

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Fall 2018
Volume 10 Issue 3



New Public Interface Provides Transparency for District Landowners



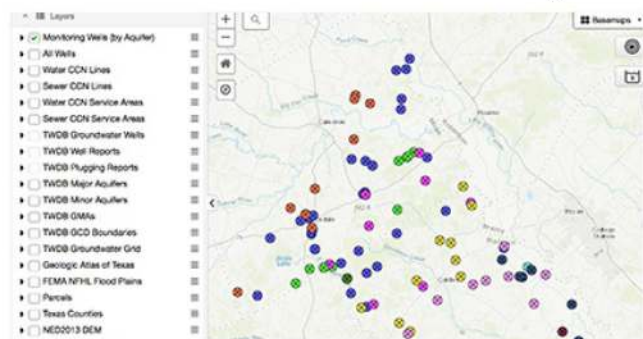
Bobby Bazan has been working for almost 18 months to bring the Interface to you

After 18 months in the works, the Post Oak Savannah GCD is proud to announce the launch of the NEW Public Interface section of the website that brings field data to your desktop! This exciting new program provides real-time updates of groundwater data to increase transparency and collaboration between the district and landowners. Resources include the ability to view aquifer coverage, aquifer depths, and productivity of all monitored wells within the POSGCD jurisdiction on a standard Internet browser.

The web page is organized into three user-friendly components: Tutorials, Dashboard, and Public Maps.

- The Tutorials section is a collection of videos with step-by-step instructions for navigating the new interface and using these new tools.
- The Dashboard provides information about District registrations, permits, and production which is represented in both graphical and numerical forms.
- The "jewel" of this new interface is the Public Maps. This section provides a visual interpretation of district information through several interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping tools. The "Virtual

Boring Tool" allows landowners to assess aquifer depths and coverage in addition to monitored well locations. No additional software downloads are necessary.



The Public Maps section of the Interface

These innovative new tools increase accessibility with ever-improving accuracy to enable easier sharing of information between stakeholders. We encourage you to explore the tutorials and information available on our website. Feel free to contact the office with any questions. Happy browsing!



Click around and explore:
<https://posgcd.org/public-interface/>

5th Annual Milam & Burleson Co Water Groundwater Summit

Central Texas residents gathered on August 15, 2018 for the fifth annual Groundwater Summit at the Caldwell Civic Center for information and education on groundwater topics relevant to our local communities. We had a great attendance with over 220 people registered from Burleson, Milam, Brazos, Travis, Robertson, and Lee counties!



Topics presented at the Summit included:

- Overview of the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer
- Groundwater Availability Models (GAMs) and how they are used
- Groundwater Property Rights & Rule of Capture

- POSGCD/AgriLife Programs
- POSGCD Monitoring Update
- Oil & Gas Fracking and Disposal Wells
- The NEW Aquifer Conservancy Program

Everyone enjoyed the great venue, food, door prizes, and the speaker presentations about the aquifers and water law. It was a great opportunity for the District to contribute and connect with the public about groundwater conservation and the legacy of stewardship.

It has been a busy year for all of us in the district as we face the many challenges of groundwater conservation, but our dedicated staff and Board members continue to stand ready to serve the community with the same zeal and dedication as ever. If you were unable to attend, video recordings of each presentation can be found at: <https://posgcd.org/groundwater-summit>

We hope to see YOU at the Groundwater Summit next year!

Need a Presentation for Your Group?

Our staff is ready and willing to tailor a presentation to fit the needs of your next meeting! Contact our Education Coordinator, Doug Box, for more information about requesting a presentation by phone at (512) 455-9900 or by email dbox@posgcd.org.



Everyone enjoyed a tasty lunch

AFTER THE SUMMIT: Well Owners Received Results to the Water Testing



Well owners submitted water samples at the Groundwater Summit through the "Well Educated" Program organized by the Texas Well Owner's Network and Texas AgriLife Extension office for FREE water quality testing (a \$65 value).

The program is designed to help residents become more familiar with understanding our aquifers, septic system & well maintenance, conservation, water quality, and water treatment. Results were distributed to local participants at the Caldwell Civic Center event on Sept 11th or the POSGCD office in Milano on Sept 12th.

Field experts were available for presentations and to talk with individual well owners both afternoons.

We'd like to thank each one of the 136 district residents who attended these local events and took part in this valuable program. If you missed out this year, keep an eye out for future opportunities on our website!



"I learned useful and interesting information about the aquifers, their monitoring, water rights, conservation districts, and fracking."

Jennifer B - Summit Attendee

Summit Wrap Up continued

What did you like best about the summit, "The historical water information. And the interface possibilities from Bobby Bazan and the review of the new resources on the website. And the information about POSGCD's overview of permitting applications with the Wather Board. And SOOO much more!"

