

TCMA Public Policy Task Force Meeting
April 30, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Members of the Task Force present at the meeting included: Chair Jared Miller, City Manager, Amarillo; Vice Chair Brian LaBorde, City Manager, Taylor; James Earp, Assistant City Manager, Kyle; James Fisher, City Manager, Brenham; Trey Fletcher, Assistant City Manager, Pflugerville; Robert Hanna, City Manager, Abilene; Mark Israelson, City Manager, Plano; Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager, McAllen; Bill Lindley, Town Administrator, Highland Park; Tobin Maples, City Manager, Fair Oaks Ranch; Dion Miller, City Manager, Tulia; Kent Myers, City Manager, Fredericksburg; Elena Quintanilla, City Manager, Ransom Canyon; Greg Smith, City Manager, Jacksonville; Stephanie Russell, Assistant City Manager, Freeport; Brad Stafford, City Manager, Navasota; Shane Stokes, City Manager, Pampa; Melissa Valadez-Cummings, Assistant City Manager, Cedar Hill; Kathleen Weisenberger, Assistant City Manager, Portland; Kenneth Williams, City Manager, Buda

Guest: Jason Sawyers, Intern, Abilene

TML Staff: Bennett Sandlin, Monty Wynn, Rachael Pitts, and Kim Pendergraft

Jared Miller opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and thanked the Task Force members for serving.

The Task Force discussed how TCMA can best serve their cities and participate in the legislative process. Bennett Sandlin stated that city officials should take the lead in talking to legislators; city managers will play a critical role in helping elected officials craft city-specific testimony. Monty Wynn provided an overview of TML's legislative advocacy team and approach, including the hiring of JHL Strategies to help shape legislative messaging. Jared Miller stated that TCMA's role is educating councilmembers and citizens, so effective messaging can be communicated directly from cities.

The Task Force discussed how to best train TCMA members, mayors, and councilmembers to testify. They discussed the concept of a "boot camp" that would cover strategies and talking points.

The Task Force discussed how the TCMA Code of Ethics impacts TCMA member participation in the legislative process. **Kim Pendergraft will contact Ethics Chair Nick Finan for guidance on member participation and use of sponsorship funds to cover training and travel costs for members to participate during the legislative session in Austin. Kim will work with Nick and Kenneth Williams to develop a message to the membership.**

The Task Force also discussed the possibility of TCMA developing a legislative program.

Task Force members were asked to send their city legislative agendas to Kim to post on the TCMA website. These will serve to assist members who need samples to develop legislative agendas for their cities.

The Task Force will begin meeting monthly with the TML legislative team to develop and coordinate strategies; the meetings will happen weekly during the legislative session.

The next meeting is 9:00 a.m. on May 21.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.