

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Winter 2020
Volume 12 Issue 1



Landowners Serious About Conserving Water

The Aquifer Conservancy Program officially launched this last summer after years of planning by the Board of Directors and staff. The first enrollment period for the ACP recently closed, and we are proud to report that residents showed up in high numbers with over 500 parcels of land, encompassing over 37,000 acres enrolled to conserve! That translates to as much as 370,000 acre-feet of water reserved in aquifers not used for production over a minimum of five years.

The ACP's goal is 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. However, landowners may continue to use water from wells for exempt uses, such as watering livestock or domestic home use. 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.

Next year's open enrollment begins April 1, 2020 and ends October 31, 2020. We welcome questions about the program and encourage landowners to attend our Board meetings and our annual Groundwater Summit.

"I have heard from several of my neighbors that the staff of POSGCD have been so nice in helping people to fill out the paperwork for the ACP!"

Milam County Landowner

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

Did you know only 2% of wells in our District are voluntarily registered to contribute water level data that helps us gauge aquifer health? We're constantly looking to add monitoring wells to help us to better understand our aquifers and here's why:

A part of the Board's responsibility is to make informed decisions about managing local groundwater using the best available science. This is achieved in two ways: groundwater modeling software that predicts the impacts of different pumping scenarios, and water level data collected from monitor wells within the District. As a resident, you can volunteer your well to be added to our monitoring system. By adding monitoring wells in different formations, we can see the bigger picture of the aquifer's health and address changes more quickly. Landowner well information is vital to ensuring a quick reaction to any changes in water levels for better management. Your well can have an impact statewide as this collected data is shared with neighboring groundwater districts for regional planning, and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to assist with State Water Planning efforts in the future.

Participating in the monitoring network is designed to be as easy and non-invasive as possible for participants. Periodically, our field technician will call and ask to check your water levels and records the measurement in the District's database for the purposes explained above.

If you have questions or are considering adding your well to the network, contact Water Resources Management Specialist, Bobby Bazan, by email at bbazan@posgcd.org or by phone at (512) 455-9900.

DISTRICT BUSINESS UPDATES

New Monthly Board Meeting Date

Monthly Board Meetings will now be held on the second Tuesday of each month with the next meeting scheduled for January 14th, 2020 beginning at 5:30 PM in the Post Oak offices. It was proposed that the date be reverted back to the second Tuesday of the month to eliminate conflict with several holidays like New Year's Day, Labor Day, July Forth, etc.

Changes to District Rules

The Rules Committee has had several meetings over the last few months to update and revise the District Rules. Most of the changes have been related to document clean-up, focused primarily on updated wording and making language clearer. After years of fine-tuning, this will ensure easier readability of the information. In addition to document "housekeeping", if you will, a few adoptions have been made to fulfill the District's mission and responsibility to use the best available science when managing groundwater resources. The committee has and continues to adapt the Rules according to the updated science and insight provided by the new groundwater modeling software. A public hearing was held regarding these proposed changes on November 5, 2019 during the Monthly Board Meeting. A copy of these changes to the Rules are available on our website with changes highlighted in red. Enter this web address in your internet browser for direct access: <http://bit.ly/rules-change>



POSGCD staff uses , steel tape, e-lines, down hole cameras and depth sounders to monitor water levels in wells in the district



Recently, POSGCD converted an abandoned oil well to a monitor well in the Hooper Aquifer. Shaped charges were used to perforate the casing at the appropriate depth.

HOW TO AVOID HAZARDS OF AN ABANDONED WATER WELL

Water Well Plugging Grant

Hazards of abandoned water wells can sometimes be obvious - a person or animal could very easily fall into a large, unmarked open hole. However, the threat of direct contamination caused by an abandoned well might not be so obvious. These unused wells can be a direct conduit for contamination from the surface straight into the water supply. Contaminants could be anything from pesticides and fertilizers to waste left by oil and gas use.

In 2009, the Board of Directors created a program that would aid Milam and Burleson county landowners in plugging abandoned water wells on their land to prevent such harmful occurrences. The original amount of the grant was \$1,000 but increased to \$2,500 in 2018 to ensure adequate coverage for plugging.

If you have one on your property, you can have it plugged with funds available in a District grant program that pays 100% of the expense up to \$2,500. More information and a printable application can be found on the website (<https://posgcd.org/grant-programs/>) or by visiting our office from 8 AM to 4 PM Monday through Friday.



DURWOOD TUCKER RETIRES AFTER 6 YEARS OF SERVICE

Having served as Milam County Director representing Agriculture interests on the POSGCD Board, Durwood Tucker recently announced his retirement after six years of selfless service to the citizens of our District. Durwood distinguished himself by serving on multiple committees during his time on the Board, including serving as Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

Durwood, a native of Milam County and having graduated from Thorndale High School, received a degree in Agribusiness from East Texas State University. He helped to found and then managed a Hog Marketing Corporation for 12 years. His civic service has included 27 years on the Thorndale ISD School Board. Previously, he served in legislative capacities for Texas Farm Bureau, spending much time in the halls of our State Capital, and he currently serves as the Milam County Farm Bureau President. He is married to Darleen Cumbie Tucker and they have three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Durwood states that he feels Blessed to have seen great strides and progress by our District during his 6 years on the Board, and he believes the new Aquifer Conservancy Program is the best and most far reaching program we have added to the District during that time. He and Darlene plan to spend more time with grandchildren. On behalf of the staff and Directors, we say "Thank you" to Durwood for his leadership, and add a sincere "God Bless you" and "good luck" in all of your future endeavors!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE'S A VACANCY ON THE BOARD?

When a director resigns or a term of office expires the general manager informs the County Commissioner's Court in writing. The Commissioners Court accepts applications and appoints the successor that qualifies for the vacant position and the interests it represents.

There are ten positions on the Board of Directors for our District, with five from each of our two counties. The enabling legislation that originally created the District requires that each director represent one of five different categories of interests specific to our region: agriculture, industry, municipal, rural water supply, or the county at large. To qualify as a director within one of these categories and fill a seat, the person must be actively employed or involved in activities of that interest. For example, the agricultural seats must be filled by a person "who derives a substantial portion of his or her income from agriculture in the county." The rural water supply seat must be filled by a person who is a "director or employee of a rural supply water corporation in the county [they represent]". (House Bill 1784, 77th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plans for another Rainwater Harvesting class and Landscape Workshop are currently in the works but no dates have been set yet. More information should be available after the first of the year. If you'd like to be added to an email list for updates on upcoming classes or if you have any questions, contact Jaclyn Robertson at jaclyn.robertson@ag.tamu.edu or by calling the District office (512) 455-9900.



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- How to Avoid Hazards of an Abandoned Water Well
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- District Updates

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 Spring 2020

upcoming events

January 14th

January Board of Directors Meeting •••NEW DATE•••

Beginning January 2020, Board Meetings have moved to the second Tuesday of the Month. Mark your Calendars!

Board Meetings are held at the District Office 310 East Ave C, Milano

February 11th

February Board of Directors Meeting

DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED

Plans for another Rainwater Harvesting class and Landscape Workshop are currently in the works but no dates have been set yet. Watch Facebook and the e-Newsletter for future dates,



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).