

PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 27, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026. This meeting was held in a hybrid format via video conference, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.127, with more than three counties in the State of Texas represented on the Board. Board members and individuals from the public who desired to attend in person attended the meeting at 415 S.W. 8th Ave., Amarillo, Potter County, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Pat Sims, Mayor, City of Dumas
- Shawn Ballew, Oldham County Judge
- Rank Cogdell, Briscoe County Judge
- Christy Dyer, Randall County Judge
- Chalone Hefley, Wheeler County Judge
- Dr. John Howard, Donley County Judge
- Oscar Ostos, Citizen Representative, City of Amarillo
- Nancy Tanner, Potter County Judge
- Isabel "Izzy" Carrasco, Parmer County Judge
- Eddie Edwards, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Ronae Bunn, Citizen Representative, City of Borger
- Daniel Jackson, Citizen Representative, City of Dimmitt
- Sal Rivera, Sheriff, Castro County
- Kerry Symons, Mayor, City of Perryton
- Cathy Bunch, Mayor, City of Hereford
- Juan Cantu, Lipscomb County Commissioner
- Aldo Gallegos, Citizens Representative, City of Cactus
- Cole Stanley, Mayor, City of Amarillo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Lt. Armando Renteria, Citizen Representative, City of Pampa
- Michael Clawson, Swisher County Judge
- Dan Looten, Carson County Judge
- Mitchell Locke, Roberts County Judge
- Wes Ritchey, Dallam County Judge
- Kimberly Jones, Childress County Judge
- Tobe Shields, Mayor, City of Spearman

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Michael Peters, Executive Director; Mr. Trent Taylor, Finance Director/Executive Deputy Director; Mr. Alex Guerrero, Local Government Services Director; Mr. Jarian Fred, Local Government Services Program Manager; Ms. Brynna Burnett, Local Government Services Program Specialist; Ms. Lori Gunn, Regional Government Services Director; Ms. Abby Sanders, Regional Emergency Management Planning Program Coordinator; Ms. Katrena Volden, Regional Services Program Specialist; Ms. Khasi Campos, Regional 9-1-1 Network Program Coordinator; Ms. Melissa Whitaker, Executive Assistant.

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pat Sims called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

2. **INVOCATION**

Commissioner Juan Cantu gave the invocation.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

4. **MINUTES**

Sheriff Sal Rivera moved to accept the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on July 23, 2026. Judge Rank Cogdell seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. **PRPC VOUCHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2026**

Mr. Trent Taylor informed the Board of Directors that the PRPC vouchers serve as tangible evidence of financial transactions, allowing review of all expenditures. This transparency builds trust and acts as a deterrent against fraudulent activities within our organization by requiring supporting documentation for every expenditure. July Vouchers total \$2,974,612.17

Judge John Howard motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the vouchers for the month of July 2026. Judge Nancy Tanner seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. **2027 PRPC MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE**

Mr. Trent Taylor informed the Board of Directors that the bylaws of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission require the Board of Directors to recommend a membership dues structure to the general membership for each fiscal year. The general membership will convene at the upcoming annual meeting to formally approve the membership dues structure for the 2027 Planning Commission year. The Planning Commission's membership dues rate is presently set at 8.5¢ per capita. Using the 2020 Census, the current rate translates into approximately \$69,364 in revenue to the Commission (see attached listing, which depicts each of our local governments' dues amounts based on the 8.5¢ per capita dues rate). Local dues funds are used primarily as matching dollars for various regional programs, seed money for special projects, and for certain specific Commission operational expenses. The Planning Commission's proposed 2027 budget has been prepared assuming no increase in the membership dues rate and the continuing high level of local government membership participation. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors met prior to the Board meeting to review the staff's suggested 2027 dues structure. The committee presented recommended action to the full Board of Directors on Thursday.

Judge John Howard motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the Executive Committee's review and recommended action of the staff's suggested 2027 dues structure. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. **2027 PRPC STRATEGIC WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**

Mr. Trent Taylor informed the Board of Directors that the Bylaws of the Planning Commission require the Board of Directors to annually review and recommend a work program and budget to the general membership. The general membership then reviews and adopts the budget at each year's annual meeting. The document was presented in detail to the Board's Executive Committee at its meeting prior to the Board meeting. The proposed 2027 Strategic Work Program and Budget will then be presented to the entire Board, with the Executive Committee's recommendations during the Board of Directors meeting.

