



# TEXAS LAND & MINERAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, Number 3

3rd Quarter 2020

### TLMA FILES COMMENTS TO HOUSE LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Earlier this year, the Speaker of the House announced the interim charges for each committee. TLMA was closely following the House Energy Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, and the House Land and Resource Management Committee. We were eagerly awaiting the announcement of interim hearings when COVID hit. Since the situation has remained the same regarding social distancing, some committees requested information to be submitted on each of the charges.

TLMA filed brief comments on interim charge #2.

*2. Review, in coordination with the Office of Attorney General, the efficacy of the Landowner's Bill of Rights (LBoR) in explaining to landowners the eminent domain condemnation process and their rights and responsibilities under Chapter 21 of the Property Code. Identify any omitted information which can enhance the landowner's understanding of the condemnation process and determine whether any other changes should be made to the document to make it more user friendly. Determine whether it would be beneficial for the legislature to be more prescriptive in statute 2 with the mandatory contents of the LBoR.*

TLMA's comments focused primarily on the LBoR being a small part of a much larger process and adding information to a single document is not the fix to establishing fairness in the condemnation process.

Two additions that TLMA suggested are :

- The landowner's right to challenge the entities authority to condemn land. The LBoR currently only speaks to the award amount.
- Include information on what property the entity has the legal authority to condemn

You can view our full comments on the TLMA website under "Recent News".

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Jennifer Bremer

## **UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

TLMA Members—

I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy.

This year has presented a lot of challenges and opportunities for growth and innovation.

While I'm very disappointed that we won't be able to gather for our Statewide Member's Meeting in person, hosting this meeting virtually has the potential to open opportunities for future events. I hope that you all will join us for the event in October. I've provided a lot of information on later pages, but call with any questions you may have. A virtual conference requires more work for everyone. Please make sure you request materials if you need them and to register ASAP.

We are still actively preparing for the upcoming legislative session, although we are unsure how COVID will change our day to day activities in the Capitol. I will include a more detailed legislative update in the December newsletter.

I hope you are finding that the new website is more user friendly. There were a few glitches in the beginning, but they seem to be worked out for the most part. If you are still experiencing issues, please let me know.



*Jennifer*

## **UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST**

September 1, 2020—RRC Open Meeting

September 21, 2020—Last day to request packet for Statewide Member's Meeting to be mailed to you

September 28, 2020—Ballots must be postmarked to be counted

October 5, 2020—Last day to submit questions ahead of the Statewide Member's Meeting

October 6, 2020—RRC Open Meeting

October 8, 2020—TLMA Statewide Members Meeting VIRTUAL

October 20, 2020—RRC Open Meeting

November 3, 2020—General Election

November 4, 2020—RRC Open Meeting

December 8, 2020—RRC Open Meeting

RRC Meetings are all being held virtually and can be viewed online at the RRC's Website [www.rrc.texas.gov](http://www.rrc.texas.gov).

## 2020 STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING REGISTRATION



Due to the ongoing uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association Board of Directors has chosen to host the 2020 Statewide Members Meeting **virtually instead of in-person at the Pearl Stable in San Antonio.**

Registration is **OPEN online** at [www.tlma.org](http://www.tlma.org). There's a "Quick Link" to the registration on the Home page or you can click "Statewide Members Meeting" under "News & Events". You may also register by filling out the registration form on the next page and mail with payment to the TLMA office: 1005 Congress Ave., Ste. 360, Austin, TX 78701. If they mail in the application, please make sure they mail in the correct amount.

**We are still seeking sponsors and exhibitors!** A virtual conference doesn't come without costs. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring the event, please email [execdir@tlma.org](mailto:execdir@tlma.org) for the appropriate form and more details on the opportunities available.

## 2020 STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING AGENDA

TLMA is excited to have the following presentations for our members.

