

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO TEXNET AND BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2026 – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OPENING

The meeting of the TexNet Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at ~ 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026.

PRESENT

Alexandros Savvaidis, Manager of TexNet
Brian Stump, Committee Chair (via Zoom)
Jeff Nunn, Committee Member
Aaron Velasco, Committee Member (via Zoom)
Larry French, Committee Member
Mark Boyd, Committee Member
Stefan Hussenoeder, Committee Member
Chris Hillman, Committee Member
Dave Cannon, Committee Member (via Zoom)
Mark Blount, Assistant Director of External Affairs, Bureau of Economic Geology
Seyyed Hosseini, Program Director, Bureau of Economic Geology
Elizaveta Rybina, TexNet Admin Program Coordinator
Jenna Watts, Director for State Affairs, UT Governmental Affairs and Initiatives
Ryan Rutherford, Policy Coordinator, Governmental Affairs and Initiatives
Mark Wiggins, Legislative Officer, City of Irving

ABSENT

Scott Mitchell, Committee Member
Lorena Moscardelli, Director, Bureau of Economic Geology
Kari Gibson, Manager of State Government Affairs, ConocoPhillips

AGENDA FOR MAY 11, 2026 MEETING

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review and Edit - 18 Feb 2026 Minutes
- Short History of TexNet Budget
- Budget Discussion
 - Proposed Operations and Maintenance Budget Next Biennium
 - Proposed One Time Funding to Replace Aging Seismic Equipment and IT Hardware in 2027
- Review Letter to Governor
- Discussion and Agenda Proposal for Next Meeting
- Update - Recent Seismicity Across Texas

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with introductions. Mark Wiggins was introduced as the new Director of Legislative Affairs at the City of Irving. Committee members present in person included Jeff Nunn, Mark Boyd, Stefan Hussenoeder, and Chris Hillman. Brian Stump and Aaron Velasco joined the meeting via Zoom.

REVIEW AND EDIT - 18 FEB 2026 MINUTES

The Committee reviewed and approved the February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

SHORT HISTORY OF TEXNET BUDGET

The Committee reviewed the history of TexNet and the TexNet funding. Alexandros Savvaidis presented a timeline showing how TexNet funding evolved from initial \$2.5 million for seismic array development to \$3.032 million annually in 2023. This budget increase was driven by seismic activity in 2022 and the need for additional staff to support prompt earthquake analysis, reporting, and 24/7 operations, as the Earthquake Catalog was falling behind.

In 2023, a rider supported by the Senate Committee proposed additional \$1.4 million to hire 5 earthquake analysts, two IT specialists, one field engineer, and a scientist to create velocity models. These positions have since been filled.

Alexandros shared that seismic activity in Texas is declining towards the baseline observed in 2022; however, two earthquakes occurred last month in the DWF area near Irving, where a previous earthquake occurred in 2015.

The reduction of seismicity was attributed to the RRC and industry's use of TexNet data.

The importance and quality of the TexNet public Earthquake Catalog was emphasized, as it remains the only source of earthquake data for the RRC and most operators in Texas. Alexandros proposed providing the RRC Commissionaires with one-page summary highlighting the need for increased funding to maintain data quality and support Texas industry.

The TAC observed that seismicity rates in the state exceed the original seismicity estimates as well as the original design of the network motivating the current increased number of stations in the network and supportive IT system. It was noted the Delaware Basin is prone to seismicity and remains a major oil and gas producer. Continued monitoring is necessary to mitigate earthquakes impacts on the industry.

Alexandros shared that most seismic stations are in the Delaware Basin, followed by Eagle Ford, Midland Basin and Snyder area, collectively accounting for over 75% of the network. The TAC suggested adding statistics on station age in areas with seismicity clusters.

TDEM's decision to include seismicity in its hazard mitigation plan was noted as beneficial for advocating infrastructure improvements in densely populated areas like Irving.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

At 12:30 p.m. Dave Cannon (via Zoom) and Larry French (in person) joined the meeting.

The group agreed that the current \$3 million a year budget is insufficient to address aging seismic and IT equipment, and inflation.

