



Capital Area Council of Governments General Assembly | Minutes

11:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Austin Marriott South
4415 South IH 35
Austin, Texas 78744

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the CAPCOG General Assembly meeting. He noted it was a great year for CAPCOG, and it was great to be back in person.

2. Approve Minutes for the September 8, 2021 and February 10, 2021 Meeting

Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, Chair

Judge Pape asked for approval of the September 8, 2021, and February 10, 2021, meeting minutes. Hays County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe made a motion to approve the minutes. Smithville Council Member Janice Bruno seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation of Nominating Committee Recommendations for the 2022 Executive Committee

Betty Voights, Executive Director

Ms. Voights explained that the Nominating Committee works to review the self-nominations of those seeking to be elected to CAPCOG's Executive Committee based on rural and urban, city and county, and geographic representation in the COG's 10-county region. She mentioned CAPCOG sent the General Assembly an initial slate of proposed 2022 Executive Committee members, but Pflugerville Council Member Mike Heath didn't win his election, so a second slate was sent to the General Assembly. She read the Nominating Committee's second proposed slate to be considered for election. They included:

- Representing counties: Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, Blanco County Judge Brett Bray, Burnet County Judge James Oakley, Caldwell County Judge Hoppy Haden, Fayette County Judge Joe Weber, Hays County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Lee County Commissioner Steven Knobloch, Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham, Travis County Commissioners Ann Howard and Brigid Shea, and Williamson County Commissioner Russ Boles.
- Representing the City of Austin: Council Member Mackenzie Kelly
- Representing cities greater than 100,000: City of Round Rock Council Member Matt Baker
- Representing cities between 25,000 and 100,000: City of Georgetown Mayor Pro Tem Kevin Pitts, City of Leander Council Member Esmeralda Mattke Longoria, City of Pflugerville Council Member Doug Weiss, City of San Marcos Mayor Jane Hughson
- Representing cities less than 25,000: City of Bee Cave Council Member Kevin Hight, City of Buda Mayor Lee Urbanovsky, City of Smithville Council Member Janice Bruno, City of Taylor Mayor Brandt Rydell, City of Lockhart Mayor Lew White
- Representatives for At-Large positions: Burnet County Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long, City of Bastrop Mayor Pro Tem Lyle Nelson

Ms. Voights also explained that the Executive Committee has four seats for state legislators who represent portions of the COG region and self-nominate to serve on the board. The nominating committee recommended Representative John Cyrier, Bastrop and Caldwell counties; Representative Celia Israel Travis County; Representative Terry Wilson Burnet and Williamson counties; and Representative Erin Zwiener, Blanco and Hays counties, for election.

Ms. Voights said while the Executive Committee elects its officers in January, the Nominating Committee also recommends individuals to serve in those roles. The recommendations included:

Mayor Rydell as the chair, Judge Oakley as 1st vice chair, Mayor White as 2nd vice chair; Commissioner Ingalsbe as secretary, and Mayor Hughson as parliamentarian.

4. Election of 2022 Executive Committee

Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, Chair

Judge Pape asked for a vote on the 2022 Executive Committee slate of representatives. Leander Mayor Christine De L'isle made a motion to elect the proposed Executive Committee Members. Llano County Judge Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Recognition of Advisory Committee Members and Presentation of 2021 Volunteer Service Award

Betty Voights, Executive Director

Ms. Voights said CAPCOG's program areas only succeed because of the work done by advisory committees and their members. Every year an advisory committee member is recognized with the Phill Parmer Volunteer Award, Mr. Parmer was a longtime Aging Advisory Council member who serve into his 90s. Ms. Voights said this year's recipient was Jim Barho, the Burnet County emergency management coordinator. She said Barho serves on the Homeland Security Task Force and has been instrumental on regional interoperability planning for the region. CAPCOG Homeland Security Director Martin Ritchey said Mr. Barho was a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for those serving on the task force.

6. Presentation of Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award

Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, Chair

Judge Pape said the first chair of the CAPCOG was former Bastrop County Judge Jack Griesenbeck and this award is named after him is for a person who sees beyond a single jurisdiction and sees the region as a unit that needs to work together. Judge Pape announced that Texas Department of Emergency Management Chief Nim Kidd was this year's recipient of the Jack Griesenbeck award for his work on leading and partnering with local communities to aid in disasters.

Chief Kidd thanked the local representatives for the award but also for supporting public safety personnel who respond to disasters and that TDEM supports during their time of need. He also thanked the state legislators for their leadership.

7. Update on Emergency Preparedness

Chief Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management

Chief Kidd discussed preparedness and asked for local officials to support their own public safety teams in being prepared for disasters noting that with more population comes more challenges to include an increased fiscal threshold for qualifying for national disaster declarations. He discussed several state preparedness tools and programs to include, the state operation center, I-Stat a tool for individuals damage assessments, P-Stat a tool to assess damages to public properties and infrastructure, and a national online magazine on domestic preparedness.

8. Discussion on Legislative Issues – Past and Future

Rep. John Cyrier, Rep. Celia Israel, Rep. Terry Wilson and Rep. Erin Zwiener

Judge Oakley moderated questions and discussions of the three present representatives — Rep. John Cyrier, Rep. Celia Israel, and Rep. Erin Zwiener. He asked how statewide transportation funding would evolve. Rep. Israel stated there needs to be a good way to capture data and funds so electric vehicles share the cost of road maintenance. Rep. Zwiener said electric vehicles need help to fund the infrastructure, but that cost should be comparable to what gas vehicles pay. Rep. Cyrier said he supports

studying the cost of how much wear is being put on roadways by new vehicles and determining how to fund transportation based on a vehicle's wear on the roads.

Judge Oakley asked about how federal infrastructure funding will be appropriated regarding broadband. Rep. Israel said the state created the broadband development office, which will develop a statewide broadband plan. The office and plan should help to distribute funding for the infrastructure. Rep. Zwiener said that HB 5 will do more detailed mapping of internet infrastructure availability, which can help infill areas. Rep. Cyrier said funding could support new technology to increase internet access, but it was a wait and see how the money can be used because how quickly the money was passed by the federal government.

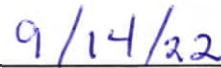
Ms. Voights asked what interim-studies would likely be done. Rep. Israel said there will probably be a look at property taxes and transportation infrastructure spending. Rep. Zwiener mentioned the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is up for sunset review and that there will be continued talks on pricing structures. Rep. Cyrier said energy is a hot topic but warned that there is a lot of rhetoric attacking education that could hurt public education funding. Rep. Israel also added that transportation safety will probably be a key discussion.

9. Adjourn

Judge Pape adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.



Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe, Secretary
General Assembly
Capital Area Council of Governments



Date