

PANHANDLE  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION





*"I have great respect for the past. If you don't know where  
you've come from, you don't know where you're going.  
I have respect for the past, but I'm a person of the moment.  
I'm here, and I do my best to be completely centered at the place I'm at,  
then I go forward to the next place."*

*Maya Angelou  
An American poet and memoirist*

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*In 1976, Palo Duro Canyon State Park was designated as a National Natural Landmark  
by the National Park Service. It is the second largest canyon in the U.S.*

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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

***FIRST*** let me say that it is an honor to lead the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board and serve as your 2019 Board Chair. Having served in this capacity during PRPC's 50th anniversary has been a rewarding and memorable experience. I should also say that the achievements and work contained in this report have as much to do with my predecessors whose unwavering commitment has led to its success today. Most of all, though, the report is a reflection of an extraordinary workforce at PRPC and membership that continues to demonstrate a passion for public service regardless of who sits in the Board Chair seat.

There has been change over the last year with those retiring and others stepping up throughout the organization to fill leadership roles as we continue to work on our member's behalf. Yet even with the change, our mission to assist local governments in planning, developing, and implementing programs designed to improve the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens in the Texas Panhandle has remained strong.

Since our conception in 1969, we have grown into a robust organization. Our initial operating budget was \$60,000 with dues averaging \$0.03 per capita. The PRPC staff included only three employees. Our projected budget for next year will be near \$27.5 million with dues averaging \$0.085 per capita. The PRPC staff now includes 43 employees who specialize in services ranging from local government services, to regional 9-1-1 networks, to workforce development. Our membership is comprised of 62 incorporated cities, 6 special districts and 26 counties. And even with the steadfast growth, we continue to be an organization of, by, and for local governments.

Our success this past year was not achieved alone. I want to thank each of you for volunteering your time, efforts and passion. We count on the support and participation of every local government to help guide our progress and contribute to the overall health of our organization.

It does not take a special person to be a great public servant. It takes people who are willing to put in the time, who have the desire, and have the perseverance to serve. I look forward to our continued work together as we shape the Texas Panhandle and local governments for another 50 years.



**Ricky White**  
**2019 PRPC BOARD CHAIR**  
**MAYOR, CITY OF FRIONA**



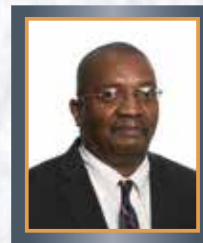
# 2019 PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Ricky White**  
**Chair**  
Mayor, City of  
Friona



**William Hallerberg, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Chair**  
Canadian River Municipal  
Water Authority



**Winston Sauls**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Citizens Representative,  
Borger



**Don Allred**  
Judge, County of  
Oldham



**Juan Cantu**  
Commissioner,  
County of Lipscomb



**Cleo Castro**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Cactus



**Buster Davis**  
Mayor, City of  
Gruver



**Irene Favila**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Hereford



**Ronnie Gordon**  
Judge, County of  
Hartley



**Raul Hernandez**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Amarillo



**Ernie Houdashell**  
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**John Howard, M.D.**  
Judge, County of  
Donley



**John James**  
Judge, County of  
Collingsworth



**Harold Keeter**  
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**Dan Looten**  
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**Jay Mayden**  
Judge, County of  
Childress



**Wayne Nance**  
Judge, County of  
Briscoe



**Ginger Nelson**  
Mayor, City of  
Amarillo



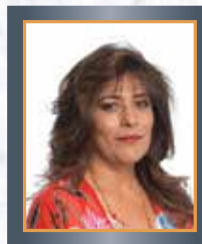
**Karen Price**  
Citizens  
Representative,  
Pampa



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



**Salvador "Sal"  
Rivera**  
Sheriff, County of  
Castro



**Yolanda Robledo**  
Alderwoman, City of  
Bovina



**Phillip Self**  
Greenbelt Municipal  
and Industrial  
Water Authority



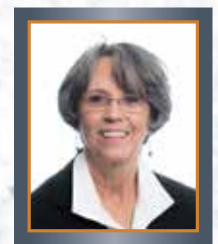
**Tobe Shields**  
Mayor, City of  
Spearman



**Pat Sims**  
Commissioner, City of  
Dumas



**Kerry Symons**  
Mayor, City of  
Perryton



**Nancy Tanner**  
Judge, County of  
Potter



**Kyle Ingham**  
**PRPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

2019 has been a year of celebration and reflection for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission. The current PRPC Staff is very excited to get to be a part of the 50th anniversary of the organization. Anniversaries provide a great opportunity to reflect back on the past, assess the current status, and take a look forward for relationships, individuals, and organizations. Over the past 50 years this organization has had the blessing to work for the 26 counties, 62 cities, six special districts, and hundreds of thousands of individuals who make up the Texas Panhandle. Half of a century has provided ample opportunity for us to evolve into an organization that addresses the myriad of needs facing the people and entities in the region.

Over five decades the PRPC has had the good fortune of having more than 280 different high quality individuals serve on the Board of Directors from across the region to guide to over 640 cumulative employees in developing programs and services that help communities meet our unique local and regional needs. Further, over 3,500 individuals have served on miscellaneous boards and advisory groups associated with PRPC to develop regional plans, funding decisions, and programmatic opportunities that support the Texas Panhandle on a daily basis.

The philosophy of PRPC Staff has long been and will continue to be that, "If we are not helping to meet the needs of the communities and the people that we serve, there is no reason for us to be here." This approach ensures that we stay in regular contact and closely adhere to the direction and guidance provided by the communities and advisory groups that we work with on a regular basis. It has often been a matter of identifying how programs available on the state or federal level can be adapted and applied to the challenges facing our region for maximum impact. Oftentimes these opportunities have taken the form of communities and organizations working together in a regional effort to meet great challenges that may have seemed insurmountable individually.

Over fifty years many things have changed, but one thing remains the same ... Panhandle People are willing to work hard and work together to achieve great things. As we look back at the great things achieved by the men and women volunteering and working for this organization, I am sincerely excited to envision all of the opportunities to serve the region that lie ahead of us in the next fifty years.

## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## 2019 PRPC STAFF



Ami Acker  
Gracie Aragon  
Sharee Bailey  
Lori Bigham  
Becky Blair  
Renee Boehning  
Randy Braidfoot  
Shane Brown  
Kathy Cabezuella  
Khasi Campos  
Melissa Carter

Kathryn English  
Yvette Gaytan  
Kurt Grant  
Alex Guerrero  
Lori Gunn  
Lisa Hancock  
Leslie Hardin  
Cristy Henderson  
Kyle Ingham  
John Kiehl  
Julie Lyles

Josie Mayorga  
Laurie McAfee  
Dustin Meyer  
Stephine Neuwirth  
Emily Nolte  
Katie Perkins  
Michael Peters  
Georgette Pond  
Heather Reid  
Marin Rivas  
Sundee Rossi

Rebecca Rusk  
John Schaumburg  
Janet Schulte  
Felicia Shaffer  
Jaime Sharp  
Heike Todd  
Melissa Tye Whitaker  
Inger Williams  
Paige Witthar  
Craig Wolf

1973

The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act consolidated existing federal job training programs to help unemployed, underemployed, and disadvantaged individuals, transferring more decision-making authority from the federal government to local governments. This Regional “Manpower Planning” function was vested in PRPC.

1982

The Job Training Partnership changed policies, giving local oversight to a Consortium of county elected officials, working with business leaders, and educators. This group assigned the planning and administrative duties to PRPC, establishing PRPC’s newest division—the Department of Employment and Training. The Texas Employment Commission became the delivery provider for economically disadvantaged persons.

1998

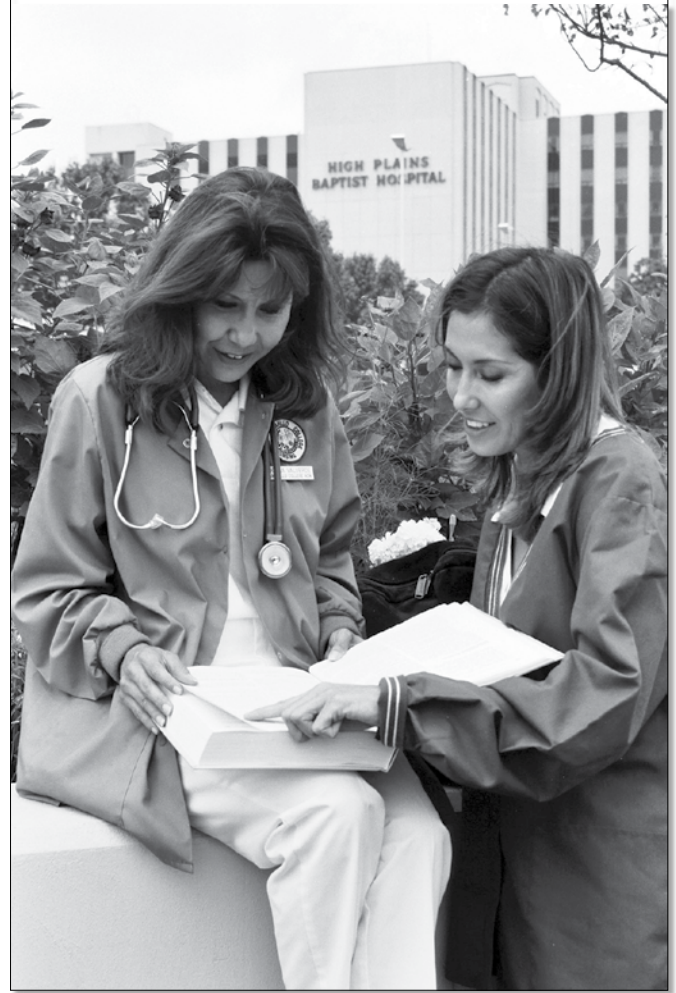
The 1998 Workforce Investment Act created the Panhandle Workforce Development Board, which provided jobs and training services to assist local area employers. Using the “One-Stop” center concept, job seekers received help to find jobs and training services in one location. PRPC continues to be authorized as the fiscal and administrative agent for the Panhandle Workforce Development Board.

2014

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act replaced the Workforce Investment Act and is the current primary federal workforce development legislation. Federal funding is allocated through the Texas Workforce Commission to PRPC and passed through to its service delivery contractor, Workforce Solutions Panhandle.

2016

The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) was dissolved, transferring programs to the Texas Workforce Commission (renamed the Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services).



The Planning Commission’s workforce programs have prepared many participants for a career in healthcare.

*What’s ahead?*

**“ One of the biggest challenges for businesses in the Texas Panhandle continues to be our very low unemployment rate. A low unemployment rate can be a positive indication that people are working; however, it is also an indicator that the availability of a qualified labor force is relatively low as well. To continue to build for our future, we must ensure we have the right people trained for the right jobs, and in the right industries. Education is the key.”**

**Michelle Griffin**  
**President, Amarillo National Bank, Borger Branch**  
**Chair, Workforce Development Board**



## 2019 Accomplishments

- *The Texas Workforce Commission allocated over \$8 million to the PRPC and the Panhandle Workforce Development Board (PWDB) to help working parents obtain quality child care. Most of the funding benefits the more than 2,340 children from low-income families needing daily care. Nearly \$32,844 of this subsidy per day is to contract with licensed child care providers, enabling parents to work, attend training, or increase educational levels.*
- *The PRPC and PWDB collaborated with the Perryton Economic Development Center and the Perryton ISD to use a grant for Excellence in Rural Service Delivery. Funds purchased furniture, equipment, and learning materials for five classrooms in the new Perryton Child Care Center after the only licensed child care facility closed last year.*
- *The PRPC continued its Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) project, an initiative offering work readiness training and paid work experience opportunities to area students with disabilities. Thirty-six students were placed with employers during the summer. Isaiah Morea has worked for the City of Fritch for three summers. (See photo below).*
- *The Texas Workforce Commission continued to work with local Workforce Development Boards and local Economic Development Corporations in pledging statewide funds for high demand job training. The funds were to match the local funding on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The Dalhart EDC raised \$100,000 to purchase equipment for the Frank Phillips College in Dalhart. Also the Borger EDC provided \$90,000 in funds for Frank Phillips College in Borger. When combined with Texas Workforce Commission assistance, a total match of \$380,000 purchased equipment to assist students in a variety of training disciplines.*
- *This year the Workforce Solutions Panhandle contractor added a dedicated Rural Business Services Representative to expand workforce development services in rural counties. He assists with the Mobile Workforce Career Center Vehicle, and connects with Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development partners, County Judges, and business partners.*

Kathy Cabezuela, Workforce Development Program Specialist, with Roger Pense, City of Fritch Director of Public Works, and SEAL participant Isaiah Morea.







The AAA has offered a variety of home care programs through the decades. In 2008, AAA was awarded a \$20,000 special grant to assist low-income seniors with home repairs and modifications such as wheelchair access ramps.

1971

**AAA BEGINS**

Governor Preston Smith asked the PRPC to begin working with the State Committee on Aging on January 6, 1971, the Board unanimously accepted the Governor's invitation.

1991

**BENEFITS**

A Benefits Advising Program was developed in 1991 by the AAA to provide assistance to individuals to understand and answer questions about programs including Medicare, Prescription Assistance Programs, Supplemental Insurance, and Social Security.

1993

**AAA MERGER**

The AAA merged with the ACT for the Elderly Program, a long-time subcontractor supplying case management and in-home service for seniors in Potter and Randall counties. The merger expanded services to other rural communities, made possible by a grant from the Harrington Foundation. At the conclusion of the grant, the AAA was able to use Title III B funding to support this program until all the authorized service deliveries were exhausted. This program still serves rural residents in these two counties.

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) continued its emphasis on evidence-based intervention programs. The Matter of Balance program has increased its number of volunteer coaches in order to offer more classes in the rural areas, working in partnerships with rural hospitals. This year began the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program. There are waiting lists for these classes. To accommodate delivery of more classes, the AAA Caregiver Specialist became a Master Trainer allowing her to train volunteer coaches. Combined, AAA has provided classes to 236 individuals this fiscal year totaling over 1,219 hours of class time.*
- *The Benefits Counseling staff and volunteers provide much needed assistance to seniors needing help understanding, applying for, and obtaining services. This year the Benefits Counseling Program provided 3,176 hours of one-on-one benefits counseling to 1,495 individuals.*
- *Nutrition Programs, funded by the Older Americans Act, are services helping to reduce food insecurity and increase socialization among the elderly. This year AAA purchased 80,122 congregate meals and 95,571 home delivered meals.*

### What's ahead?

**“By the year 2050, the aging population is projected to triple. The AAA develops area plans which allow us to take the pulse of the region and determine the services most needed from the AAA and our community partners. This research will result in focusing our education and outreach efforts regarding the most pressing needs, not only to the public but to our partners, such as rural hospitals and clinics, along with food pantries and churches.”**

**Desha Butler  
AAA Advisory Committee Member**



Seniors were invited to attend a workshop titled “Decisions of our Lives—Planning for your Journey” in March.





A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in 2005 for the Frank Phillips College Allen Campus in Perryton. Money pledged by the Perryton Community Development Corporation, the Perryton Higher Education Alliance Team, an EDA grant written by the PRPC, and other donations made the campus possible.

### 1973-1976 1st PLAN

The Board authorized the development of the region's first Economic Development Plan on May 23, 1973. The PRPC was authorized as an Economic Development District in August of 1974, enabling the Commission to operate an economic development program in the region. It was not until 1976 that the full benefits of the EDA program were available in the Panhandle.

### 1999 AGENT FOR ASSISTANCE

For over two decades PRPC has served as the fiscal and administrative agent of the Panhandle Economic Development District. During that time, PRPC has held over 80 meetings of the Economic Development Advisory Committee and worked on dozens of applications for Economic Development Assistance.

### 2001 LONG-TERM ADJUSTMENT

Since 2001, Panhandle Regional Planning Commission has operated the Amarillo MSA and Rural Micro-loan programs to address long-term economic adjustment problems affecting the PRPC region including loss of population, low per capita income levels, and slow growth in employment.

### 2004 GROUNDBREAKING

On May 17, 2004, a groundbreaking ceremony for Frank Phillips College's Allen Campus was held in Perryton (see photo above). PRPC assisted by writing a grant application to the Economic Development Administration that awarded the project \$1 million.

