations, totaled 2,368 trips.



**Darrell Cook**, Owner, ProMed Pharmacies  
Chair, Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council  
**3 years of public service**



**Terri Carter**, Sherman County Judge  
 Chair, Panhandle Workforce  
 Development Consortium Governing Body  
**22 years of public service**

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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The region's Workforce Development Programs help Panhandle employers recruit, hire, and retain qualified personnel. They also provide workers needed training to obtain and keep jobs. The PRPC serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Panhandle Workforce Development Board.

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## Panhandle Workforce Development Consortium Governing Body

- |                     |       |                  |
|---------------------|-------|------------------|
| Terri Carter, Chair | ..... | Sherman County   |
| Paul Harpole        | ..... | Amarillo         |
| Harold Keeter       | ..... | Swisher County   |
| Jay Mayden          | ..... | Childress County |
| Richard Peet        | ..... | Gray County      |
| Willis Smith        | ..... | Lipscomb County  |
| Nancy Tanner        | ..... | Potter County    |

## Panhandle Workforce Development Board

Charlyn Snow, Chair . . . . .	Amarillo
Francisco Apodaca . . . . .	Pampa
Irene Arnold . . . . .	Amarillo
Jay Barrett . . . . .	Amarillo
Wanda Brooks . . . . .	Dumas
Dr. Tamara Clunis . . . . .	Amarillo
Drew Downs . . . . .	Amarillo
Heather Freeman . . . . .	Amarillo
Jeremy Gonzales . . . . .	Hereford
Mike Good . . . . .	Amarillo
Michelle Griffin . . . . .	Borger
Sam Harper . . . . .	Lubbock
Lynda McCarty . . . . .	Amarillo
Jim McDaniel . . . . .	Dalhart
Sandra McKinney . . . . .	Amarillo
Pat Montoya . . . . .	Pampa
Jack Moreman . . . . .	Clarendon
Dale Ried . . . . .	Amarillo
Charlie Rivas . . . . .	Amarillo
Dr. Robert Riza . . . . .	Clarendon
Valarie Robbins . . . . .	Amarillo
David Wetmore . . . . .	Amarillo
Terri Wilson . . . . .	Amarillo
Andrew Woodruff . . . . .	Amarillo
Magi York . . . . .	Amarillo



**Charlyn Snow**, Administrator, Amarillo Pathology Group and Physicians Preferred Laboratory  
 Chair, Panhandle Workforce Development Board  
**7 years of public service**

One of the Panhandle Workforce Development Board’s goals is to assist local entities in their efforts to build a labor force that sustains local communities and supports a positive economic climate. Through the operation and management of the region’s one-stop service delivery system known as Workforce Solutions Panhandle (WSP), 3,500 job seekers were assisted per month during the past year. The WSP “Entered Employment” figure for the past 12-month timeframe was 12,777.

Once WSP customers enter training or become employed, they may need assistance with subsidized child care. More than 3,000 Panhandle children from low-income families were provided child care services during the past year.

“ *The highest of distinctions is service to others.* ”

King George VI

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The PRPC's Economic Development Program assists local government entities and area businesses in enhancing the economic environment and encouraging the sustainable development of the region. Such assistance includes regional economic planning, grant preparation and administration, and topical workshops. Loans are provided through two Micro-Loan programs.

## Economic Development Advisory Committee

Clay Rice, Chair	Pampa
Chris Alexander	Friona
Kathy Allen	Stratford
Keila Bain	Vega
Beverly Benton	Borger
Shawn Campbell	Perryton
David Dockery	Clarendon
Russell Graves	Childress
Jason Harrison	Amarillo
Michael Kitten	Hereford
Dion Miller	Tulia
Kristen Moudy	Wheeler
B. J. Potts	Dimmitt
Mike Running	Dumas
Shane Spencer	Canadian
Randy Stark	Quitaque

