

Land Conservation Options for Comal County
Wednesday, November 8, 2017
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
McKenna Events Center, 801 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels, Texas

Program

6:30 – Welcome – Annalisa Peace, Executive Director, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

6:40 - “Current Parks and Preserves in Comal County; Local Government Roles”
Jensie Madden, League of Women Voters of Comal Area

Jensie is the Chair of the Land Use Committee of the League of Women Voters of Comal Area. LWV-CA recently published *Facts & Issues: Land Use Planning in Comal County, Impacts of Growth; Time for Action*, which will be basis of her presentation. She and her husband retired to Comal County in 2001 and since that time has volunteered with LWV-CA to promote citizen involvement in governmental decision-making.

6:55 - “Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan”
Tom Hornseth, Comal County Engineer

Tom is a Graduate of the University of Minnesota, BS Civil Engineering, and a Texas Registered Professional Engineer. In 1992, he became Comal County Engineer, where his responsibilities include operation of the County Road Department; administration of Subdivision, Floodplain, Addressing, and Sewage Facility regulations; management of the Parks Department and Rural Recycling; and large construction projects. Tom was recently named County Engineer of the Year during the Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators’ annual conference in Austin.

7:10 – “San Antonio’s Proposition 1 and Choices for Landowners”
Julie Koppenheffer, Attorney

Julie has had long experience in the field of real estate as an attorney practicing in the field of commercial real estate and commercial real estate finance. She worked as Executive Director of Green Spaces Alliance (2005 through 2009), concentrating on aquifer protection and enhancing our connection to the environment through community gardens, photography, and public engagement. As a citizen, she advocates for protecting irreplaceable resources.

7:25 – “How San Marcos River Foundation is conserving an essential watershed”
Dianne Wassenich, Director of San Marcos River Foundation

Dianne grew up on the Gulf Coast, graduating from University of Houston. Working in the Frank Church Wilderness of No Return on Idaho’s Middlefork of the Salmon River in the 70’s, she learned how important it is to preserve natural areas. After moving to San Marcos in 1980, she has worked with the San Marcos River Foundation since its beginning in 1985.

In decades of work for SMRF, Dianne has served on many regional, statewide, and local stakeholder groups. Currently she represents the public in a seat on Region L Water Planning Group, is Vice-chair of the Bay Basin Stakeholder for the Guadalupe basin, and is also on the Steering Committees of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan, Upper San Marcos Watershed Initiative, and Plum Creek Watershed Program. She has participated in San Marcos’ master plan and numerous other river-related committees locally.

7:45 – Closing Comments and Call to Action
Katherine Romans, Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance

Katherine holds a Master in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She worked for several years as a legislative aide for the Committee on Natural Resources within the US House of Representatives, and led the HCA’s landowner outreach program for more than 2 years. In that role, she connected landowners within the Pedernales River Basin to technical and financial resources within the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She also serves on the board of the Hill Country Land Trust.

8:00 – Questions and Discussion from Audience
8:30 - Adjourn