



# REM Meeting Minutes

## ❖ Welcome and Introductions

- Samantha Pickett, REM Chair
  - We will miss you, Samantha!! Thank you for your service to REM!
- Thank you Waxahachie for hosting!

## ❖ Presentations

- **FIFA World Cup** - Irish Hancock, Arlington OEM
  - The World Cup - June/July of 2026
  - Irish presented to the group about the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the regional structure and impacts of the event.
  - Irish's presentation will not be available with the minutes. If there are specific questions for him regarding FIFA or interest in having him give the presentation to your group/team, please email [irish.hancock@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:irish.hancock@arlingtontx.gov)
- **CISA, Cyber Events, Election Integrity, and Grants**- Chad Johnson, Protective Security Advisor, Region 6
  - Cybersecurity should be a continuous part of Emergency Management and planning
  - Cybersecurity is the protection of information and property from theft, corruption, or natural disaster, while allowing the information and property to remain accessible and productive to its intended users
  - Cybersecurity Triad
    - Integrity - ensuring the authenticity of information
    - Availability - information is accessible by authorized users
    - Confidentiality - protecting information from being accessed by unauthorized parties
  - Misconceptions vs. Reality on Cybersecurity
    - You do not need a big budget
    - Users are the first line of defense - many attacks begin with phishing attacks
  - Ransomware
    - 2020 - reported loss of \$29,100,100 due to ransomware, total of 2,474 victims
    - New Trend: Double Extortion
      - ◆ Ransomware attack on a system with an additional data breach
  - Two most effective methods of infection
    - Phishing
    - Brute Force via RDP
    - Others
      - ◆ Compromised websites
      - ◆ Malvertising
      - ◆ Exploit kits
      - ◆ Downloads
      - ◆ Messaging applications
  - IC3.gov → Internet Crime Complaint Center Recovery Asset Team



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- CyWatch 24/7 Operations - [cywatch@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:cywatch@ic.fbi.gov)
- Best Practices
  - Turn on multi factor identification
  - Update your software
  - Think before you click
  - Use strong passwords
- <https://www.cisa.gov/shields-up>
  - Up to date information on ransomware, potential attacks and vulnerabilities, indications of compromise, etc.
- [Cyber Essentials](#) - starter toolkit
- [Planning Considerations for Cyber Incidents](#)
  - New document from CISA and FEMA
- More information on [Cybersecurity Grant Programs](#)
- Election Integrity - 2024
  - Situational awareness is most important during election seasons
- **Chad Johnston**
  - Protective Security Advisor-North Texas, Region 6
  - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
  - Cell: (501) 414-1468 |Chad.Johnston@cisa.dhs.gov

## ❖ Member Comments or Updates

- NCTCOG Updates
  - Full updates in the attached document.
  - New team member - Michael Hernandez, Training and Exercise Specialist - welcome to the COG!
  - T&E WG meeting December 6th → Fusion/Cyber/EOC exercise Project Scope of Work finalizing - Hybrid Meeting!
  - EPPC - FY24 projects discussion at the next meeting
  - REPAC - February 1st, 2024
  - December 14th - EMWG Meeting - Hybrid meeting
- NWS Updates
  - IWT is Tuesday, December 5! Hope to see you there!
  - New user interface for NWS Chat has been launched this week - log in and get familiar with the changes.
  - New office email for partner emails, sit reps, and weather call notifications → [nws.fortworth@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.fortworth@noaa.gov)
- TDEM Updates
  - New reorganization at TDEM - District Coordinators have shifted to District Chiefs
    - More local/day-to-day interactions between jurisdictions and CLOs
  - Disaster District 4 - now only 1 district
    - Moving from 5 CLOs to 13 CLOS for the DD (13 of 16 counties)
    - Robert Medford - new District Chief for District 4!
  - TDEM-147 season! Update and renew these ASAP
    - Fillable PDF available or available on the [TDEM 147 web form](#)
      - Any issues with the paper form - email Robert Medford or



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your CLO

- Hazard Mitigation Plan
    - Take a look at your plan and all of the potential grant opinions available
  - EMST Updates
    - Updating Roster - make sure you reapply even if you were a member before → email Lauren or Elliot for the application if you are not on the EMC listserv
    - Mandatory Training on December 11th at NCTCOG – virtual or in person from 1:30 - 4:00 pm
      - There will be another training scheduled if you cannot make this date
  - TEEM Updates
    - Next event: January 25 - at the Shack in the Colony! 6:30 pm
    - If you would like to join the listserv, email any of the leadership team!
- ❖ **Next Meeting:**
- Friday, February 2nd, 2024! See you in the new year!