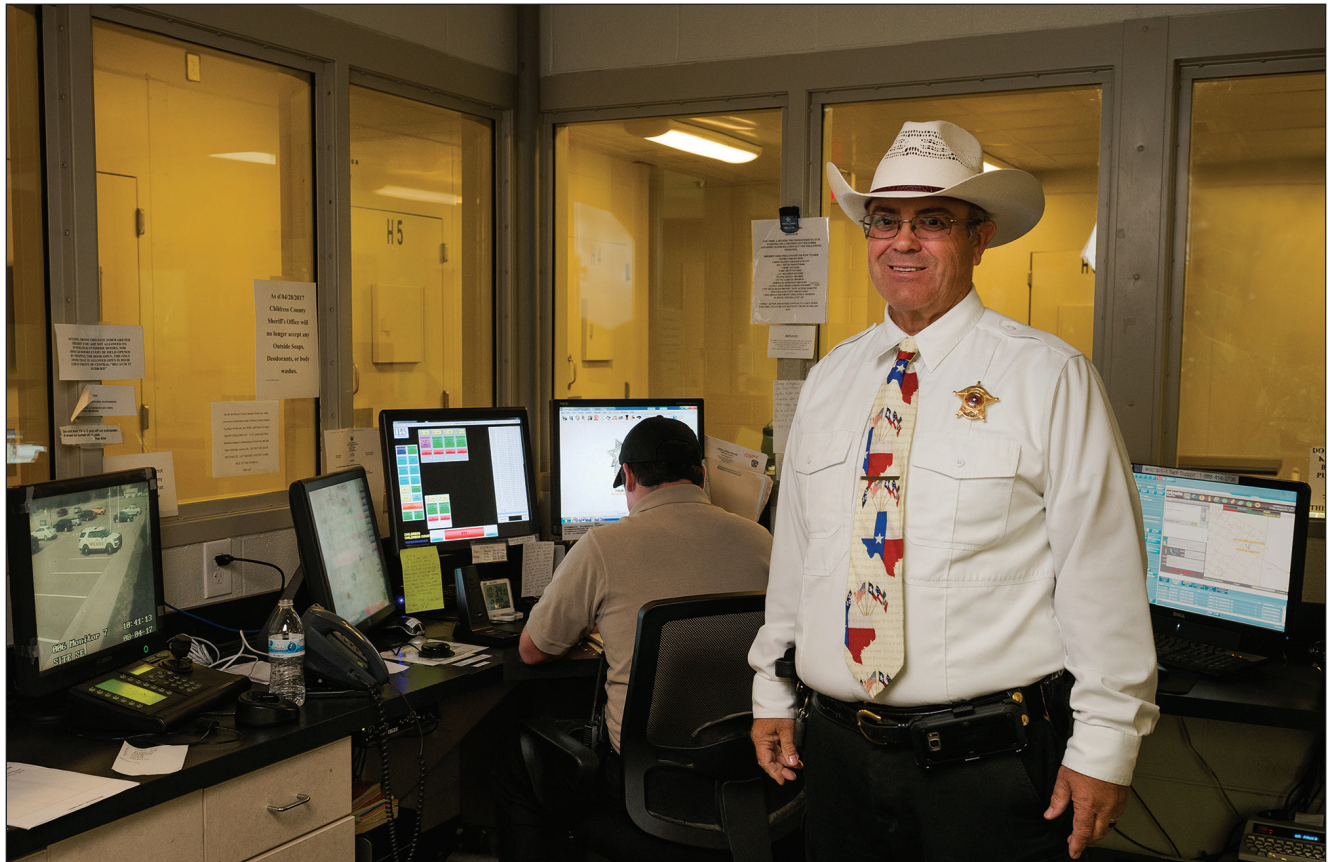


**Clay Rice**, Executive Director, Pampa Economic Development Corporation  
 Chair, Economic Development Advisory Committee  
**9 years of public service**

The Economic Development staff spent considerable effort on administration of several large economic development projects totaling \$2 million, including projects involving Amarillo College (Economic Development Administration), the City of Canyon (Economic Development Administration), and Hartley County (Texas Capital Fund).

The Micro-Loan programs were expanded to include a partnership with the West Texas A&M Enterprise Center.

The staff also completed a 2016/2017 comprehensive update to the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies.



**Michael Pigg**, Childress County Sheriff  
 Chair, Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee  
**38 years of public service**

### Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee

- Michael Pigg, Chair . . . . Childress County
- Renee Alexander-Tyler . . . Roberts County
- Charles Blackburn . . . . Donley County
- Loren Brand . . . . . Carson County
- Annette Brittain . . . . . Hemphill County
- Belinda Daniels . . . . . Shamrock
- Kenneth Eggleston . . . . Lipscomb County
- Mark Garcia . . . . . Amarillo
- Misty Garrett . . . . . Hansford County
- Natalie George . . . . . Armstrong County
- Randy Geries . . . . . Parmer County
- Penny Gilbert . . . . . Sherman County
- Robin Grice . . . . . Moore County
- Vicki Groneman . . . . . Oldham County
- Diann Guffy . . . . . Dallam County
- Tom Heck . . . . . Hall County
- Tony Hill . . . . . Perryton
- Linda Lewis . . . . . Borger
- Marcella Martinez . . . . . Tulia
- Lance Richburg . . . . . Pampa
- Kent Riley . . . . . Collingsworth County
- Sal Rivera . . . . . Castro County
- Jenni Spence . . . . . Wheeler County
- James Wakefield . . . . . Amarillo
- Kirstin Williams . . . . . Tulia

## REGIONAL 9-1-1 NETWORK

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The Regional 9-1-1 Network provides emergency communications services for residents in 24 Panhandle counties through a network of twenty-three 9-1-1 call centers.

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The Regional 9-1-1 Network delivered more than 350,000 calls over the past year. Twenty-two call recording systems were replaced across the region.

The Regional 9-1-1 Network also completed its effort to upgrade both equipment and the Network to provide callers the capability to text information to call centers. All 23 call centers can now receive text messages as well as direct phone calls.

“ *Your nation will succeed or fail to the degree that all of us citizens and businesses alike are active participants in building strong, sustainable and enriching communities.* ”

Arnold Hiatt  
Former CEO of the Stride Rite Corp.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The PRPC’s Local Government Services Department assists area cities and counties in addressing community development needs. Services can be seen through such improvements as new parks, sewer and water infrastructure, and local planning assistance. The PRPC also delivers management services to area municipalities.

### Texas Revenue Recovery Association

Don Jennings, Chair . . . . .	Perryton
Chris Coffman . . . . .	Granbury
Sarianne Beversdorf . . . . .	Plainview
Jennifer Gonzalez . . . . .	Amarillo
Jay Patel . . . . .	Dumas
B. J. Potts . . . . .	Dimmitt
Tina Rex . . . . .	Spearman
Chris Sharp . . . . .	Canyon





**Don Jennings**, Director of Finance, City of Perryton  
Chair, Texas Revenue Recovery Association  
**25 years of public service**

Since 1983, the PRPC staff has provided administrative assistance for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects throughout the region. During the past year, staff wrote 25 applications to submit for the 2017/2018 TxCDBG competition, requesting funds for such projects as new water towers and sewer system improvements. The PRPC continued administration for CDBG projects in 16 cities/counties totaling \$4 million. In addition, the PRPC served as one of only five entities to pilot a self-monitoring program for the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The PRPC continued its long-time service of delivering City Management Services to communities that cannot afford full-time administrative personnel. This year the staff provided more than 500 hours of City Management Services to the Village of Lake

Tanglewood and Timbercreek Canyon. The PRPC conducted Department Head and Manager searches in Dumas, Borger, and for the Palo Duro River Authority, as well as initiated Strategic Planning Services for Potter County. The PRPC also hosted four separate regional training opportunities related to open records, the 85th Legislative session, municipal law, and sub-standard property abatement.

The Texas Revenue Recovery Association (TRRA), a collaborative system to help communities recover delinquent municipal utility bills, completed its \$30,000 upgrade to the online TRRA System including a billing system data import process. The PRPC assisted in the collection of over \$65,000 in delinquent debt for member cities. Currently, over \$4,500,000 in delinquent debts are included in the TRRA database.



