

Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



Summer 2022
Volume 12 Issue 2

8TH ANNUAL GROUNDWATER SUMMIT

Our 2022 Summit is fast approaching and you won't want to miss it! Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of workshops, entertaining speakers, valuable information and great company. Lunch and snacks are provided.

Free admission to the Groundwater Summit

The date for the 2022 Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit has been set for August 18, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All are encouraged to attend. We will be at the Caldwell Civic Center at 103 W Hwy 21, Caldwell, Texas.

The Summit is free and open to the public with lunch provided. Topics for this year's Summit cover a variety of issues. Speakers will discuss the Aquifer sustainability and what that means, the legislative process and how it affects our groundwater district. In addition, there will be a presentation about the Texas State Water Plan and our Region G water planning group's part of the state water plan. Milam and Burleson counties are located in Region G. There will be an update on the popular Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP), the Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP) and information on Compliance with DFCs and POSGCD's well-monitoring system.

Citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties, as well as surrounding areas, can benefit from attending the Groundwater Summit. Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District organizes the event and invites groundwater experts from across Texas to come speak at the local level. It is a great opportunity for people to come and learn about the state's requirements on local groundwater management and stay up-to-date on current groundwater issues, such as property rights and groundwater management.

One highlight of the day will be a panel of speakers explaining the State Water Planning Process in Texas. Sarah Backhouse is the Manager of the Regional Water Planning Department at the Texas Water Development Board. Sarah oversees the state's regional water planning program. She provides technical and administrative assistance to regional water planning groups, administering regional water planning grant contracts, disseminating planning data, and coordinating a variety of stakeholder activities. She has over 15 years of experience in water resources planning and data analysis in the public sector. Sarah wants citizens to have a better understanding of the state

water planning process and learn how they can become engaged.

Registration is from 8:30 am to 9 am. The speakers will begin at 9am and we will conclude about 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP your attendance at the Burleson County Extension Office by August 9th, or you can call our office. Burleson County 979-567-2308 - POSGCD office 512-455-9900

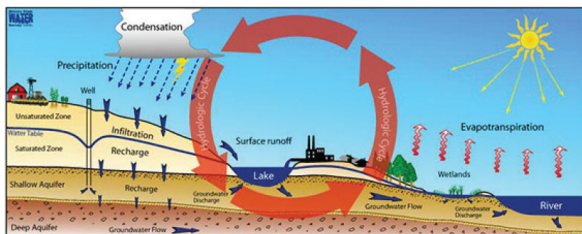


SUMMIT SCHEDULE

- 9:00 WELCOME** Honorable Steve Young, *Milam County Judge*
- 9:10 PLANNING FOR WATER NEEDS IN TEXAS**
Wayne Wilson, Region G Regional Planning Group
Tony Smith - Carollo Engineers
Sarah Backhouse, Texas Water Development Board-
Gary Westbrook, POSGCD General Manager
- 10:10 AQUIFER SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
Robert Mace, Department of Geography at Texas State University
Vanessa Puig-Williams, Director of EDF's Texas Water Program
Carlos Rubinstein, Texas Water Foundation
- 11:05 BREAK** Educational videos playing
- 11:15 UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**
Leah Martinson, *Executive Director, TAGD*
Robby Cook, Consultant Eichler and Cook LLC -
Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs – TWCA

- 12:00 LUNCH: RECOGNITION OF SERVICE** Gary Westbrook, POSGCD
- 12:30 WELCOME BACK** Honorable Keith Schroeder, *Burleson County Judge*
- 12:45 STATE OF THE DISTRICT**
Ward Roddam, *Board*, Post Oak Savannah GCD
Gary Westbrook, *General Manager*, Post Oak Savannah GCD
- 1:20 STATUS OF OUR AQUIFERS/DFC COMPLIANCE & MONITORING UPDATE**
Steve Young, *Hydrogeologist*, Intera
Bobby Bazan, *Water Resource Management Specialist*, POSGCD
Michael Redman, *Regulatory Compliance Specialist*, POSGCD
- 2:20 WELL INFORMED/WATER TEST RESULTS** John Smith, *AgriLife*
BEST SEPTIC PRACTICES Ryan Gerlich, *AgriLife*
- 4:00 CLOSING** Leah Martinson, *ExDirector, TAGD*

Below is a copy of our new “Groundwater Facts Pocket Card”. If you would like a copy for yourself, stop by our office and pick up a few.



