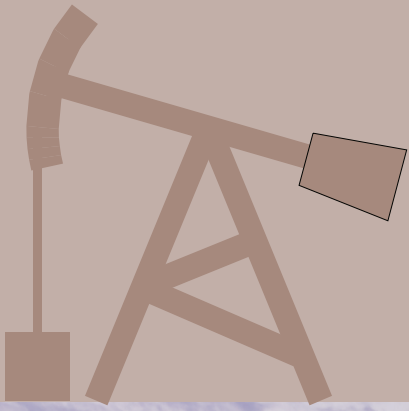


TEXAS LAND & MINERAL OWNERS
ASSOCIATION



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 23,
NUMBER 4



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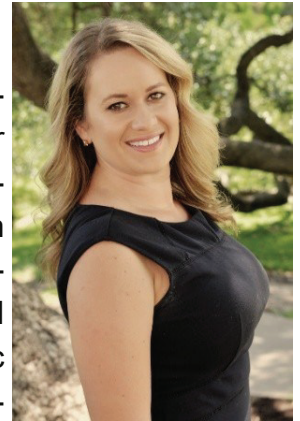
Jennifer Bremer

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TLMA Members,

2023 went by in the blink of an eye!

We started the year with a productive legislative session and headed right into summer conference travel. The Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course and NARO-TX Convention are always extremely beneficial for the association and myself. I am able to meet new land and mineral owners, learn about their specific issues, as well as learn about trends the industry is seeing.



The fall was busy following special legislative sessions and hosting the Statewide Members Meeting. Last year was the first time in the history of TLMA that the meeting has been held back to back years IN-PERSON.

I'm really proud of the success of our Statewide Members Meeting. Each year it has grown and we will continue to make each meeting more successful than the previous. I hope that you will continue to recruit family and friends to join us in our efforts to protect your rights as land and mineral owners.

This spring should be calm, with the exception of the primary election, but then we'll move into preparation for the 2025 legislative session. It seems so early to be discussing that, but as we have seen in recent years, there is ALWAYS work to be done.

Later this year, TLMA will officially mark its 25th anniversary. Throughout the year, we will have various opportunities to celebrate the anniversary.

We're setting big goals for this year and are so glad you are part of it.

If there is ever anything I can help you with or you think we should be aware of, please send an email to info@tlma.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer".

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON REPEAT

It was a never-ending legislative session in 2023. A total of four continuous legislative sessions made it seem as if we were in session year round. Never would I have believed that the primary season would cause things to slow down—that's normally when they pick up!

Following the first two special sessions, Governor Abbott put the following items on the call for the third special session:

EDUCATION FREEDOM: Legislation providing education savings accounts (ESAs) for all Texas schoolchildren.

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation to do more to reduce illegal immigration by creating a criminal offense for illegal entry into this state from a foreign nation and authorizing all licensed peace officers to remove illegal immigrants from Texas; Legislation to impede illegal entry into Texas by increasing the penalties for criminal conduct involving the smuggling of persons or the operation of a stash house; Legislation to impede illegal entry into Texas by providing more funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of border barrier infrastructure.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Legislation concerning public safety, security, environmental quality, and property ownership in areas like the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County, Texas.

ENDING COVID RESTRICTIONS: Legislation prohibiting COVID-19 vaccine mandates by private employers.

After not passing all of the items Governor Abbott issued on the call, the following items were on the call for the 4th special session.

EDUCATION: Legislation relating to primary and secondary education, including the establishment of an education savings account program, the certification, compensation, and health coverage of certain public school employees, the public school finance system, special education in public schools, measures to support the education of public school students that include certain educational grant programs, reading instruction, and early childhood education, the provision of virtual education, and public school accountability; Legislation related to school safety measures and related state funding mechanisms.

BORDER SECURITY: Legislation to do more to reduce illegal immigration by creating criminal offenses for illegal entry into this state from a foreign nation and illegal reentry or presence following denial of admission, exclusion, deportation, or removal; authorizing the removal of illegal immigrants from Texas; and providing indemnification and immunity for public officials, employees, or contractors in connection with the foregoing; Legislation to impede illegal entry into Texas by providing more funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of border barrier infrastructure, and additional funding for the Department of Public Safety for border security operations, including additional overtime expenses and costs due to an increased law enforcement presence to preserve public safety and security in the Colony Ridge development in Liberty County, Texas.

As you can see from the calls, the issues between special sessions remained the same, the call just became more detailed by trying to restrict what could be passed by members during the session.

However, at the end of the 30 days each time, much remained left to be done. The disagreements that began at the end of the regular session that led to an impeachment trial, continued well into the special sessions. House vs. Senate. There were additional fights in the House of rural v. urban—not the usual hard lines we

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON REPEAT CONT.

see on rural and urban issues but enough to impact the issues at hand.

So, what now?

As I mentioned earlier, the primaries caused a change in the discussions. The fourth special ended at the beginning of the holidays, but really was the start of primary battles. Governor Abbott has given endorsements to some republican incumbents, but not all. Especially those members who did not support ESAs.

It is unlikely that there is a special session between the primary and general election. Most of the efforts to get

TEXAS' NOVEMBER CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

Each November following the legislative session, Texas holds a constitutional election for the voters of Texas to approve or reject constitutional amendments that were passed by the Legislature. There were 14 amendments proposed on this years ballot. All of the amendments, but one were approved by the voters.

