Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

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Water Links

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts - www.texasgroundwater.org

Texas Water Development Board - www.twdb.state.tx.us

National Groundwater Association—www.ngwa.org

Texas Ground Water Association - www.tgwa.org

General Manager Updates

Effects of the Recent Drought on District Water Levels

The District began this year, as every year, by checking water levels in the monitor wells throughout the District, and performing an evaluation of these water levels by comparing them to the previous year's water levels. This is an important part of the District's management of the groundwater resources of Milam and Burleson Counties, as changes in water levels are what trigger changes in District management strategies to protect the aquifers and groundwater levels. Even though we were well into this recent drought, in all aquifers of the District except the Brazos Alluvium, which depends on run of the river to recharge, 2011 water levels did not change an appreciable amount when compared to the previous 2010 levels. In fact, water levels in most wells changed less than one foot over that period.

Of course these measurements were taken during February and March, which is purposefully done to obtain the most consistent measurements of the aquifers when they are at rest, which is to say, during a period of least use. This is done so that extreme stresses from production do not distort these evaluations. This also means that these measurements were taken long before the effects of the record-setting 2011 Summer could be felt. With this in mind, and in response to concerns expressed by citizens in the District about the dependability of the District's aquifers, as well as concerns about water levels in their own wells, the District then took water level measurements in September in strategically located wells to evaluate any changes in water levels which might be identified. The District chose a cross-section of wells from the District Monitoring Well Network, consisting of 8 wells in 3 aquifers. Six Simsboro wells were chosen. One of the six wells is inside the Rockdale city limits and near several large producing wells. This well is in an area where the largest changes in water levels were Expected. Another of the six wells is located approximately 6 miles north of Milano. This well is in an area removed from large producing wells and its water level changes is expected to reflect a more representative picture of general water level changes.

See Well Monitoring continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

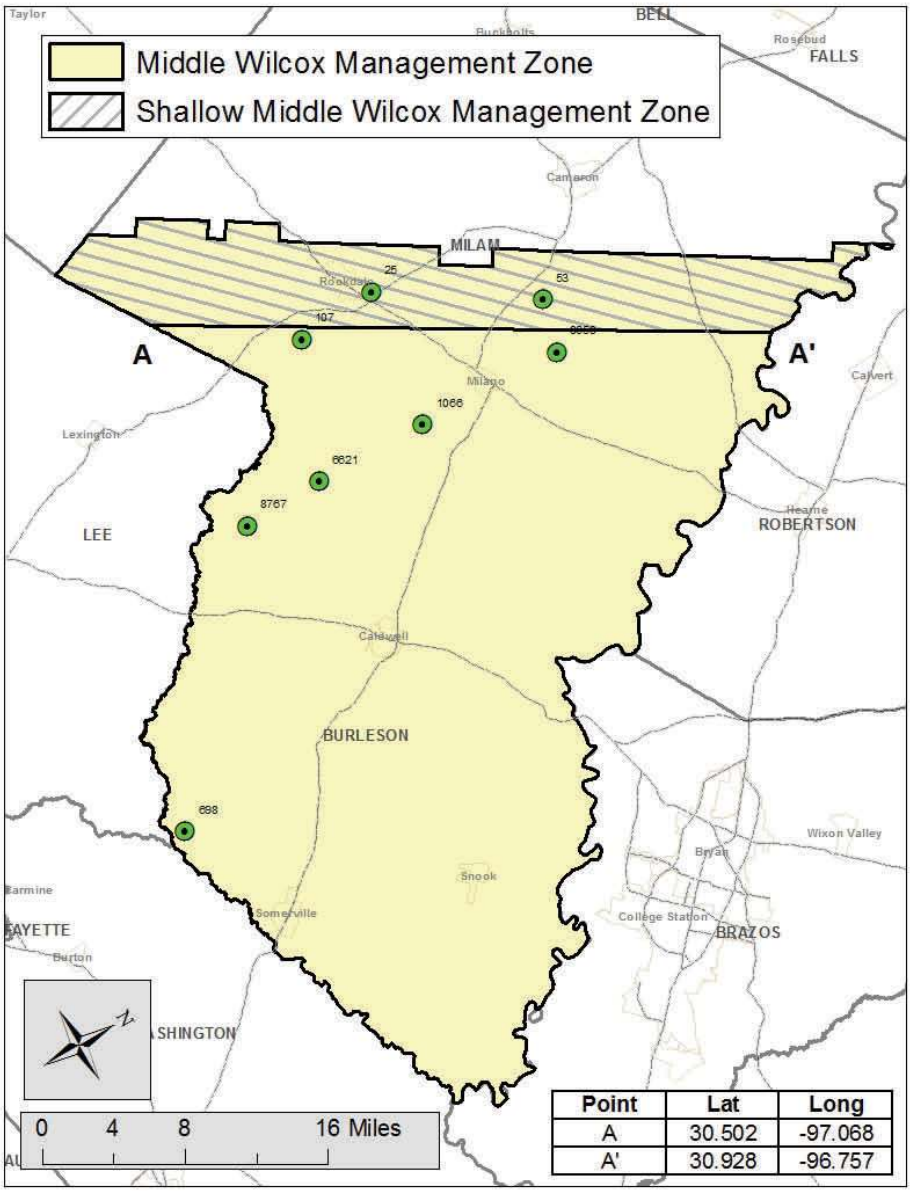
Well Monitoring continued from page 1

One Carrizo well and one Yegua-Jackson well were also measured. The results of this exercise, shown on this page, show a surprisingly small change in water level change even though the late August measurements were taken near the end of the near 100 days of over 100 degree temperatures, which led to maximum production from producers.

