Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource

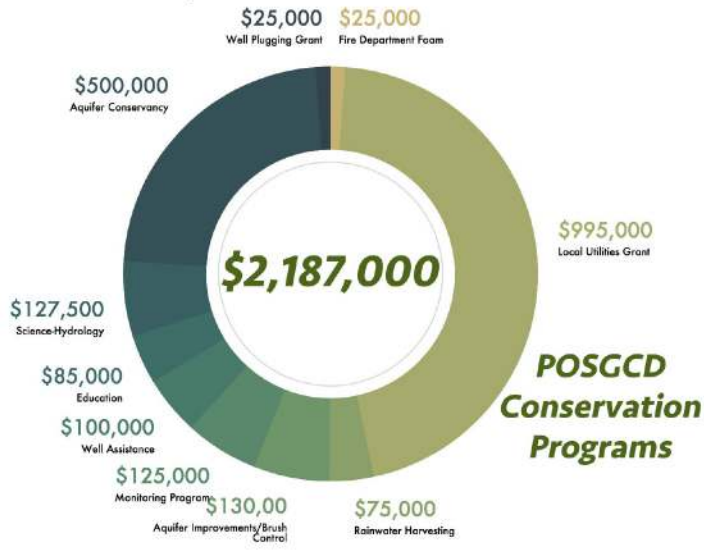
Spring 2020
Volume 12 Issue 2

PARTNER WITH POSGCD FOR WATER CONSERVATION

In the last year, we have gone from too much rain to a mini drought. It's almost spring, and those recent showers are a welcome sight. The new calves running and jumping in the fields, the wild flowers are peaking their heads out of the ground, and the birds are singing. The farmers and gardeners are getting the seeds in the ground as the temperatures slowly rise. This is a good time to think about water conservation.

At Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District, we think about conservation all the time. Your District spends over two million dollars every year in grants, classes and education, monitoring and other conservation programs. The money for these projects come from the fees collected by the District. Production Fees are paid by cities, local water supply corporations and industrial users. Those fees are $.013 (1.3 cents) per 1,000 gallons. Water that leaves the District, transported water, is subject to fees of 10 cents per 1,000 gallons on the permitted amounts. For example, the Vista Ridge Project pays over $2 million a year in Production and Transport fees to your District. Exempt Wells for domestic and livestock use and exempt from fees. Agriculture well used for irrigation are also exempt from fees.

The District uses fees collected to fund water conservation projects including grants for local water districts in an amount of one million dollars each year. These grants aid in repairs for water conservation and savings. The District also offers grants for local fire departments for foam and other water saving devises. We offer Rainwater Harvesting Grants and other water conservation workshops. We offer a program to assist landowners in plugging abandoned water wells, and programs to educate school children, and provide them with water saving kits to take home. The popular Aquifer Conservancy Program is also funded by the fees we collect. There is no tax base for our district, and we get no money from the state, so everything is funded by the Production and Transport fees collected, including all District operating expenses.



The District hosts an annual Groundwater Summit each fall for Groundwater Education and information. For more information about our programs, fees or budgets visit our website www.POSGCD.org. We also encourage you to attend our monthly Board Meetings and our annual Groundwater Summit.

FLOW METER ADDED TO MONITORING

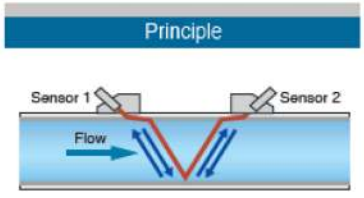
Knowing the water level in over 240 monitoring wells is important for several reasons: aquifer levels under static and pumping conditions, and understanding how surface development has impacted the aquifer. However, just as important is knowing how much and when groundwater is being produced.

Permit holders for Non Exempt Wells, such as Water Supply Corporations, Agricultural users and Water Transport users in the District are required by rule to report groundwater usage every month. The best way to know how much water a user produced is by having a flow meter keep track of the usage. All the Cities, Water Supply Corporations municipal users and industrial users have flow meters to let them know how much water they use. In some instances, when a flow meter is not installed, such as some Agricultural users, it is possible to estimate their water usage by knowing how many hours their pumps run each month and how many gallons per hour their pumps produce.

As with any mechanical devices, flow meters can sometimes get out of calibration and return bad readings. If this were to happen, the data reported would also be inaccurate. A farmer wants to know how many gallons per hour their irrigation pump is capable of producing. To help provide the most accurate information, the District has invested in a Portable Ultrasonic Flow-meter to assist well owners with knowing if their installed flow meters are calibrated correctly or simply how many gallons per minute their pump is putting out.

The District is working on establishing a schedule to check flow rates at all permitted wells to verify how much groundwater is being pumped. This data will be used in conjunction with our water level monitoring data to give us a better look at the health of our aquifers. The District is always looking to improve the science and the data that it collects. We recently brought on Craig Andrews as a contractor to aid in gathering water levels and increase the frequency of measurements taken at monitoring wells. As the Vista Ridge project comes on line, it is vital to the District's mission that good science remain at the forefront to provide the best information for the management of aquifers.

If you have a well that you would like to add to the Monitoring Network contact Bobby Bazan, Water Resources Management Specialist. To earn more about how you can participate, email at bbazan@posgcd.org or by phone at (512) 455-9900.



