



Dear GEAA members and friends,

Congratulations to Amy Hardberger, Eduardo Parra, and David McGee, whose appointments to the SAWS Board were approved yesterday. We were surprised that these appointments were controversial but, according to a [report](#) in today's San Antonio Express News, "In a pointed line of questioning, Brockhouse asked Hardberger why she hadn't met with him; whether she could represent that quadrant; and how she felt about his "great concerns" on her position on developer impact fees."

Before asking that Ms. Hardberger's appointment be voted on separately, Councilman Brockhouse chided Ms. Hardberger for [her support of higher impact fees](#) recommended by SAWS staff and endorsed by GEAA. This was a [battle that we all fought](#) and won in 2014; it was disappointing to hear it rehashed in this venue, especially couched in terms of concern on behalf of the residents of District 6 and SAWS ratepayers. You can hear Greg Brockhouse's comments and the entire Council discussion via an article from the Rivard Report [here](#).

In other news, on March 7th the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) decided who can challenge a controversial plan to allow the City of Dripping Springs to dump nearly a million gallons of treated sewage a day into Onion Creek, a major source of recharge for the Edwards Aquifer and Barton Springs.

TCEQ commissioners will allow [Save Our Springs Alliance](#), [Save Barton Creek Association](#), Protect Our Water, and several individual landowners to participate in a "contested case hearing" on whether to grant Dripping Springs the permit. The commissioners also decided that the City of Austin could proceed to the hearing for a determination of its affected status.

A state administrative law judge will hear arguments for and against the proposed sewage permit, and issue a recommendation to the TCEQ commissioners, who will make the decision on whether to grant the permit and

if so, the permit's terms. The hearing process is to be completed within six months of the initial hearing.

Environmental groups, well users, and downstream property owners have many concerns about the plan, including pollution of groundwater that would adversely affect drinking water, recreation, and habitat for aquatic species. Earlier this year, a dye trace study revealed that Onion Creek supplies water to domestic wells in the Dripping Springs area.

To show your support for a ban on discharging wastewater into creeks that recharge the Edwards Aquifer, please sign the petition by clicking [here](#). GEAA will be bringing this to the Texas Legislature again in 2019. Having thousands of signatures on the petition will definitely help.

On Monday, March 12th at 6:p.m. the New Braunfels City Council will be voting on revisions to the Park Land Dedication and Development ordinance presented by City staff. These revisions are greatly needed to meet the challenge of providing parks - so that as New Braunfels grows, it will remain among the most beautiful and livable cities in the Texas Hill Country. Please contact Mayor Casteel (mayer@nbtexas.org) and your [City Council representatives](#) and urge them to vote yes on the Parkland Dedication and Development ordinance as proposed by City staff.

During this first week of GEAA's membership renewal campaign, we are \$19,000 short of realizing the full match available from the S/M Hixon Family Foundation. The Hixon's will double donations of any amount exceeding \$200! You can renew your membership or join GEAA on-line by clicking [here](#). Or, you can mail a check to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212. We hope to hear from you soon.

Have a great weekend!

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

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