



Dear GEAA members and friends,

This morning started out with a visit from 20 students from around the world hosted by the University of Minnesota's Mansfield Center through the [Study of the U.S. Institute \(SUSI\) on Global Environmental Issues](#), a project sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. They were here to learn about the role of advocacy in environmental management. I feel honored that GEAA was chosen as an exemplary advocate for their visit; it makes me feel like we must be doing something right. Frankly, when I think about the challenges most of these young people will face in when they return home to China, Brazil, Japan, India, Russia, and elsewhere, I can't help but recognize the advantages we have in this country in terms of having our voices heard. Here in Texas, the politicians and agencies may not be listening but, at least we can exercise our rights to organize and speak out. More on that later.

In other international news, I was delighted to get a [Rwanda Environmental Management Agency newsletter](#) this morning from Jacques Nsengiyumva, our

former Community Solutions Fellow, on the progress he is making in employing the Low Impact Development techniques he researched during his time with GEAA. That these techniques are proving successful in remediating direct discharge of raw sewage in Rwanda indicates that the same measures can be safely used to mitigate effects of stormwater and subsurface pollution here in the Edwards region. Jacques and I will continue comparing notes as we move forward with our respective projects.

Moving along, my next task for the day is conferring with the Hill Country Alliance and others on our legislative agenda for the session that begins in January. We are a bit behind in getting organized for the session, which might curtail how ambitious we are in actually getting much needed legislation filed during this session. As mentioned previously, GEAA would like to find a sponsor to refile [HB 595](#) and [HB 3447](#) to address, respectively, prohibiting the filthy practice of allowing direct discharge of sewage effluent into waterways that recharge the Edwards Aquifer and getting some limited land use authority for the fastest growing Hill Country counties. If you think your state senator or representative is a likely sponsor, please let me know ASAP. And, please tell everyone you know who might be supportive of GEAA's legislative agenda to [sign up for alerts](#). We will need all the help we can get come January.

To further amplify our advocacy, our wonderful GEAA Board is working on a video that will mobilize greater support and participation in our issues. Check out the trailer and opportunities for crowdfunding [here](#), and let us know what you think.

GEAA will definitely be moving forward in every venue available to us in this great country of ours to advocate best management practices for the Edwards Aquifer, as well as working with all of the bright young people here and abroad to share information about how to best manage our water resources. Thank you for keeping all of us here at the GEAA office working on what is near and dear to our hearts!

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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