**Marsha Moberley**, Parole Commissioner,  
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,  
Amarillo Board Office  
Chair, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee  
**21 years of public service**

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PRPC's Criminal Justice Program has been designated by the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division, as the responsible entity for regional criminal justice planning efforts for the 26-county area. Such activities include coordinating and consolidating activities of the agencies to maximize funds and resources. The department assists in administering, monitoring, and reviewing grants for a range of activities. The PRPC also coordinates basic and in-service peace officer training through the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy.

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Law enforcement training is an important initiative of the Criminal Justice program. In conjunction with PRPC's contract with Amarillo College for the operation of the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA), more than 11,000 hours of in-service training was provided to over 700 of the region's city and county licensed peace officers.

The PRPC staff conducted six regional victim services trainings involving over 500 participants and assisted nine individuals in attending the annual statewide Crimes Against Women conference as a step toward reducing the instances of domestic violence and sexual assault committed against female adults in the Texas Panhandle.

The PRPC also assisted 38 Panhandle agencies in applying for state and federal grants to support local criminal justice projects and victim services programs, with a total of \$2,116,044 to those agencies selected for funding.

### Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Marsha Moberley, Chair	..	Amarillo
Kent Birdsong	.....	Oldham County
Letta Day	.....	Amarillo
Sace Hardman	.....	Panhandle
Brent Harrison	.....	Hereford
Harry Hueston	.....	Canyon
Monty Hysinger	.....	Dumas
Norma Luginbyhl	.....	Borger
Anna Kate Nobile	.....	Swisher County
Sara Northrup	.....	Amarillo
Nina Parvin	.....	Randall County
Cynthia Perales	.....	Deaf Smith County
Kendra Ramsey	.....	Amarillo
Marilyn Reisinger	.....	Perryton
Bruce Scott	.....	Dallam County
Tom Simons	.....	Hereford
Randall Sims	.....	Potter County
Jason Zang	.....	Amarillo



**Dave Kemp**, Retired Amarillo Attorney  
 Chair, Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board  
**30 years of public service**

Photo/The Amarillo Globe News

# DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The volunteers providing mediation services for the Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) contributed 362.5 hours of their time and expertise as trained mediators this past year. Because mediation services offer a more calm and reasoned approach compared to the adversarial aspect of the litigation process, the DRC freed up more than 127 court dates in district court and county-court-at-law.

More than 90 percent of the DRC cases involve family law cases which typically involve mediating such topics as divorce parameters, custody issues, separation of property, dealing with existing debts, and child and spousal support. The DRC had a successful settlement rate of 66.85 percent.

The Dispute Resolution Center offers mediation assistance by trained, impartial mediators to residents to help them resolve conflicts of all types.

## Dispute Resolution Center Advisory Board

Dave Kemp, Chair	.....Potter County
James Anderson	.....Randall County
Sally Emerson	.....Amarillo
Debra Horn	.....Amarillo
H.R. Kelly	.....Potter County
Dale Rabe	.....Childress
Chuck Speed	.....Amarillo
Nancy Tanner	.....Potter County
Phil Vanderpool	.....Pampa
Doug Woodburn	.....Amarillo

“ *The care of  
human life and  
happiness  
is the first and only  
legitimate  
objective of good  
government.* ”

Thomas Jefferson  
 3rd President of the United States

# SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The Regional Solid Waste Management Program assists the region's local governments in implementing regional solid waste initiatives. The primary goal is to provide guidance in the development and implementation of local and regional initiatives for alternative forms of waste disposal.

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“ *I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.* ”