### 2007 STRATEGIES

As the Economic Development District for the Texas Panhandle, PPRC has compiled and released the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies document for the Texas Panhandle since 2007. A full redraft is done every five years and statistical updates are made annually.

### 2014 FUNDING PROGRAMS

The Planning Commission staff assisted Amarillo College (AC) in developing and submitting an EDA grant proposal to support the Everett and Mabel McDougal Hinkson Memorial Campus in Hereford to fund workforce skills programs. AC qualified for disaster relief funding due to drought and wildfire disasters.

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *PRPC staff assisted Amarillo College in developing and writing a grant to the Economic Development Agency for building renovations for the development of a Transformation Innovation Hub and Makerspace. The project, awarded \$1.5 million, will help local business and industry utilize technology to enhance their competitive edge.*
- *PRPC staff worked with the Cities of Groom and Wheeler to develop and submit applications to the Downtown Revitalization program at the Texas Department of Agriculture. Both cities received grant awards for \$250,000 and are currently working on improving their downtown sidewalks.*
- *PRPC has held four quarterly meetings of the Economic Development Advisory Committee, made up of Economic Development Corporation directors, Chamber of Commerce presidents, City Managers, and others. The meetings serve as a forum for an exchange of Economic Development practices, ideas and best practices.*



Micro Loan programs provide financing to small businesses in the region that are creating jobs, such as the Reagan's Brick Oven Pizza food truck which opened this year.

### What's ahead?

"As we look toward the future, I believe one of the most pressing issues for our Economic Development efforts is our aging infrastructure and the high costs for our micro-rural communities to maintain and refurbish their systems. I believe our focus should not only be to use our existing resources, but also tap into new ones. By recruiting back some of the bright minds that left the Texas Panhandle to pursue other experiences, we can benefit from their knowledge and expertise learned elsewhere."

Kristen Moudy  
Wheeler Economic Development Corporation  
Chair, Economic Development Advisory Committee





Today's Regional Advisory Council (RAC) continues the legacy of emergency medical service to the region started by the Panhandle Emergency Medical Services System (PEMSS) in the 1970's.

In 2009, the Panhandle Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (PREMAC) hosted the first Panhandle Regional Preparedness Conference. Over 450 attended.



### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

Organized shared public safety communications, beginning with the county-level systems the PRPC helped to create in the 1970's to the current-day region-wide system called PANCOM.

1970's

### LARGE-SCALE INCIDENTS

Galvanized the region's emergency response capabilities for large-scale incidents into a widely-accepted, well-practiced system of mutual aid.

2006

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Planning Commission planned, funded, and implemented the Panhandle Medical Emergency Services System, which has since evolved into the present-day Panhandle Regional Advisory Council (PRAC).

1976

### EMERGENCY ALERTS

**Resolve to be Ready**, a six-week media campaign, was launched to encourage residents to register for emergency alerts and notifications from their local emergency management offices.

2012

### HOMELAND SECURITY

The PRPC worked with the Governor's office to develop a regional Homeland Security approach relating to first responders.

2002

### PANCOM COMPLETED

Installation was completed on the backbone of the \$7.9 million Panhandle Interoperable Radio Communications System (PANCOM).

2013

“For years emergency management in the Panhandle of Texas was rather a hit or miss situation. There was a lack of training, financing, communication, and organization among our smaller local emergency service providers. With disastrous wildfires in the early 2000’s and particularly in 2006, leaders of Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, particularly Gary Pitner and John Kiehl, began sincere efforts to improve this dangerous situation. Through this effort the Panhandle Regional Emergency Preparedness Program was organized to assist with training, coordination, communication, and other needs for all emergency providers in the Panhandle. Through these efforts, emergency response in our area has reached levels of effectiveness that were only dreamed of in earlier years.”

Wayne Collins  
Former Mayor, City of Dimmitt  
PRPC Board Member 1984-2007  
Board Chair 1991

### 2019 Accomplishments

- PRPC staff kept the PANCOM system in good operational order and repair throughout the year.
- PRPC staff facilitated several regional preparedness exercises including a DHS-sponsored Multi-Jurisdictional IED Security Planning exercise followed by an Executive Level Briefing at the 2019 Regional Preparedness Conference.
- Over 175 new tornado safe room shelters were installed throughout the Panhandle and PRPC staff worked to secure additional funding for FY20.



Shane Brown, Emergency Communications & Preparedness Program Manager, conducting cell tower maintenance.





Helping residents access and utilize public transportation is the key focus of the Regional Public Transportation Plan.

***What's ahead?***

“The Transportation Planning staff of the Local Government Services Department at the PRPC is aware of the continual challenges currently facing public and private transportation in the region. As funding for key programs – including urban transit, rural transit, and transportation for the elderly and disabled – continues to fluctuate, the PRPC must continue to assess new opportunities to coordinate with regional entities for public transportation.”

**Rowdy Rhoades,  
Moore County Judge  
Chair, Panhandle Regional Organization to  
Maximize Public Transportation**



Bus transit is one of the transportation modes that is studied in the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan.

2006

### ADOPTION OF 1st PLAN

Thirteen years ago the PRPC entered the public transportation planning arena with the adoption of the region's first transportation plan. The plan identified such needs as mobility management support, an independent transit network, and ideas to increase job access in several rural areas.

2012

### LONG-RANGE FUNDING

The PRPO and RPORT provided comments on the State's Long-Range Rural Transportation Plan. They identified how to allocate Proposition 12 funding from the 82nd Legislature for the road improvement projects and worked with the District Engineers to prioritize transportation infrastructure projects.

