

STAFF REPORTS

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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During the 4th Quarter of 2019, PBPA participated in this year's Hart Energy Executive Oil Conference. Through our relationships with Hart Energy, we were provided our own booth at the conference. Our booth allowed us the opportunity to catch up and strengthen relationships with current members and meet new faces. We took advantage of a great opportunity to spread awareness about PBPA and our commitment to be the best advocate on behalf of the industry. Overall, the conference was a success in terms of membership outreach.

We recently attended a meeting held in Big Spring hosted by TxDOT regarding a Ports to Plains feasibility study for HB 1079 which would extend Interstate 27 south from Lubbock. The meeting's purpose was to gather feedback and input on the project in Segment 2, which is the portion of proposed highway that would affect areas south of San Angelo to just north of Lubbock. Representatives who attended included mayors, commissioners, judges, and other trade organization representatives from the impacted areas. TxDOT allowed participants to discuss existing conditions and needs, population and economic conditions, and movement trends of population and freight in our area. Although Midland and Odessa may not be directly affected by the proposed placement of the extension, overall, major parts of the Permian will be and PBPA wanted to make sure to give insight on how the energy sector impacts current and future freight and road needs.

Through our partnership with the Census Bureau, we helped host the 2020 Permian Basin Group Quarters Symposium at the Bush Convention Center, and PBPA's Stephen Robertson participated in a panel discussion with other community leaders and representatives from the Census Bureau to kick off the event. The symposium was geared toward companies and area leaders who use or are affected by group living quarters to help give understanding, train, and encourage participation from group quarter residents in the 2020 Census. Technically, a person is considered a resident of an area if they spend 50% and 1 day of the year in that area. Although the Permian has many transient residents, under the 50%+1 specifications, those transient residents are technically considered residents of our area and should be counted for our area. However, most residents are uneducated on what is considered residency in terms of the census and therefore are more than likely to claim residency in another area. The census bureau is hopeful through educating leaders in the communities and their companies through events like the symposium, employees who are affected by a group living situation will be counted appropriately in April of 2020.

Also in November, the Texas Agriculture Land Trust hosted their annual land and royalty owners symposium in Alpine. This year's meeting focused on "Protecting Yourself from Energy Operators." Even though at this type of meeting, PBPA's viewpoint is the minority in the room, it's important for us to hear other stakeholders' questions and concerns surrounding the industry. From the conversations had, it seemed as though surface use agreements, reclamation, and imminent domain were the three biggest focuses of the day. However, it was noted by multiple people that industry is doing a better job at surface agreements and reclamation than ever before. At this meeting, a small compliment goes a long way for industry. Imminent domain is the ever-on-going battle, and agriculture and landowner groups made it clear that they will be back and ready for the next legislative session to be seen and heard.

Part of the 4th Quarter was spent envisioning what our community and membership efforts will look like in the new year. While remaining flexible to tackle the unforeseen issues that might arise, we will continue to focus on major issues like water, flaring, takeaway capacity, seismicity, roads and infrastructure, by either advocating with our own programs or partnering with others and existing programs in Permian Basin communities. In terms of growing membership, reviewing production levels and industry activity will help us put together a picture of potential members to whom we will reach out to begin building relationships in hopes to add some fantastic new members who will be assets to the association.