- 9 a.m. **Welcome**, Kim McTee, TLMA Chairman  
9:05 a.m. **Royalty Auditing**, Idalia Romanos, RL Royalty Consulting  
(or immediately following the Welcome)  
10:05 a.m. **Solar**, Parks Brown, Uhl, Fitzsimons, Jewett, Burton, Wolff & Rangel PLLC  
10:55 a.m. **Business Meeting**, Kim McTee, TLMA Chairman and Jennifer Bremer, TLMA Executive Director  
12:30 p.m. **Bankruptcy**, Brian Cumings, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody  
1:20 p.m. **Legislative Update**, Billy Phenix, TLMA Governmental Affairs  
2:10 p.m. **Water**, Steve Kosub, Sprouse Shrader Smith  
Meeting Wrap Up, Kim McTee, TLMA Chairman

As you can see, there will be a short break between each speaker, but it will not be long. More of a transition period, than a break.

## 2020 STATEWIDE MEETING ZOOM WEBINAR INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

TLMA will use the Zoom Webinar platform to conduct our 2020 TLMA Statewide Members Meeting. (This is not the same as Zoom Meeting.) You will be able to see the presenter and their presentation at the same time, but will be in a listen only function. This means as a participant you can only listen and cannot freely communicate back to the speaker. However, Zoom Webinar enables the chat and raise your hand functions. You will be able to “chat” with each other during the presentations.

**You do not have to have internet access to listen to the presentations.** If you do not have access to the internet or a computer to use Zoom Webinar, you will be able to call in from your phone and listen. If you do not have internet access, we will mail a copy of the presentations and call in information to you **by request only**. If you have access to internet, PLEASE do not request the presentations. They will be available to you after the meeting. Meeting packets must be requested by **September 21. They will be mailed the following week.** To request a packet:

- If you have registered, call or email the TLMA office.
- If you have not registered, check the box on the registration form when you mail it in.

We are asking for questions to be submitted by October 5, 2020. This will allow the presenter to answer any questions throughout their presentation. If there are additional questions that arise, you will be able to “raise your hand” to ask a question.

**There is a download required for Zoom. I highly suggest logging into the meeting 10-15 minutes prior to ensure you have the software downloaded. Once it is downloaded, you will not have to download again.**

TLMA is requiring registration for the meeting. **The meeting link will be sent via email starting the last week of September.** We will send additional reminders with the link closer to the meeting.

There will be one continuous link that is active for the entire day, so you can join and leave as needed.

## 2020 SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

Thank you to all of our sponsors and exhibitors who help make this meeting happen!

Farm & Ranch Magazine  
Bissett Ranch Partnership  
Friend of TLMA  
Friend of TLMA  
Santa Fe-East Partners  
Turkey Track Ranch  
Trey & Paula Scott

Mrs. Helen K. Groves  
MineralWare  
Argent Mineral Management  
Catharine C. Whittenburg Testamentary Trust  
Uhl, Fitzsimons, Jewett, Burton, Wolff & Rangel PLLC  
P7 Kettle Ranch and Bass Breeze Lakes Ranch

# PLACEHOLDER FOR STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

SEPARATE FILE

## RRC CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

On November 3, Jim Wright and Chrysta Castañeda will face off in the General Election to become the next Railroad Commissioner. Jim Wright defeated incumbent Ryan Sitton in the primary election. Chrysta Castañeda defeated Robert “Beto” Alonzo in the Democratic runoff. You can learn more about their positions on their websites listed.

### **Chrysta Castañeda ([chrystafortexas.com](http://chrystafortexas.com))**

Chrysta Castañeda is an engineer, a lawyer, a community leader, and a mom. After receiving her degree in industrial engineering from Kansas State University, Chrysta earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, where she graduated cum laude.

As the founding partner of her law firm in Dallas, Texas, Chrysta focuses on oil and gas litigation in the upstream sector, as well as commercial litigation and products liability disputes involving technical evidence. Her winning verdict in Pecos, Texas for an oil and gas plaintiff has been recognized by the National Law Journal and named to the Texas Lawyer's Verdicts Hall of Fame.

In addition to her successful career, Chrysta has held leadership positions in a variety of non-profit agencies focused on improving women's lives. She is a board member of the Texas Women's Foundation and was previously the board chair of Ignite Texas, a non-partisan organization focused on building political ambition in young women.

