

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Fall 2019
Volume 11 Issue 3

6th Annual Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit a Great Success!



Over 250 people from Milam and Burleson counties as well as other areas attended this years Groundwater Summit. Water specialists and experts, state politicians, POSGCD Board and staff were among the speakers. The Aquifer Conservancy Program, the Vista Ridge Project, Groundwater and Surface Water Interactions, and Groundwater Monitoring were some of the topics!



Burleson
County Judge
Keith
Schroeder



Representative
Ben Leman

Summit Highlights

- Interest in surface – groundwater interactions increasing as the state courts and legislature begin to confront challenges of ownership and management jurisdiction. (Robert Mace)
- State water supply plans are based on drought conditions of six categories of water use including municipal, manufacturing, mining, irrigation, livestock and steam-electric power. (Gary Westbrook, Wayne Wilson, and Sarah Backhouse)
- District hydrologist reports how data collected from minor aquifers, or “shallow zones,” can be used to more accurately define the unconfined aquifer and improve Protected Draw-down Limits (PDLs) for groundwater modeling. The report indicates an insufficient number of monitoring wells in these zones and the need for landowners volunteering to allow water level checks. (Bobby Bazan, Ralph Sifuentes)
- Senator Kolkhorst was the Keynote speaker at the 2019 Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit. Attendees enjoyed a fajitas lunch along with informative and entertaining speakers.



Milam County
Judge
Steve
Young



Senator
Lois
Kolkhorst

To watch this years Summit Videos go to:
www.posgcd.org/groundwater-summit/

Groundwater Summit Highlights



Bob Ware honored for 17 years serving as POSGCD Board Member

Recently retired Board Member, Robert “Bob” Ware, was recognized at the Summit for his 17 years of service representing rural water interests for Burleson County. Mr. Ware was the last remaining member of the original Board of Directors established when the District was created in 2001. His contributions to the development of our district are immeasurable, and we thank him for his dedicated service protecting our groundwater resources.



Jevon Harding
Hydrogeologist
Intera



Steve Young
Hydrogeologist
Intera

Hydrogeologists Jevon Harding and Steve Young of Intera, explained how scientific data is used to estimate the most likely outcome of water pumping in our local aquifers. Ms. Harding and Mr. Young demonstrated how the District can compare historical pumping trends to the number of pumping permits to calculate the effects on the water stored in our aquifers.

Watch the full presentation on our website: <https://posgcd.org/groundwater-summit/>



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 the Board members continue to stand ready to serve the community.

Video presentations are available for viewing on our website:
www.posgcd.org/groundwater-summit



Research shows rivers are not likely to increase aquifer salinity due to the characteristics of river/aquifer connections.

(Dr. Joe Yelderman, Baylor University)

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

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater
Conservation District



Well 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). Paid for in full by Post Oak Savannah GCD.

The program is designed to help residents become more familiar with well maintenance, conservation, water quality, water treatment and septic system. Results were distributed to local participants at the POSGCD office in Milano and at the Burleson County Expo Center events on Sept 16th.

Field experts were available for presentations and to talk with individual well owners at both programs. We would like to thank each one of the over 100 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!

Aquifer Conservancy Program - Update



The registration period to enroll in the Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP) for the year 2020 is coming to a close with the last day to register being Sept. 30th. Applications are currently being processed, with contracts drafted and set to be mailed out mid-to-late September. More than 15,000 acres are currently enrolled with more and more applications processed each day!

To recap, the ACP aims to conserve and protect the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer by providing a balance between conservation and production. Funded by export fees, the program involves legal agreements between the District and landowners to not produce their water in permitted amounts or lease water rights for production, landowners may continue to use water for exempt uses, such as watering livestock or supplying their home. In return for placing acreage in the ACP, landowners are compensated based on the number of acres and years they agree to conserve their groundwater.

The ACP can be a win-win for all who are involved: aquifers are protected, and landowners can keep using their land the same way they always have. Except now, they have a new tool to help ensure their lands (and groundwater) is available for generations to come.

The District provides several other programs to benefit local citizens including local water utility grants to replace obsolete piping, providing fire departments with water conserving equipment, aiding in the costs to plug abandoned wells, and more. Learn more about the grant programs available to you on our website: www.posgcd.org/grant-programs/.

The Board and staff would like to thank everyone who has helped to spread the work about this great program, especially those citizens who have volunteered to make this effort a priority in all they do. Those citizens are ACP Ambassadors.

If you would like to become an ACP Ambassador, call our office at 512-455-9900 or email us at admin@posgcd.org.



RAINWATER HARVEST CLASS - NOVEMBER 7

The next Rainwater Harvesting 101 Workshop will be held at the District Office on November 7, 2019, 1 – 4 PM, at the District office in Milano. Come learn the basics of rainwater harvesting and how you can install your own system at home! Attendees will qualify for the POSGCD Rainwater Harvest Grant. The completion certificate you will receive after the class is required to apply for the grant. More information about the Program can be found on our website at: <https://posgcd.org/rainwater/>



HEALTHY LAWNS , HEALTHY WATERS - MARCH 26 RAINWATER HARVEST CLASS - MARCH 26

Mark your calendars for the upcoming spring workshop event on March 26th for a full day of ways you can become more water-efficient with your home and property! The morning session will focus on Rainwater Harvesting System implementation. The afternoon session will focus on best management practices for selecting and caring for landscape species best suited for our location. Learn more about Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters by visiting the program website: <https://hlhw.tamu.edu/>



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- Aquifer Conservancy Program follow up

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 1st
POSGCD Board Meeting

November 5th
POSGCD Board Meeting

November 7th
Rainwater Harvesting Class

March 26th
Health Lawn-Heathy Water

March 26th
Rainwater Harvesting Class



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sidney Youngblood, President | Durwood Tucker |
| Steven Wise, Vice President | Chris Whittaker |
| Tommy Tietjen, Sec/Treas | Jay Wilder |
| Lee Alford, III | Bob Wilson |
| Becky Goetsch | Ed Savage |

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

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.

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).