

## February 17 Member group meeting notes

### Attending:

- Alamo Group Sierra Club
- Bexar Audubon Society
- Bexar Grotto
- Comal County Conservation Alliance
- Conservation Society of San Antonio
- Cow Creek Groundwater District
- Friends of Castroville Regional Park
- First Unitarian Universalist
- Fitzhugh Neighbors
- Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance:  
Annalisa Peace, Debbie Reid, Nathan Glavy, Mike Clifford, Rachel Hanes, Kellie Fichter
- Headwaters at Comal
- Headwaters at Incarnate Word
- Hill Country Alliance
- Landa Park Preservation Historical Society
- Los Moras Springs Conservation Association
- Native Plants Society of New Braunfels
- Preserve Our Hill Country Environment
- Project Bedrock
- Texas Cave Management Association
- Scenic Loop Boerne Stage Alliance
- Save Barton Creek Association

### Introductions and brief reports on member group actions:

- Bexar Grotto announced that they will be hosting their [HydroGeo Workshop](#) on October 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> at [Cave Without a Name](#) near Boerne, Texas.
- Los Moras Springs Conservation Association (LMSCA) reported on their efforts to preserve water at Los Moras (aka Fort Clark) Springs in Kinney County, which have gone dry for the last two years. At issue is that water rights purchased for export exceed available groundwater resources.

They are looking for legal advice on groundwater conservation and management. LMSCA wants to ensure groundwater conservation policies are enforced, equitably allocate groundwater supplies to serve both environmental, municipal, and agricultural interests.

- Hill Country Alliance (HCA) is working in more rural parts of the Hill Country organizing grassroots gatherings most recently focused on development in rural areas. Their next meeting will look at engaging private developments with HOAs and permits. HCA plans to release tools and policy menus for governmental entities in the Hill Country.
- Fitzhugh Neighbors needs help in opposing an inappropriately large music venue planned for this rural area. "Being outside the ETJ is difficult, how do we get people to recognize that its an environmentally sensitive area?"

- Scenic Loop Boerne Stage Alliance reported on efforts to stop high density Lennar development of Guajolote Ranch, which will negatively impact San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Water supplies.
- GEAA: Debbie reported on efforts to promote soil health. GEAA is working with SA Parks and Recreation to use soils on public properties to mitigate carbon emissions, reduce flooding and improve water quality. GEAA received an HEB grant to do training with regional parks staff and create a maintenance manual for managing public lands. We are looking for two more municipalities to present training on best management practices.

Rachel is working on promoting recycled water use in the Hill Country, a report with recommendations for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permits and BMPs for Stormwater Management Programs Guidebook, "Under Our Feet" a new educational and interactive web site, and legislative advocacy and monitoring. Please email with any policy/legislation pushes you want GEAA to work on for the 2025 legislative session.

- Discussion of what groups need from GEAA:

- On-line meetings biannual or quarterly?

All present opted for GEAA to host quarterly meetings, to alternate between in-person and zoom. Weekend meetings were favored.

- Legislative Agenda

- Regional ban on direct waste water discharge into waterways that recharge the Edwards and Pristine Streams waste water regulations.
- Sierra Club volunteered to help with any advocacy/lobbying
- [Alliance for Clean Texas](#) – ACT is a state-wide alliance of environmental interest that meets weekly during the legislative session to monitor, promote, and oppose legislation. If any of the GEAA member groups want to join, we can nominate for membership in ACT.
- Universal development ordinances, model subdivision regulations
- If opposition to SB 2038, the ETJ de-annex legislation, is opposed by all, GEAA can look into getting something filed to roll-back or mitigate its ill effects.
- Green Amendment (Vikki Goodwin bill) will be filed. We will need help advocating passage. Alerts will be sent asking you to inform your members to contact their state reps and senators to lobby support.

- Other ways GEAA can help?

- Keep the newsletters going, super helpful to have monthly newsletters with the links and concise info and action items
- Great help with the Honey Creek, Guajolote, and Fitzhugh
- Keep helping groups to stand on their own
- Eco-Karst study in Danube area for BMPs in Karst zones on Project Bedrock website

- How do groups access accounting and legal help? How can we come together to fill these needs?

- GEAA can look at how to fill these gaps, how to get all the groups together and share organizational and administrative resources. We can post links to these resources on the GEAA web site under "[Resources for Member Groups](#)".

- GEAA will:
  - Search for group of lawyers that aid nonprofits
  - Search for retired professional accountants
- Schedule zoom meetings for shared resources and grants and fundraising workshops
- If groups have ideas for commonalities GEAA can take the lead in crafting joint grant applications. (Foundation funders are more likely to consider grants that have multiple partners)
  - EarthShare TX – payroll giving plan for environmental groups in Texas, need to join as member
  - Will add links to these types of resources on the "[Resources for Member Groups](#)" section of the Library tab on our webpage

#### Next GEAA Member Group Meetings:

- June 1st from 1:pm to 3:pm via zoom: [click here](#) to join.
- August 24th from 1:pm to 3:pm (hybrid at ACCD & via zoom)

In person: At the Alamo Community College District Office Campus  
2222 S Alamo Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Parking Map: [click here](#). There is plenty of free parking available in any of the yellow highlighted areas. The meeting room is shown in blue "Broadway 100".

Zoom Invite Link: [Click here](#) to join.

This meeting will be followed by a social at Annalisa's home at 247 Army Blvd.

- November 16th from 1:pm to 3:pm via zoom: [Click here](#) to join.