

Progress Made on Local Mining Operations

Advisory committee to address concerns

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A community advisory committee is in the works to address the concerns of people living near local mining operations.

Consultant Jill Shackelford gave a presentation before the Kerr County Commissioners Court on Monday, which was attended by representatives from neighborhoods and various mining companies that operate quarries in the area.

Residents living near the operations have expressed concerns over air quality, child safety and noise, among other issues.

Shackelford told the court she's met with representatives of local quarries, toured facilities of Martin Marietta and Wheatcraft and met with local residents about their concerns. She said there are best management practices available that can be used to ameliorate the problems identified by locals.

"They've all been very cooperative," Shackelford said of the mining operators.

The airport also has concerns over mining operations, including plans for a rock crushing facility nearby.

In 2019, Martin Marietta applied to renew and amend its existing air quality permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to run a portable rock crusher 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The portable rock crusher would replace one of the three permanent rock crushers the operation has now.

Dust can be a big problem for avionics systems, said Mark Mosier, airport board president, at the meeting.

"We have some \$40 to \$50 million airplanes out there, and it's a big deal," Mosier said.

Shackelford said she'd work on identifying possible members of a community advisory committee on mining. She said representatives of local mining operations "all told me they'd sit on it."

Mining companies are also known as aggregate production operators.

"Some progress has been made," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Tom Moser. "I think additional progress needs to be made, but the purpose in all of this is to have a balance between the aggregate production operators and the community. I think we can see some progress."