Honey K - Summit Attendee



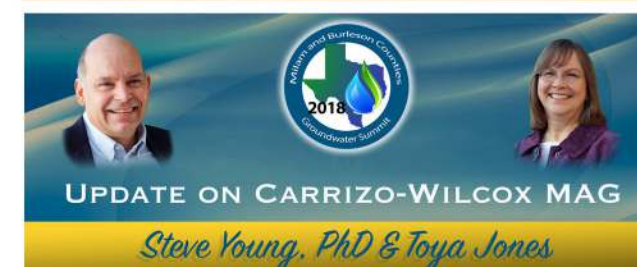
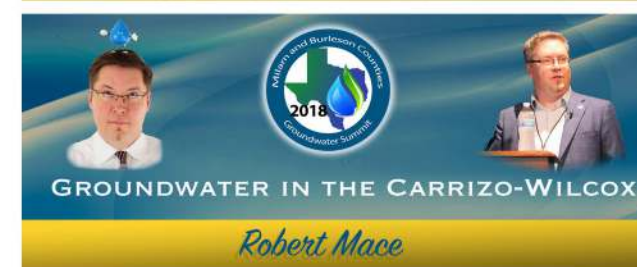
Nathan Ausley, Kerry Starnes, and Barney Knight were honored for service

"My First Summit and it FAR EXCEEDED my expectations."

John T - Summit Attendee

Summit Videos Are Up on the Website

If you missed any of the great speakers at the summit, the programs are on the website. www.posgcd.org/groundwater-summit/



BACK TO SCHOOL with the Board of Directors

It's back to school season and all of us at POSGCD are sending best wishes for a wonderful new school year to all the students, teachers, and parents of Burleson and Milam Counties!

In this new season of learning, the Board of Directors continue to pursue new opportunities to learn and reflect upon the base of information collected thus far. We understand the value of education and strive to cultivate a culture of learning within our district, starting with our Board of Directors. Continuing education is an important responsibility of the Board of Directors while serving the POSGCD community.



Gary Westbrook - POSGCD General manager addresses the attendees

Soon after a Director is appointed by the Commissioners Court of either Burleson or Milam County, they begin with an orientation course to provide a baseline knowledge to build upon. Formulated and implemented by the POSGCD staff, scientists, and attorneys, the new Directors learn the science and structure of aquifers, groundwater conservation, and the district's role within the state and local communities. From orientation on, board members devote many hours outside of Board Meetings to remaining educated about important topics which affect their responsibilities as representatives of the citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties. Education opportunities include Texas A&M education programs, reports from Hydrologists which include data consultations and field data interpretation, recent legislative developments and updates from

consulting attorneys, and more!

In addition to the Milam & Burleson Summit previously mentioned, several Board and staff members attended one of Texas' largest gatherings of groundwater interest in the state – the Texas Groundwater Summit in San Antonio sponsored by the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD).

This 3-day event provided for a diverse range of learning opportunities by industry leaders and global field experts teaching groundwater policy, emerging management trends, and the latest research in groundwater management. More specifically:

- Groundwater Availability Models
- Aquifer Boundaries
- Groundwater Case Law
- Workshop: Board & Staff Training
- Board Governance Training
- Public Information Act
- Open Meetings Act
- Texas Water Data Initiative
- GCD Databases
- Emerging Groundwater Management Trends
- Conservation & Stewardship in Texas Groundwater
-and more!



Senator Charles Perry
District 28, Texas State Senate



POSGCD Board and Staff attend TAGD Groundwater Summit



Sidney Youngblood - POSGCD Board President is listening attentively

Out of the 85 districts within the TAGD, our district was honored with an invitation for two of our staff members, Gary Westbrook and Bobby Bazan, to speak at the state Summit! Mr. Westbrook presented "Groundwater Management Toolbox" that covered the range of successful management tools implemented by our GCD such as special permit conditions, mitigation plans, and groundwater management zones. Mr. Bazan presented "All the Wells & Whistles", sharing information to assist well drillers and how to improve the quality of conversations and relations between drillers and groundwater districts.

Full range of topics and presentation slides from the state Summit can be found here: <https://texasgroundwater.org/draft-texas-groundwater-summit/>

We really enjoyed the opportunity to meet fellow Board and staff members from other Groundwater Districts in the state!



Senator José Rodríguez,
District 29, Texas Senate
Representative Paul Workman,
District 47, Texas House of
Representatives



Jennifer Smith,
Personnel and
Employment Policies for
GCD's



Board and Staff of
POSGCD attend
TAGD meeting

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Wrap Up

Sidney Youngblood - POSGCD Board President, Becky Goetsch - Board Member, Chris Whittaker, Gary Westbrook - General Manager, Bobby Bazan - Water Resource Management Specialist, Ralph Sifuentes - Field Technician, and Doug Box - Education Coordinator all attended this years TAGD (Texas Alliance of Groundwater District) Texas Groundwater Summit in San Antonio, TX this September. This is the 7th annual TAGD event.

