



Development District of Central Texas (DDCT)

Thursday, July 10, 2025

9:30 AM

Regular Meeting

2180 North Main Street

Belton, TX 76513

Appointment	Entity	Member	Attended	Alternate Member
County	Bell County	Vacant		
County	Coryell County	Vacant		
County	Hamilton County	Vacant		
County	Lampasas County	Vacant		
County	Milam County	Vacant		
County	Mills County	Vacant		
County	San Saba	Vacant		
CTCOG	CTCOG	Vacant		
CTCOG	CTCOG	Vacant		
Individual	City of Killeen	Ramon Alvarez	N	
Individual	City of Mullin	Vacant		
Individual	City of San Saba	Vacant		
Individual	Belton EDC	Cynthia Hernandez	N	
Individual	Bartlett Activities Center	Dean Roome	Y	
Individual	Cameron Industrial Foundation	Ginger Watkins	Y	
Individual	Hamilton EDC	Vacant		
Individual	Nolanville EDC	Brian O'Connor	N	
Individual	Rockdale MDD	Jim Gibson	N	
Individual	Bartlett ISD	Dr. Teddy Clevenger	Y	
Individual	Workforce Development Board	Linda Angel	Y	
Individual	Salado Chamber of Commerce	Amanda Organ	Y	
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		
Individual	Vacant	Vacant		

Y= Attended Y/A= Alternate Attended N=Did not attend

*denotes online attendance

Meeting Minutes:

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Dr. Teddy Clevenger called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.
2. **Opportunity for Public Comment:** No comments received from the Public, in person or online.
3. **Action Item:** Approve meeting minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting.

The minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting (pages 6-10 in the packet) were presented for approval. **Ginger Watkins made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Dean Roome; the motion passed unanimously.** It was noted that an official meeting was not held in January due to a lack of quorum, which is why these minutes were presented for approval at this meeting

4. **Action Item:** Regarding the nomination and appointment of a Vice Chair

The board discussed the vacancy in the Vice Chair position, which occurred because Kayla Schraub is no longer with the City of Hamilton and no longer serves on the DDCT Board after being nominated and appointed at the January meeting. The new appointment would fill the vacancy through September 2025, with future elections to be determined through bylaws revisions. **Linda Angel volunteered to serve as Vice Chair, nominated for Vice Chair by Dean, the motion was seconded by Ginger; the motion passed unanimously. Linda was appointed Vice Chair.**

5. **Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Opportunity Zones

Eddy Hernandez Perez, Senior Attorney with the Leon Alcala Law Firm presented an overview of Opportunity Zones.

Summary: Mr. Perez provided an overview of economic development tools in Texas, focusing on Opportunity Zones and their overlap with the Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation (JETI) Program.

6. **Discussion Item and Action Item:** Regarding Rural Internship Program

The board discussed the status and future of the Rural Internship Program, which previously funded up to four interns but was discontinued after EDA deemed it ineligible. Uryan noted that re-engagement with Central Texas Workforce Solutions offers a pathway to continue the program by aligning with Workforce's existing initiatives. Particular interest was expressed in leveraging Workforce's early childhood education (TWC-CTX) internships (supporting 10-12 students for up to 300 hours in childcare centers) as well as STEM-focused work experience programs paying \$12/hour. Linda Angel noted that Jared will reach out about working out the internship details as well as stating that the "Wrenches to Wills" Program is still active and has four sessions scheduled for the summer, funded by donations.

No Action Taken, Discussion Only

7. **Discussion Item and Action Item:** Regarding 2022-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Implementation.

Uryan began by explaining that recent staff transitions have limited the capacity to actively move forward with the implementation of CEDS but stated that the new planner will start in August and take over efforts. Uryan went on to explain that staff focus is currently on administering acts for communities and gaining access to relevant programs. Dean brought up including local city governments in the CEDS guidelines, as well as distributing information pertaining to the EDA to city websites, allowing for information sharing and shared resource access, allowing smaller cities to consider better planning and development guidelines from medium-sized cities to promote ecologically sound growth, proper drainage, and disaster preparedness. The current CEDS 5-year plan ends in 2026, Uryan notes that the new planner will begin work on revisions as he steps into his role. Linda Angel asked for clarification on what the implementation looks like, to which Uryan explained that the staff planner's role identifying actionable items, assisting cities and municipalities with disaster preparedness communication efforts, facilitating grant applications and administration, and building relationships with various governmental entities. Kendra noted that the current strategies in place allow for Board Member input on current projects.

