



Executive Committee | Summary Minutes

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2023

6800 Burleson Road

Building 310, Suite 155

Austin, TX 78744

Present (22)

Judge James Oakley, Burnet County, **Chair**
Mayor Lew White, City of Lockhart, **1st Vice Chair**
Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Hays County, **2nd Vice Chair**
Council Member Matthew Baker, City of Round Rock, **Secretary**
Mayor Jane Hughson, City of San Marcos, **Parliamentarian**
Mayor Brandt Rydell, City of Taylor, **Immediate Past Chair**
Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, City of Austin
Commissioner Clara Beckett, Bastrop County
Mayor Connie Schroeder, City of Bastrop
Council Member Kevin Hight, City of Bee Cave

Mayor Rachel Lumpee, City of Blanco
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County
Judge Hoppy Haden, Caldwell County
Judge Dan Mueller, Fayette County
Council Member Ron Garland, City of Georgetown
Council Member Esme Mattke Longoria, City of Leander
Commissioner Steven Knobloch, Lee County
Mayor Pro Tem Doug Weiss, City of Pflugerville
Council Member Janice Bruno, City of Smithville
Judge Andy Brown, Travis County
Commissioner Cynthia Long, Williamson County
Commissioner Russ Boles, Williamson County

Absent (3)

Judge Brett Bray, Blanco County
Judge Ron Cunningham, Llano County Commissioner
Ann Howard, Travis County

1. **Call to Order and opening remarks by the Chair**

Judge Oakley called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and lead the board in the state and national pledge of allegiances.

2. **Consider Approving Minutes for the February 8, 2023 and February 16, 2023 Meeting**

Judge Oakley asked for approval of the Feb. 8, and Feb. 16, 2023 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mayor White to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ingalsbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consider Authorizing Participation in the TexPool *Prime* Investment Fund and Adoption of Resolution Designating Authorized Representatives for the Capital Area Council of Governments TexPool *Prime* Account**

Silvia Alvarado, Director of Finance

Ms. Alvarado explained that the board's officers asked for options to maximize CAPCOG's rate of return on investments than TexPool. She said by participating in the TexPool Prime Investment Fund, which meets CAPCOG and the State's investment policies, CAPCOG could experience greater interest earnings. The new fund would also still allow CAPCOG to easily move funds between TexPool, TexPool Prime, and its depository bank. Ms. Alvarado said if the board decides to participate in the TexPool Prime, it also needs to designate the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and the Finance Director as authorized representatives for the account.

Judge Oakley said even though adding the pool may only realize a slight increase in interest earnings, it makes the board better stewards of public funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boles to participate in the TexPool Prime Investment Fund and to approve the designees. Commissioner Ingalsbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider Approving Amendments to the Bylaws for the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

Charles Simon, Director of Regional Planning and Services

Mr. Simon said the primary reason for amending the CARTPO bylaws is to change the membership requirement. He noted that currently there are only 20 members on the 30-person committee. The bylaw changes would allow for counties to also appoint non-elected officials to committee. Mr. Simon said other proposed bylaw amendments were to remove redundancy and clarify some wording.

Judge Oakley mentioned there are lots of people interested in transportation issues who could serve on this committee, so changing the membership would help its attendance.

A motion was made by Judge Mueller to amend the CARTPO bylaws. Council Member Kelly seconded the motion.

Ms. Voights wanted to reaffirm that counties would still need to find elected and non-elected officials to appoint to the committee. Commissioner Long said it would be a lot easier for counties to make appointments because many local governments have employees who work in transportation fields. The board also recommended changing Article I to read "elected official and other appointees" instead of just elected officials.

Judge Oakley called for an amended motion to include the wording change. Judge Mueller amended his motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider Approving Grant Ranking for FY 2023 Homeland Security Grant Program

Martin Ritchey, Director of Homeland Security

Mr. Ritchey explained the timeline for obtaining the grant application rankings to include their application deadline and when subject matter expert groups reviewed project applications. He said two weeks after the grant program closed the Office of the Governor (OOG) revised the program's investment areas and then after the Homeland Security Task Force completed prioritizing projects for funding, FEMA changed its Notice of Funding Opportunities which also impacted project eligibility. Mr. Ritchey said the changes included increasing Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activity (LEPTA) project spending from 25 to 35 percent, removing cyber security from the investment areas, and increasing the amount to be spent in other investment areas.