Judge Izzy Carrasco motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the review of the proposed 2027 PRPC Strategic Work Program and Budget and the consideration of its recommendation to the general membership. Mr. Daniel Jackson seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

8. REGIONAL 9-1-1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Ms. Khasi Campos informed the Board of Directors that the Procedures and Policies of the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee call for members to serve staggered three-year terms, limited to two consecutive three-year terms. The terms of several members have expired. In order for the committee to maintain its full membership, it is necessary to consider the nomination of individuals to serve as representatives of their respective jurisdictions.

Nominations were made for the following agencies:

- Carson County – Sheriff Tam Terry
- Castro County – Brittany Llamas
- Childress County – Kendra Egerton
- Deaf Smith County – Kirsten Williams (Continuing Membership)
- Hall County – Sheriff Thomas Heck (Continuing Membership)
- Hutchinson County – Sidney Jordan (Continuing Membership)
- Ochiltree County – Rafael Gonzalez (Continuing Membership)
- Swisher County – Neyla Braddock

Election of Officers to serve for the next year.

- Chair – Will provide updates at the Board of Directors Meeting
- Vice-Chair – Will provide updates at the Board of Directors Meeting

Judge Rank Cogdell motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the nominations as presented and officer appointments to the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee. Sheriff Sal Rivera seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION TxDOT CONTINUATION PLANNING APPLICATION AND CONTRACT

Ms. Brynna Burnett informed the Board of Directors that PRPC has led public transportation planning efforts across the Texas Panhandle since 2006 with the adoption of the region's first Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP). Since then, much has been accomplished through the partnership between PRPC Staff and the Advisory Committee of the Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation (PROMPT). In December of 2026, the fifth iteration of the Comprehensive Plan will be adopted, outlining new goals for another 5-year planning process. With the anticipated adoption of the 2027-2031 Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan, the PRPC and PROMPT will set forth planned projects to improve regional connectivity, public awareness and perception of transit options, coordination among transportation providers, transit funding and provider capacity, and data-driven planning and accountability. Earlier this month, TxDOT informed PRPC that they would receive \$40,000 to continue work on the final development of the 2027-2031 RPTCP coordinated transportation planning process for the 2027 program year based upon statewide metrics data. TxDOT notified PRPC staff of the release of the application on August 17th, with an application deadline of August 31st. Local Government Services staff have prepared the application, anticipating that a project grant agreement (PGA) with TxDOT will be received in September of 2026. These funds will allow PRPC staff to continue to hold PROMPT meetings, lead public engagement efforts, conduct plan revisions, and continually reassess the unmet transportation needs identified in the 2027-2031 Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

Judge Nancy Tanner motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to submit the continuation funding application and execute the grant agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Public Transportation Coordination Project, supporting ongoing regionally coordinated transportation planning activities. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES RECRUITMENT SERVICES INTERLOCAL CONTRACT – CITY OF STRATFORD

Mr. Alex Guerrero informed the Board of Directors that over the past decade, PRPC Staff has assisted many cities in the Texas Panhandle with administrative services, ranging from contractual city management services to city administrator searches to master parks

planning. One of the most requested services is assistance with the recruitment of professional staff by cities. Recently, the PRPC was approached by the City of Stratford to conduct a professional search for their new City Manager. The City of Stratford has considered the PRPC's scope of services as it relates to assistance with a professional search and plans to authorize an interlocal agreement to perform these services. The inclusion of this agenda item will allow the PRPC Board of Directors to consider entering into an interlocal agreement with the City of Stratford for PRPC to continue to work with and assist them in this process. The contract will be focused so that the services can be rendered expeditiously and in a quality manner so that the City can resume normal operations quickly. Compensation will be rated at \$65.00 per hour, with job postings and travel compensated additionally with a set floor and ceiling to ensure that both parties mutually benefit from the agreement.

Mayor Kerry Symons moved for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with the City of Stratford and PRPC staff to conduct a formal City Manager Search. Commissioner Juan Cantu seconded the motion. Mr. Eddie Edwards abstained; the motion passed with a sufficient number of votes.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES REGION A PANHANDLE WATER PLANNING GROUP TECHNICAL CONSULTANT SELECTION AND CONTRACT EXECUTION

Mr. Jarian Fred informed the Board of Directors that since 1998, the PRPC has served as the political subdivision for the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG), a planning area that encompasses 21 counties in the panhandle region. Through this relationship, five Panhandle Regional Water Plans have been developed and adopted since 2001. In the last year, the PRPC Board of Directors approved the submission of the PWPG's application and subsequent TWDB contract for funding for the 2031 Panhandle Regional Water Plan for \$321,098 for the first phase of development of the plan. To ensure the most qualified consultant is procured for the 2026 cycle, the PWPG conducted an extensive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in accordance with PRPC's Procurement Policies. PRPC staff, on behalf of the PWPG, solicited qualifications from firms across the state through newspaper notices, website postings, and direct notification to over 21 firms or individuals. Five firms requested RFQ packets, but only one firm submitted a Statement of Qualification (SOQ), Freese and Nichols, Inc (FNI). The PWPG Executive Committee reviewed and interviewed FNI on June 30, 2026, and ultimately recommended awarding the contract to the full PWPG. On July 30, 2026, the full PWPG voted to accept the recommendation of utilizing Freese and Nichols for the 2026 Regional Water Planning Cycle. The PWPG recommended that the PRPC Board of Directors select and enter into a contract with FNI for the seventh planning cycle. In the 2001 Water Planning Cycle, 2006 Water Planning Cycle, 2008 Interim Ogallala Recharge Study, 2011 Planning Cycle, 2016 Planning Cycle, 2021 Planning Cycle, and the 2026 Planning Cycle funded by the Texas Water Development Board, the PWPG and PRPC have contracted Freese and Nichols Inc. out of Fort Worth, Texas, to provide technical assistance to the planning process. The work that has resulted in all of these above-mentioned projects with Freese and Nichols has been timely and of the highest quality. Their inclusion in the 2031 Water Planning Cycle would provide continuity and a high-quality end product. The contract with Freese and Nichols will include all planning activities outside PRPC staff's administrative responsibilities. The PRPC Board of Directors reviewed the Scope of Work for developing the regional water plan during both the application and TWDB contract development phases, and it will be included in the draft contract with Freese and Nichols Inc.

At this time, \$221,098.00 is budgeted for subcontractor services based on this first phase of the contract between the TWDB and PRPC. This contract amount reflects TWDB assigning only Tasks 2A – Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections, 2B - Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections, and Task 10 – Public Participation and Plan Adoption from the above list for inclusion in the contract at this time. As TWDB allocates additional funds to PRPC, the contract will be amended to further fund and detail the additional responsibilities noted above. As TWDB issues those amendments, PRPC will make mirror amendments to the contract between PRPC and FNI to ensure all deliverables align fully with the state contract.

Mayor Kerry Symons moved for the Board of Directors to select Freese and Nichols, Inc as the Technical Consultant and authorize the Executive Director to execute a Contract to perform the TWDB-approved 2031 Panhandle Regional Water Planning efforts. Ms. Ronae Bunn seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

12. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND CONTRACT FY 26-27**

Mr. Alex Guerrero informed the Board of Directors that since 2004, the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) has partnered with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to support non-entitlement cities and counties in our region through the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program. This collaboration enables PRPC to access Community and Economic Development Assistance Fund (CEDAF) funds, which are used to provide general assistance on TxCDBG-related matters. TDA has allocated \$14,801 in CEDAF funds to PRPC. TDA formally notified PRPC of the 2026-27 CEDAF offer of funding on August 17, 2026, and requested an immediate response. Given the time-sensitive nature of the request, the Executive Director provided a provisional indication of acceptance to TDA, with the understanding that the final decision remains subject to the Board of Directors' approval.

Judge John Howard motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract between PRPC and the Texas Department of Agriculture for the FY26/27 Community and Economic Development Assistance Fund Contract. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

13. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES DONLEY COUNTY HUD EDI-CPF PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES INTERLOCAL CONTRACT**

