

MINUTES
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 28, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County, called the meeting to order.
2. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.
3. Public Comment.

No member of the public made a comment.

Judge Lee recognized and welcomed Greg Ostertag, Mayor, City of Mount Vernon, for his attendance.

Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, welcomed ATCOG's newly appointed Board member, Brad Cecil, Executive Director of Northeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (NETRAC).

4. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented the following consent agenda items:
 - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Board of Directors Meeting held Thursday, April 1, 2026.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Council meeting held Tuesday, April 28, 2026.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Homeland Security Advisory Committee held Tuesday, March 31, 2026.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee held Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Newsom and seconded by Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb. It was approved.

5. Mr. Clayton Rogers, Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P., presented for review and acceptance of the ATCOG Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, as introduced by Laura Cowling, Finance Director.

Mr. Rogers provided the Board with copies of the ATCOG's FY2025 Audit report and letter. He stated that his agency was engaged to render two audit opinions: Fair presentation of the Financial Statements and Federal/State Grant Compliance, and that he issued unmodified, clean opinions for both.

The ATCOG Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs provides audit opinions, internal controls, and a list of programs tested by the auditor, followed by any internal control

findings. The programs selected for a comprehensive audit were the Federal Housing Choice Vouchers program and the State 9-1-1 Program.

Mr. Rogers reviewed three previous audit findings, which were reported again in this audit because they were initially presented in March 2025, halfway through fiscal year 2025. The control findings presented have been reviewed, and corrective actions have been taken.

- Financial Statement Reconciliation: ATCOG will reconcile interfund balances monthly in conjunction with the bank reconciliation process and review process for journal entries to include a determination that due to/from other funds balances within that individual entry. ATCOG continues to review these items as part of its monthly and year-end review process.
- Section 8 Program waiting list selection process: ATCOG detected the software error before the audit and corrected it during the fiscal year 2025. ATCOG will manually review the selection process each time selections are made from the waiting list.
- Section 8 Program admission criteria related to inspections: Out of a sample of 40 tenants, 11 inspections were either not conducted or not conducted prior to the move-in date, and payments were issued. ATCOG provided training to caseworkers, inspectors, and property managers on the program requirements and will continue to develop additional procedures for reviewing compliance

Mr. Rogers reviewed the Annual Financial Reports, including the Balance Sheet and the Income Statement, with the Board. No fluctuations or cause for concern were noted.

Mr. Rogers emphasized that ATCOG has received a clean audit and opinions, which included the three findings identified in the previous audit, all of which have been addressed. He thanked Ms. Rudel and the ATCOG staff for their assistance and the opportunity provided by the Board to conduct the audit.

The Audit Committee met on Wednesday, May 27, and spent a substantial amount of time reviewing the audit, after which the Committee approved the audit to proceed to the Board for acceptance. With no further questions, the Board considered a motion to accept the ATCOG Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

6. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented for review and approval of a nominee to serve on the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Unified Scoring Committee.

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) administers the non-entitlement portion of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Program, which is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The 24 state planning regions are responsible for assisting in the process, which will ultimately establish scoring criteria used by TDA to select applicants for funding under the TxCDBG Community Development (CD) Fund for the 2027 application cycle.

Each state-planning region is provided an opportunity to nominate one representative for appointment to a 24-member Unified Scoring Committee. Members will participate in a committee meeting and select state-wide scoring factors for 2027 CD Fund applications.

The ATCOG Board is responsible for this representative nomination. The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- Currently serving as an elected or appointed official of a non-entitlement community;
- Able to pass a basic background check; and
- Available to travel to the Unified Scoring Committee meeting and related training in Abilene, Texas, on September 2, 2026.

The ATCOG Board of Directors may select a new representative or elect to continue to be represented by the region's 2025-2026 USC Member, which is Mayor Lowell Walker. Mayor Walker is willing to serve in this role again should the board elect him to continue serving.

A motion was made by Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County, to approve Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb, to serve as ATCOG's representative on the 2026-2027 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) Unified Scoring Committee. The motion was seconded by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville. It was approved.

7. Ms. Jenny Butler presented a resolution for adoption authorizing recognition of June 2026 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Walker and Judge Cooper. It was approved.

8. Ms. Patricia Haley presented the Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) update for information only.

The deadline for counties to meet the 90% or higher criminal history disposition percentages for both adults and juveniles is August 1, 2026. If the disposition percentages are not met by August 1, counties will not be eligible for any grant funding through the Office of the Governor and may be ineligible for funding from other agencies.

Ms. Haley provided the current numbers as of the Board meeting date and will continue to provide updates to the county judges and sheriffs.

9. Following the announcements, Judge Lee called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Judge Cooper and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

Announcements

Ms. Rudel announced that the next joint meeting of the Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) and the Board of Directors of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Booth, Ph.D., Board of Trustees, Texarkana College
Brad Cecil, Executive Director, Northeast Texas Regional Advisory Council
Becky Fellers, Board of Trustees, Liberty Eylau ISD
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR
Jean Matlock, Council Member, City of Texarkana-TX
Shannon McGuire, Board of Regents, Paris Junior College
Jeff Parker, Council Member, City of Hooks
Gary Spraggins, Council Member, City of Sulphur Springs
Shawn Tully, Director, Red River County Appraisal District
Lowell Walker, Mayor, City of DeKalb

GUESTS PRESENT

Reece DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes
Matthew Groppe, Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.
Chelsey Rankin, Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.
Clayton Rogers, Pattillo, Brown & Hill, L.L.P.

ATCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Laura Cowling, Finance Director
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Director
Jenny Butler, Agency on Aging Director
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Amber Murr, HR Director
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer

/s/ Scott Norton, June 25, 2026

Scott Norton, Vice President
Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:

/s/ Kent Cooper, June 25, 2026

Board of Directors
Ark-Tex Council of Governments