



**Minutes: March 26, 2015  
Executive Committee Meeting  
2180 N. Main, Belton, Texas**

**12:00 PM**

The March 26, 2015 Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee Meeting was called to Order by Tim Brown, CTCOG President.

**Executive Committee Officers in attendance were as follows:**

President	Commissioner Tim Brown, Bell County
1st Vice President	Judge John Firth, Coryell County
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Commissioner Dickie Clary, Hamilton County
Secretary/Treasurer	Mayor Marion Grayson, City of Belton

**Executive Committee Officers not in attendance were as follows:**

Parliamentarian	Commissioner Bill Schumann, Bell County
Immediate Past President	Andrea Gardner, City Manager, City of Copperas

**Executive Committee Members in attendance were as follows:**

Dave Barkemeyer	County Judge, Milam County
Wayne Boultinghouse	County Judge, Lampasas County
Jon Burrows	County Judge, Bell County
Richard Cortese	Commissioner, Bell County
Scott Cospers	Mayor, City of Killeen
Mary Gauer	Citizen Representative
Byron Theodosis	County Judge, San Saba County
Jack Wall	Commissioner, Coryell County

**Executive Committee Members not in attendance were as follows:**

Skip Blancett	Mayor, Village of Salado
Gary Chumley	Mayor, City of Gatesville
Danny Dunn	Mayor, City of Temple
John Dye	Safety/Police, Killeen ISD
Kirkland Fulk	County Judge, Mills County
John Hull	Mayor, City of Copperas Cove
Dale Jaecks	Past President, CTCOG Executive Committee
Dr. Thomas Klinkar	Chancellor, Central Texas College
Robert Lindsey	City Manager, City of Goldthwaite
Rickey Lusty	Commissioner, San Saba County
Daren Moore	Commissioner, Coryell County
Steven Moore	Public Affairs, Ft. Hood
Randy Morris	Citizen Representative, City of Lampasas
Jeff Muegge	Commissioner, Milam County
Hal Schiffman	Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Harker Heights
W. Mark Tynes	County Judge, Hamilton County
Ronnie White	Mayor, City of Little River

**Executive Committee Alternate Members** in attendance were as follows:

Bill Harris	Mayor Pro Tem, City of Cameron
Lowell Ivey	Commissioner, Lampasas County
Mark Peterson	Mayor Pro Tem, City of Copperas Cove

**CTCOG Staff Members and Guests** in attendance were as follows:

Jim Reed	Executive Director, CTCOG
R. Michael Irvine	Director of Administration, CTCOG
Michael Collins	Homeland Security, Planning & Regional Services, CTCOG
Richard McGhee	Director of Area Agency on Aging, CTCOG
Sarah Wheeler	Housing Division Assistant Director, CTCOG
Jerry Haisler	Director, Central Texas Workforce Centers
Susan Kamas	Executive Director, Workforce Development Board
Kerry Phillip	Administrative Assistant, CTCOG
Tama Shaw	Executive Director, Hill Country Community Action Assn
Ralph Ford	Campus President, Central Texas College
Opey Watkins	Commissioner, Milam County
Jason Deckman	Regional Planner, Planning & Regional Svcs, CTCOG
Pat Boone	Central Texas College, Police Academy
Jimmy Martin	Regional Planner, CTCOG

Commissioner Jack Wall offered the Invocation and Mary Gauer led the pledges to begin the meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Minutes: February 26, 2015 – CTCOG Executive Committee Meeting

Expenditure Report

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion was then passed unanimously.

**Action Items**

Resolution #03-15-HAP1 – Resolution Approving The Housing Division’s 5-Year 2015-2020 and Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Agency Plan

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #03-15-HAP1. The motion was then passed unanimously.

Proclamation #03-15-PRS1 – Fair Housing Month – April 2015 – Proclamation of the Commitment to Fair Housing for Everyone Regardless of Race, Color, Religion, National Origin, Sex, Familial Status, and/or Disability

A motion was made and seconded to approve Proclamation #03-15-PRS1. The motion was then passed unanimously.

Resolution #03-15-PRS2 – Resolution Approving the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Members

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #03-15-PRS2. The motion was then passed unanimously.

Resolution #03-15-PRS3 – Resolution Authorizing Application to the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division for Peace Officer Training Funds

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #03-15-PRS3. The motion was then passed unanimously.

**Resolution #03-15-PRS4 – Resolution Supporting and Endorsing HB737 and its Senate Companion SB532**

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #03-15-PRS4. The motion was then passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

**Senator Jane Nelson Sunset Report** by Richard McGhee, CTCOG Director, Area Agency on Aging

Richard spoke about the reorganization of the Health & Human Services agency in the state of Texas. This agency consumes the largest part of the state budget so this reorganization is going to impact a significant number of people. The bill is currently in committee (chaired by Nelson) and is expected to be out of committee in the next two weeks. It has been read in both the House and the Senate. Richard said that the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) will be transferred to the Workforce Development Board due to its connection with employment. The reorganization will establish a Policy & Performance Office. Four agencies will become one. This is an important piece of legislation that will have an impact on our region.

### Discussion

A question was asked if there were any negative impacts or are we changing for the sake of change. Richard responded that there will be significant impacts however we do not know yet exactly what those impacts will be. It seems the Sunset Committee issued a scathing report citing duplication of effort and an audit that highlighted some procurement problems. Richard just wanted to bring this report to the committee's attention.

Jim Reed followed this up with announcing that the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) is taking the lead on this issue. He suggested to the Executive Committee that they take as many avenues as possible toward the reorganization. We need to hear all viewpoints. He thanked Richard for being proactive and forward thinking. He cited that Richard has made a lot of ground in this area and he would hate for us to lose it.

Richard ended his report by stating that anyone who receives a Medicare payment will be impacted. This includes providers, physicians, physician groups, and hospitals just to name a few.

**Workforce Development Board Updates** presented by Susan Kamas, Workforce Board Executive Director

Susan began her report by confirming that her meetings have also mentioned DARS being transferred to the Texas Workforce Commission. She announced that Jerry Haisler has also been proactive in this process and has started a series of meetings. While the meetings have been positive, Susan did relay to the Executive Committee that should the transfer actually occur she expects very few problems. However, she also warned that the transfer will be intense due to its complexity.

Susan said that the workforce model is streamlined. They operate with very few support staff so they can use most of their funding in customer service. However, DARS is very heavy with support staff. Susan was alerted to an area of concern trying to merge two entities with opposing operation methods. DARS case managers sign off on large amounts of money for services whereas her agency does not allow that. Susan pushes large purchases toward the board for their approval. So this presents a challenge. DARS also has a large number of contracts whereas TWC does not. She closed the subject by announcing that her agency is up for the challenge.

As a final note, Susan mentioned that Killeen Mayor, Scott Cosper, attended a recent Army Listening Session with her and that McLaren was very impressed with the event. Of all of the listening sessions he had attended, McLaren said this one was the most informative. Lastly, she announced that at the recent Girl Scouts Women of Distinction event, Marion Grayson was one of the six women recognized.

#### **Workforce Centers Updates presented by Jerry Haisler, Workforce Center Director**

Jerry began his report by directing the Executive Committee to page 68 of the Workforce Board Business Meeting Handbook citing the Fort Hood Region Veterans Inventory Initiative. This is a voluntary survey of exiting soldiers. Since 2007, almost 27K soldiers have exited. The survey seeks data that cannot be found anywhere else. His group then translates that data for employers. Top reasons for soldiers remaining in the area are: they like it here, their wife is in school here, and their children are in school here. Employers are always asking how they can tap into the labor force from Fort Hood and Jerry's team can provide them with hard numbers reflecting those who will remain if certain jobs are available to them. CGI is a good example of this.

Jerry then directed the committee to page 67 of the report announcing recent layoffs in the area specifically ALCO and Alexander Molding Mill. Jerry suggested that layoffs hit the rural areas very hard in that those people are locked to the area. However, he did have one high note to share regarding recent layoffs. Jeld-Wen recently laid off their entire shipping department and another organization was able to hire most of them plus a few other departments as well. Almost half of the Jeld-Wen laid off employees were rehired elsewhere. Other factors impacting jobs in our area are sequestration and military downsizing.

The Non-Custodial Parent Project is doing very well. In this program, parents behind on their child support can choose to find work through Workforce or they can go to jail. Jerry reported that over \$300,000 has now been paid back into the system as a result of this program. Workforce has been examined to see if this model can be expanded. Currently, the program operates with only staff members but their employment rate is 70-80%. This is phenomenal considering that most of the candidates are in "hard to place" categories.

Regarding the DARS transfer mentioned earlier by Richard McGhee and Susan Kamas, Jerry responded to the earlier question about whether or not this will be change for change sake. He suggested that it would actually be good. He has seen previous agency transfers that have resulted in the elimination of redundant positions. The money saved from that elimination can then be funneled directly to the clients' needs.

The only caveat Jerry sees is trying to blend state employees into a non-state program. If they lose state employee status, they will lose any of the benefits they may have accrued. Previous transfers have allowed the employees to remain with the state but under direct supervision of Workforce. If this happens, it will be better for morale. If not, while some employees will choose to leave, Jerry suggested that Workforce will work closely with those employees who choose to remain to ensure a smooth transition. He mentioned that even though DARS is a small agency, they have a great reputation.

#### **Discussion**

It was mentioned that DARS also works with kids fresh out of school who are in need of those services. The one problem has been that in order to retrofit a car for some of their needs, the retrofitting companies require that the car be less than two years old. However, not many young people moving out into the world can afford a car that new. We need to look into that.

Jerry suggested that the biggest problem he sees on the horizon is the database management process. Some systems will just be hard to transfer. This is going to be extremely expensive.

## Executive Director's Report presented by Jim Reed, CTCOG Executive Director

### Update on 9-1-1 Legislation

Jim met with the committee staff for almost two hours a week or so ago. Jimmie Don Aycock introduced HB737 however some language in the bill needs to be changed. It seems that the bracket population was not specific enough and other areas would benefit from that. The revised wording will eliminate those other groups. Jim shared that while listening to the discussion of the bill, someone asked if there is a fiscal component to this bill. Aycock responded that there is one but it is a benefit. It seems that the committee staff briefed everyone very well and no questions were asked. So far, it seems that no one is opposed to this legislation.

### Clean Air Program

Basically, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has monitors already in place. The system monitors the area to see how close it gets to non-containment. If an area approaches non-containment, TCEQ is supposed to fund projects to help that area clean up and move out of trouble.

In the last biennium, two areas have received \$350,000 each. This may be of interest to our region. We want to be proactive to avoid monitoring. Those two groups who received funds have better air quality than we do. A legislative fix is needed. Kirk Watson wrote HB7 and Betty Voights requested that he add Killeen-Temple to his bill. That has now been done and he is now requesting \$350,000. Should those funds be awarded, we need to have a process to quantify how those funds will be used if needed for air quality planning purposes.

A question was asked if there is a companion Senate Bill. Jim responded that he did not know but he would find out and communicate that information to the Executive Committee.

Jim suggested that some of the points to be researched are what exactly the definition of particulate matter is and what the science behind placement of the monitors is. Currently, the monitors are just placed randomly and ours is located next to a road construction zone.

### 9-1-1 District Update

This issue is of importance to our region. Currently, there is \$148 million in 9-1-1 funding. HB2437 as filed will allow a cut in the collection of those fees. The cut would allow for the surplus funds to be drained down and once they reach \$0, then the fees would increase again. This would, in effect, topple our current plans. The good news is that HB737 is permissive. We could wait while the fees are drained down and then become a district once the fee goes up again. Jim did suggest that if the fee is reduced to \$0 it will probably never reach the 50-cent level again.

Jim also mentioned that there is a blanket bill to allow any regional council to become a 9-1-1 district. He advised that we should stay away from that.

### Discussion

It was suggested that if they cut the fees to \$0 and then brought them up to 28 cents, that would still have an impact on us because we are counting on the surplus provided from the current 50 cents plan to finance us for a while.

Jim responded that it will be very cumbersome to tell the phone company they have to change their current system to collect \$0 and then when the pool is drained, to tell them to ramp back up. There will be no reserve funds to finance that ramp up.

A question was asked who the author of the bill is. Jim responded that he did not know but would find out and send that information to the committee.

**Announcements**

Jim requested that due to some events in April, would the committee consider meeting the week before or after the current meeting date of April 23, 2015. He suggested April 30<sup>th</sup> as the best date since it would allow more time for more business to be conducted.

Tim Brown asked for discussion and most agreed that April 30, 2015 would be a good date for the next meeting.

**Committee Members Comments**

None

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Tim Brown, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Brown', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Brown, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marion Grayson', written over a horizontal line.

Marion Grayson, Secretary/Treasurer