Mr. Alex Guerrero informed the Board of Directors that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through its Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD), administers the Economic Development Initiative–Community Project Funding (EDI-CPF) Program. The program provides congressionally directed funding for projects intended to spur economic development, enhance infrastructure, and support community needs. On April 28th, 2026, Donley County received notification from HUD that it had been awarded \$1,600,000 in FY 2026 EDI-CPF funding for the Donley County Emergency Operations Center, sponsored by Congressman Ronny Jackson. As the grantee, Donley County will be responsible for carrying out the project in accordance with HUD and federal requirements. PRPC has extensive experience assisting local governments with the administration and implementation of state and federal grant-funded projects. PRPC proposes to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Donley County to provide program administration and project management services throughout the implementation of the EDI-CPF award. The agreement is structured similarly to PRPC's other grant administration interlocal contracts and outlines the respective responsibilities of Donley County and PRPC in carrying out the project. HUD's FY 2026 implementation guidance establishes a multi-step grant lifecycle that includes grant package approval and execution of the grant agreement, completion of environmental review, approval of the Action Plan, ongoing payment requests and performance reporting, and final closeout. The proposed Interlocal Cooperation Contract provides for \$100,000 in program administration and project management services to be paid to PRPC for the administration and implementation of the grant.

Community	Program	Project	Federal Award	PRPC Administration
Donley County	FY 2026 HUD EDI-CPF	Donley County Emergency Operations Center	\$1,600,000	\$100,000

Mayor Kerry Symons moved for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to execute an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Donley County for PRPC staff to provide program administration services. Judge Nancy Tanner seconded the motion. Judge John Howard abstained; the motion passed with a sufficient number of votes.

14. **REGIONAL SERVICES REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY CONTRACT**

Ms. Katrena Volden informed the Board of Directors that each year the PRPC applies for funding through the Governor's Criminal Justice Division (CJD) to support law enforcement training activities in the region. This training is provided to regional officers through the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy (PRLEA). Earlier this

month, PRPC staff met with Amarillo College (AC) to discuss the terms of this year's contract. As done with the previous contracts, we are going to maintain the proportional payment approach. This approach enabled the PRLEA to provide In-Service courses throughout the contract period as opposed to exhausting all the funds six months into the contract. The proposed changes made to the contract for FY 2027 are the funding amounts for the two payment categories. There is also the proposed addition of a 5% administration fee to AC for each in-service course being offered. The already established pay structure is that the PRPC will reimburse AC for each in-service course in an amount equal to the actual course costs, inclusive of instructor(s) costs, course fees, and any required course supplies. AC was previously receiving money from the State to cover the administration costs. At this time, AC is no longer receiving that money for Continuing Education courses that are not tied to a degree or certification. This administration fee is to cover those administration fees so that AC can continue to offer these courses and our officers can continue being able to access these courses to keep their policing skills and knowledge of the law current. AC will continue to discuss the need for this funding from the State. Our hope is that this fee will be removed upon AC regaining this funding from the State. Those two payment categories include the following:

Basic Law Enforcement Training - \$32,576.00: TCOLE certification is a prerequisite to becoming employed as a peace officer in the State of Texas. Through this training, students attend classes and must pass an exam, making them eligible to receive certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Two Basic academies will be conducted in 2027, and we've allocated enough funding for scholarships to students in each academy. For FY 2027, we have at least ten (10) scholarship positions available.

In-Service Training – \$29,293.00: To maintain TCOLE certification, an officer must obtain continuing education to remain current on new laws and specialized topics pertinent to criminal justice. In-Service Training covers a wide range of training topics specifically designed to achieve this goal for licensed peace officers in the region.

The contract only pays for training delivered to TCOLE-certified officers employed by a city or county in the region. However, quite often, individuals from other agencies will attend training along with the officers being covered under the PRPC's contract. The other agencies pay for their training costs separately.

Sheriff Sal Rivera motioned for the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Amarillo College for the operation of the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy for FY 2027. Judge Rank Cogdell seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

15. REGIONAL SERVICES REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Katrena Volden informed the Board of Directors that the main duties of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) are to oversee the grant programs made available through the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. PRPC Administrative Regulation No. 34 establishes the size and composition of the committee and sets the member term lengths. The CJAC is composed of at least 17 members, who serve 3-year staggered terms, with one-third of the membership being appointed or reappointed by the PRPC Board each year. Members may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

This year, 3 members were up for appointment, and 3 for re-appointment. PRPC staff has contacted all of the FY 2027 recommended appointees, and all have confirmed that they are all willing and able to serve. They include the following:

Term Beginning October 1, 2026 – Expires September 30, 2029

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title/Organization</u>	<u>Area of Interest</u>	<u>Committee Term</u>
Kory Brown	Lieutenant, Potter County Sheriff	Regional Law Enforcement Community Member	Appointment to 1 st Full Term
James Rawls	City Manager, City of Canadian	Other	Appointment to 1 st Full Term
Hugh Piatt II	Superintendent, Pampa ISD	Education	Appointment to 1 st Full Term
Landon Swan	Chief, City of Hereford	Regional Law Enforcement Community Member	Appointment to 2 nd Full Term
Karen McGahen	Assistant Executive Director, Tralee Crisis Center	Victim Services	Appointment to 2 nd Full Term
Sandra Garza	TCOOMMI Program Director, Texas Panhandle Centers	Mental Health	Appointment to 2 nd Full Term

Judge Nancy Tanner motioned for the Board of Directors to approve the nominated individuals for appointment to serve on the FY 2027 Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Ms. Ronae Bunn seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

16. REGIONAL SERVICES PANHANDLE REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Katrena Volden informed the Board of Directors that PRPC Administrative Regulation #31 governs the duties, activities, and composition of the Panhandle Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (RSWMAC). The RSWMAC is composed of 22 to 28 PRPC-appointed members, and 1 to 2 standing positions held by representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality-Region One Office. Members are appointed to three-year, staggered terms. The RSWMAC composition must maintain a cross-section of solid waste professionals from the Panhandle Region. Each year, approximately one-third of the appointed terms expire, and those members must either be replaced or reappointed. No member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Currently, 13 individuals need to be appointed or reappointed to the RSWMAC to meet the PRPC administrative standards. PRPC staff has contacted each nominee and determined they are willing and able to serve if appointed by the PRPC Board. Those Individuals are:

Term Beginning August 1, 2025 – Expires July 31, 2028

James Piper	City Manager, City of Spearman	Partial term
Tim Cook	Sanitation Superintendent, City of Canadian	Partial term

Term Beginning August 1, 2026 – Expires July 31, 2029

Johnny Torres	Public Works Director, City of Hereford	Appointment to 2 nd term
Isidro Renteria	Landfill Supervisor, City of Dumas	Appointment to 2 nd term
Tracie Bogart	Recycling Technician, City of Stratford	Appointment to 2 nd term
Kevin Gomez	Engineer in Training, Pape-Dawson	Appointment to 2 nd term
Daniel Jackson	City Manager, City of Dimmitt	Appointment to 2 nd term
Brian Barboza	City Manager, City of Friona	Appointment to 1 st term

Judge Izzy Carrasco motioned for the Board of Directors to consider appointing and/or reappointing the individuals listed in the slate of nominations above to serve on the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion. Mr. Daniel Jackson abstained; the motion carried with a sufficient number of votes.

17. **REGIONAL SERVICES INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF A HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs (HMA) provide grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMA is to provide a critical opportunity to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural hazards and disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. This grant program allows sub-recipient management costs to be utilized for the administration of the project. These funds are provided at a 100% federal cost-share; there is no local match required for the administration costs. We have two jurisdictions with applications that were recently obligated. Those include:

Jurisdiction	Project Type	Amount Requested
Application Under Review		
City of Silverton	Warning Siren	\$3,427.50
City of Clarendon	Generator	\$1,444.26

Judge Izzy Carrasco motioned for the Board of Directors to consider for approval the listed projects and authorize the PRPC Executive Director to execute Interlocal Agreements for Professional Services from the PRPC's Regional Services Department on the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects. Sheriff Sal Rivera seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

