



MEETING NOTICE

TO: North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority Board Members
FROM: Gary Halbrooks
DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022
SUBJECT: **March Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the NET RMA is scheduled as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022
TIME: 1:30 PM
PLACE: The Reserve
7725 Hwy 259
Longview, Tx 75602

Enclosed please find the agenda and other pertinent information for your review prior to the meeting. Should you have any questions, please call Lana Lane at 903.630.7894.

NORTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (NET RMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
The Reserve
7725 Hwy 259
Longview, TX 75602

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM.

Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office and on the NET RMA website and office on Friday, March 4, 2022.

Gary called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm at the Reserve in Longview, Tx. We have a quorum

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS.

Gary Halbrooks, Andrea Williams-McCoy, Ben Hamilton, Brian Whatley, Chet Clayton, Dan Droege, Dave Spurrier, Dr. James Harris, Jason Ray, John Cloutier, Keith Honey, Nate Priefert, Robbie Shoults, Robert Messer, Marcia Daughtrey, Nathan Tafoya

3. CHAIR'S REPORT.

Gary Halbrooks

Derrick Choice won office for JP precinct 2. Will serve through December of this year. Congratulations! Last year first year for safe driving scholarships. Program is being expanded for this year. This would be a nice way to honor Linda Thomas. The Linda Thomas Safe Driving Scholarship

4. SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS.

Swearing in by Judge Stoudt for Jason Ray and Gary Halbrooks

Judge Stoudt- It was about the entire region of east Texas. The big cities will leave us behind. Gratifying to me to see the new board members and you all provide a great service to the state of Texas.

Gary- Nathan Tafoya new board member for Titus County. We will get him sworn in at the next board meeting

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM/COMMENT PERIOD.

No speakers

6. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 15, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

Gary- motion to approve meeting for last board meeting. John Cloutier and 2nd Jason Ray. Motion is approved

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Nothing to report

Gary Halbrooks

B. Community Relations Committee

Andrea Williams McCoy

Andrea- we have Hahn with us, and we have several community initiatives under way. Hahn is who we contract with for our programs. Turn over to David Hahn for presentation. Update on some marketing campaigns for the last year and a look forward in 2022 for marketing and campaigns through the next year. Get on Get Going (billboards and digital ads). Always an option to purchase a toll tag. Focus in 2022 with a partnership for toll tags. Revenue has increased in the past 2 years. Won a communicator award. Won in 3 different categories for this particular campaign. Last summer safe driving campaign. Drive smart save driving page to share safe driving tips and behaviors. Month of April was the Ted our fun animated character. Scenarios for distracted driving that we should all avoid. These were quite a few through Facebook. Media coverage getting the word out through advertising. Have had 100% success rate in getting some coverage. We have coverage on Linda and her retirement. 2022 Marketing campaigns is going to be the NTTA partnership. Brookshires to get toll tags. Extending safe driving campaign with new characters, and other scenarios. April we will have more Ted scenarios and tie to some behaviors specific to Toll 49. Later in the year the backend system will be added to the campaign. Turn over to Andrea on scholarships. Andrea- Save driving scholarship name change in honor of Linda Thomas. \$10,000 of budget to this initiative. Any senior in high school. 10 - \$1,000.00 scholarships. Open March 9th and closes April 6th, winners will be announced April 13th. Every county in NET RMA is eligible to schools. Need to get the information to the high school counselors. Schools, County Judges and news outlets notified. Andrea- Colleen is it okay if the dates are extended? More schools should be listed other than Tyler School districts. Are there any particular criteria? Go to NET RMA website. Website has all the information. Colleen will send a link to board tomorrow once all information has been uploaded to website. Cloutier- will all the billboards be updated with the new toll tag entity? Glenn- yes it will be replaced with

NTTA. Cloutier- what is the financial benefit for us to promote the other tag? Glenn- financial benefit is more directed to everyone having a tag. NTTA is better customer service. Cloutier- we were told they charge less per transaction. Glenn- we switch over in June. Andrea- there has been a delay. Andrea- as the changeover begins in June there will be an advantage. Colleen- speaking on style design and what goes into it. Cloutier- time spent on marketing and logos. All white lettering is really hard to read. Can we use our normal logo instead of the white lettering? Glenn- we are in the process of removing the Tx Tag logos.