2015

### VETERAN'S SUMMIT

The PRPC hosted the 2015 Veteran's Transportation Summit for County Veteran's Service Officers in the region, and VA Hospital representatives in Amarillo. The event's goal was to identify gaps in the provision of transportation services for veterans.

2017

### ADDRESSING BARRIERS

The 2017-2021 Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan identified goals to reduce the number of persons reporting that transportation is a barrier to education, healthcare, and social services. The Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation is planning for solutions for these issues.

### 2019 Accomplishments

- Staff submitted an application and received \$25,000 from TxDOT for the administration of the regionally coordinated transportation planning effort for the next fiscal year.
- Staff analyzed regional data and submitted the Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan Statewide Metrics for fiscal year 2019. These metrics measured the current progress of the 2017-2021 regional plan.



Advisory Committee members adjourn following a PROMPT meeting where they discussed transportation issues.

- Under the guidance of the Panhandle Regional Organization to Maximize Public Transportation, PRPC developed a mobile application and public awareness campaign in support of public transit education. PRPC received \$160,000 to implement this project under the TxDOT Regional Coordination Planning Program.





Metering and measuring water use helps to analyze saving opportunities and prevent water waste. Metering has been a strategy in each of the water plans.

### REGIONAL WATER

In 2001, the Panhandle Water Planning Area's Regional Water Plan was adopted locally and submitted to the Texas Water Development Board. The Plan indicated that the 21-county planning area is projected to use over 559 billion gallons of water each year for the next 50 years, and it also established the first Desired Future Conditions (DFC) in the state.

2001

### GROUNDWATER

The PWPG adopted a comprehensive plan update in 2006 with major revision in the Groundwater Availability Modeling methodology and groundwater management strategies due to technological advancements and a general improvement in understanding the Ogallala Aquifer.

2006

### AGRICULTURE DEMANDS

The 2011 Regional Water Plan was adopted in 2010 and incorporated into the State Water Plan in 2012. The 2011 edition focused on refining agriculture demands and narrowing down water availability to smaller geographic locations.

2011

### WATER AVAILABILITY

In the fall of 2015, the PWPG adopted the 2016 Panhandle Regional Water Plan. This Plan identified water availability in the region including both groundwater and surface water.

2016

### PLANNING AHEAD

The PWPG is progressing through the planning effort to develop the 2021 Panhandle Regional Water Plan.

2021

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *Assisted the GMA#1 through a Request for Qualifications process and awarded a professional services contract to assist the Joint Planning Committee for the 2021 Desired Future Conditions (DFC) adoption cycle.*
- *Continued to work with the PWPG in the 5-year planning cycle, including the execution of a project amendment with the Texas Water Development Board to commit and authorize the full State funding contract of \$671,294 to this regional planning effort.*
- *Worked to meet all necessary deliverables and tasks necessary to the Texas Water Development Board for the 2021 regional water planning effort.*
- *Staff administered four meetings of the PWPG, as well as four meetings for the GMA #1.*



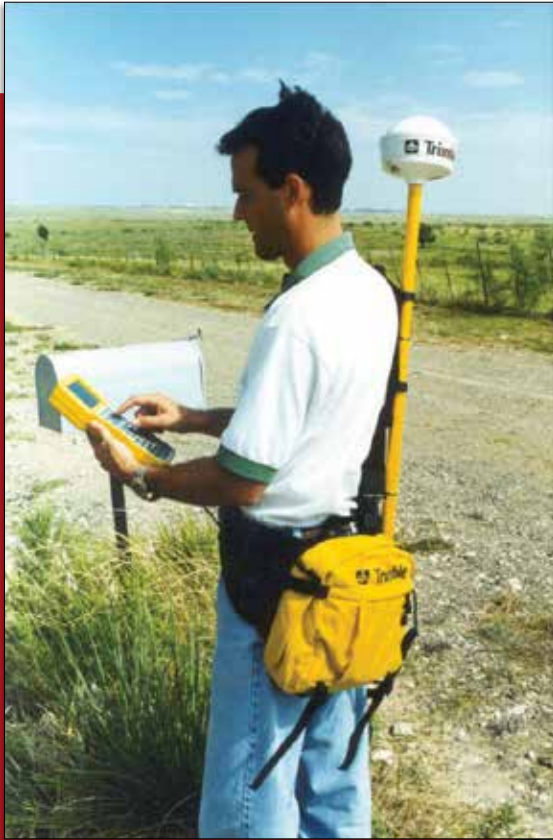
Large amounts of water are needed for watering crops. Irrigation systems play an important role in the Panhandle.

### *What's ahead?*

When dealing with an ever-declining water resource such as the Ogallala Aquifer, the biggest challenge for Region A Water Planning Group is balancing the needs for today along with the need to conserve water for future generations. The decisions we make must be socially, economically and morally viable for all.

C.E. Williams  
General Manager, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District  
Chair, Panhandle Water Planning Group





With the assistance of early global positioning satellite technology, individual addresses located in rural areas were assigned.

The 9-1-1 call takers located in numerous locations throughout the region play a key role in assisting residents with emergency services.



**1989**

**1st PLAN APPROVED**

The initial Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network Plan was approved in August 1989.

**1991**

**1st SYSTEM ONLINE**

The first 9-1-1 system in the network went online on September 22, 1991, in Donley County. In May 1992, 9-1-1 service became available to all Panhandle citizens.



