



The Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr.,  
Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership  
(TALL) Program

TALL XVII  
VIRTUAL SESSION 3 – Austin/West Texas  
January 11-15, 2021

State Government: Issues and Policies  
“Leadership, Legislation, Laws”



**TALL XVII - Session 3 - Austin, Texas**

**January 11-13, 2021**

**State Government: Issues and Policies “Leadership, Legislation, Laws”**

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

**Meeting ID: 961 1328 7936**

7:45 am Welcome ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**  
Professor & Leadership Program Director

**Presiding..... The Honorable Mary Gonzalez,**  
State Representative District 75

8:00 am The Upcoming Legislative Session  
**The Honorable Dade Phelan,** State Representative District 21

**Presiding..... Joe Patranella & Stephen Loyd**

8:45 am The Texas Beef Council -Responsibilities, Programs, and Impact  
**Molly K. McAdams, Ph.D.,** Executive Vice President

9:30 am Break

9:45 am The Political Landscape and the Road Ahead  
**Dr. Kevin Roberts,** Executive Director  
Texas Public Policy Foundation

10:30 am The Texas General Land Office ..... **The Honorable George P. Bush**  
Texas Land Commissioner

11:15 am The Office of The Texas Department of Agriculture  
**The Honorable Sid Miller,** Texas Ag Commissioner

12:00 pm Lunch

**Presiding ..... Blair Krebs & Sam Nesbitt**

1:00 pm Responsibilities of the Office of Governor and the Upcoming Legislative Session  
**Luis J. Saenz,** Chief of Staff for Texas Governor Greg Abbott

1:45 pm Budget, Energy & Agriculture from a free market perspective  
**Bill Peacock,** Policy Consultant/Principal  
Tortilla Coast Consulting, TALL V Alumnus

2:30 pm Break

**Presiding ..... John Leifester & Travis Ward**

3:00 pm The Office of The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
**Toby Baker,** Executive Director- TCEQ

3:45 pm Border Issues, The Wall, Immigration, and the upcoming Session  
**The Honorable Ryan Guillen,** State Representative District 13

4:30 pm The Upcoming Session, My TALL Experience & Advice for the Current Cohort  
**The Honorable Cody Harris,** State Representative District 8  
TALL XV Alumnus

5:15 pm Closing ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**  
**Meeting ID: 996 8857 0508**

7:45 am Welcome ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Presiding ..... Bryson McCarty & Kate Fred**

8:00 am The 2020 Election, Redistricting and Demographic Changes  
**Eric Opiela**, Attorney, Fifth Generation Texas Rancher, TALL IX Alumnus

8:45 am The Upcoming Legislative Session and Key Issues  
**The Honorable John Raney**, State Representative District 14

9:30 am Break

**Presiding ..... Andrew Dusek & Stefen Tucker**

9:45 am The Duties and Responsibilities of TxDOT and the Importance of  
Infrastructure/Funding Sources ..... **Marc Williams**, Deputy Executive Director  
Texas Department of Transportation

10:30 am The Duties/Responsibilities of the Texas Animal Health Commission and Current  
Issues ..... **Andy Schwartz, D.V.M.**, Executive Director  
Texas Animal Health Commission

11:15 am The Duties/Responsibilities of the Texas Health & Human Services Commission  
and Current Issues  
**David Kostroun**, Deputy Executive Commissioner, TALL VI Alumnus  
Texas Health & Human Services Commission

12:00 pm Lunch

**Presiding ..... Isaac Sulemana & Steven White**

1:00 pm The Office of Comptroller of Public Accounts ..... **The Honorable Glenn Hegar**  
Texas State Comptroller

1:45 pm The Duties/Responsibilities of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and  
Current Issues ..... **Lt. Colonel Ron VanderRoest**  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement Division

2:30 pm Break

**Presiding ..... Lance Gilliland & Brennen Johnson**

3:00 pm The Mission of the Texas Oil & Gas Association and Current Issues  
**The Honorable Todd Staples**, President, Texas Oil and Gas Association

3:45 pm The Office of the Lt. Governor, The State Budget, Steps to Pass a Bill and Current  
Issues ..... **Mike Morrissey**, Budget Director  
Office of the Lt. Governor

4:30 pm Issues Facing Agriculture & Rural Texas  
**State Representative Kyle Kacal**, District 12, Honorary TALL Alumnus  
**State Representative Ernest Bailes**, District 18, TALL XII Alumnus

5:15 pm Closing ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

**Meeting ID: 958 5310 2812**

7:45 am Welcome ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Presiding ..... Carmen Fenton & Chris Looney**

8:00 am Farm Bureau 101: Upcoming Agriculture Legislation and Current Agriculture Issues ..... **Si Cook**, Executive Director/COO, Texas Farm Bureau

8:45 am The Texas association of Dairymen and Current Issues  
**Darren Turley**, Executive Director  
Texas Association of Dairymen, TALL XII Alumnus

9:30 am The Duties and Responsibilities of the Railroad Commission of Texas  
**The Honorable Christi Craddick**, Texas Railroad Commissioner

10:15 am Break

**Presiding..... Emily Lochner & Christi Short**

10:30 am The Texas Poultry Federation and Current Issues  
**J.C. Essler**, Executive Vice-President

11:15 am The Role of the Texas Ag Council and State & National Leadership Changes  
**Kody Bessent**, Vice President of Operations and Legislative Affairs  
Texas Ag Council, TALL XIII Alumnus

12:00 pm Closing

**TALL XVII - Session 3 – West Texas**

**January 14-15, 2021**

**Thursday, January 14, 2021**

**Meeting ID: 934 5781 4748**

7:45 am Welcome ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Presiding ..... Matt Clifton & Chaz Rutledge**

8:00 am Oil & Gas Issues from a Landowner Perspective  
**Van Gaskins**, Howard & Martin County farmer & Businessman

8:45 am Dry Land Farming Issues ..... **Doug Wilde**  
Farmer in Tom Green & Glasscock County

9:30 am Break

**Presiding ..... Andrew Polk & Tyler Cross**

9:45 am Prospective Interstates & Funding Sources Available to TXDOTP  
**The Honorable Alvin New**, Commissioner-Texas Transportation Commission

10:30 am Texas Pacifico Railroad impact on West Texas & Internationally  
**Stan Meador**, VP of Sales & Marketing, TALL VIII Alumnus

11:15 am Overview of Angelo State University ..... **Dr. Mike Salisbury**, Dean, College  
of Graduate Studies and Research Angelo State University

12:00 pm Closing ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Friday, January 15, 2021**

**Meeting ID: 944 4431 5754**

7:45 am Welcome ..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Presiding ..... Katy Kemp & Stephen Loyd**

8:00 am History of Sonora Research Station & Prescribed Burning  
**Dr. Doug Tolleson**, Associate Professor

8:45 am Water conservation Hill Country / Edwards Plateau Region ..... **Joel Pigg**

9:30 am Break

**Presiding ..... Travis Ward &  
The Honorable Mary Gonzalez, State Representative District 75**

9:45 am Predation in Edwards Plateau ..... **Alan Armistead**, District Supervisor  
Wildlife Services

10:30 am Sheep & Goats in the Texas Hill Country ..... **Dr. Reid Redden**  
AgriLife Research San Angelo

11:15 am State of the State ..... **Bob Malone**, Executive Chairman, President & CEO  
First Sonora Bank Shares, Inc. and Sonora Bank

12:00 pm Closing & Session Summary..... **Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.**