



# CAPCOG General Assembly | Summary Minutes

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Noon, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023  
Austin Southpark Hotel  
4140 Governors Row  
Austin, Tx 78744

## 1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

**Burnet County Judge James Oakley, Chair**

Judge Oakley called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

## 2. Approve Minutes of the December 14, 2022 Meeting

**Burnet County Judge James Oakley, Chair**

Judge Oakley asked for the General Assembly to consider the Dec. 14, 2022, meeting minutes.

San Marcos Mayor Jane Hughson made a motion to approve the minutes. Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## 3. Election of Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 Term

**Betty Voights, Executive Director**

Ms. Voights said the CAPCOG bylaws require the General Assembly to elect an Executive Committee in December to serve for the upcoming year. To assist in electing those individuals, the General Assembly appoints a Nominating Committee to review and evaluate self-nominations coming from city and county elected officials serving on the General Assembly. She said the bylaws state that the Nominating Committee must consist of at least two non-Executive Committee members and two Executive Committee members with a total of seven members.

Ms. Voights said the Executive Committee recommended the following Nominating Committee members who agreed to serve in the role:

- Smithville City Council Member Janice Bruno
- Burnet County Commissioner Joe Don Dockery
- Llano County Judge Ron Cunningham
- Williamson County Commissioner Cynthia Long
- Leander Mayor Christine De Lisle – non-Executive Committee member
- Hays County Commissioner Lon Shell – non-Executive Committee member
- Burnet County Judge James Oakley is automatically the committee chair per the bylaws.

Hays Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe made a motion to approve the nominating committee members as recommended. Commissioner Long seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## 4. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

**Betty Voights, Executive Director**

Ms. Voights said every year the General Assembly must approve CAPCOG's operating budget. She explained the process which begins in March when the Executive Committee Officers begin meeting monthly to start developing the budget; it is reviewed and recommended in August by the Executive Committee to the General Assembly.

Ms. Voights said the FY 2023-24 Budget estimates about \$43.9 million in revenues and about \$42.7 million in expenditures with \$359,763 in unrestricted funds. She noted that the budget consists of a 3 percent across the board labor market adjustment to help keep salaries competitive with area city and county jobs; a 2-4 percent merit for employees; a 56.95 fringe rate; and 25.16 percent indirect rate. Ms.

Voights discussed the COG's funding sources and their uses, why a fringe pool is used so all CAPCOG employees can have the same benefits, and how a required indirect rate allocation pays for the staff that support all programs, such as finance personnel, instead of dedicated to a specific program. She noted that the FY 23-24 budget has 72 positions and discussed each division's funding.

Commissioner Dockery made a motion to approve the FY 2023-24 Budget. Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**5. State and Regional Broadband – What's New! (presentation)**

**Greg Conte, Texas Broadband Development Office Director**

Mr. Conte discussed Texas' digital divide noting there are about 3 million households without internet access and about 7 million without broadband access. He said there are currently two programs that will help fund projects to bridge the divide with more on the way. The first was Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) Program, which assists with funding infrastructure projects that will take broadband connections the last mile to residencies. Mr. Conte said the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act Program is bringing \$3.3 billion in federal funding to support broadband infrastructure projects through its Broadband Equity, Access, and Development (BEAD) Program, which will be used for areas with unserved and underserved internet access. Mr. Conte said it is important that jurisdictions visit the FCC's broadband map website and check its accuracy on the availability of broadband internet access in their areas, because it will serve as the source for project eligibility. He recommended that communities challenge the map's data if they believe there are any inaccuracies.

Mr. Conte said the state legislature also passed HB 9 and HJR125. HB-9 puts money 1.5 billion in state funds into the Texas Development Board, which is going for election as a constitutional amendment. If passed, that would be \$5 billion for broadband expansion to be spent in Texas in the next two years. HB 9 allocates \$155 million to Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation and \$75 million for pole replacement.

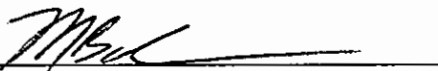
Mr. Conte also said to stay informed on the state organizations and broadband funding and projects, people can attend future outreach meetings and board meetings of the Texas Broadband Development Office.

**6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**7. Adjourn**

Judge Oakley adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.



Mayor Pro Tem Matt Baker, Secretary  
Executive Committee  
Capital Area Council of Governments

12/14/23  
Date