**1999**

**RURAL ADDRESSING**

Emergency Communications began its rural addressing project using advanced mapping software called geographic information systems (GIS). The project scope was to provide a physical address for every Panhandle rural resident, marked by road signs at every intersection. Today addresses are assigned using internet resources.

**2010**

**LOCATION TECHNOLOGY**

In 2010, the Regional 9-1-1 Network completed the certification process of Phase 2 technology of all cell phone companies serving the Panhandle region. This technology allowed call takers to locate the caller's wireless handset or cell phone.

**2017**

**TEXTING to 9-1-1**

Equipment was upgraded and tested throughout the region to allow text to 9-1-1 for wireless devices in 2017. The Panhandle region was the first rural area in the state to have texting to 9-1-1.



Mike Peters, Regional 9-1-1 Network Director/Assistant to Executive Director, in the 9-1-1 Network host equipment room, located at PRPC, with Parmer County Sheriff Randy Geries, Advisory Committee Chairman.

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network replaced 67 front and backroom computers and updated the software at each of the 22 9-1-1 answering points.*
- *The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network replaced all network routers at 23 equipment locations and tested failover redundancy over our backup network.*
- *Of the 120,400 9-1-1 calls delivered by the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network in 2019, 68% were from wireless devices.*
- *The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network upgraded the network speed at the seven call centers with the most 9-1-1 call traffic.*

### *What's ahead?*

*“As 9-1-1 moves forward, we will work with the telephone providers to convert the remaining areas of the Panhandle’s 9-1-1 systems from the older analog systems to next generation digital systems that are capable of delivering calls with newer technologies.”*

**Lance Richburg**  
Police Chief, City of Pampa  
Regional 9-1-1 Network Advisory Committee





In 1987 the City of Hedley was awarded CDBG funding to build a new standpipe. Thirty-two years later, in 2019, the City received funding to have that standpipe refurbished and painted.

**1983**

**1st CDBG PROJECTS**

The region's first Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects were funded in Borger, Gruver, Kress, Memphis, Spearman and Turkey.

**1999**

**CITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

Interim and/or full-time city management services have been provided by LGS staff for the Cities of Bovina, Clarendon, Fritch, Silverton and Stratford. Staff has provided on-going city management services for Lake Tanglewood and Timbercreek Canyon for the past 19 years.

**2005**

**20 JOB SEARCHES**

For 14 years LGS has conducted over twenty professional job searches to assist local governments hire professional positions.

**SINCE 1983  
35 YEARS OF PROJECT  
ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

- 300+ CDBG projects**
- total of \$75 million grant dollars**
- 950,000 linear feet of water line**
- 200,000 linear feet of sewer line**
- 60 water wells**
- 30 ground storage tanks**
- 30 elevated storage tanks**
- 17 lift stations**



Many CDBG grants are used to fund water and sewer system improvements.

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *Local Government Services (LGS) staff prepared and developed 12 funded projects. These grants ranged from public water improvements, parks improvements, a community swimming pool, to a building renovation to establish a new Innovation Hub and Makerspace in the Texas Panhandle. These projects total over \$6.75 million in grant funding to Panhandle communities.*
- *LGS Staff provided project administration and management services to cities and counties on over 25 grant funded projects that include ten different grant programs and six different funding agencies. Cities that received a new grant project in 2019 include: the Cities of Cactus, Borger, Follett, Perryton, Silverton, Stratford, and Wellington.*
- *The LGS Department is operating at a high level with tremendous teamwork, cohesion and unity to carry out the mission of the PRPC and serve the cities and counties of the Texas Panhandle.*
- *LGS prepared and administered a Parks and Wildlife grant to build new sidewalks around Bovina Park this year.*



Bovina Park in the City of Bovina utilized a Parks and Wildlife grant to build new sidewalks.

**“I think the most important benefit for my county or any county or city is the spirit of cooperation that PRPC has fostered among its members. Many water and sewer projects that were very needed would never have been accomplished without the expertise of PRPC staff. The staff is aware of new regulations and new opportunities and works to help cities and counties access public funds to achieve results.”**

**Judy Flanders  
Former Mayor, City of Borger  
PRPC Board Member 1989-2006  
Board Chair 2001**





Volunteers participate in mediation training to keep their skills honed.

### DRC STATISTICS

- **30** years in existence
- **6,000** mediations completed
- **250** mediators completed training
- **Then - 5%** of mediations were family law cases
- **Now - 90% +** mediations are from County Court of Law and District Courts



Gwen Murphy, a practicing licensed professional counselor, was a member of the very first class of mediator trainees, and has served as a mediator since the Center's inception.

**“As a judge who handles one-half of all domestic cases in Potter County, I know that the DRC is a necessary, indispensable alternative to the trauma and emotional toll that airing peoples’ “dirty laundry” in public, and gives the parties an opportunity to come to an amicable solution which is always preferable to the uncertainty from someone else making that decision for them. This is especially true for issues regarding custody, access, possession, home, and support of children. The DRC performs an exceptionally important function in the lifeblood of our judicial system in Amarillo.”**

**The Honorable Doug Woodburn  
108th District Court Judge**

### 2019 Accomplishments

- *Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) staff visited with State Representatives to advance mediation use by state agencies.*
- *DRC's mediation services enabled caseloads/dockets of the court system throughout the Texas Panhandle to be reduced.*
- *The DRC continues to operate the pre-plea option for West Texas A&M University students who are ticketed with an alcohol violation. By participating, this program allows the charges to be dropped, providing the student has a clean record.*

## 2019 Accomplishments

- *PRPC staff assisted with the successful development of grant applications to support two in-jail mental health initiatives and a jail diversion program specifically designed for veterans with behavioral health issues.*
- *PRPC staff continued working with Potter County in assessing the local system of indigent defense in an effort to identify effective justice system improvements.*
- *A total of 42 students successfully completed their Basic Certification training through the Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy thus, ultimately allowing them to become licensed peace officers. 22 students graduated from the 118th Basic Academy and 20 graduated from the 119th Academy.*



In 1971 a regional training academy was established. To this day, it continues to effectively serve the training needs of the Panhandle's law enforcement agencies.