The Texas Railroad Commission is the state agency that oversees all oil and gas drilling—one of the largest drivers of the Texas economy. Oil and gas production is not going away any time soon and it is a vital part of the Texas economy, but the Commission is not enforcing the law. Those laws protect us all – from wasting energy, from pollution, and from bad practices that doom our future.

Chrysta will work tirelessly to stop the waste and abuse of our precious natural resources. As both an engineer and a lawyer, she knows the law and she knows that technology can help get us out of this mess. She has worked in the industry for over three decades, representing all kinds of people: royalty owners, landowners, operators, investors, and service companies. Chrysta has the right experience and education to make the Railroad Commission a better place and improve the environment for all Texans.

### **Jim Wright ([www.wrightfortexas.com](http://www.wrightfortexas.com))**

Jim Wright is the Republican nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission. A lifelong South Texan, Jim's family have been ranchers in Texas for five generations.

Jim is a self-made success story, who turned his first job at a hazardous waste facility into a group of four oil field services companies that offer services ranging from consulting and transportation to industrial recycling.

A political outsider who had never run for political office, Jim is a solid conservative who won the Republican nomination by defeating the incumbent Railroad Commissioner with more than 55 percent

*(continued on page 7)*

## RRC CANDIDATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION CONT.

of the vote in what one news service described as the biggest upset in modern-day Texas political history.

Jim and his family live on a ranch outside of Orange Grove, Texas. An avid Christian, Jim is a Lutheran and when possible attends many of the state's Cowboy Churches, where his son Luke is a well-known speaker and preacher. Jim and his wife, Sherry, have five children.

As a high school student, Jim was in the national finals of the National High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA) before graduating from Calallen High School in Corpus Christi. He rode bulls for over 20 years and was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA). He has also been involved in numerous civic activities including as a board member of C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of the Coastal Bend and the Robstown Area Development Commission.

A strong pro-business Texan, Jim is running because he believes that we need to restore integrity and trust in the Texas Railroad Commission. Even though he has never been involved in politics, Jim knows how to bring everyone to the table. Jim intends to include a multitude of stakeholders, from industry to consumers and the public sector in developing policies on the Commission. He believes that we need to build trust from the public and the industry the Railroad Commission serves and hopes to develop strong ethics rules for agency employees, get citizen and industry input for needed changes in the regulation of the energy sector and promote transparency on the Commission.

Jim believes that the Railroad Commission should continue to engage with the industry and the public to find solutions to problems that will make a difference not only for Texans but in Washington and across the world.

## 2020 STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING VOTING INFORMATION

Section 4.13 of the TLMA bylaws permit voting to be conducted by mail. Because TLMA is not meeting in person this year, we will vote by mail. Each member of the association will receive a ballot. If you and your spouse are under a single membership, you will only receive **one** ballot.

Ballots will be mailed at the beginning of September. You will have until **September 28** to postmark your ballots back to the TLMA office. We will announce the results during the business meeting of the meeting. If you do not receive your ballot, please call or email the TLMA office.

**You will be voting on** the 2020 TLMA Board of Directors, District Representatives and the 2020 by-law amendments.

Recently, TLMA has received requests from entities that provide services to our members to become members of TLMA. The founding members of TLMA wanted to ensure that the TLMA bylaws were structured to protect the land and mineral owners.

The proposed changes to the bylaws allows entities that provide services to our members the ability to join TLMA at an elevated membership due level. The Board of Directors will have discernment over approving the entity to join. *If approved, these changes will take effect January 1, 2021.*



Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association  
1005 Congress Avenue, Suite 360  
Austin, TX 78701



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**TLMA Membership Information Form**

I would like to join TLMA     I am a member, please update my contact info

*Please return to: TLMA, 1005 Congress Ave., Suite 360, Austin, TX 78701*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget!**

If your contact information changes, be sure to update TLMA and avoid delays in receiving your newsletters, renewal notices, and other correspondence.

To change your address or any other membership information, contact Robbie Quemer at (512) 479-5000, mail in this form, or log in to your membership account online at [www.tlma.org](http://www.tlma.org).

**Find more information, join TLMA, or renew your membership online at [www.tlma.org](http://www.tlma.org)**