

Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC)

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

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

November 16, 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 Kenneth Sheets
Commissioner Annette Sobel
Commissioner Shannalea Taylor
Commissioner James Whitmore
Keith Graf, TMPC Executive Director
Alexandra Taylor, TMPC Program Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

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

All commissioners were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the August 24, 2020 meeting were approved. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE TEXAS MILITARY VALUE REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPLICATION

The commissioner reviewed an updated application for the Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund (TMVRLF) due to statutory changes made since the last time the application was used. The motion to open discussion was made by Commissioner Bradford, seconded by Commissioner Whitmore. There were general notes but no changes proposed. The motion to close discussion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Gilliland. The motion to vote was made by Commissioner Duncavage and seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The application was approved.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

The commissioners provided updates on changes of command across their installations. All installations have made changes due to the ongoing pandemic including closing certain facilities. NAS JRB Fort Worth is preparing to receive C-130J models for the Air National Guard. They are also starting some renewable energy initiatives. Fort Hood has a few deployment ending in the next few months. Goodfellow AFB recently signed another memorandums of agreement with Angelo State University.

This includes allowing an NCO to transfer credits to get a teaching certificate. Members from the Goodfellow delegation traveled to the Pentagon to discuss military construction funds for their much needed dorms. CCAD has some building construction finishing and will grow opportunities there. USS Kingsville announced to thank the city for their service and relationship with the Navy. CNATRA headquarters is back open after the historic building was condemned. Dyess considering the opportunities and options if they are chosen as a B-21 base in the future. Fort Bliss is assisting El Paso in pandemic support. Laughlin AFB has a new commander and they are continuing to prepare for additional pilot training by 2022. San Antonio is the only Texas finalist for the new U.S. Space Command headquarters and the formal announcement should come at some time in January.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Executive Director Keith Graf noted that the Governor has requested additional funding for DEAAG (\$30 million) for this legislative session. The Task Force has met with half of the installations and will submit their report in the coming weeks. Due to COVID, the TMPC will not host a military summit in person. Texas A&M NRI is doing a follow-on study to look at how growing communities impact military training routes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Bonner – SONRI, Corp on Inter-governmental Support Agreements. Mr. Bonner highlighted the use of IGSA's and the benefits to the community. There are ongoing efforts to introduce legislation to help communities support their bases.

Findley Brewster – Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute. Mr. Brewster provided a clarification to a note made by Commissioner Coleman. Wind Farms can build turbines up to 499 feet without additional clearances. Mr. Brewster also noted the new project that will show an overlay of growth and hopefully a new federal sentinel landscape designation for Camp Bullis.

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 quarterly meeting date as January 25, 2021 and the commission would set a special meeting for a submitted TMVRLF application before the next quarterly meeting date.

ADJOURN

The chairman adjourned the meeting.