Two separate budget requests were considered: one for increased recurring operational expenses and another for one-time funding to replace aging seismic equipment and IT hardware.

Alexandros presented a budget proposal for a 15% increase from the current biennium to the next, raising it to \$7 million, primarily to support increased material services, travel, IT hardware, and equipment maintenance.

Alexandros emphasized that the one-time budget increase is meant to support the next biennium budget request; without it, the proposed 15% increase would be insufficient. He mentioned that vehicles are included in both the

recurring biennium request, and the one-time request. Alexandros shared that the biennium budget is intended to cover routine maintenance, day-to-day operations, personnel salaries, travel, and IT needs. Most expenses support staff salaries to retain personnel, travel, and IT needs to maintain data at a collocated site. Alexandros shared that the goal of the increased budget is to maintain a balance between operational components and personnel, noting that earthquake analysis could face staff reductions.

Alexandros presented the additional one-time budget proposal of \$4.255 million, which would focus on capital investments, including IT hardware, seismic sensors, and equipment replacement, while the recurring budget would cover ongoing operations, personnel, and routine maintenance.

Brian Stump suggested spreading the equipment replacement costs over several years, replacing approximately 20 stations annually to establish a sustainable long-term schedule. The TAC considered the typical 10-year on average lifespan of seismic equipment as a schedule for replacing aging seismic equipment.

It was clarified that budget funds cannot be reserved, but equipment can be purchased and held in reserve.

It was proposed to submit the formal funding request to the Governor, as per TAC's statutory responsibilities.

As far as one-time request, the recommendation was to make it as a high-level rider \$4.2 million appropriation to upgrade seismic and IT infrastructure.

REVIEW LETTER TO GOVERNOR

The Committee discussed preparing a concise, high-level letter to the Governor, emphasizing TexNet's public safety and economic benefits. UT Government Affairs recommended focusing on the statutory mandates and program's viability, supported by letters from industry and the Railroad Commission. The University of Texas at Austin will set funding priorities in July-August.

UT Government Affairs proposed communicating the need for an additional \$1 million across the biennium for seismic and IT equipment modernization, consolidating recurring and one-time requests in a single letter to the Governor. Optionally, one-time funding can be requested by a rider.

The TAC and UT Government Affairs agreed regarding the request for additional funding. It was determined that the initial approach would be to submit the funding request to the Governor's Office, supported by endorsements from industry and members of local legislature.

The Committee agreed to seek \$11 million in total - \$7 million recurring and \$4 million one-time funding, while preparing for potential budget constraints in the upcoming legislative session. The request will focus on IT hardware and seismometers.

The TAC planned to present TexNet's funding request at the Texas Seismicity and Water Partnership meeting on May 27th, with Alexandros presenting on behalf of the TAC.

The draft letter to the Governor will be finalized by Brian Stump, Mark Boyd, Aaron Velasco, and Larry French, ensuring alignment with the Committee input, and then circulated to the full Committee, the Bureau, and UT Government Affairs for review before submission.

Jenna Watts, Ryan Rutherford, Mark Blount, Mark Wiggins, and Seyyed Hosseini left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND AGENDA PROPOSAL FOR NEXT MEETING

The TAC discussed plans for the Q3 TAC Meeting on September 14th, including a proposal to hold it downtown from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The agenda will include a presentation on TexNet's history, mission, and goals, as well as a discussion of the 2026 TexNet review meeting, and the biennial report. The TAC discussed inviting state representatives to attend. Aaron Velasco indicated he would follow up on potential meetings with Railroad Commission Commissioners.

UPDATE - RECENT SEISMICITY ACROSS TEXAS

The group discussed seismic activity in Texas, including recent earthquakes near Dallas and ongoing seismicity in the Permian Basin, reviewed station changes, including decommissioning of two TexNet stations due to landowner issues, and noted that most seismic activity remains in the Permian Basin with two active clusters in Frio and Karnes counties.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at ~ 2:50 p.m. by Brian Stump, Committee Chair

Minutes submitted by: Elizaveta Rybina, TexNet

Minutes reviewed by: Alexandros Savvaidis, TexNet

Minutes approved on ..., 2026, by: