

Minutes
Finance & Personnel Association (FAPA)
Staff Association Meeting
February 5, 2025

Member's Present

1. Allison Collier - CAPCOG
2. Alyce Acosta – RIOCOG
3. Amy Dyron – BVCOG
4. Andrew Hoekzema – CAPCOG
5. Ariana Gonzalez - MRGDC
6. Betsy Prado - MRGDC
7. Bianca Pauley – WCTCOG
8. Brandy Brannon – ETCOG
9. Brigitte Farrell - ETCOG
10. Brittaney Wagner - GCRPC
11. Cathe Henderson – PBRPC
12. Chenee Briggs – GCRPC
13. Christina Ordonez-Campos - H-GAC
14. Cindy Chionsini - DETCOG
15. Debbie Garlington – SETRPC
16. Debbie Graff – ATCOG?
17. Dennis Wilder – NRPC
18. Diane Terrell – WCTCOG
19. Felicia Lindsey – CVCOG
20. Glenda Lacy - SETRPC
21. Jaylon Seales - CVCOG
22. Jeff King - SETRPC
23. Joetta Nevels - GCRPC
24. John C Minnix - HOTCOG
25. Lindsay Mikulenska – GCRPC
26. Lorraine Meeks – CSEC
27. Lucinda Elizondo – AACOG
28. Mary Beth Rudel – ATCOG
29. Maximiliano Pereda - MRGDC
30. Silvia Alvarado - CAPCOG
31. Timothy Fuentes – PBRPC
32. Trenton Taylor – PRPC

Call to Order & Welcome

The Finance & Personnel Association (FAPA) met on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 9:00 am. Jeff King, with SETRPC, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

9:05 am – 9:30 am

Lorraine Meek – Deputy for Finance Management – Commission on State Emergency Communication

Lorraine Meek – Deputy for Finance Management – During the meeting, she discussed the Finance Management Updates for the State 9-1-1 Programs. Additionally, she covered the topic of financial sampling, noting that it is now included in the database and awaiting a response. She also mentioned that the Commission State Emergency Commission (CSEC) strategy is being implemented. This new process is designed to confirm compliance with relevant programs.

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Tommy Simmons – Senior Legal Counsel and Mario Hernandez Legal Counsel – Office of Joe Esparza – Commissioner Representing Employers Texas Workforce Commission

Tommy Simmons and Mario Hernandez Legal Counsels – The session covered "New + Notable for Texas Employers." Topics discussed included Texas Employment Law and Hiring Legally, Federal and Texas Wage & Hour Law, Unemployment Claims & Appeals, and Employee Policy Handbooks. Members were informed that the TWC Handbook is updated annually and serves as a valuable resource for these topics.

The discussion also covered the impact of the President's Executive Orders and key considerations for employers. They explained the process of managing unemployment claims and how to handle them effectively. Additionally, the issue of misclassification of independent contractors was addressed. Attendees were encouraged to stay informed about relevant House and Senate Bills. A PowerPoint presentation was made available for review.

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Gerard MacCrossan CPPO, CTCD, CTCM – Data Management, Analytics & Technology Manager – Statewide Procurement Division (SPD) Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Gerard MacCrossan CPPO, CTCD, CTCM, his session discussed "What's New in State Grant Management." Topics included Texas Grant Management Standards (TxGMS) Version 2.0, as well as the use of the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) and Texas Smart Buy.

In his presentation, he covered the background and roles of the Statewide Procurement Division and State Agencies, differences between Grants and Procurement Contracts, a review of the Texas Grant Management Standards, and best practices. He also highlighted updates in Version 2.0, procedures for advertising grant opportunities, frequently asked questions, and available resources.

The presentation slides are available upon request.

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Jaylon Seales, CTCD, CTCM, Procurement Manager – Concho Valley Council of Government

Jaylon Seales discussed the Regional Procurement Do's & Don'ts – The session covered what every member of COG staff needs to know about purchasing. Key topics included understanding the concept of best value in procurement versus focusing solely on cost. The discussion addressed what procurement is, the difference between

procurement and purchasing, and the structure of the procurement department. Additionally, the presentation highlighted the unique aspects of COGs and Planning Commissions.

