



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXOMA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AMENDS BYLAWS

First comprehensive revision in more than 25 years

SHERMAN, April 12, 2010 – Bill Lindsay, President of the Texoma Council of Governments Governing Board and Dr. Susan B. Thomas, Executive Director of the Texoma Council of Governments, announced today that the Governing Board has adopted an amendment to the bylaws. The amendment ensures that the composition of the governing board complies with state law requirements and streamlines operations to allow the governing board to operate more efficiently.

“In reviewing our bylaws and the enabling statute, we discovered that the composition of the governing board did not meet statutory requirements,” explained Dr. Thomas. “The bylaws under which we’ve been operating require only one-half of our governing board to be city or county elected officials; unfortunately, this is significantly less than the two-thirds required by state law. When our governing body was made aware of this discrepancy, they undertook an extensive effort to correct this problem.”

Local Government Code 391.006(b) requires that “[a]t least two-thirds of the members of a governing board of a commission must be elected officials of participating counties or municipalities.”

“The changes constitute a significant improvement over the current bylaws,” Lindsay said. “Most importantly, it ensures that the board is in compliance with state law. Obviously, when you reduce the size of the board, it means some current members will lose their seats. However, I’m extremely proud of our board for putting the future of the organization ahead of any personal or political considerations.”

The final vote on the amendment was 24-4 in favor of adopting the changes. The changes, which will go into effect on June 1, 2010, reduce the number of Governing Board members from thirty-four (34) to fifteen (15). It maintains the integrity of regional and diverse representation while providing for more efficient Board operations.

Highlights:

- Reserves a position for the Mayors of Bonham, Denison, Gainesville, and Sherman, and for the Judges of Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties
- Reserves a position for the Mayor of a General Law City in each county, to be rotated annually in alphabetical order
- Reserves a position for a community member from each county, to be appointed annually by the County Commission of each county
- Reserves a position for school districts with 1,000 or more students, to be rotated annually in alphabetical order

- Reserves a position for community college districts, to be rotated annually in alphabetical order
- Requires that the officers of the Governing Board be elected city or county officials

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region as well as a wide array of specialized programs for seniors. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security, criminal justice, and transportation needs.

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