

Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Commissioners met by teleconference to ensure careful adherence to the Open Meetings Act.

August 24, 2020

TMPC MEMBERS/OOG STAFF PRESENT:

Chair Kevin Pottinger
Commissioner Patrick Akuna
Commissioner Carol Bonds
Commissioner Garry Bradford
Commissioner Darrell Coleman
Commissioner Tom Duncavage
Commissioner Woody Gilliland
Commissioner Dennis Lewis
Commissioner Benjamin Miranda
Commissioner Annette Sobel
Commissioner Shannalea Taylor
Commissioner James Whitmore
Keith Graf, TMPC Executive Director
Alexandra Taylor, TMPC Program Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Joseph Behnke, Office of the Governor
Findley Brewster, Texas A&M NRI
Keith Sledd, Governor's Committee to Support the Military
Steve Bonner, SONRI Corp.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 AM. THE MEETING HELD BY TELECONFERENCE DUE TO IMPACT OF COVID-19.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Sheets was excused for his absence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the March 30, 2020 meeting were approved. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Sobel, seconded by Commissioner Bonds, and passed unanimously.

TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Commissioner Whitmore requested to be excused from duty on the Texas Military Value Task Force (Military Base Realignment and Closure Task Force). The motion to open discussion was made by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. There was no discussion. The motion to close discussion and accept Commissioner Whitmore's request was made by Commissioner Gilliland and seconded by Commissioner Bonds. The commissioners were then given the opportunity to nominate someone to fill Commissioner Whitmore's position on the Task Force. Commissioner Whitmore was the only one to nominate. He chose to nominate Timothy Strawther. Commissioner Sobel made the motion to elect Mr. Strawther by a roll call vote with a second motion from Commissioner Bradford. The vote was unanimously yes.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

The commissioners provided updates on changes of command across their installations. Fort Hood is preparing for upcoming deployments. Goodfellow AFB recently signed two significant memorandums of agreement with local entities. One for military training opportunities and one for living quarters with Angelo State University. CCAD is looking forward to new opportunities for mission sustainment with the U.S. Army's RQ-7 UAV and potential opportunities to take on maintenance for the AH-64 Apache

and Blackhawk platforms. Houston, San Antonio, and Fort Worth are all finalists for the new U.S. Space Command headquarters and are following up with questionnaires provided by the Department of Defense regarding their regions. All installations are operating under COVID-19 conditions so their status varies by installation.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Executive Director Keith Graf provided updates to DEAG program including the new round opening on September 1, 2020. Keith noted updates to the Military Spouse Summit which has been delayed but the TMPC staff continue to work on a video compiling the most important information to be sent to the military installations. The RELLIS Campus at Texas A&M University has been investing more funding into the new George H.W. Bush Combat Development Complex and suggested the commissioners make a visit and tour if the Governor's office allows them to travel for the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Bonner – SONRI, Corp on Sentinel Landscapes. Mr. Bonner highlighted the natural, cultural, and agricultural resource protections ongoing in South Texas under the sentinel landscapes program which helps with conservation efforts and the protection of military training areas.

Findley Brewster – Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute on Sentinel Landscapes. Mr. Brewster seconded this note and added that there are ongoing efforts with the federal government to continue to develop these programs. Commissioner Taylor added a note about these programs assisting with wind farm development in South Texas and how clarity in these business deals would help with the issues the area is facing with foreign development.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The chairman thanks everyone for their time and flexibility during the pandemic.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

The Commission established the next TMPC meeting date as November 16, 2020.

ADJOURN

The chairman adjourned the meeting.