Groundwater Facts

- Q** - Does a landowner own the water in place under their land?
- A** - Yes, unless the rights to the water have already been sold or leased.
- Q** - Is a landowner guaranteed the right to produce their water?
- A** - Yes, in Texas the Rule of Capture, established by the Supreme Court in 1904, is the basic law. Landowners can produce their property as long as the use is not wasteful.
- Q** - Can water escape from under my property if my neighbor is producing their water?
- A** - Yes, under the Rule of Capture, this production would be allowed, however, most places and most aquifers in our District remain full and saturated.
- Q** - Is there any way to offset the effects of Rule of Capture?
- A** - Yes, Management Strategies and Rules of a Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) can lessen impacts of one person's production on another person's water rights.
- Q** - Can a GCD limit where a landowner uses their water?
- A** - Not in most situations. However, a GCD may require identification of where the water will be used.

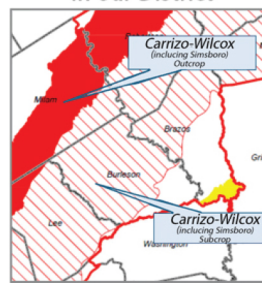


**Post Oak Savannah
Groundwater
Conservation District**
PO Box 92 Milano, TX
www.POSGCD.org
512-455-9900

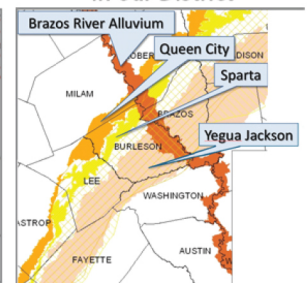
Our Mission - The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) mission is to adopt and enforce Rules consistent with State law and based on best available science, which provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, while supporting the ownership of groundwater and the owner's right to assign or produce that property.

- Q** - Can a Groundwater Conservation District treat landowners who produce their water differently based on where they will use their water?
- A** - No! The law does not permit this.
- Q** - Why does Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District allow groundwater to be shipped outside of Milam and Burleson counties?
- A** - Many individual landowners have chosen to exercise their right to market some of their rights to their water to be used outside of the District as allowed by state law.
- Q** - How does Post Oak Savannah GCD ensure that too much water will not be produced and leave us without sufficient water for our District's future needs?
- A** - After careful scientific evaluation for the past 18 years, the Board of Directors of Post Oak Savannah GCD has set very conservative maximum allowable impacts to the aquifers in our District.
- Q** - How will Post Oak Savannah GCD prevent these maximum impacts from being reached?
- A** - State law and District Rules provide for management strategies, which have been verified by state agencies, and which provide for management of permits issued to prevent exceedance of those limits.

Major Aquifers in our District



Minor Aquifers in our District



How is the Drought affecting the Aquifers in our District

The current streak of 100°F days and lack of precipitation is stoking flashbacks to the recent record drought of 2011-2012. All or portions of Milam and Burleson counties are currently in “moderate” or “severe” drought (see figure 1). One question these conditions invoke is: what does this mean for our aquifers?

As temperatures warm and the number of days without rain increase, the demands on local groundwater resources also increase. It is this increase in demand that can have impacts on water levels and water distribution systems during drought. The demands also include increased frequency of pumping, which in turn limits the rate of recovery, thus also leading to lower water levels. During the 2011-2012 drought water levels in the aquifers experienced measured drawdown (see figure 2) that recovered once the rains returned and the demand of pumping decreased. The good news is the aquifers underlying our District have a vast amount of water in storage and are insulated from evaporation, unlike surface water sources, which allows for a dependent and drought-tolerant resource.

