



## Community Meeting Minutes August 14, 2018 - 6:00 PM GVTC Auditorium

Advocating for land, water and wildlife conservation in Comal County

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Elizabeth Bowerman, President.

Elizabeth extended a warm welcome to all attendees and thanked them for their patience and for allowing the meeting to start late due to the traffic accidents in the area. After introduction of the CCCA Board Members present she invited Community group representatives to share any announcements they might have.

Milann Gukian of the new Preserve Our Hill Country Environment (Stop 3309 Vulcan Quarry) announced their meeting on August 23, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Bulverde Spring Branch Activity Center, to discuss how to prepare for the upcoming contested case hearing.

Leslie Dey (and Tim Barker) for Friends for Preservation of Historic Landa Park invited everyone to their next meeting, 9/10/18, 2:30 PM, Landa Haus in Landa Park, speaker from EAA on "The Edwards Aquifer - the Next 20 Years."

The following local events of interest were announced by Elizabeth: NB City Council is working on an ordinance called Envision New Braunfels as the Communities new Comprehensive Plan and will be accepting community input; on August 22 an open house will be held to discuss NB's funding proposal for the planned Dry Comal Hike and Bike Trail; Cibolo Nature Center is presenting a Conservation Easement Workshop on August 17; a Public Forum will be held on August 23 by the Stop Vulcan Quarry group; the Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society is holding a Native Landscaping Certification Program class on September 15; and CCCA is presenting a "Celebration for Conservation" on September 18 – social and silent auction at the Gruene Grove patio bar.

Treasurer Harry Sutherland reported the CCCA bank balance stood at \$829.31 as of the end of July and invited contributions from all present.

CCCA Vice President Helen Ballew introduced the guest speaker of the evening, James Oliver of the Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT). James is Chief Operating Officer of TALT and comes to this work from an extensive background in finance and property investment, including work with J. P. Morgan Chase and especially as a lifelong rancher. He understands both the economic pressures and family heritage needs of many Texas landowners, and works nationally to strengthen public policy to help private landowners keep their land from being fragmented, largely as a result of federal tax policy. After providing a stark overview of our population and changing land use situation in Texas, James spoke to the group about conservation easements, how they work, some of the benefits of CE's, and some of the intricacies of CE policy at both state and national levels. See a condensed version of his presentation here:

[https://www.comalconservation.org/uploads/1/2/0/2/120201064/ccca\\_jamesoliver\\_pres.pdf](https://www.comalconservation.org/uploads/1/2/0/2/120201064/ccca_jamesoliver_pres.pdf)

Elizabeth then invited all attendees to join one of the four breakout committee sessions: Communication & Marketing, Outreach, Government Affairs, and Resource Development, and to consider joining a committee as a member and continue to help in the effort.

Following the committee breakout sessions, there were a few final announcements.

Marne Peterson, Chair of the Resources Development Committee, reminded the group of the "Celebration for Conservation" social on September 18, encouraged everyone to come and to bring their neighbors and friends. The silent auction at the event will be a key fundraiser for our conservation efforts and she asked all present to help obtain donations of items for the auction. She provided each attendee with an information packet to be used when talking to business owners about donations.

Leslie Dey asked everyone to please leave their Styrofoam cups on the back table as they leave. She will take them to the NB Recycling Center which is the only place in the area that will accept Styrofoam for recycling.

Elizabeth reminded the group that our new CCCA t-shirts are available for purchase at the back of the room, for \$15 each.

The next meeting, on the second Tuesday of the month, is September 11 at 6:00 PM at the GVTC Auditorium; topic "A First Responder's Story of Inspiration Out of the 9/11 Tragedy."

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Helen Ballew on behalf of the Secretary, Eva Silverfine Ott.