Propositions of interest to our members:

- Prop 1, better known as the right to farm, was approved with 79% of the vote.
- Prop 4—the property tax cut for homestead exemptions passed with 83% of the vote.
- Prop 6 –The creation of a water fund was approved by 78% of the voters.
- Prop 7—the creation of an energy fund for loans to promote new natural-gas fueled power plants was approved by 65% of the voters.
- Prop 8, the broadband infrastructure fund, passed with 69% of the vote.

Prop 13, adjusting the mandatory and minimum retirement age for state judges, was rejected by 63% of the voters.

These amendments are now effective.

RAILROAD COMMISSION PROPOSES MAJOR CHANGES TO WASTE RULE

In late 2023, the Railroad Commission proposed major rule changes to 16 TAC §3.8 and §3.57, and 16 TAC Chapter 4, the oil and gas waste management rule. The rule has not been updated since the development of new technologies and management practices of the industry.

The rule was released for informal comments and received over 100 submissions. TLMA submitted comments that can be found on our website. The Railroad Commission will now review the submitted comments and determine if changes are necessary before beginning the formal rulemaking process.

In our comments, TLMA “requests that a provision that no waste should be disposed of without land-owner consent.” We will continue to work with the Commissioners and staff to ensure the protection of our natural resources.

2023 STATEWIDE MEMBERS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association met on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. Chairman James C. “Jimmy” Broussard called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

Executive Director Jennifer Bremer introduced the sponsors and exhibitors of the 2023 Meeting.

Ms. Bremer then introduced the board of directors and informed those in attendance that Mr. Broussard’s term as chairman will conclude on December 31, 2024 and the TLMA Board of Directors has elected Mr. Tom Daniel as the Chairman to begin on January 1, 2024. Ms. Bremer announced the district representatives, honorary directors, and advisory directors.

Next, she gave the executive directors report. She reviewed the 2022 financials, expenditure breakdown and reviewed the 2023 activities. Finally, she reviewed ways that TLMA members can assist the association.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

2023 STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING WRAP UP

Last fall, we held our most successful Statewide Members Meeting to date! I’m really proud of the progress we continue to make with this event. I hope that you all are finding these meetings very valuable, will continue to attend, and will bring family, guests, and friends in the future.

The information presented to our members from the speakers—Billy Phenix, Jordan Mullins, Nick Laurent, Jeremy Mazur, and Cindy Taff was remarkable. I always learn so much and am so grateful that we have such generous and knowledgeable experts in our industry!

Each year, we add new sponsors that are recruited by members or relationships that I have made over the years. This year, we added five new sponsors and surpassed our sponsorship goal! We will begin recruiting for 2024 in the very near future. All sponsors and exhibitors are listed on the following page.

Our exhibitor spaces have become highly sought out. We are hoping to increase the number of exhibitors to give all of you more vendors to discuss your needs with. If you have a provider you recommend, please send an email to execdir@tlma.org so I can solicit their participation at the appropriate time.

In 2023, we also had the highest attendance we have had in at least 5 years!

All of the aforementioned items lead to record income for the meeting.

Due to the growth of the meeting, we are scouting venues for the 2024 meeting. As soon as we have the date and location confirmed, we will send that out. The plan is to continue to hold the meeting at the beginning of October in San Antonio.

SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS OF THE 2023 STATEWIDE MEMBERS MEETING



Bissett Ranch Partnership
Catharine C. Whittenburg Testamentary
Trust
Coates Energy Trust
Friend of TLMA
Friend of TLMA

Huisache Land & Minerals
LaBelle Properties, Ltd.
P7 Kettle & Bass Breeze
Lakes Ranches
Petty Group, LLP



FINAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We're closing a chapter...to open a new one!

As I mentioned last year, we used 2023 as a test run for a monthly electronic update to all of you. The pilot was to determine if we could provide more quantitative and qualitative information to our members, as we transition the printed materials to an annual newsletter. We found the overwhelming response was yes, we can.

We are excited for the coming year's first magazine and hope that the monthly electronic updates provide our members with the news and information they need to be the best stewards of the land.

The magazine is planned for a summer distribution to allow for a recap of legislative sessions as well as information on the annual Statewide Members Meeting.

I know we have a few members who prefer paper copies, and if you are one of them, please contact me in order to make arrangements for you to still receive the information. We certainly do not want anyone to miss out!

PRIMARY ELECTION RACES ARE SET

Texas will hold its primary elections on Tuesday, March 5th—Super Tuesday. Many House members have announced their retirements following the special sessions—including many veteran rural representatives. The loss of these long-time lawmakers will likely impact policymaking for rural communities.

Additionally, current Chairwoman of the Railroad Commission, Christi Craddick, will face four challengers in the Republican primary. They are Christie Clark, Corey Howell, James “Jim” Matlock, and Petra Reyes. The Democratic party has two candidates for Railroad Commissioner—Bill Burch and Katherine Culbert.

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

Tuesday, January 30—RRC Open Meeting
Tuesday, February 5—Last Day to Register to Vote
Wednesday, February 14—RRC Open Meeting
Tuesday, February 20—First Day of Early Voting for Primary Election
Friday, March 1—Last Day of Early Voting for Primary Election
Thursday, March 5—Texas Primary Election
Tuesday, March 19—RRC Open Meeting



To view any of the meetings above:

RRC Meetings can be viewed online at the RRC's Website www.rrc.texas.gov.

Oral Arguments can be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/supremecourtoftexas>.



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



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 us at (512) 479-5000, mail in this form, or log in to your membership account online at www.tlma.org.

Find more information, join TLMA, or renew your membership online at www.tlma.org