



CAECD Board of Managers | Summary Minutes

10:30 a.m., or upon adjournment of the Executive Committee, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023
6800 Burleson Road
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744

Present (20)

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**

Mayor Connie Schroeder, City of Bastrop

Council Member Kevin Hight, City of Bee Cave

Judge Brett Bray, Blanco County

Mayor Rachel Lumpee, City of Blanco

Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County

Judge Hoppy Haden, Caldwell County

Council Member Esme Mattke Longoria, City of Leander

Commissioner Steven Knobloch, Lee County

Judge Ron Cunningham, Llano 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 (8)

Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, City of Austin

Commissioner Clara Beckett, Bastrop County

Judge Dan Mueller, Fayette County

Council Member Ron Garland, City of Georgetown

Commissioner Ann Howard, Travis County

Senator Pete Flores

Representative Stan Gerdes

Representative Terry Wilson

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

Judge Oakley called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

2. **Consider Approving Minutes for the January 11, 2023 Meeting**

Judge Oakley asked for approval of the January 11, 2023 CAECD Board of Managers' meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mayor White to approve the minutes. Mayor Hughson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Consider Funding Burnet County PSAP Replacement Recording System**

Richard Morales, Emergency Communications Director

Mr. Morales said Burnet County is upgrading its PSAP's call recording equipment. He noted emergency communications district funds are used to support 9-1-1 calls but not dispatch and other radio communication traffic. Because the equipment is being used for other operations, CAPCOG has recommended paying \$61,049 of the \$134,832 Burnet County is paying to purchase the recording equipment. The CAPCOG portion was determined by the number of 9-1-1 lines used and a percentage of the equipment that is required to record 9-1-1 calls.

Judge Bray asked if any other PSAP recording systems were upgraded recently. Mr. Morales said Georgetown and Llano County have been upgraded, but additional recording systems will probably need upgrading in the near future. Judge Bray asked if a county could be reimbursed retroactively, and Mr. Morales said yes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long to approve the funding to replace the recording system in Burnet County's PSAP. Commissioner Ingalsbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider Funding RBUC Motorola Radio Dispatch Console Annual Maintenance Cost

Richard Morales, Emergency Communications Director

Mr. Morales said the regional back-up center (RBUC) uses 10 Motorola dispatch consoles for operating on the Greater Austin/Travis Regional Radio System (GATRRS) and 10 for the LCRA system so all PSAPs can properly communicate throughout the region while using the center. He noted the maintenance cost of the Motorola radios is \$68,500 annually which can be repaid to the city of Austin through an existing inter-local agreement with the city. Mr. Morales said the LCRA radio consoles maintenance cost has been budgeted for since FY 2021. The maintenance cost includes security and software updates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Long made to fund the RBUC's Motorola Radio Dispatch Console annual maintenance cost. Commissioner Ingalsbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider Approving Appointments to Committee

Deborah Brea, Executive Assistant

Ms. Brea said there were no recommended appointments.

No action was taken.

6. Staff Reports

Betty Voights, Executive Director

Mr. Morales explained to the board that CAPCOG staff routinely conducts 9-1-1 test calls to ensure calls are properly routed to the correct PSAPs with matching address information. He noted such testing takes time to coordinate because they need to go to a live call station at a PSAP and staff must be available to visually inspect the information. The COG generally tries to limit the number of test calls to 15 per PSAP per day so 9-1-1 calls are not impeded. Mr. Morales said state legislation has been introduced that would require school districts to install panic buttons. He said one school district in the region, which crosses multiple PSAP boundaries, has already made a request to test all its panic buttons and if CAPCOG was to conduct these test calls, an estimated 7,000, it would take one employee, working 6-hour days, 19 days to complete the testing. Ms. Voights said CAPCOG is not going to have the resources to do such testing.

Commissioner Boles said CAPCOG nor the PSAPs will have the staff to do those tests especially since there is already staffing shortages. He asked if it would be possible to hire a contractor to complete the tests throughout the region. Discussion followed regarding the likelihood of many types of panic buttons which may flow through an intermediary instead of directly to the PSAP, but she also noted that pushing a panic button still means a 9-1-1 call goes into a PSAP and a first responded must be dispatched. Council Member Baker said he would like to see additional information and proposals on how CAPCOG could manage the testing, while Mayor Schroeder suggested that CAPCOG should determine the process for completing such testing and take it to the school districts instead of waiting for requests. Mr. Morales said CAPCOG is already working with the initial requesting school district to determine processes and protocols that may make the testing more manageable. Ms. Voights said a workgroup may need to be created to explore how these tests will impact the district and the PSAPs as well as options for conducting these tests.

Ms. Voights provided an update about possible legislation to increase the 9-1-1 service fee from 50 cents. She said recent recommendations are now seeking to increase the fee to 85 cents instead of the previous recommendation of 75 cents. She said a bill is being worked on that would let the state's Commission on State Emergency Communications set the fee which could mean the fee will fluctuate based on the commission's legislative appropriations ever two years. She also explained that emergency communications districts are looking to extend the end date for the ARPA funding provided by Senate Bill

8 to make Next-Generation 9-1-1 upgrades.

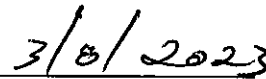
Mr. Morales said the district's percentage for all 9-1-1 call-answering times before 15 seconds fell below NENA national standard in October to 83 percent, but it has raised to more than 86 percent in November. He noted staffing shortages throughout the region, just as those experienced nationally, are a contributing factor to not meeting the standard.

7. Adjourn

Judge Oakley adjourned me meeting at 11:15 a.m.



Council Member Matt Baker, Secretary
Board of Managers
Capital Area Emergency Communications District



Date