Lily Tomlin  
American Actress, Comedian, Writer

## Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee

David Rushing, Chair . . . . . Shamrock  
 Paul Arganbright . . . . . Wheeler  
 Jildardo Arias . . . . . Pampa  
 Patty Avery . . . . . Amarillo  
 Cody Bengé . . . . . Fritch  
 Tommy Bogart . . . . . Stratford  
 Richard Collins . . . . . Perryton  
 Tim Cook . . . . . Canadian  
 Greg Dankworth . . . . . Amarillo  
 Ted B. Dodd . . . . . Borger  
 Ben Estep . . . . . Panhandle  
 Taylor Finley . . . . . Amarillo  
 Danny Gains . . . . . Clarendon  
 Scott Honeyfield . . . . . Amarillo  
 Susan Leary . . . . . Childress  
 David Lehfeltd . . . . . Amarillo  
 Cesar Marquez . . . . . Bovina  
 Richard Miller . . . . . White Deer  
 B.J. Potts . . . . . Dimmitt  
 Dan Reese . . . . . Canyon  
 Isidro Renteria . . . . . Dumas  
 Ricky Rivera . . . . . Pampa  
 Dennis Rojas . . . . . Dalhart  
 Kyle Schiederjan . . . . . Amarillo  
 Jim Smith . . . . . Texline  
 Steve Stout . . . . . Tulia  
 Newlyn Ward . . . . . Memphis  
 Benny Williams . . . . . Amarillo



**David Rushing**, City Manager, City of Shamrock  
Chair, Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee  
**17 years of public service**

In the late 1990's the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee formed the Panhandle Environmental Partnership or PEP to serve as a vehicle for facilitating rural recycling. This past year PEP assisted with the marketing and diversion of over 1,125 tons of recyclable materials and returned more than \$122,700 in sales proceeds to the PEP communities that recycled those materials.

The PRPC staff assisted 13 jurisdictions in developing FY17 Solid Waste grant applications. Eight were funded for a total of \$114,021, with the funds being used to support local recycling and community clean-up activities. Nearly 35 tons of electronic waste (TVs, computers, etc.) were diverted from area landfills through an annual Regional E-Waste Recycling event.

To keep the regional interoperable communications system known as PANCOM in full operation throughout the year, the PRPC PANCOM staff remained on call 24/7/365. Efforts included 115 service calls, administration of 456 monthly lease payments and 72 utility payments, and installation of back-up generators at two tower sites. In addition, the staff handled repairs of two extraordinary major incidents due to lightning strikes and ice.

The process of integrating the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) in with the region's mass notification system - PARIS - was completed this past year.

In addition, the staff assisted 21 cities and counties in maintaining their Emergency Operations Plans and submitted six county hazard mitigation plans for State and Federal review and consideration of approval.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Regional Emergency Preparedness Program supports the state's homeland security strategic plan. Its main goal is to better prepare the area's first responders to thwart and/or respond to and recover from large-scale, man-made or natural disasters.



**Kevin Starbuck**, Assistant City Manager, City of Amarillo  
Chair, Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee  
**16 years of public service**

## Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Kevin Starbuck, Chair . . . Amarillo  
 Blaine Bertrand . . . . . Randall County  
 Martin Birkenfeld . . . . . Amarillo  
 Tommy Brooks . . . . . Dumas  
 Terry Coffee . . . . . Panhandle  
 Jack Cox . . . . . Childress  
 Ken Daughtry . . . . . Wheeler County  
 Dr. Robert E. Deotte . . . . . Canyon  
 Eddie Edwards . . . . . Borger  
 Trey Ellis . . . . . Parmer County  
 Dr. David Finch . . . . . Amarillo  
 Chris Forbis . . . . . Randall County  
 Steve Fuston . . . . . Dumas  
 Randy Geries . . . . . Parmer County  
 Mike Gittinger . . . . . Amarillo  
 Danny Hardcastle . . . . . Wheeler County  
 Will Hendon . . . . . Amarillo  
 Harold Keeter . . . . . Swisher County  
 Richard Lake . . . . . Potter County  
 Greg Lee . . . . . Pampa  
 P. J. Lemons . . . . . Amarillo  
 Marc Lusk . . . . . Amarillo  
 Russell Luther . . . . . Amarillo  
 Jay Mayden . . . . . Childress County  
 Jeff McCormick . . . . . Pampa  
 Erica Widick McDowell . . . . . Oldham County  
 Rodney Mosier . . . . . Amarillo  
 Kiley David Murray . . . . . Amarillo  
 Kelly Northcott . . . . . Amarillo  
 B. J. Potts . . . . . Dimmitt  
 Jim Powell . . . . . Perryton  
 Dan E. Reese . . . . . Canyon  
 Kirk Self . . . . . Canyon  
 Bryan Tucker . . . . . Childress  
 Dean Turney . . . . . Hereford  
 Eric Wallace . . . . . Amarillo  
 Ben Weinheimer . . . . . Amarillo  
 Theresa West . . . . . Amarillo  
 Ross Wilson . . . . . Amarillo  
 Zack Wilson . . . . . Amarillo  
 Dale Xiangyu . . . . . Canyon