1982

### REGIONAL CRIME

A Regional Crime Prevention Unit was established.

1984/1994

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Provision of continued pass-through funding assistance to the region's domestic violence service providers since the State implemented the federal Victims of Crime Act, supplemented later in 1994 with Violence Against Women Act funding.

2016

### PEWS EXPANDED

Expanded the Panhandle Electronic Warrant System (PEWS). PEWS enables the electronic delivery of certain warrants and related court documents, automating the complaint-to-warrant service processes.



Potter County deputy Krishnauna McKinney uses the Panhandle Electronic Warrant System in her patrol vehicle.

**"I have been involved in many initiatives with PRPC over the years. Probably the one that has had the most impact is the regional AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) project started in 2005. Unknown prints are automatically compared to known prints. To date 390,630 ten print cards have been entered. Just in Randall County since installation, 7,753 unknown fingerprints and 250 palm prints have been identified. Very beneficial in solving crime."**

**Joel Richardson, Sheriff  
Randall County**





In 1995 the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee formed the Panhandle Environmental Partnership or PEP to serve as a vehicle for facilitating rural recycling, particularly in maintaining dependable and accessible markets for the sale of recyclable commodities. These sales proceeds help support the member's waste management programs. Peppy was the Partnership's original mascot.

1993

**LONG-TERM PLAN**

Facilitated the development of the first post-Subtitle D, long-term Regional Solid Waste Plan for the Texas Panhandle. Updates to the document have continued since 1993.

1994

**SUPPORT RESOURCES**

Worked with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (now, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) to create a Regional Solid Waste grant program to support the implementation of the Regional Solid Waste Plan.

1995

**REGIONAL HUB**

Created a regional hub & spoke rural recycling program called the Panhandle Environmental Partnership. It continues to serve the Texas Panhandle and has served as a model for similar programs in other areas of Texas.

1995-Present

**MILLIONS IN GRANTS**

Since 1995, the Solid Waste grant program has passed through more than \$6 million to local jurisdictions for recycling projects in their communities.

In FY 2011, the City of Dalhart recycled 192.67 tons of cardboard, which returned \$24,830.55 to the City and avoided over \$5,000 in landfill disposal costs.



## 2019 Accomplishments

- *PRPC staff helped in providing the Panhandle's recycling jurisdictions with technical assistance in refining their baling operating procedures as a means of maintaining market demand for their recyclable commodities.*
- *Despite the downturn in global recycling markets which fell with full force in 2019, members of the Panhandle Environmental Partnership still exceeded their recycling totals for 2018.*
- *Regional Solid Waste Grant Program funding, totaling nearly \$114,000, was awarded in support of nine local Solid Waste management projects. Most of the funding was used for purchasing equipment to enhance waste diversion and recycling programs.*



The City of Stratford, a 2019 grant recipient, used funding to purchase yard waste dumpsters.

## What's ahead?

**“In FY20, working under the direction of the Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (RSWMAC), PRPC staff will update the Regional Solid Waste Plan first adopted by the PRPC Board in 1993. This update process will enable the RSWMAC to examine the issues that have prevented the region from achieving some of the goals established with the original plan.”**

**B.J. Potts  
City Manager, City of Dimmitt  
Regional Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee**





Courthouses depict the unique history of the Panhandle region. Three restoration projects the PRPC managed include (from top left clockwise) Potter County in Amarillo, Donley County in Clarendon, and Gray County in Pampa.



**SANTA FE BUILDING**

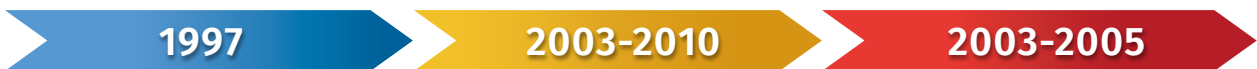
The PRPC assisted Potter County in obtaining a \$3 million grant to support the restoration and renovation of the historic Santa Fe Building in downtown Amarillo. Work was completed on the \$14 million restoration project in 2000. PRPC provided management services throughout the project.

**COURTHOUSES**

The Donley and Gray County Courthouse restoration projects were completed in 2003. The PRPC staff successfully managed both projects. In 2010, the PRPC staff also managed the restoration of the Potter County Courthouse.

**REVENUE RECOVERY**

The Panhandle Revenue Recovery Association, an initiative created in 2003, enabled public entities to work together to assist each other in collecting unpaid utility and solid waste bills. In 2005, the interest in the Association grew throughout the state and became the Texas Revenue Recovery Association (TRRA).



