

**MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SPECIAL CALLED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2024**

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) Executive Committee met at 2:00 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2024, at the ATCOG Offices, 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, Texas, and via videoconference.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

Item 4. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and consideration approval for the Executive Director to enter into an interlocal agreement with Riverbend Water Resources District for the submission of a grant application to the Office of the Governor.

Riverbend Water Resources District (Riverbend) has a need to construct a new industrial wastewater treatment project to improve service capabilities that support Red River Army Depot and meet the National Defense Strategy mission to provide ground combat and tactical systems sustainment maintenance operations.

The Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG), provided through the Office of the Governor Texas Military Preparedness Commission, is an infrastructure grant program designed to assist defense communities. Eligible projects include the purchase of Department of Defense property, new construction, or rehabilitation of facilities. Examples of past awards include the reconstruction of water and wastewater systems, replacement of air traffic control towers, and upgrading a building to accommodate indoor engine testing capabilities.

DEAAG funding is available to local municipalities, counties, defense base development authority, junior college districts and Texas State Technical College campuses, and regional planning commissions representing these communities. Therefore, Riverbend has requested that ATCOG apply for the grant and partner with Riverbend to support the project and sustain regional and economic development in the ATCOG region.

Riverbend's total estimate for the reconstruction of the wastewater treatment plant and supporting infrastructure is \$32.8 million. ATCOG would apply for the maximum application amount of \$5 million to assist with the expenses of the project. The grant includes a 50/50 match requirement, which Riverbend will provide. ATCOG and Riverbend previously have drafted an Interlocal Agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both parties since ATCOG will be the grantee if awarded. Riverbend agrees to supply ATCOG will all necessary documentation for reimbursement requests, progress reports, and anything associated with the grant. Riverbend will provide funding for the project to ATCOG, and ATCOG will process payments and request reimbursement from the grant.

This partnership will have a great economic impact on the region and provide continued support for the Red River Army Depot.

Scott Norton stated that Riverbend met this morning and approved the application. He stated that TexAmericas has been involved in grants such as these in the past and had success. Scott noted

that Interlocal Agreement #5 protects ATCOG from negative financial impacts and that ATCOG had covered their bases well. He finished by stating this is a good project to be a part of and fully supports ATCOG in moving forward.

Motion to approve was made by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County, and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved, meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge Bowie County
Scott Norton, CEO, TexAmericas Center
Scott Lee, Judge Franklin County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Sheryl Collum, Mayor, City of Wake Village
Juan Duenez, Board, Mt. Pleasant ISD
Craig McDuffie, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Red Lick
Shannon McGuire, Board of Regents, Paris Junior College
Harold Nash, Sr., Mayor, City of Sulphur Springs
Kevin Sherman, Council Member, City of Atlanta

GUESTS PRESENT

NA

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator



Bobby Howell, President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:


