

North Central Texas Council of Governments • Emergency Preparedness Department

Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere (CASA WX) Executive Council Meeting Minutes NCTCOG Microsoft Teams

November 13, 2024, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Call to Order and Opening remarks (10:30 am)

William Wessel, CASA WX Chair

Item 1: Vote on August meeting minutes (10:33 am)



CASA WX Members

Motion: Tonya Hunter made a motion to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes; Michaela Sandefer second, the motion passed. No opposed.

Item 3: Vote on 2025 Meeting Schedule (10:34 am)



CASA WX Members

Motion: Tonya Hunter made a motion to approve 2025 CASA meeting schedule; Thomas Griffith second, the motion passed. No opposed.

Items 4 and 5: Radar Website Updates

Brenda Philips, CASA

- Eric has been maintaining the radars. The radars are getting older and requiring more maintenance. Eric will be in the area on Thursday and Friday to do some repairs and maintenance on the radars.
- Johnson County Radar EWR, this is the company that owns the radar, previously said they wanted to remove the radar, but instead they just want to replace one of the radar parts, and leave it in its place. The radar will be down for a while. EWR will repair the radar now through early winter when we won't have severe weather. This is good news.
- Tonya wanted an update about Mesquite radars:
 - Brenda stated that the Mesquite radars will be addressed this week. There was a problem with the Hornets. We had to wait for the exterminators to come to take care of the hornets. Eric will visit Mesquite when he comes into town this week.
- Tonya wanted to know the status of raising that particular radar based on the building that was built next door at the airport:
 - Brenda stated the funding is there to do that. We're trying to get a sense of whether we should wait to see if the appropriation is coming through to do that now or wait until replacement. The question is should we raise it now and replace the radar later, or do we just wait.
 - Amanda stated this radar is on the list so that if we do get the appropriations, it will be replaced. We don't want to spend money to raise it, unless we indeed are not going to get that money within the next year, because it would take making some significant changes to the base of the radar in order to get it raised, and if we're going to replace it with a new radar, we shouldn't spend money to raise it.
- Casa is involved in a DOT Smart transportation grant, looking at both an Intermodal, and an uncrewed air and ground transportation taking place around alliance airport. We will provide Casa radar data, mostly the rainfall data to indicate areas of very, very light rain for UAV operations, and then to indicate potential areas of flooding for the ground base automated vehicles. This is with the City of Fort Worth, Transportation Department, and a private company called True Weather Solutions. We'll also be using some of our alerting capabilities as an example, so we will be able to send an alert for very light levels of rain that might impact UAV operations. We will keep people posted as that develops.
- Chase wanted to know in preparation for severe weather season, it may be good for us to start

looking at bringing some of those virtual trainings back, and forecast some dates, so that we can communicate those to our internal stakeholders who can benefit from it, and possibly having one catered specifically to the hydrology aspect where our storm water flood administrators may get more out of it.

 Brenda agreed and suggested doing some open sessions, in January or February. Amanda will work on getting it scheduled and sent out to everyone.

Item 6: Funding Subcommittee update

Chase Wheeler, CASA WX Vice Chair

- We've been doing a lot of work on the back end from the funding subcommittee aspect. The leadership is working on finding those funding avenues. The best one so far is that of the congressional appropriations that we're trying to get passed for \$4.5 million. Currently we are still in that holding pattern until Congress and the Senate actually approves those appropriations. It is already built into the appropriations packages, but it still has to be passed by both the House and the Senate. Things will probably be on hold until after the changeover in Washington.
- We've reached out to Kay Granger's office to touch base with them. There doesn't seem to be any major obstacles because we've made it to the appropriations package. We will have to wait until it gets voted on. Meanwhile we are looking at how to best utilize the \$4.5 million. Either to install or replace radar's existing sirens to expand the network with the National Weather Service and CASA leadership, and figure out where to place those sirens. Our goal is to be able to bring those back to the community, and we can share the recommendation and make sure collectively the Council will buy into that recommendation before anything is done.
- Amanda/Vanessa has sent out CASA dues invoices to all of the jurisdictions. Please try to get those in so we can get those funds allocated back.

Next Steps/Priorities

CASA WX Members

- We briefly talked about upcoming training, and the status congressional funding. We've been reaching
 out to Kay Granger's office to get a status update, and a plan for the future.
- Tonya wanted to know has there been discussion about the prioritization of replacement of the Midlothian radar. The radar in Midlothian has probably been one of the more reliable as it relates to the pedestal. For those that don't know, we're building a new public safety building here in Midlothian. We've had some discussion with Eric and our IT team as it relates to the movement of the infrastructure, from its current location server, computer, Internet connectivity, electric and airlines and that sort of thing and move them from its current location to another location in 2025.
 - Amanda stated that the Midlothian radar is one of the better radars and she doesn't think it will be replaced.
 - Brenda stated that because Midlothian's radar is newer, and is functioning better than other radars, there are other radars that will have priority. Brenda is wanting to know should there be a small radar replacement committee formed to make suggestions on radar repair/replacement. More to come at the February CASA meeting.

Adjournment (10:49 am)

Resources: CASA WX Website: www.nctcog.org/ep/casawx-1

Next CASA WX Executive Council Meeting: February 12, 2025 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM