



2015 HCA Leadership Summit Agenda

September 24th at the Admiral Nimitz Museum Ballroom in Fredericksburg, TX

8:30am - Registration. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served

9:00am - Opening Remarks – Leo Tynan, President of the Hill Country Alliance

9:15am - State Representative Andrew Murr

Rising to leadership in the Hill Country: Growing up in a rural Hill Country community, Andy knows the rivers, landscapes and people of our region. He has chosen to play an important leadership role in shaping the future of this region we all love. Learn about his vision and the next steps we must take together to ensure that the quality of life we are so grateful for will be available to future generations.

9:45am - Roel Lopez, Director of Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources

Texas Land Trends: What's happening on the land in the Texas Hill Country and where are we headed? Roel has 20 years of natural resource experience with Texas A&M University and will review some of the drivers in land conversion and fragmentation in the state and Texas Hill Country. He also will outline some of the natural resource challenges associated with these land use changes ranging from water resources to endangered species.

10:30am - Robert Mace, Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Science and Conservation, Texas Water Development Board

Water for the Hill Country: Who, What, and When? Having worked in water resources for the last 16 years at the Texas Water Development Board, Robert will talk about where our water comes from and the complicated and controversial issues facing us as our population explodes along and west of the I-35 corridor.

11:15am - Ken Kattner, Landowner, Putman Mountain Observatory

Hill Country Dark Sky Reserve: A place for all of us under the starry night skies of the Texas Hill Country. Did you know the Texas Hill Country is on the edge of night? Austin to San Antonio is bathed in artificial light all night long, but something special is developing in the Texas Hill Country - piece by piece this region has been embracing a movement to protect the starry night skies and, building on these efforts, to make a Hill Country Dark Sky Reserve a reality.

11:45am - Patrick Bixler, Research Scientist, Texas A&M Institute for Renewable Natural Resources

How can we enhance our collective ability to scale the impact of land and water resource protection in the Texas Hill Country? Patrick is leading a Hill Country Network Research Project to evaluate opportunities for greater collaboration and to examine successful "Networks" in other areas, lessons we can learn and adopt here in our region.

12:00noon - Christy Muse, Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance

Morning wrap-up: HCA teams and programs pointing towards a vision for the Hill Country.

Lunch on the patio

1:00pm - Con Mims, Executive Director of the Nueces River Authority

Incredible Hill Country Rivers: What makes these rivers uniquely “ecologically significant?” Con will walk us through the state of our rivers and the challenges we are facing. Con understands the threats these precious resources face and he’ll outline the most important actions we should be taking to protect them.

1:30pm - Joe Lessard, Senior Planning Director for Knudson LP

The Lone Star Rail: Changing the way Central Texas lives and moves! The LSTAR regional commuter rail project is currently in the environmental phase and is on track for final design and construction in 3 to 4 years. The project will truly be a game-changer for our region, not only for mobility but also for air quality, quality of life, and more thoughtful, dense development along the growth corridor that will help with conservation to the west.

2:15pm - Robert Yaro, Professor of Practice in City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania, also President Emeritus and Senior Advisor at Regional Plan Association in New York, America's oldest metropolitan think tank

As the Potter Rose Visiting Professor at the University of Texas School of Architecture, Bob is leading a graduate level program focused on Hill Country planning, investigating the full range of land and resource conservation tools to protect the Hill Country’s most important resources.

3:15pm – 5:30pm - Table topics and networking reception