

RECHARGE

Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2015

General Manager Update

The year of 2014 brought many changes to the District.

New Directors- The commissioner's courts of our two counties appoint our directors, and with a resignation and six positions up for appointment at the end of 2013, three new directors joined our team. Mr. Sidney Youngblood is the new representative for industrial interests, Mr. Durwood Tucker represents agriculture interests, and Mr. Steven Wise represents interests at large. These three new directors, all from Milam County, joined other directors who were re-appointed. Mr. Kerry Starnes represents municipal interests in Milam County, while Mr. Nathan Ausley representing at large interests, Mr. Jay Wilder representing agriculture interests, and Mr. Lee Alford, III representing industrial interests, are all from Burleson County. Leaving the Board after 13 years of service were Mr. Carroll Glaser, Mr. Jay Tumlinson, and Mr. Jim Hodson. The efforts of all three of these former Board members are greatly appreciated. Also, in this issue we note that Mr. Dwayne Jekel, representing rural water supply interests in Milam County is retiring from the Board after 14 years of service. Our sincere appreciation is also extended, along with well wishes, to Mr. Jekel.

New Staff- As Bobby Bazan was completing his first year as the District's Water Resource Management Specialist in January, 2014, the District added Intern Meredith Earwood. As with past interns of the District, Miss Earwood is pursuing her Masters Degree in Water Management at Texas A&M University. Miss Earwood's duties include oil & gas permitting, Social media communications, drilling and operating permitting, records retention, and District Web Master.

New Rules- The District continues to adjust to the environment as that environment changes. The culmination of over 8 months of research and study in preparation for the coming oil and gas Eagleford shale play, resulted in new spacing rules for several of our minor aquifers, all in Burleson County, designed to provide protection to existing wells, as well as rules which provided flexibility to permit holders who desired to allow oil and gas companies to acquire and use their water rights.

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Board of Directors

President

Nathan Ausley

Vice President

Sidney Youngblood

Secretary/Treasurer

Kerry Starnes

Robert Ware

Jay Wilder

Lee Alford, III

Tommy Teitjen

Durwood Tucker

Steven Wise

Staff

General Manager

Gary Westbrook

Administrative Assistant

Elaine Gerren

Water Resource Management Specialist

Bobby Bazan

Intern

Meredith Earwood

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Follow us!

@POSGCD



2014 Groundwater Summit– The District expanded its efforts toward education concerning the aquifers of our area, with the Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit of August 13, 2014, in Caldwell, Texas. Thanks to you, our citizens and public who attended and supported this endeavor, this effort was a tremendous success, with more than 240 registered attendees, and an estimate of nearly 275 in attendance. Included in this effort were presentations from 13 presenters in 7 sessions covering topics including general hydrology, Texas water law, Groundwater regulation, and water well ownership. The Board has charged the staff to follow this effort with a 2015 version to be held August 12, 2015, at the Caldwell Civic Center.

More new educational efforts, hosted by the District in 2014, were the Town Hall Meetings of December 17, 2014. These meetings, the first held in Milano and the second in Caldwell, focused on the much publicized Vista Ridge Project, which is an effort of Blue Water Systems (BWS) to market and transport water to San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS). Presenters from SAWS, BWS, and the District answered questions about this project, as well as possible impacts to our aquifers, and regulation and management of groundwater in the District.

Water Level Monitoring- the District's staff continues to effectively monitor more than 80 water wells in the District, while working hard to add additional wells in needed areas. These efforts include the drilling of wells where needed but none exist, and the conversion of abandoned oil or gas wells to water wells in areas where very deep and expensive wells are not available. These monitoring results are available on the District's website.

GMA 8 and 12 processes- The District remains very active in efforts of joint planning with our neighboring districts in the Groundwater Management Area process. The next meeting for GMA 8 will be March 25, 2015 in Cleburne, Texas. The next GMA 12 meeting will be in March 27, 2015, in Milano. For additional information about this very important process, please check out our District website.

Groundwater Conservation Grants- once again in 2014, our Board awarded \$1,000,000 in grants to 9 recipients to be used by our local water utilities for

purposes of conservation of groundwater. These uses include replacement of obsolete or deteriorated water lines, as well as other items which will save groundwater. Again in 2015 the District has budgeted \$1 million towards that effort. To date, since 2006, the Districts has awarded 64 grants, totaling \$7.8 million for projects used in the conservation of groundwater.

The District also continues to administer another grant program to conserve groundwater which concerns our local fire departments of Milam and Burleson Counties. In 2015, \$10,455.26 was awarded to 3 departments for equipment and foam to be used to extend the use of groundwater. These efforts have not only reduced the amount of groundwater used to put out a fire, but also have saved extra trips and time, and therefore wear and tear on VFD vehicles, and of course, less trips means increased safety for our fire fighters.

