

H-ZcolumnDecember2023 STANDING WITH THANKS AND APPLAUSE!

First, allow me to give a shout out for the marvel of greening throughout our Comal County and the Texas Hill Country. Just a modest rainfall in a few sessions has produced a circumstance that gives one the feeling the blades and leaves are applauding. Hurrah! May it continue to break the sustained drought pattern.

Second, while in celebration and applause, I hope many of our readers and our neighbors will accept some “well done” pats on the back. The impressive success of Propositions 6 and 14 results in votes amending the Texas Constitution to transfer current surplus funds for Water Development and in establishing the Centennial Parks Fund to expand our state parks system well into the future. It is true that beloved and appreciated (finally!) retired teachers and a measure offering some property tax relief proved even more popular but what a step for Texans voting. In Comal County highly favorable affirmation exceeding 70% for water and land measures is outstanding. Thanks to all who voted!

Third, I want to take a moment to note some major transitions for us at Comal County Conservation Alliance (CCCA). It has been nearly a decade since some significant studies and opinion papers urged that we of Comal begin to band together to lift a voice for water, land, and wildlife. With the assistance of Hill Country concerned groups and locally informed citizens the preliminary convening for conversation began about responsible land use and protection. Then a vision and purpose linking voices, energies and lots of willing workers created CCCA. Soon thereafter Elizabeth Bowerman was prevailed upon to lead the way in these last five years. Two of her compadres for this long distance run included Eva Silverfine Ott out on the northwest end of the County and Hill Country Alliance assistance was provided through spirited Cliff Kaplan. With terms concluding this month expect their input and energies to remain helpful but without participation on the Board.

All of us and even those unknowing need to take our hats off for the extraordinary dedication and purposeful drive rendered by our outgoing President Elizabeth Bowerman. In fact, we stand and applaud the impressive service rendered to recruit, link, build, and encourage an exemplary expression of nonprofit stewardship. Few such boards achieve the personal involvement and direct deliverance as is currently seen and experienced with CCCA. Yes, others are stepping forward whom you’ll hear from going forward. The impressive jump start rendered through Elizabeth’s efforts will be apparent. The hours have been too long, the correspondence and virtual outreach and in reach have been continuous. Noteworthy, too, is how CCCA managed to cease many public involvements for the extended pandemic but even periodic virtual programs sustained a growing number of interested folks who care about conserving land. We remain indebted to Elizabeth in pointing us toward protecting the treasures that make Comal such a Texas Hill Country jewel. Yes, there’s a magnetism that has drawn people to the springs and rivers along with the rise of the hills for productivity and recreation along with an impressive quality of life. CCCA’s Elizabeth Bowerman has been key to helping assure this for future generations. THANK YOU, ELIZABETH BOWERMAN as we all stand to applaud and are joined by our recently greening surroundings!

The efforts go forward. Perhaps in part inspired by CCCA efforts and allies a Comal family currently is working out a way to donate acreage to expand the County’s Curry Nature Center. Keep it rolling!

Our website comalconservation.org will identify the 2024 Board members and so much more.