## 2019 Accomplishments

- *The TRRA cleared more than 246 delinquent utility accounts, collecting \$43,900. Currently, over \$4 million in delinquent debts are included in the TRRA database.*
- *Assisted Texas Panhandle Centers in developing an application to the Texas Health & Human Services Commission for programs operated within the Potter and Randall County jails that were focused on treating inmates with co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse disorders. The goal of the program(s) is to prepare inmates for living outside of jail while they're still in jail, assist them with the transition back into society once they're released from jail and then, put them on a path to achieving and maintaining sobriety so they don't end up returning to jail.*
- *Assisted the Potter County DA's Office in developing an application to the Texas Veteran's Commission for funding to provide veterans who've been charged with a qualified offense the opportunity to undergo treatment in lieu of jail time. The objective of the program is to divert nonviolent offenders from the county correctional system and ultimately restoring them, through rehabilitative services, to a stable, peaceful place in society.*
- *Area local governments and volunteers benefited from more than 40 workshops, seminars and hearings sponsored by the Planning Commission. Some topics included emergency preparedness, economic development initiatives, and rural broadband infrastructure.*



The Planning Commission staff host frequent round table meetings and workshops to help educate the local governments on a variety of topics.

**“ PRPC has been a literal “Godsend” to Potter County. The projects that we have accomplished with their help are complete because of the direction from PRPC Regional Services .”**

**Nancy Tanner  
Judge, Potter County**

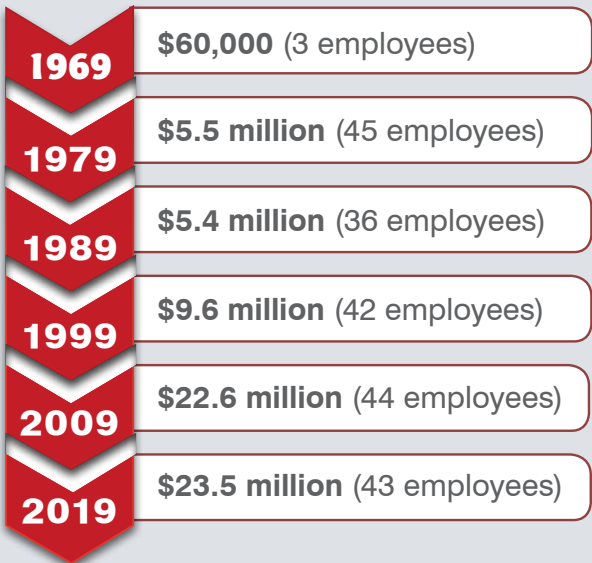


## BUDGETED EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

Workforce Development . . . . .	\$17,346,983
Aging . . . . .	2,136,967
Local Government Services . . . . .	260,858
Economic Development . . . . .	124,178
Dispute Resolution . . . . .	131,788
Regional 9-1-1 Network . . . . .	1,625,680
Criminal Justice . . . . .	204,087
Solid Waste Management . . . . .	173,169
Water Planning . . . . .	214,972
Emergency Preparedness . . . . .	1,119,168
Regional Services . . . . .	56,451
Regional Transportation Planning . . . . .	124,370
Reserve Contribution . . . . .	1,795
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL 2019 BUDGETED PROGRAM EXPENDITURES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$23,520,466</b>

## BUDGETED PROGRAM REVENUE BY SOURCE

Federal Funds . . . . .	\$70,000
Federal Funds through State . . . . .	18,585,121
State Funds . . . . .	2,225,779
State Emergency Communications Funds . . . . .	1,625,680
Dispute Resolution Court Fees (Potter & Randall Counties) . . . . .	58,000
Contract Service Fees . . . . .	494,661
Local Government Membership Dues . . . . .	68,380
Local Matching Contributions . . . . .	358,239
Interest and Miscellaneous Revenues . . . . .	34,606
<hr/>	
<b>TOTAL 2019 BUDGETED PROGRAM REVENUES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$23,520,466</b>



Renee Boehning, Finance Director, accepted a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from Board Chair Ricky White, marking the 33rd consecutive year that such recognition has been achieved.

# 2019 BUDGET SUMMARY

### **Workforce Development**

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

### **Solid Waste Management**

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 alternative forms of waste disposal.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Area Agency on Aging (AAA)**

The 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.

### **Local Government Services**

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

### **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.

### **Water Planning**

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.

### **Regional 9-1-1 Network**

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

### **Regional Services**

The PRPC provides a variety of services in response to the common needs of area local governments, including workshops and seminars, facilitation of roundtable discussions, grant writing assistance, and management of special projects.

### **Dispute Resolution**

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

### **Criminal Justice**

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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# ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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Kelly Northcott . . . . . Amarillo  
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John Redwine. . . . . Amarillo  
Dan E. Reese . . . . . Canyon  
Jo Dee Robinson . . . . . Silverton  
Dean Turney. . . . . Hereford  
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Dean Werner . . . . . Panhandle  
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Joe Price . . . . . Borger  
Tina Rex. . . . . Spearman  
Chris Sharp . . . . . Canyon

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Lynn Tate. . . . . Amarillo  
Steve Walthour . . . . . Dumas  
C.E. Williams. . . . . White Deer  
Bob Zimmer . . . . . Dumas



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## COUNTIES

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

Adrian	Dodson	Kress	Shamrock
Amarillo	Dumas	Lake Tanglewood	Silverton
Bishop Hills	Estelline	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	Turkey
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Dalhart	Higgins	Quitaque	Wellington
Darrouzett	Howardwick	Sanford	Wheeler
Dimmitt			White Deer

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS

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

**“We have benefitted from our membership with the PRPC because it has allowed us to achieve things that otherwise would have been impossible for a community our size.”**

**Wade Wilson, City Administrator  
City of Silverton**

## **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 94 member governments -- including all 26 counties, all 62 incorporated cities and 6 special districts.



**PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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Amarillo, Texas 79105

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