“ *And I say to you  
 that it is the **work**  
 of public employees –  
 it is the work of  
 those who work in the  
 public sector – to **hope**,  
 to be **optimistic**, and  
 to build a **better**,  
**safer, fairer**,  
**more just society.** ”*

Lawrence H. Summers  
 Former President of Harvard University



**C.E. Williams**, General Manager,  
Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District  
Chair, Panhandle Water Planning Group  
**27 years of public service**

Panhandle Water Planning Group	
C.E. Williams, Chair . . . . .	White Deer
Dr. Brent Auvermann . . . . .	Amarillo
Joe Baumgardner . . . . .	Amarillo
Dr. Nolan Clark . . . . .	Amarillo
Vernon Cook . . . . .	Roberts County
Dean Cooke . . . . .	Borger
Jim Derrington . . . . .	Spearman
Rick Gibson . . . . .	Amarillo
Rusty Gilmore . . . . .	Amarillo
Glen Green . . . . .	Amarillo
Janet Guthrie . . . . .	Canadian
Dr. Bill Hallerberg . . . . .	Amarillo
Floyd Hartman . . . . .	Amarillo
Bobby Kidd . . . . .	Childress
Tonya Kleuskens . . . . .	Canyon
Danny Krienke . . . . .	Perryton
David Landis . . . . .	Perryton
Kent Satterwhite . . . . .	Sanford
Lynn Smith . . . . .	Wellington
Beverly Stephens . . . . .	Borger
Janet Tregellas . . . . .	Booker
Steve Walthour . . . . .	Dumas
Ben Weinheimer . . . . .	Amarillo

# WATER PLANNING

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At the request of the Panhandle Water Planning Group, the PRPC serves as the administrative agent for the comprehensive water planning process for the region.

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Every five years the PRPC works with members of the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) to develop an updated Panhandle Regional Water Plan. Last year the 2016 Panhandle Regional Water Plan was adopted. The Plan is designed to identify where needs may occur over the next 50 years, as well as recommend strategies to assist the region in conserving enough water for future generations for municipal and agricultural use.

The Plan accounted for 2010 annual water demands of 1,800,000 acre-feet with 93 percent of that being for agriculture use and projected demands out 50 years. The Plan developed and ranked over 25 separate water strategies to meet future projected water needs.

The Groundwater Management Area #1 (GMA #1) established 2017 Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the major aquifers in the region while considering all nine statutorily required factors. GMA #1 organized, compiled, and posted over 8,000 pages worth of DFC supporting documentation. In addition, the GMA #1 hosted the final four meetings of 20 necessary to develop DFCs over the five years for the region.





**Bob Zimmer**, Secretary, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors  
 Chair, Groundwater Management Area #1  
**31 years of public service**

**Groundwater Management Area #1**

- Bob Zimmer, Chair . . . . . Dumas
- Jason Coleman . . . . . Lubbock
- Janet Guthrie . . . . . Canadian
- Jim Haley . . . . . Hemphill County
- Danny Hardcastle . . . . . Wheeler County
- Lynn Tate . . . . . Amarillo
- Steve Walthour . . . . . Dumas
- C.E. Williams . . . . . White Deer

“ *Everyone can be great because **anyone can serve.** You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve ... You only need a **heart full of grace.** A soul generated by love ... ”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
 African American Civil Rights Leader

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The PRPC, under the guidance of the Texas Department of Transportation, serves as lead agency for the Texas Panhandle to develop regional public transportation service initiatives. The Planning Commission also supports the transportation planning efforts of local elected officials under the auspices of the Panhandle Rural Planning Organization and the Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation.

In conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the PRPC adopted the 2017 five-year update to the Panhandle Regional Public Transportation Plan with over 80 pages of useful information for the region.

One primary objective of the plan was to identify all available public transportation resources in the region. With input from focus groups and surveys from both public transportation users and end service providers, over 25 optional public transportation-related strategies were identified.

The PRPC staff assisted the Amarillo Metropolitan Planning Organization in pursuing assistance for the proposed change to State Loop 335.

The PRPC has continued its administrative services role with both the Panhandle Rural Transportation Planning Organization (PRPO) and the Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation (RPORT). The RPOs work closely with the district engineers to prioritize transportation infrastructure projects through the region. The PRPC assisted the RPOs in the prioritization of over \$20,000,000 in rural transportation projects through local government input into the TxDOT prioritization process.

## Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation

Rowdy Rhoades, Chair . . . . .	Moore County
Jake Bunn . . . . .	Amarillo
Anette Carlisle . . . . .	Amarillo
Isabel Carmarillo. . . . .	Amarillo
Melissa Carter . . . . .	Amarillo
Jim Chilcote . . . . .	Amarillo
Eric Garcia . . . . .	Amarillo
Alfredo Gonzales. . . . .	Amarillo
Craig Lawlis . . . . .	Amarillo
Dan Looten . . . . .	Carson County
Jay Mayden . . . . .	Childress County
Trent Morris . . . . .	Amarillo
Travis Muno . . . . .	Amarillo
Richard Neill . . . . .	Amarillo
Vincent Perez . . . . .	Amarillo
Joe Rogers . . . . .	Amarillo
Laura Reyher . . . . .	Amarillo
Lylene Springer. . . . .	Amarillo
Susan Stevenson . . . . .	Amarillo
Nancy Tanner . . . . .	Potter County
Benny Wilson . . . . .	Hansford County

## Panhandle Rural Planning Organization

Wes Ritchey, Chair . . . . .	Dallam County
Don Allred . . . . .	Oldham County
Terri Carter . . . . .	Sherman County
Cindy Irwin . . . . .	Hutchinson County
George Briant . . . . .	Hemphill County
Aldo Gallegos . . . . .	Cactus
Ronnie Gordon . . . . .	Hartley County
Ernie Houdashell . . . . .	Randall County
Dan Looten . . . . .	Carson County
Earl McKinley . . . . .	Ochiltree County
Richard Peet . . . . .	Gray County
Kenneth Petr. . . . .	Borger
Dan Reese . . . . .	Canyon
Hugh Reed . . . . .	Armstrong County
Rowdy Rhoades . . . . .	Moore County
Willis Smith . . . . .	Lipscomb County
James Stroud . . . . .	Dalhart
Nancy Tanner . . . . .	Potter County
Rick Tennant. . . . .	Roberts County
D.J. Wagner. . . . .	Deaf Smith County
Benny Wilson . . . . .	Hansford County



Left to right: **Wes Ritchey**, Dallam County Judge  
 Chair, Panhandle Rural Planning Organization  
**24 years of public service**

**Rowdy Rhoades**, Moore County Judge  
 Chair, Panhandle Regional Organization  
 to Maximize Public Transportation  
**19 years of public service**

**Wayne Nance**, Briscoe County Judge  
 Chair, Rolling Plains Organization  
 for Rural Transportation  
**22 years of public service**

### Rolling Plains Organization for Rural Transportation

- Wayne Nance, Chair . . . . . Briscoe County
- Kevin Brendle . . . . . Dickens County
- Mark Christopher . . . . . Foard County
- Duane Daniel . . . . . King County
- Karl Holloway . . . . . Cottle County
- Dr. John Howard . . . . . Donley County
- Jerry Hefley . . . . . Wheeler County
- Ronald Ingram . . . . . Hardeman County
- John James . . . . . Collingsworth County
- Jay Maiden . . . . . Childress County
- Jim Meador . . . . . Motley County
- Brett Parr . . . . . Childress
- Ray Powell . . . . . Hall County
- Stan Wojcik . . . . . Knox County



