



TRAM'S BEST PRACTICES WEBINAR SERIES

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCILS:

Strategies for Navigating APO Growth with Community Input

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Coalition for Responsible Environmental Aggregate
Mining (CREAM)

Thursday, May 29, 5:30 - 6:45pm

Moderated By:

Cliff Kaplan

Secretary, TRAM



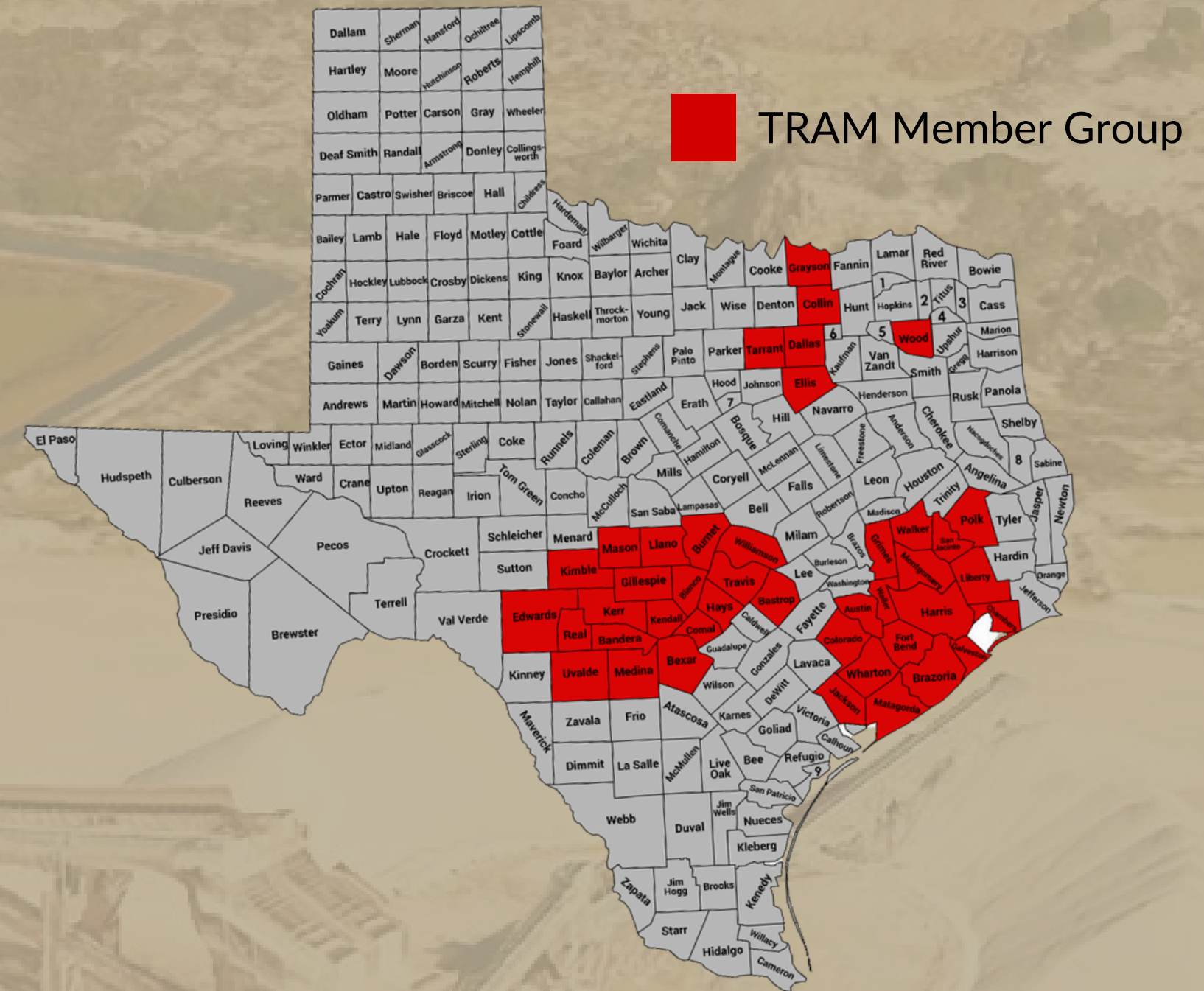
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TRAM's Mission and Background

Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining's mission is to advocate for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) for aggregate mining, concrete, asphalt, and cement industries.

TRAM's Background:

- Established in January 2020, eight initial members.
- Currently 25 member organizations from more than 40 counties statewide, home to 40% of Texas population
- Participates in the Kerr County Advisory Council





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Webinar Agenda

- What are Citizen Advisory Councils?
- Examples of Citizen Advisory Councils in Texas
 - Kerr County
 - Williamson County
 - City of Garden Ridge
- Q&A



Overview of Citizen Advisory Councils

1) What is a Citizen Advisory Council?

A Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is a group of stakeholders – residents, officials, agencies, industrial operators, and others – who work collaboratively to foster dialog, address relevant recurring issues, dispel misunderstandings, and provide formal input on specific issues related to the subject matter (in our case, APOs). They are advisory only, so they do not have authority to establish enforceable rules or compel anyone's participation.

2) How do CACs form?

Councils are typically formed by local governmental entities, but they can also be formed by industry operators who want to proactively solicit and address concerns from their communities. Generally, it is best to have a facilitator, who is not themselves a stakeholder in the community, run the meetings. Alternatively, a local official can do so.



Overview of Citizen Advisory Councils (cont.)

3) What examples are there in Texas?

- Government backed:
 - Kerr County, City of Garden Ridge (Comal County)
- Industry backed:
 - Martin Marietta currently convenes councils in Georgetown (Williamson County) and in Shavano Park (Bexar County).
 - Additional industry-backed Councils have existed in Carrizo Springs (Dimmit County) and in Hays County

4) Is there a statutory basis for CACs?

There is no state law that mandates or prohibits CACs for APOs, but local governments have the authority to create them under their general governance powers.



Overview of Citizen Advisory Councils (cont.)

5) What factors contribute to the success of a CAC?

- A clear charge and a neutral facilitator
- Clear agendas that keep the discussion focused on specific topics
- Explicit norms for maintaining decorum and respect for all participants
- Offline dialog to address acute conflicts between particular parties, so they don't erupt during the CAC meeting. Transparency about those offline discussions, what was discussed and what were the outcomes.
- Speakers that can bring in outside and credible expertise on relevant regulations, technologies, best practices, and impacts on community safety, health, quality of life, and economics.
- Participation of the APOs, local governments, and other interested parties.
- Food, time and location considerations – make it easy and inviting to participate.



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Thank you for attending!

Cliff Kaplan

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Secretary, TRAM and Program Director, Hill Country Alliance