



## DRCA Meeting in Conjunction with the Texas Emergency Management Conference Ft. Worth, TX, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

DRCA members and guests began arriving at 11:30 AM for lunch.

Chairman Gaynor addressed the DRCA members and guests for the luncheon at 11:57 AM and thanked those who attended the evening event the night before at Reata Restaurant.

The DRCA Texas Emergency Management Conference meeting came to order at 12:00 PM on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at the Sheraton Fort Worth Downtown Hotel. Rebecca DeLaRosa issued the meeting minutes for review.

There was no discussion on meeting minutes and all members were in favor.

Casy Long introduced Heather LaGrone, Senior Deputy Director of Texas General Land Office.

Speaker: Heather LaGrone

Heather began by providing background on her position and her role. She explained the April 26 declaration, a \$56 million threshold for assistance and accomplishments this past year. We expect the worst forecast for hurricane season this year. Hurricane Harvey allocation served 15,000 with STEP Program and Texas utilized apartments. Everyone is now housed and there are 12,000 single family units on the ground. Texas is seeing large growth, and they are ready for short term housing. Fall of 2022 has been issued and they will be ready to tap the DRCA members when these services are turned on. Last fall CDBG projects issued 4-year contracts. Many of the DRCA members are being looked at for grant oversight and this is happening now.

Texas is looking to DRCA for partners and looking to us for partners.

Tropical Storm 18-19, not taking any more applications and building housing now. Still have openings for housing opportunities where money has not been spent yet - \$40 million.

Next \$7 million will be for fire fighter capabilities.

Disaster recovery program is slowing down - 80-83% spent for disaster recovery.

Mitigation monies are available. Over subscription ongoing to serve the need that exceeded Harvey monies.



\$2.3 million allocated to communities and transitioning away from long term housing and moving into sub recipient. Seeing lots of drainage and communication towers, this is where we are now. Prepositioning needs now and working with 100's of communities. Looking at help with roads and bridges. Will see a lot of procurments coming out. All municiaplitiues are not required to use the system. Texas will not reup for another 4 years.

All DRCA members in attendance introduced their companies:

- Hill
- Tidal Basin
- WSP
- Stantec Consulting
- Metric Consulting – guest
- Crowder Gulf
- North
- CERES Environmental – guest
- CohnRexnick
- Synergy Disaster
- DFR Enterprises
- Royal Plus
- Safework – guest
- Structure Solutions
- FlexTC
- Choctaw Premiere Services
- Storms Services
- Aptim
- Stone water
- DSW
- Tetretech
- Atkins

Questions and Answers:

Jed – Where will FEMA monies go?

Heather – Monies will go through state. Floating the idea of directing funds and managing so many grantees and will most likely want to go back to the states to administer. FEMA will go through TDEM.

Tracy - Grant administration?

Heather – Vendor support and about 90% use grant administrative support.

Lessons learned?

Heather – Prepositioning vendor relationships and can use emergency waivers and FEMA did not want them to use over the life of the grant. Prepositioning is more efficient. Procure builders and build on models. Best to work at the state level. Good at building track housing and make sense for them. Harvey, they downsized, and they need to be tight with language.

Heather recommends partnering because it could knock you out of an opportunity. She will share the partners with DRCA members.

Luis Lugo, Hill, Int. – Heather has a waiver. TX GLO will use RFQ and you become request for pricing now that we now know what we are purchasing. Give you a week to respond. Looking at \$ values. And it does withstand FEMA scrutiny.

Jed – Resilient Housing program findings?

Heather – Spend more on each house instead of resilient houses, tilt wall houses, container houses and prefab houses. Please provide different opportunities.

How can we support Heather in this upcoming hurricane season?

1. State agency – DRCA can inform delegation and provide feedback on bills
2. DRCA has the practical experience and can provide feedback
3. Relay information to legislators
4. Share best practices
5. CDBG – Grant without a regulation. Codification is going on since 2017 bill, putting restrictions on disaster recovery and very limiting. When visiting lawmakers, please relay what is working and not working.
6. Respond to procurements
7. You do not have to be the biggest of the big out there and if you are specialized then let them know who they are partnering with.

Casey – We are in the process of creating an MOU with FEMA and would like your input on our feedback of our language and recommendations.

Chairman – Next big conference meeting will be the NEMA conference in Oct.

Casey – Will be reaching out for data to describe the impact of DRCA members.



Tracy – Federal matching event. Would like to see this information.

Casey - Will be building a business-to-business directory.

Chairman- We look forward to showing our footprint and showcasing our members.

Motion to close. Adjourned meeting at 12:43 PM