

2021 HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

A HILL COUNTRY CONSERVATION REUNION

SPEAKER INFORMATION - IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Katherine Romans, Executive Director – Hill Country Alliance

Katherine brings a decade of nonprofit and legislative experience to the Hill Country Alliance. She worked for several years as a legislative aide for the Committee on Natural Resources within the US House of Representatives and has spearheaded programming at both local and regional conservation nonprofits. Katherine holds a Masters from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, is currently the Chair of the Texas Hill Country Conservation Network, and serves on the board of the Hill Country Land Trust.



Jonathan Ogren, Principal – Siglo Group

Jonathan founded Siglo Group in 2006 to help clients integrate ecology and natural systems into land use, water use, parks, open space, planning, design, community, stories, maps, and graphics. Since its founding, Siglo Group has worked on planning and restoration projects throughout the Hill Country with dozens of partners that include conservation nonprofits, cities, counties, and private landowners.



Joni Carswell, CEO and President – Texan by Nature

Joni Carswell is the CEO and President of Texan by Nature where she is responsible for leading the mission to advance conservation by bringing conservation and business together. Prior to Texan by Nature, Joni held leadership roles at LivingTree, Polycom, and Dell. Joni holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University. She and her husband Scott reside in Austin with their two boys, Dixon, and Rigby.



Sarah Faust, Environmental Attorney – Faust Law PLLC

Sarah B. Faust is an attorney specializing in water rights and water quality with Faust Law PLLC. She works with landowners, neighborhoods, community groups, and governmental agencies to resolve water related disputes in innovative ways that protect the environment and legal rights. Sarah is helping her community implement a One Water supply plan as a stakeholder on Austin's Integrated Water Resource Community Task Force.



Robin Gary, Managing Director – Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

Robin holds a Masters degree in Geography from UT where her research focused on human-environment interaction in karst landscapes. Over the past 17 years, she has worked as a geographer for the U.S. Geological Survey and the Public Information and Education Coordinator for the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District. Now at WVWA she works across the Hill Country to make science more accessible, increase knowledge of watershed issues, and empower people to be part of a collective solution.



Troy Dorman, Ph.D, P.E., CFM, Director of Water Resources – Halff Associates

Troy has 21 years of civil/environmental engineering experience in water resources engineering, stormwater management, low impact development, water quality BMPs, watershed master planning, land use planning, utility coordination, surface and groundwater hydrologic modeling, hydraulic design, and erosion control. As an engineer, Troy strives to understand the economic, social and environmental constraints of every project with the goal of maximizing the benefits for the community and the client.

**Stephanie Moore, P.G., Senior Hydrogeologist — Intera Inc.**

Stephanie brings over 20 years of experience in water resources, including eight years with the U.S. Geological Survey and 15 years consulting for governmental agencies and non-profit organizations. She has spent most of her career working on technical and policy matters involving groundwater/surface water interaction, vadose zone hydrology, and stormwater. Ms. Moore has authored more than 15 peer-reviewed publications, including Standard Guidelines for Managed Aquifer Recharge.

**Dana Williams, Director of Community Engagement – H. E. Butt Foundation**

Dana is the Director of Community Engagement for the H. E. Butt Foundation, focusing on their work in Real County. She received her degree in Human Services from Shorter University in Rome, Georgia and holds a certification in Non-Profit Management from The University of Texas. She is a sixth-generation native Texan and currently lives with her husband in Boerne. They travel as often as they can to visit their three children and four grandchildren.

**Candace Morrison, Founder – Kimble County Farmers Market**

Hailing from the deserts of New Mexico, Candace travelled to Texas Tech University in Lubbock and to the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan to complete her bachelors in International Business. Following graduation, she worked as a department head in international logistics in Minneapolis, MN. When the health of family members called her back to Junction, Candace built a coffee trailer and farmers market. And while new business opportunities and volunteer organizations are growing, she knows that she will

spend every Saturday morning, cup of coffee in hand, setting up vendors at The Junction Area Farmers Market along the river.

**Jeremy Walther, Founder – Pint and Plow**

Jeremy Walther is co-owner of Pint & Plow Brewing Company in Kerrville, his hometown. Operating as a de-facto community center that happens to make beer and food, the brewpub has helped incubate the Kerrville Farmers Market, the Kerrville Urban Trail System, Big Seed, and other grassroots initiatives working to create vibrancy in the Kerrville area.

**Annabell McNew, Executive Director – Texas Hill Country River Region**

Annabell McNew is the Executive Director of Texas Hill Country River Region, Inc., the destination marketing organization housed in the new Visitor Center located in Concan, near the Frio River. THCR, Inc. is responsible for promoting the area's tourism industry through a contract with Uvalde County. She is dedicated to working with community and government leaders in the area to promote sustainable growth as well as conservation, so that these rural places may continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

**Carmen Llanes Pulido, Executive Director - Go Austin/Vamos Austin!**

Carmen Llanes Pulido is a community organizer and the founding executive director of Go Austin/ Vamos Austin or GAVA, a group that organizes and mobilizes community power for health equity in Austin's Eastern Crescent. Llanes Pulido was a youth intern and later a research analyst and organizer with the East Austin Environmental Justice organization, PODER, from 2005-2011. Llanes Pulido currently serves on Austin's Planning Commission, and formerly chaired the Latino Quality of Life Commission.