Some of the programs included a Keynote from State Senator Charles Perry Chair of the Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs Committee and Representative Lyle Larson, Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. There were panel discussions on aquifer boundaries and groundwater availability. Some speakers explored conservation and stewardship, mitigation and management tools that Groundwater Conservation Districts can use. We also heard new trends in groundwater acquisition and groundwater valuation. A favorite breakout session was on GCD Board and Staff Development.

For 30 years TAGD's mission has been to help it's members stay current on groundwater policy, science, and management. The Texas Groundwater Summit is TAGD's cornerstone event, bringing together over 350 groundwater professionals to engage in local, regional and statewide groundwater dialogs.

Our own General Manager POSGCD, Gary Westbrook, was part of a panel that spoke on "Groundwater Management Toolbox". They covered different management tools used by GCD's, including special permit conditions, mitigation plans, and groundwater management zones. The panel was moderated by Dirk Aaron General Manager of Clearwater UWCD and TAGD President.

Bobby Bazan also participated in a panel titled "All the Wells and Whistles."



POSGCD is a sponsor of the 4-H Water Ambassadors Program

Bobby shared information for Water Well Drillers, and he covered how GCD's and well drillers could improve interaction. A conversation on how to improve relationships with drillers and Groundwater Districts. He shared the stage with Pete Brien, owner of Brien Water Wells.



POSGCD was one of the sponsors of the Live Stream at the TAGD Summit



Senator José Rodríguez,
District 29, Texas Senate
Representative Paul Workman,
District 47, Texas House of
Representatives



Jacob Vind, Counsel General and Head of
the Danish Water Technology Alliance in the
US, Royal Danish Consulate General



Bobby Bazan, POSGCD
addresses the crowd



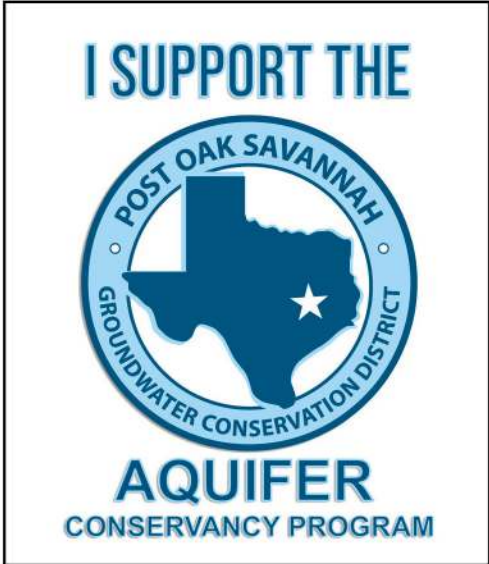
Ralph Sifuentes, POSGCD and Steve Young,
INTERA, discuss information from the previous
speaker



Representative Lyle
Larson
District 122, Texas House
of Representatives

UPDATES TO The Aquifer Conservancy Program

The Post Oak Savannah Aquifer Conservancy Program (PACP) continues to pave the way for future of water conservation as program outreach and interest increase! Gary Westbrook and Board Vice President, Steven Wise, presented the program at the Caldwell Summit and distributed "I Support the Aquifer Conservancy Program" signs at the request of attendees. Over 100 signs were taken by attendees!



Get Your Very Own Sign!
Come by the office in Milano to pick up your "I Support the Aquifer Conservancy Program" sign.

The program was founded to support local landowner legacies through long-term, sustainable stewardship of groundwater resources. The Board of Directors hold landowner interests and concerns with high regard and have made recent changes in response to local concerns:

- First, an enrollment incentive of \$10/acre for 2019 will be available for the first annually recurring 90-day enrollment period (dates to be announced).
- Second, after receiving input from the public, the Board modified the program to address concerns. Now, any change

in ownership of property enrolled in the program will end the commitment, with the option to continue available to the new owner.

- Third, the Board has implemented Flexible Commitment Options.

The following terms of commitment will receive the identified annual payment:
(A) Five years- \$5/acre/year
(B) Ten years- \$8/acre/year
(C) Twenty years- \$10/acre/year.

The Directors continue to work diligently on this program to conserve the local legacies of the communities it represents, and plan to publish the formal draft for public comment again October 2.

For the most current updates, review of the program details, and answers to frequently asked questions, refer to <https://posgcd.org/pacp> main page.

Click on "The Aquifer Conservancy Program" and "The Aquifer Conservancy Program Q&A Session."

Additionally, the office staff is always ready and willing to answer any questions you may have in person, by phone, or email.