To understand the information on this page, please know that the green dots on the map are the wells measured, and the small numbers near those green dots are the corresponding District Well Identification number (WID) found in the table above the map. The measurements of water level are expressed in number of feet below land surface. So, for well # 107, a change in water level from 128.4 in March to 140 in August represents a drop in water level of 11.6 feet. As we consider well # 25 we note a change in water level of 8.2 feet. Both of these two wells, # 107 and #25, are near the highest producing wells in the District, therefore they should show the largest change in water level, as they do. When we examine all other Simsboro wells, we find water level changes between 1.1 and 5.9 feet, with an average change of 4.1 feet. The only well truly removed from impacts of producing wells is #53, with a change of 1.1 feet. This well is more representative of the aquifer than any other. With cooler and wetter weather, these aquifer levels are expected to recover as recharge occurs and aquifer water levels even out.

2011 Monitoring Well Network- Summer Update

WID	Aquifer	March	September
107	Simsboro	128.4	140
53	Simsboro	107.5	108.6
8658	Simsboro	177.1	183
8767	Simsboro	172.2	176.3
6621	Simsboro	252.8	258.2
25	Simsboro	157.42	165.62
1066	Carrizo	220	219.8
698	Yegua-jackson	52	53.4



See Well Monitoring continued on page 2

Well Monitoring continued from page 2

By the time the District takes its 2012 measurements in February and March, we expect to see water levels recovered to near 2011 measurements.

There were no reports of concerns in the Carrizo aquifer, and almost no change was noted in well # 1066. However, in the Yegua-Jackson (Y-J), a formation which is "tighter" than other aquifers in the District due to differences in aquifer characteristics, there were several reports of wells which experienced much lower water levels due to the above normal production caused by the Summer stresses. After investigating these occurrences, it was determined that these water level declines were due to water not being able to move from areas around production to those producing wells as freely and quickly in the Y-J when compared to other more sandy formations. Again, with reduced pumping over the Fall and Winter, we expect to see many of these water levels return to more normal levels.

The District continues to monitor water level changes in all aquifers of the District, and landowners with wells who would like to be a part of the District's Well Monitoring Network are encouraged to contact the District to have their well included for annual measurements.

Need a Program for Your Group?

Our staff will be more than happy to come to your meeting and give an appropriate presentation. We can tailor the presentation to fit the available time and venue. Just contact our offices to schedule your program at 512-455-9900, or email us at posgcd@tconline.net.

District Has Funds Available to Assist in Plugging Abandoned Wells

POSGCD's Well Plugging Assistance Program has received funding again for calendar year 2012. The District will cover up to 75% of the expense to plug these wells, up to $1000 per well. The landowner can use different methods to come up with their matching 25% such as using their approved material and/or equipment in the project. Plugging abandoned water wells not only prevents possible contamination of underground water resources, it also covers and removes what might be unsafe openings in the ground which could cause injury to animals and/or persons. Application forms can be downloaded from the District's website or mailed from the District upon request.

District Director Andy Hovarak Retires

After two full terms (8 years) of serving the citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties as a member of the Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors, Mr. Andy Hovarak has decided not to seek reappointment for a third term from the Burleson County Commissioner's Court. Mr. Hovarak's position will be filled with the recent appointment of Mr. Tommy Tietjen. While Mr. Hovarak served on the Board, the District adopted its first set of Rules and Management Plan in 2004, and continued to develop good science and management strategies to serve the citizens of the District for years to come. Thank you to Andy for dependable service, and we wish him the best in his future endeavors!

POSGCD Mission Statement—Our mission is to strategically manage the groundwater resources of Burleson and Milam counties in order to protect against aquifer depletion and pollution and to ensure an adequate water supply for future generations. Through responsible management, we will accomplish this undertaking of preservation by collecting data, monitoring groundwater levels, regulating excessive production, permitting, educating the public and coordinating with neighboring districts for mutual benefit.

Groundwater conservation districts are the state's preferred method of groundwater management through rules developed, adopted, and promulgated by a district. (Texas Water Code, Sec. 36.0015)

2011 District Water Conservation Grant Awards

POSGCD again in 2011 approved grant awards, which are listed below, for 6 separate local water utilities in the District, which totaled over one million dollars. The District annually awards these grants to fund projects to enhance groundwater conservation. These projects consist mostly of replacement of obsolete and deteriorating water lines, which will improve the quality water, while keeping the cost to customers for these services from rising. This is just one of the ways that District programs benefit the citizens of Milam and Burleson counties. Since 2006 the District has awarded grants of almost $4.5 million.

District Calendar of Events

January

2 - POSGCD offices will be closed in observance of New Years Day

11 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

For the most complete calendar of events, visit the District's website at www.posgcd.org

ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?

Contact us at the District offices or email us at posgcd@tconline.net with your suggestions for information you want included. Also, the newsletter is available for download on our website. You may contact us to stop receiving this newsletter via US Mail.

Recipient	Amount
Tunis WSC	$321,000.00
Cade Lakes WSC	$141,000.00
HDU Services (Phase 1)	$179,544.00
Centerline WSC	$60,000.00
Cooks Point WSC	$275,000.00
Brazos Valley Septic	$35,360.00
2011 Totals	**$1,011,904.00**

POSGCD was created to conserve and regulate the use of groundwater through monitoring of aquifer levels and production and encourage conservation rules which limit pumping, thereby extending the quantity and quality of the water available in all of the aquifers in Milam and Burleson counties. POSGCD is a member of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD).

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