**Donna Klaeger, Executive Director – Community Resource Centers of Texas Inc**

Judge Donna Klaeger (retired) is currently the Executive Director of Community Resource Centers of Texas Inc, located in Burnet, Blanco, Llano and Williamson Counties, with a mission to raise the standard of living in rural communities by providing one stop shops connecting people with health and human services at no cost to agencies or consumers. She served Burnet County as Treasurer and County Judge for 16 years and has chaired Texas Commission on Jail Standards, Capitol Area Planning Council of Governments, and

Capitol Area Regional and Transportation Organization.

**Connie Barron, Blanco City Council**

Connie has spent her life in the health care industry including a decade in public policy as a lobbyist for Texas physicians. Former owner of a women's health and fitness business in Austin, she now lives in Blanco, TX. Connie was elected to the Blanco City Council in May of 2021, and has been working to address emergent issues including water supply and wastewater management, zoning updates, and grappling with a new MUD that is proposed for the city's ETJ.

**Elizabeth McGreevy, Author**

Elizabeth is a natural resources planner, writer, and public speaker. A sixth-generation Texan, McGreevy has produced ecology-based development and management plans in the Texas Hill Country for more than twenty years. Her research on the Mountain Cedar (Ashe Juniper) has been featured in magazines, television, and talk radio, including a radio show she hosted on KDRP Radio in Dripping Springs as "The Cedar Lady."

**Sarah Schlessinger, CEO, Texas Water Foundation**

Sarah Rountree Schlessinger is the CEO of Texas Water Foundation. She previously worked in groundwater policy and regulation and has experience with international nonprofits and disaster response. Sarah currently serves as an appointed member of the Water Conservation Advisory Council, the Texas + Water Advisory Council, and as a board member for Texas Water Trade.

**Daniel Oppenheimer, Land Program Manager – Hill Country Alliance**

Daniel Oppenheimer is the Land Program Manager at the Hill Country Alliance, where he works with private landowners, agency and non-profit partners, and communities to enhance riparian habitat and watershed health, to foster regional collaboration and stewardship across watersheds, and to increase private land conservation in the Texas Hill Country. He has over ten years of experience leading, supporting, and advising collaborative initiatives to conserve natural resources.

**Angelica Lopez, Research Scientist – Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute**

Dr. Angelica Lopez joined the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute as a research associate in 2010. Her research interests are in rural sociology and underrepresented groups, environmental and natural resource attitudes, behaviors and participation constraints, human dimensions of natural resources, borderlands and program evaluation. A native Texan, Angelica studied animal science, agricultural education, rural sociology and recreation park and tourism sciences with an emphasis on community engagement.

**William B. Moriarty P.E., BCEE – Funding Engineer**

Mr. Moriarty is a registered professional engineer with 45 years of experience and is an expert in obtaining funding for city and county governments for water, wastewater, storm water and reclaimed water projects. He has processed over 80 transactions with the Texas Water Development Board and secured over \$500 Million in funding.

**Dawn Davies, Night Skies Coordinator—Hill Country Alliance**

Dawn brings over a decade of astronomy outreach and dark sky preservation experience to Hill Country Alliance as the Night Sky Program Coordinator. Before joining HCA, she served on the board of the Austin Astronomical Society and as a volunteer advocate for the International Dark-Sky Association.

**Elizabeth Bowerman, President – Comal County Conservation Alliance**

Elizabeth is the founding Board President of the Comal County Conservation Alliance, serving since 2018. Living in Comal County since 1999, she was involved with numerous nature-focused nonprofits before becoming involved with the formation of CCCA. She is inspired every day by the CCCA Team and the dedicated conservation professionals and volunteers working throughout the Hill Country to protect this unique region.

**Roel Lopez, Director - Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute**

As director for the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, Roel provides leadership in the field of wildlife ecology and natural resource management. Roel works with stakeholders in developing institute priorities for research and extension programs and develops and leads interdisciplinary teams to address these natural resource challenges. His research focuses on endangered and fragmented wildlife populations, sustainability of military lands, and rural land trends and demographics.

**Kevin Webb, County Commissioner—Comal County**

Commissioner Webb was elected in November of 2012 and has won re-election twice (2016 and 2020). Born and raised in Comal County, Comm. Webb graduated from New Braunfels High School and Texas A&M with a B.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism. In office, he has worked primarily on transportation and is the current Chairman of the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO) based in San Antonio.

**Tim Handren, Mayor—Boerne**

Tim was born at Amarillo Air Force Base and grew up in Lubbock. After attending Texas Tech for 2 years, he was recruited by USAA and moved to San Antonio in 1986. Tim spent 21 years at USAA, ending his career as the Chief Operating Officer. In 2010, he partnered with a business colleague and started a brand new company, focused on building jobs in the San Antonio Area. Tim was elected Mayor of Boerne in 2019, and has focused on proactive planning for water, transportation, and conservation.