Want your option to count, take a quick survey.

www.posgcd.org/pacp/

"I enjoyed the program with Steve and Gary and I appreciate the new information on Groundwater Conservancy Program."
Summit Attendee



Drew Gholson, one of our speakers is getting in the fun about the PACP!



We are always happy to take questions and comments from the public about the Aquifer Conservancy Program



Gabriel Ramthun a 4-H Water Ambassador volunteered to assist at the Summit. Thanks Gabriel!



Caldwell Civic and Visitors Center is a great facility to host the Groundwater Summit program

Texas State Representative, Ben Leman addressed the crowd and shared his ideas on the importance of Groundwater



REGISTRATION OPEN for Rainwater Harvesting 101

A Rainwater Harvesting Class is scheduled for October 9th, 2018 from 1pm – 4pm at the POSGCD office building. This class is one of the requirements under the Groundwater Conservation Grant Program that provides qualified applicants residing in the district reimbursement up to \$3,000 for implementing a rainwater harvesting system!

Rainwater harvesting not only reduces dependency on groundwater, it improves vegetation & soil for better water quality and reduces on-site flooding and pollution from storm-water surges. Come learn more about how rainwater harvesting and water conservation can benefit your home while contributing to the preservation of groundwater within Milam and Burleson Counties.

OCT 9, 2018 1PM-4PM
DISTRICT OFFICE
310 EAST C
MILANO, TX
512-455-9900



There are only 40 seats available, so don't wait to claim your seat and register today! For more information and the link to register, visit <https://posgcd.org/rainwater/>.

Contact the office if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!


Review the Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program Policy & Guidelines:

https://posgcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Rainwater-Harvesting-Rebate-Program-Policy-and-Guidelines_Dec17.pdf




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NEW BEGINNINGS FARM
WIN A FREE 2500 GALLON RAINWATER TANK


RAINWATER CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM




BURLESON AND MILAM COUNTIES AVERAGE
= 37 INCHES
OF RAIN PER YEAR



= 320 GALLONS
AVERAGE HOME WATER USE PER DAY



100 GALLONS
USED OUTDOORS DAILY



1000 SQUARE FOOT ROOF
CATCHES 600 GALLONS OF WATER IN A 1" RAIN

RAINWATER HARVESTING BENEFITS

- REDUCES CONTAMINATION OF SURFACE WATER
- REDUCES PERSONAL WATER BILLS
- CONSERVES WATER
- REDUCES RUN-OFF
- REDUCES EROSION
- CONSERVES ENERGY

RAINWATER

- PREVENT IMPACT OF STORMWATER RUN-OFF
- IT SUPPORTS LANDSCAPE HEALTH
- IS FREE OF SODIUM AND CHLORINE
- PH IS OPTIMIZED TO SUPPORT PLANT
- IMPROVES MICROBIAL SOIL LIFE
- HELPS RECHARGE AQUIFERS
- RAINWATER IS FREE

RAINWATER CAN BE USED FOR:

- LANDSCAPE USE
- CAR WASHING
- PET WATERING
- FIRE PROTECTION
- WILDLIFE USE
- EMERGENCY BACKUP
- LIVESTOCK USE
- GARDENING USE

WATER IS PRECIOUS

POST OAK SAVANNAH GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WWW.POSGCD.ORG

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
310 East Avenue C
P.O. Box 92
Milano, Texas 76556

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- New Conservancy Program
- Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit Highlights
- TAGD Texas Summit Wrap up
- Rainwater Harvesting Program 101
- Texas Well Owner's Network "Well Educated" Program
- Back to School with Board of Directors

POSGCD SOCIAL:



@PostOakSavannahGCD



@POSGCD



Let's chat!

Phone: 512.455.9900

Email: admin@posgcd.org

Visit our website for more information:

www.posgcd.org

Look for our next
Newsletter in Winter 2019



upcoming events

October 2nd

POSGCD Board Meeting - 5:30 pm

Oct 9th

Rainwater Harvesting Program - Milano
1pm-4pm

Oct 23th

Public Outreach 6pm - 8pm

Oct 25th

Water Utilities Workshop 6pm - 8pm

November 2nd

POSGCD Board Meeting - 5:30 pm

Board of Directors

Sidney Youngblood, President
Steven Wise, Vice President
Tommy Tietjen, Sec/Treas
Lee Alford, III
Becky Goetsch

Durwood Tucker
Robert Ware
Chris Whittaker
Jay Wilder
Bob Wilson

Staff

Gary Westbrook, General Manager
Elaine Gerren, Administrative Assistant
Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist
Doug Box, Education Coordinator
Ralph Sifuentes, Field Technician

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

Are we providing information you need?

The district staff want to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Please contact us at 512.455.9900 or admin@posgcd.org to let us know how we can better serve you.



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).