18. **REGIONAL SERVICES REGIONAL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that Regional Emergency Management has been using WebEOC®. At some point (maybe 2017/2018), the State took over the WebEOC® platform, and now it's used for a variety of state processes. Leaving the platform more cluttered and less user-friendly, which has led to lower usage. In July of 2025, the PREMAC began discussing options for County Judges and Mayors or their EMCs to take advantage of a platform to allow for better communication and easier mutual aid. PRPC staff then looked at options available, including Slack, Veoci, or RocketChat. PRPC Staff presented the quotes from Slack, Veoci, and RocketChat, the three primary providers of such platforms. Slack is used by the National Weather Service for NWS Chat, and many jurisdictions use Veoci for their own communications within their jurisdiction, so many local officials are already familiar with these products. Both Slack and Veoci are cloud-based. RocketChat does a lot of work with federal agencies, including the Department of War, and allows us to host it on our servers, lessening data concerns. October 2025, the PREMAC voted to go with Veoci as the best option for the region based on already having experience with the platform, as well as having a couple of agencies already using it themselves. This would make for a more seamless operation across the region for mutual aid purposes. Because we have agencies already using Veoci, it would allow for fewer licenses. Veoci can link all of the agencies using the platform. As of the writing of this memo, PRPC has not yet received approval from FEMA to implement this with our SHSP funds. However, we expect the approval to occur any day. This additional platform falls in line with the goals of our PARIS project. If approved, PRPC staff will put together Standard Operating Procedures to prevent miscommunications and self-deployment for mutual aid purposes. PRPC staff will provide the SOPs to the region during training. Unfortunately, we are starting this at the tail end of the fiscal year, putting the first year at a partial payment of \$356.00 to pay for August 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026. The second year, the payment would be \$2,054 to pay for October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Mayor Cole Stanley motioned for the PRPC Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a two-year contract with Veoci to provide the platform for use within the region. Mr. Daniel Jackson seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

19. **REGIONAL SERVICES PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION CONTRACT**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that annually, the PRPC receives funding from the Governor’s Office to provide administrative services related to the implementation of the Panhandle’s Regional Criminal Justice Grants Program (or CJD grants) and Regional Homeland Security Grants Program (or SHSP grants). Since 2019, the Public Safety Office of the Office of the Governor has combined the CJD and SHSP contracts under a single agreement to cover the supportive services the PRPC is being asked to provide for the implementation of both regional grant programs. Those agreements annually start on September 1 and run through August 30. This agreement calls for the PRPC to facilitate a variety of services to agencies in the Panhandle. Services in the PSO contract include the distribution of Notices of Fund Availability to all eligible entities, a series of Grant Application Workshops, and oversight of the CJAC’s and PREMAC’s grant prioritization process. Changes to the contract include the following:

HS5.1	The COG shall identify and make available a minimum of two COG personnel to assist the PSO with scoring Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) applications. Designated COG personnel shall: a. Attend an NSGP Application Scoring Webinar hosted by the PSO; b. Complete a non-disclosure agreement prior to reviewing any NSGP applications; c. Utilize a PSO-prescribed scoresheet to evaluate each application based on the scoring criteria; and d. Submit completed scoresheets to the PSO using the PSO-prescribed method by the deadline specified by the PSO.
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PRPC has discussed a renewal of the previous interlocal agreement, which will include almost the same amounts as the current fiscal year. They have added \$1.21 to last year’s numbers. These are as follows:

Criminal Justice	Homeland Security
\$72,128.45	\$23,500.76

The PSO contract program will begin on September 1, 2026. PSO will need to receive the signed agreements as close as possible to the start of the fiscal year. PRPC staff is recommending the Board grant the Executive Director the authority to execute the interlocal upon receipt from PSO. We do not anticipate any further changes to the interlocal from the draft in your attachment.

Judge Rank Cogdell moved for the Board of Directors to approve a motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute the FY 2027 Interlocal Agreement with the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office upon receipt. Mr. Aldo Gallegos seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

20. **REGIONAL SERVICES NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH RESOLUTION**

Ms. Lori Gunn informed the Board of Directors that in 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiated a national campaign to heighten public awareness of the need to be prepared for the unexpected disaster. The campaign has since become an annual tradition, and each September is now recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM). The goal of the program is to encourage Americans to take the steps necessary to prepare themselves, their families, their businesses, and their communities for emergencies before they occur. The theme of the 2026 campaign is “Americans Stand Ready.” FEMA wants to encourage Americans to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared. When Americans take steps to prepare for disasters and keep their families safe, every neighborhood and community is more resilient. Throughout National Preparedness Month in September, FEMA will celebrate and encourage American resourcefulness and civic responsibility. This year’s theme will focus on several distinct ideas that capture how Americans take pride in their ability to protect themselves and their families and work together to recover from disasters:

- **Americans stand ready to uphold our patriotic duty:** When individuals are prepared and self-reliant, we can bolster the work our brave first responders do to help people on their worst day.
- **Americans stand ready to protect our family and friends:** We know best how to keep our loved ones safe when things go wrong.
- **Americans stand ready to help our communities:** Taking a proactive approach to get your community ready contributes to the nation's resilience.

