



Development District of Central Texas (DDCT)
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 4, 2024
9:30 AM

Regular Meeting

Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG)
2180 North Main Street
Belton, TX 76513

Voting Members Present:

Dean Roome – Bartlett Municipal Development District	Stacey Ybarra – Lampasas Economic Development Corporation*
Jim Gibson – Rockdale Municipal Development District*	Ted Gonzalez – Central Texas College
Ginger Watkins – Cameron Industrial Foundation	David O’Connor – Nolanville Economic Development Corporation*
Dexter Morris – City of Mullin	Kayla Schraub – Mainstreet Hamilton*

Additional Attendees

Adam Grundy – U.S. Census Bureau	Uryan Nelson – CTCOG*
Carol Faulkenberry – Texas Department of Agriculture	James McGill – CTCOG
Anna Barge – CTCOG*	Hope Davis – CTCOG*
Dominic Elizondo – CTCOG	Anita Janke – CTCOG
	Callie Tullos – CTCOG

**Denotes online attendee*

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order: Dexter Morris, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. Opportunity for Public Comment: No comments were made by the public.

3. Staff Update:

Dominic Elizondo gave an update about CTCOG activities including the EDA Partnership Planning Grant for FY24-26 is expected to be awarded in late January, or early February to the DDCT/CTCOG. Staff are assisting the City of Cameron and the City of Belton with administration of EDA grants. Staff assisted the Area Agency on Aging with submitting a Texas Veterans Commission grant application. We are helping Copperas Cove, Mullin, Central Texas Water Supply Corporation, and New Life Village with grant and loan applications. Staff are assisting with planning and hosting a Veteran Entrepreneur Summit on January 30,

2024. Mr. Elizondo also provided economic updates for Q4 2023, noting that the unemployment rate went up slightly to 4.49%.

4. Action Item: Regarding approval of meeting minutes from the October 5, 2023 meeting.

Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve the October 5, 2023 minutes, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of New Board Members.

Teddy Clevenger, Superintendent of Bartlett ISD and Kayla Schraub, Main Street Manager for the City of Hamilton have been nominated for the DDCT Board.

Dean Roome made a motion to approve Teddy Clevenger and Kayla Schraub as new board members of DDCT, seconded by Ginger Watkins; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding Approval of 2024 Rural Internship and Leadership Central Texas Program.

Dominic Elizondo reviewed the Rural Internship Program and Leadership Central Texas Program and their respective applications. The scholarship for the Rural Internship Program will be \$1,000 and three awardees are expected now that more funds will be allocated to this portion of the EDA grant budget. The board had no changes for the program from the previous year.

Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve the Rural Internship Program and the Leadership Central Texas Program and their applications, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion Item: Regarding presentation of Census Builder tool.

Adam Grundy, Supervisor for the Data User and Trade Outreach Branch of the U.S. Census Bureau, provided a presentation on the Census Business Builder Tool. The Census Business Builder Tool is a suite of services that provide selected demographic and economic data from the Census Bureau tailored to specific types of users in a user-friendly format. The tool has interactive maps to browse and download data about the selected area and type of businesses.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Implementation

Dominic Elizondo discussed the CEDs objective "Proactively shape growth to ensure quality of place." Mr. Elizondo read the first strategy. Discussion took place over the high demand for housing versus the resistance to development. Ms. Watkins recommended infill development. She shared about the EPA's "Attracting Infill Development in Distressed Communities" document. There were recommendations on developing tools for small cities and events.

The Board agreed with the idea of posting how best to disseminate strategies to increase housing, develop land use plans and master plans, and assisting jurisdictions with updating ordinances, and that the board agreed on posting these strategies, tools, and resources on the DDCT website and creating summits for each of them.

Mr. Elizondo read the other strategies as a group. The "Texas Downtowns"/Placemaking classes were discussed as a project of interest. Staff will develop a summit for the Texas Downtowns/Placemaking

concept. Carol Faulkenberry mentioned that the Texas Department of Agriculture has a grant program to pay for city plans. There was interest in adding tools to DDCT's website for how to have developers fund utility expansion.

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives

Anna Barge noted the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan draft public comment period closing on January 5th and referenced the packet for more information.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding Federal and State Legislative Updates Pertaining to Economic Development

Anna Barge discussed the propositions related to economic development that were on the November ballot. This included:

- Proposition 2 related to childcare facilities, passed
- Proposition 5 relating to funds for Texas Universities, passed
- Proposition 7 related to the Texas Energy Fund, passed
- Proposition 8 related to the Broadband Infrastructure Fund, passed

11. Discussion Item: Regarding Updates on Grant Opportunities

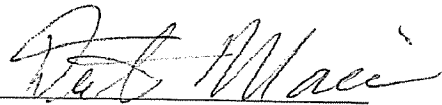
Dominic Elizondo provided an update on State and Federal grant opportunities and their eligible projects and match, including:

- USDOL YouthBuild Program
- EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs
- TDA Texas Rural Community (TRC) Loan
- LCRA Community Development Partnership Program
- USDA Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program

12. Board of Director Comments: No Comments.

13. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

13. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM.



Dexter Morris, DDCT Chair

Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director