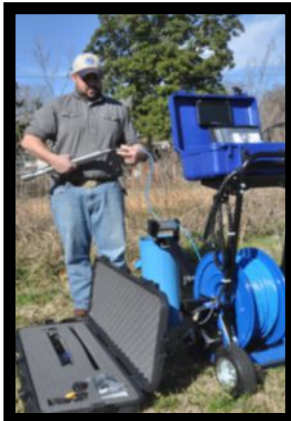
2014 has indeed been a very busy year, and 2015 promises to bring additional challenges as well. Our staff and Board stand ready to meet these new challenges and needs of our citizens with the same zeal and dedication as before. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of our staff with questions or needs. As always, we stand ready to assist you in any way possible.



Groundwater Conservation District offers new service to well owners

Post Oak Savannah GCD recently added a new service to provide to residents of the District. With the purchase of a "borehole camera system" the District hopes to provide information to well owners that would otherwise be difficult to obtain. The system consists of a camera unit with dual view modes: one lens for downhole viewing and a second side view lens capable of 360° panning. In order to use the system a well must be clear of obstacles, so any pump or wires would have to be pulled before the camera could be used. If you have a well that has been unused on your property that does not have a well report and you would like to know how deep the well is and/or where the screens are, a district employee would come out and inspect your well for you as well as provide a video report of the inspection.

If you would like schedule a video inspection of your well, contact Bobby Bazan at Post Oak Savannah GCD (512) 455-9900. The use of the camera is a free service offered by the District, however, any costs associated with removing and reinstalling a pump are the responsibility of the well owner.



Director Jekel Retires

After 14 years of service to Milam and Burleson Counties as a member of the Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors, Mr. Dwayne Jekel is retiring. Mr. Jekel served 5 consecutive terms, serving as the Board's Vice President since 2004. He served as the Rural Water Supply representative for Milam County and while on the Board, the District adopted its first set of Rules and Management plan, created a grant program for local water utilities, and continued to develop management strategies to preserve the aquifers & serve the citizens of the District for years to come.

Mr. Jekel has been the Owner and President of D&L Water Service since 1974 in Cameron, Texas. D&L Water Service serves North Milam Water Supply Corporation, Marlow WSC, Minerva WSC, and Gause WSC. He is a member of the board and past President of Texas Rural Water Association as well as past president and member of the board for Central Texas Water Supply. His continued service to improve water supply to rural areas have been instrumental to the vitality of Milam Co.

Mr. Jekel was born and raised in Cameron, graduating from Yoe High School. He then pursued a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University in Agricultural Education, graduating in 1963. Mr. Jekel furthered his knowledge by receiving a master's in Education. He is married to Lucille Jekel and has two children, Robbie and Shelia Jekel. He also has 3 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Jekel has been an asset to the County, the District, and the development of rural water supply in Texas. His experience and leadership will be missed by all of the POSGCD directors & staff.



Annual Production Reports

Every year, permit holders receive a letter from the District requesting information on how much groundwater they pumped for the year. The state and the District each have rules that require this information be submitted, but what happens with that data? First, and foremost, the data is entered into a database for record keeping at the District level. That data is shared with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The data is then used to update the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) to better show estimates of withdrawal effects on water levels in our aquifers. As new information comes in every year we are better able to understand our aquifers which leads to better management now and in the future.

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)

JOIN THE MONITORING NETWORK!

WHAT:

The District uses information gathered from wells in the monitoring network to make informed management decisions and to ensure the health of our aquifers

WHO:

Anyone with a registered groundwater well in the District can volunteer

HOW:

Contact Bobby Bazan @ 512-455-9900 or by email at bbazan@posgcd.org

In an effort to conserve paper, we are going paperless. Check out our website at www.posgcd.org & enter your email address to be added to the new online newsletter!

District Calendar of Events

April:

14th—Tentative Board Meeting

18th-25th— Burleson Co. Spring Clean & Trash Bash

18th— Somerville Spring Festival

May:

2nd —Garden Party @ Rosewood Manor

August:

12th— Milam & Burleson Co. Groundwater Summit

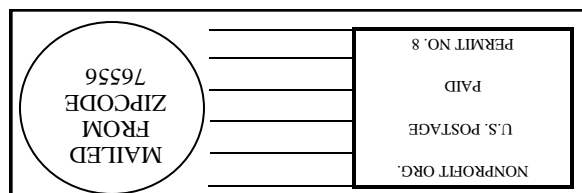
*POSGCD meets for board meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month unless there is no business to be heard. Please check our website for specific Board Meeting dates and times.

ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?

Contact us by email at admin@posgcd.org 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.



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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