



Dear GEAA members and friends,

We had a full house on June 5th, when over 150 people attended a forum on *Land Use Options for Hill Country Counties*, co-hosted by GEAA, the [League of Women Voters of the Comal Area](#), and [Preserve Our Hill Country Environment](#) at the GVTC Auditorium near Bulverde.

Folks were definitely fired up about asking the Texas legislature to give Hill Country Counties after a speech by former Comal County Commissioner and State Legislator, Carter Casteel. Jensie Madden and I presented [Local Control Options for Hill Country Counties](#) to explain why these changes are needed and what we recommend.

A lively discussion among those in attendance ensued, which was great as lots of elected officials and candidates were among the audience listening to the concerns of their constituents. You can read more from MyCanyonLake.com [here](#).

GEAA is working with Hill Country chapters of the League of Women and others to form an alliance of citizens and organizations from Bexar, Bandera, Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, and Travis counties to empower these counties to better manage growth.

The last time we tried to get these changes passed in the legislature was 2009. I testified before the House Committee on County Affairs in 2010. (You can read that testimony [here](#).) Since then the Texas legislature has declined to take this up. Think about all of all the growth that has occurred in our region since 2009 and you will realize that we need these measures ASAP.

You can keep up with news of these efforts and how you can participate at [Resources for County Authority](#). You can contact me by replying to this e-mail if you have ideas or advice. Between now and January 2018, we will need everyone to pitch in by making sure that their State representatives and senators sponsor this legislation. Stay tuned for more.

In other news, we are very pleased to announce the formal creation of the [Comal County Conservation Alliance](#) (CCCA). Since the summer of 2016, when GEAA received a grant from the McKenna Foundation for a forum on [Planning for Growth in Comal County](#), GEAA and our partners have been meeting to form the CCCA, whose mission is to advocate for land, water and wildlife conservation in Comal County.

You can read the latest news about CCCA [here](#) and [here](#), like the group's [Facebook page](#) and sign up for notices of CCCA activities by emailing comalccalliance@gmail.com. Beginning in July, the CCCA will hold general meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the GVTC Auditorium, located at 36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels. We hope to see you there!

I hope all of you are enjoying your summer – and this latest bit of rain!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

You can donate to GEAA [on line](#) or mail a check to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

You can always keep up with interesting water news on [GEAA's Face Book page](#)