The presentation slides are available upon request.

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Regional Roundtable Discussion by Jeff King

Enhancing Regional Partnerships - During the meeting, the timing of grantor payments was discussed, highlighting how various agencies are often slow to process and disburse funds. It was noted that delays in payments can impact project timelines and operations.

To address this issue, strategies for reaching out to the agencies were considered, including follow-up procedures and establishing clearer communication channels.

Kimberly Dowty, TARC Assistant Director, was present and expressed a willingness to assist with this concern. She stated that TARC would be glad to engage and help in coordinating with the agencies, as they have successfully done in the past to expedite payments and resolve related issues.

Impacts & Timing of Changes to Grant Management Requirements - Members discussed the upcoming fiscal year-end grant closeouts and concerns regarding unrecoverable costs and unrealistic recovery timelines. Jeff King inquired about potential solutions to address these challenges. It was recommended that COGs consider utilizing a fixed rate adjustment method instead of a provisional rate adjustment application. A fixed rate adjustment with a carry-forward amount applied to the new rate would help to recover these adjustments.

Additionally, indirect costs were discussed. Jeff King mentioned that recent changes to TxGMS, particularly the increase in micro-purchasing thresholds, represent a notable administrative cost savings, as higher thresholds reduce procurement workload. No immediate changes are required for state agencies until October 1, 2025, but it was suggested to revisit this topic later for further input.

Finally, the discussion included the proposed change in the fixed asset threshold in the uniform guidance 200.439, which increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 on October 1, 2024.

Upcoming Changes to the Federal Reporting System – Jeff King informed members that effective March 2025 that the FFATA website would be changed to SAM.gov website. Any qualifying direct federal funding received from the Federal government and their recipients must be entered into this new system.

Updates to Accounting & Financial Reporting Standards – Jeff King discussed the update to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 101, which pertains to accrual of compensated absences. The objective of this update is to enhance the relevance and reliability of financial statements by refining the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences, including sick leave, parental, military, and jury duty leave, and compensatory time.

There was extensive discussion regarding the accrual and utilization of sick and vacation leave, as well as the payment of compensatory time. The group considered how these changes might impact financial reporting and the importance of accurately capturing these liabilities.

Kimberly Dowty asked if there were any topics that the group would like to discuss for the next meeting. There were some suggestions made by the group.

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

FAPA Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the FAPA meeting held on September 18, 2024, were presented for approval. The chair, Jeff King, with SETRPC asked if there were any questions or comments. Jeff King entertained a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Minnix with HOTCOG and seconded by Silvia Alvarado with CAPCOG. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

John Minnix with HOTCOG presented the Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2024, and there were no questions. He informed members that all COGS were billed for their dues. Diane Terrell with WCTCOG made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Christina Ordonez-Campos with H-GAC. The motion was passed.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

New Business

Election of Officers – The group was informed that Sue Jordan would no longer serve as chair. Jeff King stated that he was neutral regarding the election of officers, and he was willing to step aside to allow someone else the opportunity to fulfill this role.

A motion was made to elect new officers for the year 2025. Jeff King discussed nominating new officers. A motion to nominate Jeff King with SETRPC as Chair and Christina Ordonez-Campos with H-GAC, as Vice Chair was motioned by John Minnix with HOTCOG and seconded by Sylvia Alvarado with CAPCOG. The motion passed. Jeff King discussed electing an officer as secretary. He explained that Glenda Lacy currently serves as secretary and is willing to step aside to allow someone else the opportunity to fulfill this role. John Minnix with HOTCOG made a motion to elect Glenda Lacy with SETRPC and Diane Terrell with WCTCOG seconded the motion. The motion passed.

These are the new officers that were nominated for 2025.

Chair - Jeff King, SETRPC

Vice Chair - Christina Ordonez-Campos, H-GAC

Secretary - Glenda Lacy, SETRPC

5:00 pm - Adjourn