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Hill Country Counties Convene to Address Growth, Water, and Flood Solutions

San Antonio, Texas — County officials from across the Texas Hill Country gathered in San Antonio on November 7 for a regional County-to-County Workshop hosted by a coalition of nonprofit partners, including the Hill Country Alliance, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, National Wildlife Federation, Comal Conservation, and the Heart of Texas Conservancy. The meeting brought together county commissioners and nonprofit leaders to strengthen coordination among local governments managing rapid growth, limited county authority, and water issues that cross jurisdictional lines.

Since launching in 2023, the County-to-County workshops have engaged more than 90 officials and staff from 11 counties. Commissioners Jen Crownover and Kevin Webb of Comal County, Andra Wisian of Kendall County, Stephen Germann of Guadalupe County, and former Hays County Commissioner Lon Shell serve as the coalition's founding hosts and facilitators.

This fall's workshop focused on floodplain management and priorities for the upcoming Texas legislative session. Experts included Dr. Kimberly Meitzen, vice chair of the Region 11 Flood Planning Group, and Gillespie County Engineer Melissa Eckert. Dr. Meitzen outlined opportunities to improve county floodplain management based on Region 11's localized recommendations, and Melissa Eckert presented Gillespie County's process of updating floodplain management practices to reflect updated mapping and development patterns.

In working sessions, participants drafted a joint letter to the Texas Legislature outlining five shared regional priorities: (1) Authority for counties to deny inadequate groundwater availability studies during platting, (2) Increased funding for the Flood Infrastructure Fund to implement the State Flood Plan, (3) Clarifying county vs. city roles in corridors and thoroughfares following SB 2038, (4) Strengthening county stormwater management tools, particularly in flood-prone areas, and (5) Improving aggregate-production permitting by protecting contested-case rights and requiring water availability and air quality safeguards.

"Together we're building partnerships and momentum that can make a real difference," said Kendall County Commissioner Andra Wisian, who helped facilitate the event. "These conversations strengthen our counties' ability to work with state leaders and one another to find practical, lasting solutions."

The next County-to-County Workshop is expected to take place in early 2026 in Kendall County. Learn more at www.hillcountryalliance.org.



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About Hill Country Alliance – Founded in 2004 to bring together a diverse coalition of partners to preserve the open spaces, starry night skies, clean and abundant waters, and unique character of the Texas Hill Country.

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