

Recharge:

Your Groundwater Resource



A quarterly newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed about current groundwater issues, conservation practices and Post Oak Savannah GCD events.

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NEW GRANT AWARDS

POSGCD has approved six grant awards so far in 2017. These awards are listed below and equal to a total of \$947,521 for projects in the District to enhance groundwater conservation.

Recipient	Awarded
Milano WSC	\$95,000
Southwest Milam WSC	\$176,030
Burleson Co. MUD #1	\$317,421
City of Somerville	\$216,000
Lyons WSC	\$108,300
Marlow WSC	\$34,770

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2017 Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit

The fourth annual Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit will be held August 16, 2017 at the Caldwell Civic Center. We are excited to announce an amazing speaker lineup this year with some great topics.

Speakers

Sarah Schlessinger, *Executive Director*, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
Honorable Mike Sutherland, *Burleson County Judge*
Honorable David Barkemeyer, *Milam County Judge*
Robert Mace, *Deputy Executive Administrator*, Texas Water Development Board
Larry French, *P.G. Division Director*, Texas Water Development Board
Kevin Spencer, *Principal*, R W Harden & Associates
John Seifert, *Principal*, LBG-Guyton Associates
Steven Wise, *Vice President of Board of Directors*, Post Oak Savannah GCD
Bobby Bazan, *Water Resources Management Specialist*, Post Oak Savannah GCD
Gary Westbrook, *General Manager*, Post Oak Savannah GCD
Alan Day, *General Manager*, Brazos Valley GCD
Jim Totten, *General Manager*, Lost Pines GCD
David Bailey, *General Manager*, Mid-East Texas GCD
David Van Dresar, *General Manager*, Fayette County GCD

List of Topics

- Impacts of Production in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer
- Groundwater Availability Models
- Desired Future Conditions
- GMA 12 General Managers & POSGCD Management
- POSGCD Groundwater Well Assistance Program
- POSGCD Monitoring Update

Admission to the Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit is free and lunch will be provided. The summit will begin at 9 a.m.

Looking for Monitoring Wells

POSGCD is currently looking for more wells within the District to add to their well-monitoring network. The District's Management Plan and Rules are created and implemented based on the health of the aquifers, which is measured by water levels.

Bobby Bazan, Water Resources Management Specialist at Post Oak Savannah GCD, said when he is monitoring water levels, he is measuring where the current level is at in relation to past and future predicted levels.

Having more monitoring wells is essential to better understand the

aquifer and gain insights on how pumping is impacting the water levels in specific areas.

“The main purpose of monitoring additional wells is to improve the quality of data we are currently using,” Bazan said. “Collecting data from more wells gives a better representation of the overall health of the aquifer and that only becomes clearer when you have more data points.”

There are two reasons landowners should consider adding their well to the monitoring network – a more accurate reading of water levels at their

location and a better understanding of how pumping in and around the district impacts their wells.

Data collected from the wells will be used in-house, as well as added to the state Groundwater Availability Model, to help the District improve their management plans and rules.

If you have a well that you are considering adding to the monitoring network or have any questions, please contact Bobby Bazan at bbazan@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.



Get your well water tested!



From **June 19** to **22**, you can drop off a sample of your water well at the AgriLife Extension offices in either Burleson or Milam Counties. To participate, pick up your sample packet at:

Burleson County AgriLife Extension
100 West Buck Street, Ste. 105
Caldwell, Texas 77836

OR

Milam County AgriLife Extension
100 East 1st Street
Cameron, Texas 76520

Samples must be dropped off at the Burleson or Milam County Extension Offices between **June 19 to 22 between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Please make sure that you collect the sample the same day that you drop it off.

Two different results meetings will be held on **July 14**:

Milam County - 9 a.m.
POSGCD Office
310 East Avenue C
Milano, Texas 76556

Burleson County - 12 p.m.
Burleson County Fair Expo Center
905 SH 36 South
Caldwell, Texas 77836

POSGCD Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and to protect groundwater users, by adopting and enforcing Rules consistent with state law. The District will accomplish this mission by imposing spacing requirements, regulating production, requiring permits for non-exempt wells and production, establishing limits on water drawdown levels and monitoring groundwater levels and production, making appropriate adjustments to allowable and permitted production, and encouraging conservation.

Post Oak Savannah GCD is sponsoring this campaign in partnership with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offices in Burleson and Milam Counties, as well as Texas Water Resource Institute and Texas Well Owner's Network.

New District Rule Changes:

After public hearing at their May 3 Board Meeting, the Board amended the rules which allows the District to become more proactive in the protection and conservation of the aquifers within the district. Listed below are the summaries of the accepted rule changes.

A new term, "Property Line," was added in Rule 1.1 and other terms were alphabetically sorted. Within Rule 4.1, the Yegua-Jackson aquifer spacing requirements were combined with the other minor aquifers. Those spacing requirements shall be determined based on production capacity of the wells. In addition, well locations established by permits may be modified if necessary. Rule 12.1 was modified for clarity.

Section 16 included the most significant rule changes. Rule 16.3 was amended that actions in Rules 16.4 and 16.6 will be taken regardless of any changes to the DFCs for a specific aquifer or Management Zone that may follow a threshold being reached. Within Rule 16.4, the Threshold Levels were changed as following:

- ☐ Threshold Level 1 production was changed from 70% to 60%
- ☐ Threshold Level 1 drawdown level for Management Zones and Shallow Management Zones was changed from 60% to 50%
- ☐ Threshold Level 2 production was changed from 80% to 70%
- ☐ Threshold Level 2 drawdown level for Management Zones and Shallow Management Zones was changed from 80% to 60%.
- ☐ Threshold Level 3 was changed from 95% to 75%.

Once Threshold Levels are reached, the District will perform studies with a professional hydrogeologist to understand the causes and effects of pumping within and outside of the District, and where indicated in the Rules, take appropriate actions.

Definition: Desired Future Conditions

A Desired Future Condition (DFC) is a quantifiable condition of an aquifer at a specified future time. These conditions may be based on aquifer levels, spring flows, or volumes of water in the aquifer. It is up to the GCDs to balance groundwater production with conservation and protection of the aquifer while managing that production on a long-term basis to achieve and maintain the DFC.

Plugging Abandoned Wells

Do you have an abandoned well that needs to be plugged? There is grant money available from Post Oak Savannah GCD that will pay 100% of the cost to plug your abandoned well, up to \$2,500.

Drew Gholson, Ph.D., is an Extension Program Specialist for the Texas A&M Department of Soil & Crop Sciences. Gholson says that an abandoned

well is a direct conduit to the aquifer.

"Abandoned wells could be a pollution source," Gholson said. "The landowner is responsible for plugging them up."

Call the POSGCD office at (512) 455-9900 for more information.



New Staff Highlight

Megan Homeyer began working at POSGCD on May 17, 2017 as the Education Coordinator. Homeyer grew up in Caldwell, Texas and graduated with her M.S. in Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications from Texas A&M University in December 2016. As the Education Coordinator, she will give educational presentations for school classrooms, organizations and clubs about the District's aquifers and conservation practices. Other duties include writing articles, informing the public of POSGCD events and meetings and engaging with the public through talks and social media.



upcoming events

June 19th - 22nd

Well Water Screening Campaign

July 14th

Well Water Screening Campaign Results Meetings

August 1st

POSGCD August Board Meeting

August 16th

Burleson-Milam Groundwater Summit

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



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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Gary Westbrook, *General Manager*
Elaine Gerren, *Administrative Assistant*
Bobby Bazan, *Water Resource Management Specialist*
Megan Homeyer, *Education Coordinator*

Are we providing information you need?

The district staff wants to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Please contact us at 979.455.9900 or admin@posgcd.org to let us know how we can better serve you.

Look for our next newsletter in Fall 2017

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