

Speaker Bios



Dr. Emily R. Warren Armitano

Program Officer, Water & Land Conservation Programs at the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

For more than 20 years, Emily has worked on making connections between science and policy, providing the science that supports natural resource management decisions, engaging communities in caring for their watersheds, land and water conservation strategies, and sustainable use of natural resources in Texas. Prior to joining CGMF, Emily held leadership positions at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and the United Nations Development Program's Global Healthcare Waste Project. Emily has been an executive committee member of the Hill Country Alliance Board, president of Colorado River Alliance Board, and strategy advisor for a human rights nonprofit working to advance civil liberties through technology.



Katherine Romans

Executive Director, Hill Country Alliance and Chair for the Network

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 Master's 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.



Jennifer Walker

Deputy Director for the Texas Coast and Water Program, National Wildlife Federation and Vice Chair of the Network

Jennifer has more than 15 years' experience focusing on statewide water policy issues with an emphasis on water resources planning, urban water management, and bay and estuary protection. She is Vice-Chair of Austin's Water Forward Task Force, working to implement Austin's groundbreaking 100-year water plan that is focused on deploying One Water solutions to meet future water needs. Jennifer serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, a stakeholder-based non-profit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water. Jennifer has a BS in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology from The University of Texas at Austin.



Lon A. Shell

Hays County Commissioner (2017 to present)

Commissioner Shell is now serving his second terms as Hays County Commissioner for Precinct 3, after being appointed in 2017. Commissioner Shell has been a champion for land conservation, protecting the county's natural resources, and supporting trails and public parks for people. In his time as County Commissioner, Shell managed the County's acquisition of a major portion of El Rancho Cima when it came up for sale near Wimberley in his precinct. Commissioner Shell was also the driving force behind formation of the Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee and a public process that eventually saw successful passage of a \$75 million bond for parks and natural areas in Hays County.



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 is a Fulcrum Fellow with the Center for Community Investment of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. She currently serves on Austin's Planning Commission and formerly chaired the Latino Quality of Life Commission.

texas hill country
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