



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**GEAA is excited to shine the spotlight on another one
of our extremely
hard working member groups:
The Pedernales River Alliance**

The Pedernales River Alliance (PRA) is a grassroots organization that advocates for the river, its tributaries and the watershed. They are working to protect ground and surface water in the Pedernales River Watershed from the threat of over-development, pollution and depletion in the following ways:

- Education about the threats posed by unsustainable development
 - Education about the benefits of good water policies
- Identifying practices, policies and regulations that will protect the Pedernales River Watershed and aquifers and working to preserve them.
- Identifying current practices, policies and regulations that may need revision and help to bring about change.

For those who have made their way to Luckenbach, Texas you know that special feeling of taking that step back in time when you arrive. You know how it offers a unique departure from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and an opportunity to experience a relaxing part of Texas history.

In 2019, change made its way to that special place. Huge "SOLD" signs on 3 properties on the corner of Luckenbach Rd. and US Hwy 290 in Gillespie County were part of a new chapter for the area that would potentially mean 140 acres of Hill Country paradise would be developed into a whiskey distillery, conference center, outdoor amphitheater, two stages and a recording studio, two lakes, five helipads, a bank, a Harley Davidson shop, three apartment complexes with approximately 240 units in each phase and a Salt Lick BBQ. The Houston developer also proposed rerouting Luckenbach Rd. so that access would be via his properties.

Although the initial development began experiencing financial and legal problems that resulted in a management shakeup and a revised vision for the 140 acres, pledging a more sustainable plan for the area, other concerns continue to arise and important work is still to come. We invite you to view the document [here](#) to learn more about their ongoing efforts.

Thankfully neighbors in the area came together and letters were sent to the developer focused on water availability and waste disposal. When the County Commissioner for Precinct #3 claimed that several locals were in favor of the development; this prompted the neighbors to produce a brochure and petition by which over 200 names were collected. In 2021, the initial group expanded to a five-member steering committee,

the name "Pedernales River Alliance" was chosen, and their website

<https://www.pedernalesriveralliance.org>

was underway!

The group connected with GEAA to act as their fiscal agent and also worked with the Hill Country Alliance to provide them with education, encouragement and guidance. GEAA is currently working with PRA to oppose permits for the Arch Ray and Village at Grape Creek, with the goal of making these projects and all future projects much

more sustainable. We are proud to be a part of their continued efforts!

Thank you PRA for your tireless work as a resource guiding sustainable development and protecting the Pedernales River and Watershed for future generations!