C. East Texas Hourglass Committee

Dave Spurrier- nothing to report

Dave Spurrier

D. Finance Committee

No report

Robert Messer

E. Member Outreach Committee

John Cloutier- meet next week and review the entire system. Then call a committee meeting and shortly afterwards the dates will be given. Social Media items had the most attention

John Cloutier

F. Personnel Committee

Jason Ray- have a report later in the meeting

Jason Ray

G. Project Development & Implementation Committee

No report

Larry Morse

8. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF NET RMA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Dianne- Net electronic actual under budget 2%, Net video revenue over budget or 1%, Operating revenue under budget 1%, Operating expenses under budget 8%, Toll 49 operating expenses under budget or 24%, Net other expense actual over budget 4% due to actual payouts on priority projects, Net income deficit over budget 8%. Robert Messer, 2nd Dan Droege. Motion is approved

9. REPORT ON TOLL 49 TOLLING TRANSACTIONS AND REVENUE.

Diane- 36,122 monthly average.

10. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ACCEPT THE 2021 NET RMA AUDIT REPORT. (RESOLUTION 22-02)

Action Item

Walter- the audit for 2021 will not cover any of the numbers. Important to cover this coming out of COVID-19. Was there anything in the financials that needed to be corrected? No, there were none. Kudos to Dianne. Internal controls of organization is very strong. Compliance with bond company, very strong. But there were no issues. Messer and Chet are very involved with the Audit committee. Asking questions about the financials. Bond covenant requirements what is the leeway. Priority projects much higher level than in the past. No liabilities on the balance sheets. Must be careful that the dollar amount doesn't continue to grow. Good financial September 30th through now. In very good financial position to weather some of the storms out of your control. Good financials to work with, you are in good financial position in getting all segments in line. You all have set yourself up for the next project whatever that may be. Andrea- review the priority project process, do you have any recommendations? Walter- the process in place is a good one. Only question is how long will they remain pending? That will be your auditor being conservative. Bond standpoint, that commitment still keeps growing then there would be some concern there. It is a commitment but not a commitment. Please be cautious on the word reserve. I don't believe they are restricted. There is cash that can be used. Andrea- how are they now? Walter- they are not an obligation just yet. Cloutier- the money can be spent on something else because it has not been spent yet? Walter- it is in the general fund. Dianne- there is a line item for each area. Dr. James Harris- these are not listed as a liability because the counties have not done everything for us to owe the money yet. There would be an issue if all the cash was needed at once. Robert Messer- is that a good summation? Walter- yes. General fund board has not designated those amounts for the projects. There is a disclosure for commitments and contingencies. Cloutier- projects not getting processed and paid in timely fashion. Walter- there will always be delays. Dr. Harris- we need to be mindful of the cash balance and if everyone called on it and be mindful of the cash available. Dave Spurrier- don't like our auditor using the word concern. Messer- we are not expensing these annually. I think it will be better if we could. Expense as rewarded. That is a nuance that could be appreciated. Spurrier- do you recommend we restrict the bonds or the money or not? Walter- before you commit to that look at the backend and get with the counties and see how long you will extend. How long is the commitment going to last? Spurrier- 3 years should be restricted. Walter- I would say yes. Spurrier- couldn't we just unrestricted at that time. We can set the rules. Walter- the auditor will not set those rules. Dianne- this is the general fund, and this is restricted when it comes to financials, and you just can't see that. Gary- we can talk more and

see if any more questions come out of that. Walter- Pension fund with less employees. You have a net pension asset. Most government have a liability or deficit. Right now, you are in good shape, you have an asset. You have an asset sitting on the books which is normally uncommon. John Cloutier, 2nd Andrea Williams-McCoy. Motion is approved

11. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE 2021 NET RMA ANNUAL REPORT. (RESOLUTION 22-03) Action Item

Glenn- we submit to Tx Dot. Colleen- the delivery should have been done here but that did not happen. It is on our website. Dan Droege, 2nd Andrea Williams-McCoy. Motion is approved

12. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSENGER RAIL EFFORTS OF THE I-20 CORRIDOR COUNCIL. (RESOLUTION 22-04) Action Item