No Action Taken, Discussion Only

8. **Discussion Item and Action Item:** Regarding updates on Regional Broadband Initiatives.

Staff reported no new updates, noting this item was a carryover from the previous meeting. At the state level, additional funding has been allocated to broadband through

the Broadband Development Office, and program calls have shifted in frequency (previously weekly, now scheduled for the first Thursday of each month). Ginger Watkins highlighted the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan as a strong resource for communities, offering guidance on working with internet service providers during upgrades, and suggested it be shared locally.

No Action Taken, Discussion Only

9. **Discussion Item and Action Item:** Regarding legislative updates impacting economic development.

Staff provided an update on recent federal and state legislative activity. At the federal level, a bill signed on July 4 contained no provisions for or against the Economic Development Administration (EDA). While disaster funding remains available, regular public works funding is on hold pending federal allocations. Staff will continue monitoring reconciliation bills for developments.

At the state level, staff had not yet fully reviewed the recently closed legislative session. A special session was announced, but its focus on public safety is not expected to affect economic development. Ginger included a question on House Bill 563, regarding its definition of “qualified municipalities” and the types of private contracts referenced. The board also briefly discussed the USDA circular program for rural water systems (to be revisited in the next agenda) and the newly approved Central Texas Water District, which may provide opportunities for collaboration with DDCT. Uryan noted that will monitor federal reconciliation bills, research HB 563, and provide clarification at the next quarterly meeting. Information on the USDA circular program will be added to the next agenda. DDCT will also initiate discussions with Judge Blackburn and the new Central Texas Water District to explore collaboration opportunities.

No Action Taken, Discussion Only

10. **Discussion Item:** Regarding Membership.

Uryan discussed challenges with declining and uneven membership, noting difficulty in maintaining quorum due to vacancies, travel distances, and limited engagement. Current bylaws provide for one representative from each of the seven counties and numerous “individual” slots that require letters of support and multiple layers of approval, which was described as cumbersome. Linda questioned whether these individual slots should instead be defined as representatives from Economic Development Corporations, school districts, or local councils to ensure active economic development voices are present.

Ginger also emphasized the need to allow virtual participation to count toward quorum, given the region's size and the burden of travel for some counties. Suggestions for soliciting new members included outreach to small cities, county officials, school boards, and workforce partners. Uryan committed to reaching out to unrepresented counties and preparing two to three membership structure scenarios for consideration at the next board meeting. These revisions, alongside virtual participation provisions, will be incorporated into upcoming bylaws updates once the new planner begins in August.

No Action Taken, Discussion Only

11. Discussion Item: Regarding Bylaws.

Uryan reviewed and explained potential revisions to the bylaws. The most significant proposed change is to allow virtual meetings in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, which permits boards serving more than three counties to meet virtually if the chair is physically present at a public location. This would remove the in-person quorum requirement, though the minimum quorum would remain at 50% plus one.

Members also discussed the need to clarify chair and vice chair term limits, as the current bylaws specify two one-year terms but do not address whether an individual may serve again after a break. There was consensus that allowing valued members to serve again in the future would be beneficial.

Action: Staff will prepare draft bylaw revisions to include virtual meeting provisions and clarification on officer term limits for review before the next meeting.

12. Discussion Item: Staff Update.

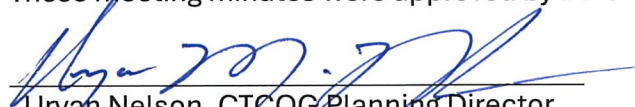
Uryan stated that current projects will proceed as planned and that the new economic development planner will begin on August 4, 2025.

13. Board of Directors Comments: No Comments.

14. Other Business: Next meeting date Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

15. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

These meeting minutes were approved by DDCT at their meeting on October 2, 2025.


Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

