

...ECCHD meeting minutes

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 Lanette Fletcher moved that Michael Bohensky be added as an authorized signer on the General Operating and Payroll bank accounts. Other signers will remain the same and Howard Baker will be removed. There will be change to the Savings account. Jerita Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
 Administrator Daisy Toms reported that the short hall (300 hall) heating unit is not working again. The unit has been repaired many times in recent months. The service contractor has suggested numerous times that it would be more financially feasible to replace the unit instead of continuing to repair it. Ms. Toms has received a bid of \$11,349 to replace the unit. Lanette Fletcher moved that the unit be replaced. Jerita Taylor

seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
 Amy McKinney gave the Director of Nurses' Report and reported that we are fully staffed at this time except for a PRN CNA. She also gave the board a current update on Covid vaccinations. We are still on the list for these.
 Daisy Toms gave the Administrator's Report. She presented a marketing plan and brochure to the board. She has a list of facilities that she plans to contact either by email or in person to recruit more possible residents.
 Mr. Mathis gave the Chief Financial Officer's Report and the board discussed the outstanding delinquent accounts receivable, as well as the current status through December 31, 2020, of all accounts.
 Ms. McKinney departed the meeting.

Mr. Mathis presented a graph comparing our current year operating expenses with last year's figures.
 The board reviewed the bank statements, credit card statement, and the petty cash reconciliation.
 The board reviewed all bills that have been paid.
 The board moved to executive session at 7:20 pm.
 After completion of the executive session at 8:13 pm, Lanette Fletcher moved to approve the changes recommended by Administrator Daisy Toms. The motion was seconded by Jerita Taylor and the motion carried unanimously.
 Michael Bohensky moved that the meeting be adjourned and he was seconded by Gina McCutchen. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

• **Sunset Legislation:** Ensure that sunset legislation of state agencies related to agriculture or TFB priority issues benefits our members.
 "Agriculture and private property rights are essential to all Texans," John Ross said. "We want to make sure the Legislature hears from Texas farmers, ranchers and private property owners this session to ensure our needs and concerns are addressed."
 For more information about TFB's advocacy efforts, visit <https://texasfarmbureau.org/advocacy/>.

never experienced and surely hope to never experience again. In Stamford, electricity was cut to our water and wastewater facilities, rendering us unable to provide basic water and sewer service to our citizens. We have spent successive days restoring services to our citizens and battling the numerous line breaks that arise when a water system loses pressure and then is jarred back into service. But today, I'm here to talk about how leaders respond in times of crisis.

There's an idiom called "reading the room," where you recognize the mood of a setting and act accordingly. If everyone else is quiet and attentive, you should be too. If you walk into a room of grief-stricken people, you do not crack jokes. It is a straightforward concept. And yet, it became abundantly clear this past week that many leaders are terrible at reading the room. A Texas mayor opined that people should suck it up and find their own water and electricity. A former Texas Governor boasted that Texans were proud to sit through blackouts to prevent federal regulation of the Texas electric grid. And yes, a U.S. Senator from Texas decided to fly to Cancun while millions of constituents were without power, water, or both.

To be clear, recent questionable decisions by leaders amid crisis are widespread and bipartisan. The pandemic gave us mayors taking vacations after instructing their citizens not to travel.

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Farmers, ranchers concerned with property rights this legislative season

The Texas Legislature is back in session, and Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) members from across the state are working with their lawmakers to ensure agriculture's needs are addressed.
 The session kicked off with new protocols in place due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.
 "Although the legislative session looks differently this year with COVID-19, we are still working with our elected leaders to address the needs of farmers, ranchers and rural communities," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said.
 Although thousands of bills will be filed during the 140-day regular session, TFB will focus on 11 legislative priorities regarding agriculture. They include:
 • **Eminent Domain:** Ensure property owners' rights are protected under eminent domain law.
 • **Water:** Protect the rights of landowners and agricultural

producers to surface water and groundwater. Oppose legislation that attempts to take any constitutionally-protected rights to water.
 • **Taxes:** Ensure state tax policy does not adversely impactor burden agricultural producers or the agricultural industry. Protect the current state tax provisions that limit the burden on producing food, fiber and other agricultural products for consumers.
 • **Land Use Regulation:** Protect the rights of agricultural producers to engage in normally-accepted agricultural practices on their land. Oppose unnecessary regulatory authority over rural land, including involuntary or coerced annexation.
 • **Transportation:** Ensure vehicle, trailer and driver license regulations do not adversely impact or burden agricultural

producers or the agricultural industry.
 • **Animal Care:** Protect the ability of agricultural producers to utilize generally-accepted, scientifically-proven production practices for livestock, poultry, and other animals present on agricultural operations.
 • **Feral Hog Control:** Support legalizing reasonable chemical controls for feral hogs. Support maintaining all current legal methods of controlling feral hogs.
 • **Farm Animal Liability:** Support modifications to the current Farm Animal Liability Act that recognizes the inherent risk in working with farm animals for both the ag producer and their employees.
 • **Truth in Labeling:** Support making it illegal to use deceptive labeling of food products to influence consumers to purchase the product.
 • **Rural Connectivity:** Support legislative efforts to facilitate the installation of broadband and cellular infrastructure in underserved rural communities.



Reading the Room

By James M. Decker

This was a difficult week for many in Stamford, in Texas, and in America. A massive winter storm plunged many states into prolonged, bitter cold. As you know - all too well if you are in Texas - early in the morning on February 15, Texas' electric grid effectively failed, leaving millions of Texas in darkness and without heat, for anywhere from a few hours to a few days.
 It was a stunning turn of events, the likes of which I have

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