*The **citizen can** bring  
 our political and  
 governmental institutions  
 back to life, make them  
**responsive and accountable,**  
 and keep them honest.  
 No one else can.* ””

John Gardner  
 Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare  
 under Former President Lyndon Johnson

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# 2017 BUDGET SUMMARY

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## BUDGETED EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

Workforce Development . . . . .	\$14,043,859
Aging . . . . .	2,059,076
Local Government Services . . . . .	281,581
Economic Development . . . . .	87,051
Dispute Resolution . . . . .	125,048
Regional 9-1-1 Network . . . . .	2,293,995
Criminal Justice . . . . .	259,099
Solid Waste Management . . . . .	233,561
Water Planning . . . . .	106,900
Emergency Preparedness . . . . .	994,299
Regional Services . . . . .	40,002
Regional Transportation Planning . . . . .	49,385
Reserve Contribution . . . . .	102,848
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<b>TOTAL 2017 BUDGETED PROGRAM EXPENDITURES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$20,676,704</b>

## BUDGETED PROGRAM REVENUE BY SOURCE

Federal Funds . . . . .	\$60,000
Federal Funds through State . . . . .	15,475,517
State Funds . . . . .	1,850,484
State Emergency Communications Funds . . . . .	2,293,995
Dispute Resolution Court Fees (Potter & Randall Counties) . . . . .	65,000
Contract Service Fees . . . . .	346,609
Local Government Membership Dues . . . . .	68,000
Local Matching Contributions . . . . .	491,044
Interest and Miscellaneous Revenues . . . . .	26,055
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<b>TOTAL 2017 BUDGETED PROGRAM REVENUES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$20,676,704</b>

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# 2017 MEMBERSHIP

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## Counties

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Armstrong	Gray	Oldham
Briscoe	Hall	Parmer
Carson	Hansford	Potter
Castro	Hartley	Randall
Childress	Hemphill	Roberts
Collingsworth	Hutchinson	Sherman
Dallam	Lipscomb	Swisher
Deaf Smith	Moore	Wheeler
Donley	Ochiltree	

## Cities

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Adrian	Dimmitt	Kress	Shamrock
Amarillo	Dodson	Lake Tanglewood	Silverton
Bishop Hills	Dumas	Lakeview	Skellytown
Booker	Farwell	Lefors	Spearman
Borger	Follett	McLean	Stinnett
Bovina	Friona	Memphis	Stratford
Cactus	Fritch	Miami	Sunray
Canadian	Groom	Mobeetie	Texhoma
Canyon	Gruver	Nazareth	Texline
Channing	Happy	Palisades Village	Timbercreek
Childress	Hart	Pampa	Tulia
Clarendon	Hedley	Panhandle	Vega
Claude	Hereford	Perryton	Wellington
Dalhart	Higgins	Quitaque	Wheeler
Darrouzett	Howardwick	Sanford	White Deer

## Special Districts

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Canadian River Municipal Water Authority  
Greenbelt Municipal and Industrial Water Authority  
Mackenzie Municipal Water Authority  
Palo Duro River Authority  
Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District

## **Panhandle Regional Planning Commission**

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission is a voluntary association of cities, counties and special districts in the Texas Panhandle. Established in 1969, the Planning Commission assists local governments in planning, developing and implementing programs designed to improve the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens in the Texas Panhandle.

The Planning Commission is an organization of, by and for local governments. It was created based on the concept that more can be accomplished by local governments acting cooperatively rather than alone. Since 1969, the Planning Commission has been involved in a wide range of projects and programs. Activities currently include initiatives in the areas of workforce development, aging, local government services, economic development, dispute resolution, 9-1-1 services, criminal justice, solid waste management, emergency preparedness, transportation planning, water planning, regional services and technical assistance to the local governments of the Panhandle.

The Panhandle region covers a 26-county area consisting of almost 26,000 square miles. The region's population is 427,927. The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission has 91 member governments – including all 26 counties, 60 incorporated cities and 5 special districts. ➔





**Panhandle Regional  
Planning Commission**

415 South West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 9257  
Amarillo, Tx 79105

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[www.theprpc.org](http://www.theprpc.org)