The Fuji Electric Ultrasonic Flowmeter works by placing a pair of sensors on the outside wall of a pipe. The sensors emit ultrasonic pulses and detect the transmit time difference and calculate the flow rate.

WATER WELL MAINTENANCE

In addition to Water Conservation, POSGCD is charged with Protecting Water Quality

Properly constructed and maintained water wells are designed to keep microorganisms from getting inside the well systems; however, regular well maintenance and annual water screening can help insure you have a good and safe experience with your well. You can download a copy of our latest brochure, *Water Well Maintenance* from our website, www.posgcd.org/current-well-owners/

We offer annual water screening through Texas A&M Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory in conjunction with our Groundwater Summit. Beginning in March, we will be offering Coliform bacteria screening at our office as well. Please call the office for instructions and to make an appointment to pick up a testing bottle.

POSGCD WORKS WITH FOUR OTHER GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

In Planning of Desired Future Conditions in the 8 Shared Aquifers

Groundwater Management Area 12 (GMA 12) includes, Brazos Valley GCD, Fayette County GCD, Lost Pines GCD, Mid-East Texas GCD, and Post Oak Savannah GCD and all or part of the following counties: Bastrop, Brazos, Burleson, Falls, Fayette, Freestone, Lee, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Navarro, Robertson, and Williamson.

GMA 12 was established by state law and charged to regionally manage shared aquifers which include Carrizo-Wilcox (including the Simsboro), Sparta, Queen City, Yegua-Jackson and the Brazos River Alluvium. The 16 GMA's in Texas work with the Texas Water Development Board to establish the State Water Plan and how much groundwater is available during the 50-year water planning horizon.

Why is this important to the landowners in our District? While it is important to monitor the pumping activity in our two counties, you can see that since we share "our" aquifers with folks in 14 counties. And, it is important what happens in those counties since it also affects the aquifers in our District.

The state mandates that we use the "Best Science" available and closely collaborate with the other Districts in our area. All the Districts understand and embrace the important task of regional water planning and commit to a transparent, honest, and open minded process that will uphold our duty to conserve, preserve, and protect the aquifers while allowing property owners the ability to access and beneficially use their groundwater resources.

DANA McCLAREN NEW BOARD MEMBER

Dana L. McClaren attended the University of North Texas graduating with a B.B.A. in Marketing in 1981. She then attended Texas Tech University School of Law where she became a member of the Order of Barristers as she received a J.D. in 1984. She became an Associate Attorney with the Dallas law firm of Cowles and Thompson and later became a partner with the firm, practicing primarily in personal injury defense litigation. She was a founding partner of the Cowles and Thompson satellite office in Temple, TX, where she was the managing partner of the office. Dana left the practice of law to raise two daughters, Bryn and Ryle. She and her family relocated from Houston to Cameron, Tx in 2008. She has been responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the buildings at 44 Farms since approximately 1999. Dana has been married to her husband Bob, the owner of 44 Farms, since 1985. She has participated in many volunteer activities including the Junior League in both Temple and Houston, parent leadership organizations at several schools, the Board of Directors at Marlow Water Service Corporation and is presently serving as the leader of a ladies bible study at Marlow Baptist Church.

BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN

Board President, Sidney Youngblood, gave the oath of office to Directors, Bob Wilson, Tommy Tietjen, Steven Wise, and Dana McClaren at the January Board meeting. Ed Savage was sworn in February 11.

CRAIG ANDREWS - NEW CONTRACTOR

Craig Andrews, is the newest member of the POSGCD Monitor Team. He is working as a contractor to assist Bobby Bazan and Ralph Sifuentes as we increase the monitoring and beginning checking flow rates of non-exempt wells in the district. Craig was born and raised in Georgetown, TX area. Craig spent a good portion of his formative years raising cattle, goats and sheep which he continues to this date. He began working in groundwater in 2000 as a field tech doing groundwater monitoring, drilling projects and well investigations for RW Harden and Assoc in Austin. He began working with Post Oak Savannah GCD at the start of 2020.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plans are set for Landscapable (Earthkind) Landscape class April 18, 9am-11am, class. Learn how to prepare and improve soil, select the best plants, how to plant them, and more, Program Specialist and Ph.D. candidate, Tim Hartmann, specializes in EarthKind landscapes, which uses researched-back techniques that focus on ways to get the most out of your landscape while reducing water and fertilizer requirements. For more information and to register for the class go to our website, https://posgcd.org/rainwater/.

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IN THIS ISSUE..

- Partner with POSGCD for Water Conservation
- Flowmeter added to Monitoring
- GMA 12 - POSGCD working together with other GCD's
- Water Well Maintenance
- Upcoming class April 18 - EarthKind

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

April 14th
April Board of Directors Meeting
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

April 18th - Saturday - EarthKind
Participants will learn about how to prepare and improve soil, select the best plants and how to plant them for success in your yard and garden.

April 25th - Saturday - Garden Party
At the Caldwell Civic Center

May 12th
May Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 3, 2020 - GROUNDWATER SUMMIT -
Attend our 7th annual Groundwater Summit in Caldwell

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

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).