

Thursday, September 24

10:00-10:05am

Welcome - Day 2 of the Leadership Summit

10:05-10:30am

From the Arctic Circle to the Texas Hill Country: Embracing New Strategies for Regional Development

Regional collaboration offers opportunities for sustainable development that would not be available to communities "going it alone." This talk will draw insights from successful collaborations elsewhere, orient them to a Hill Country context, and point to opportunities for enhanced collaboration in our region.

Gregory P. Pogue, Deputy Executive Director, Senior Research Scientist, IC² Institute, The University of Texas at Austin

10:30-11:00am

The Growth of the Aggregate Industry: Community Responses and the Texans for Responsible Aggregates Mining (TRAM) Coalition

Aggregate production operations -- rock quarries, gravel and sand mines, as well as cement, concrete, and asphalt plants--are nearly unregulated in Texas and the industry is growing rapidly in the Hill Country. This panel will profile groups seeking to address the issue, including through the formation of a statewide coalition.

Panelists: Jill Boullion, Bayou Land Conservancy; Mark Friesenhahn, Comal Environmental Education Coalition; Fermin Ortiz, Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining; and Bob Webster, Comal Creek Groundwater Conservation District Moderator: Cliff Kaplan, Hill Country Alliance