Because of the state and federal changes, Mr. Ritchey said Homeland Security staff used the Task Force's ranking to reprioritize projects to ensure the largest number of projects qualified for funding while also attempting to maximize the use of the region's funding allocation. He also said the Greater Austin Area has again been designated a UASI which would include Hays, Travis and Williamson counties and cities such as Round Rock, San Marco, and Austin. While the Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC) historically accounted for most of the region's LEPTA funding, it would be up to the UASI to fund the center this upcoming year.

Commissioner Long questioned if there was a better process for getting input from the Homeland Security Task Force given the timing. Mr. Ritchey explained the state's application deadline is before the federal government released the rules for the funding opportunity, and CAPCOG's deadline to submit its recommendations to the state is just after the federal information is released. Ms. Voights said the problem is not CAPCOG's schedule, it is the state's schedule. She also noted that for the past several years, CAPCOG has been working with the Office of the Governor to ensure all the funding allocated for the region stays in the region by finding projects in categories they need. Commissioner Dockery asked what

region's funding allocation this year would be. Mr. Ritchey said the OOG said they couldn't tell him, but using historical amounts it should be between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Weiss to approve the FY 2023 State Homeland Security Program grant rankings as presented by Mr. Ritchey. Mayor Schroeder seconded the motion.

Commissioner Long asked how COGs can complain about the state's timeline. Ms. Voights said it is hard when COGs have different processes, and some COGs receive very little funding from the program. Mr. Ritchey agreed timelines should be changed. Ms. Voights also explained the OOG has been great at helping CAPCOG maximize the use of funds after the recommendations are submitted.

Judge Oakley called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consider Approving Appointments to Advisory Committees

Deborah Brea, Executive Assistant

Ms. Brea said Council Member Kelly has recommended Marna McLain and Sherry Goertz to be appointed to the GIS Planning Council, and Judge Hoppy Haden has recommended appointing Commissioner Rusty Horne to the Aging Advisory Council. Judge Oakley asked if there were any other recommendations.

Hearing no other recommendations, a motion was made by Commissioner Ingalsbe to approve the appointments as recommended. Commissioner Dockery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Overview of Regional Digital Equity Project and Goals for Digital Access

Chloe Mun, Program Manager, Travis County Technology & Operations

An overview of the project, which is being led by Travis County but reaches into all of CAPCOG's 10 counties was presented. Ms. Khotan Harmon, a city of Austin senior program manager with the Travis County Digital Equity Project, provided the board with information about current funding opportunities for expanding high-speed internet access across the nation. She noted there is \$42.5 billion being spent through national programs and Texas will receive between \$2.5 to \$5 billion for planning, infrastructure, and adoption projects. Ms. Harmon also spoke about the creation of the Texas Broadband Development Office, its digital equity plan, and its five-year action plan. She noted the state and the federal government developed two different maps that show levels of broadband access. While the state's map was very proactive in its creation, funding will most likely be determined by the federal map as it is federal funds being distributed.

Ms. Mun said the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program, which helps people pay for internet service, is an underused program in the CAPCOG region. She showed a slide with the number of households eligible for the program by county and said increasing promotion of the program could help people get internet access as well as have extra money for transportation and food.

Ms. Reyda Taylor, Travis County FUSE executive fellow, explained how to use the federal map to show internet access availability and said individuals and local governments can challenge its accuracy.

Paul Hoppingardner, Travis County executive of technology and operations, said there is a lot of information and work being done to increase broadband access and invited everyone to a meeting of a coalition of cities to further work on expanding broadband access. Judge Oakley requested that when a meeting on the topic gets scheduled, Mr. Hoppingardner should invite the board.

8. Staff Reports

Betty Voights, Executive Director

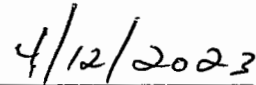
Ms. Voights said after completing the funding of a Blanco County project and completing nine collection events this year there will still be about \$82,000 to \$100,000 in solid waste grant funds left to be spent on a project or projects before the end of the year. She said CAPCOG is still seeking direction on how to spend the funds. Judge Oakley asked when the funds would need to be spent. Ms. Voights said August 31 is when final expenditures need to be reported to the TCEQ. During a discussion on how the funds could be used, Mayor Schroeder reminded the board it doesn't have to be spent on household hazardous waste collections. Ms. Voights said it could be used to offset debris collection costs and other activities. Commissioner Long recommended the funds go to one entity for one project, because allocating the funds for a particular project type across multiple jurisdictions may not provide enough funding to complete any projects. Judge Oakley requested bringing a spending plan back to the board for a discussion and vote during its April meeting.

9. Adjourn

Judge Oakley adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.



Council Member Matt Baker, Secretary
Executive Committee
Capital Area Council of Governments



Date