Every year since the NPM program began, the PRPC Board has elected to endorse the National Preparedness Month program in the Panhandle with the passage of a resolution. PRPC staff is recommending that the Board consider maintaining this tradition in 2026. The Panhandle is vulnerable to a variety of natural hazard threats. The [Ready.gov/September](https://ready.gov/September) website is a content-rich resource that will support individual, family, business, and community planning efforts. There are a number of toolkits and social media graphics available on this site that can help communities become better prepared to deal with whatever disasters they might encounter. The whole purpose of the NPM program is to help people help themselves by becoming more attuned to the disasters they are subject to and to learn what they can do to mitigate the impacts of those events on their lives.

Ms. Ronae Bunn motioned for the Board of Directors to consider passage of the resolution proclaiming September 2026 as National Preparedness Month in the Texas Panhandle. Mayor Kerry Symons seconded the motion; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

21. **PANHANDLE REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PREP) CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**

Ms. Abby Sanders informed the Board of Directors that the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PREMAC) hosts the Panhandle Regional Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Conference annually in Amarillo. This conference is geared toward first responders, medical professionals, city and county administration, and disaster volunteers from the Panhandle and surrounding areas. This year's conference will be held on Thursday, September 10th from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Dome Civic Center in Borger. This year's conference will feature six presenters representing the City of Amarillo and regional information sharing, Amarillo NWS, Xcel wildfire team, the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, CISA, and Pantex. The Dome will be full of vendor and partner tables and vehicles on display. This conference is a great opportunity to connect with other emergency management personnel in the region. The cost of attendance is \$40/person. Eight hours of CEUs are available to those who want them as well.

No action was necessary; this is an informational item.

22. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

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

- A. Comments from the Executive Director. As a reminder, the PRPC Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, September 17th, at the Amarillo Botanical Gardens. Board Members and their guests are complimentary, courtesy of PRPC. The Board Meeting will be held here at 4:00 p.m., followed by a social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and the Main Program at 7:00 p.m. We are pleased to have Senator Charles Perry joining us as our keynote speaker. A major part of our Annual Meeting is our annual report. I want to thank Melissa Whitaker and Jarian Fred for their hard work preparing the report in-house this year. I also want to thank Amarillo College for allowing us to use their facilities for our staff photos and for being so accommodating. I want to thank Trent and his staff for their hard work throughout the budget process. It is always a challenging process, and they did an excellent job putting everything together. We are working with TARC and the State Broadband Project to coordinate regional broadband planning. Local involvement will be an important part of this process, and we hope to make these meetings as convenient and beneficial for our communities as possible. Victoria Isbell is leading this effort, and we encourage our local leaders to participate and help shape broadband opportunities throughout the Panhandle. Finally, we greatly appreciate your attendance and support at our Board meetings. Maintaining a quorum is especially

important at the Annual Meeting as we will adopt the budget, elect officers, and renew board positions. Thank you for your continued commitment to PRPC and the communities we serve.

B. Report on the following recent Planning Commission-sponsored regional meetings:

- 07/23/2026 – PRPC Board of Directors Meeting
- 07/17/2026 – Region II TML Meeting, Amarillo Civic Center
- 07/28/2026 – LGS TPIA Meeting
- 07/29/2026 – LGS HMP Public Meeting
- 07/30/2026 – LGS Region A PWPG Meeting
- 08/04/2026 – RGS T-ACC 601 Course
- 08/19/2026 – LGS PROMPT Meeting
- 08/21/2026 – 9-1-1 Advisory Committee
- 08/26/2026 – LGS Water Development Board

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

- 08/27/2026 – PRPC Board of Directors Meeting
- 08/28/2026 – DRC Lunch-n-Learn
- 08/28/2026 – AAA Legal Awareness, Welcome Partner Networking Breakfast
- 08/29/2026 – AAA Walk to End Alzheimer's
- 09/02/2026 – AAA Caregiver Support Group
- 09/08/2026 – AAA Retired Teachers Inservice (Canyon)
- 09/09/2026 – AAA Medicare Information and Resources For Low-Income
- 09/14/2026 – AAA Presentation of Advance Directives
- 09/21/2026 – AAA Senior Day at the Tri-State Fair
- 09/24/2026 – AAA Destination Medicare

24. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



Judge Kimberly Jones, Vice Chairman
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mr. Oscar Ostos, Secretary/Treasurer
Panhandle Regional Planning Commission
Board of Directors