Glenn- Ft worth and Atlanta this has been brought to our attention by Dr. Harris. Dr. Harris- don't really have any detail. The Anderson family has tried to get the train service straight through to the East Coast. This is a way to assist. Gary- they have been phenomenal in their continued efforts. Dr. Harris- we have no obligations. Cloutier- different segments and where the holes were and that it is single tract. It would be nice to know the plan for success. Dr. Harris- I don't have any detail on the tract. Now it will be possible for the railroad companies to work together. Mrs. Anderson would just like out support and know that we are not against. Andrea Williams-McCoy, 2nd Dave Spurrier. Motion is approved

13. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 3 WITH HNTB CORPORATION FOR PREPARATION OF A FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT. (RESOLUTION 22-05) Action Item

Glenn- federal funding to add the 2 lanes between 31. Make application for the money in doing so HNTB will do our application which is extensive amount of work. This will equip them will clear understanding. This would be part of the packet where we could use all the board members going out and providing letters in support of our project and our application. Cloutier- if we get letters can you give us a dialogue? Glenn- yes sir. Benefit is around 26 or 27 million. Everette about \$1 Million 5. Its more the plan. If you don't get it then you still have the plan. Andrea- I wouldn't consider the plan as part of the effort. We have the cost no matter if we get this money or that money? Everette- yes, it is part. Robert Messer, 2nd Andrea Williams-McCoy. Motion is approved

14. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. (RESOLUTION 22-06) Action Item

Gary- there are nothing secret on the recommendations. But if there are further questions and need detail we would need to go into detail and then come back out. Jason Ray- on behalf of the personnel committee we are past due. We have 13 evaluations. 4 out of 5 scale. Very good feedback. Recommendation made to grant 3% salary increase back dated. John Cloutier, 2nd Andrea Williams-McCoy. Motion is approved

15. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

A. Update on Partnership Meetings

Glenn- Kaufman county and Van Zandt. We visited with Titus County judges. We explained in detail our organization. Met with Tx Dot. Moving to NTTA for back-office operations and supportive of us promoting their tag. Discussed the reasons why and want to retain a good relationship with Tx Tag. Rockwall to develop further relationships for NET RMA.

16. ADJOURNMENT.

Gary- meeting adjourned at 3:01 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551, SUBCHAPTER D, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, IF ANY

➤ **At any time during the meeting of the NET RMA Board of Directors, the Board may meet in executive session for consultation concerning matters under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including:**

A. Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney—Consultation with and advice from legal counsel concerning pending/contemplated litigation, settlement offers and negotiations, ongoing disputes and potential disputes, and other legal issues.

B. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property—Discussion of real property purchase, exchange, lease, license, gift, donation, and/or negotiated settlement, including property to be acquired for right-of-way.

C. Section 551.074. Personnel Matters—Deliberation concerning the appointment, employment, reassignment, evaluation, duties, discipline, and/or dismissal of personnel.

PARTICIPATION BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL:

One or more members of the Board may participate in this meeting through a telephone conference call, as authorized by Section 370.262, Texas Transportation Code. Under that law, each part of the telephone conference call meeting that by law must be open to the public shall be audible to the public at the meeting location. During the meeting, the identification of each party shall be clearly stated prior to speaking, and the meeting shall be documented by written minutes. On conclusion of the meeting, the written minutes of the meeting will be made available to the public.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

The Board will allow an open comment period, **not to exceed one hour**, to receive public comment on any other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Board, including an item listed on the agenda. Public comment must be made during the open comment period. You must be recognized by the presiding officer.

Each speaker will be allowed a **maximum of three (3) minutes**. For subjects that are not otherwise part of the agenda for the meeting, Board members may neither comment nor question speakers during the open comment period, but may request the presiding officer, or a recognized committee, to investigate the subject further. No action will be taken on matters that are not part of the agenda for the meeting.

NOTE

Enumerated agenda items are assigned for ease of reference only, and will not necessarily be considered by the Board in that particular order. The presiding officer may rearrange the order in which agenda items are considered.

Presenters with audiovisual needs are requested to contact NET RMA at 903.630.7894 at least two working days prior to the meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR DISABLED PERSONS

This meeting site is accessible to disabled persons as follows: wheelchair ramp at the main entrance. If any special assistance or accommodations are needed in order to attend this meeting, please contact the NET RMA at 903.630.7894 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters for person who are deaf or hearing impaired, and readers of large print or Braille, are requested to contact the NET RMA at 903.630.7894 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.