However, we can all still be good stewards of this resource and do our part to help minimize impacts on the aquifer and on water utility infrastructure. Conserving water can be as simple as turning off the water when brushing your teeth or shaving, repair leaking fixtures such as faucets and toilets, using mulch to retain moisture in flowerbeds, running washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads, and limiting the watering of lawns to once or twice a week and at night. Also, you should always follow any mandatory or voluntary drought plans from your water supply utility.

For more information or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist, at (512) 455-9900 or bbazan@posgcd.org

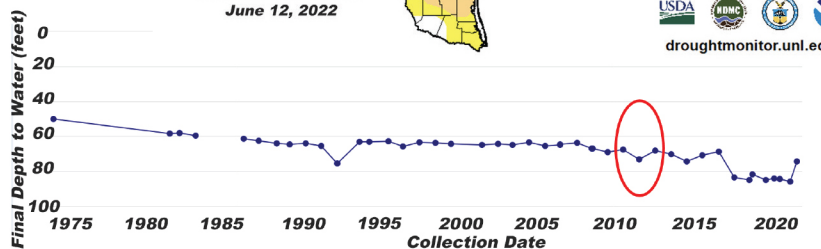
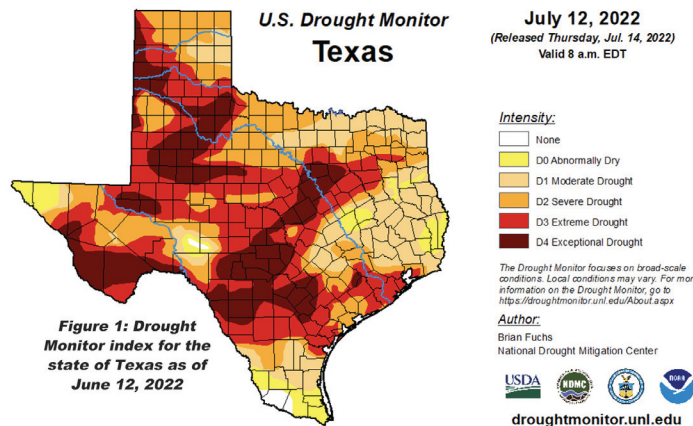


Figure 2: Hydrograph of a long-term monitoring well within the District which illustrates the minimal impact the 2011-2012 drought had on water levels (red circle area).

Lee Alford - Retires

It is with great appreciation of service that we announce Lee Alford is retiring from the Board of Directors of Post Oak Savannah GCD. Lee has been a dedicated member of the Board for over 13 years, serving on the Grant Committee and Building Committee. As Chairman of the Grant Committee, he and the committee have awarded over \$13,500,000 to local water utilities since he joined POSGCD in 2009. As part of the Building Committee, Lee and the committee upgraded our offices to the modern facility we enjoy today. He has been a strong advocate for protection of private property rights and water conservation. Lee will be greatly missed on the Board and his dedication to water conservation will not be forgotten. Burleson County Judge Schroeder commented, “Lee was always dependable and was always looking out for the best interests of the citizens of our county. He was also very dedicated to developing the POSGCD Grant Program. Many of our citizens and their water systems have benefited a lot over the years from that program.” Lee Alford served as a Director on the Board of the International Brangus Breeders Association and is a Director on the Board of the Texas Brangus Breeders Association. He is also a Ruling Elder on the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell. Mr. Alford attended the University of Texas in

Michael Redman - New Staff Member

Michael began working at POSGCD in July 2022. Michael received a Bachelor’s of Science in Biology: Environmental studies and a Master’s in Business Administration from Schreiner University. Michael worked at Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District from June 2013 to June 2020 where he served as the Region J Representative and he served as the Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 9 Designated Representative. From June 2020 to June 2022, Michael worked at Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District where he served as the GMA 10 Chairman and he served as the Region K Representative for GMA 10. Michael will serve as our **Regulatory Compliance Specialist** where he will be responsible for reviewing submissions of information and reporting from permit holders as well as reviewing actions and policies of the District to remain in compliance with the laws and requirements of the State law.

Buster Evers - New Director

Buster Evers is our newest Director to serve on the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors. Buster was raised and resides in the Somerville area and runs Evers and Sons Inc. a construction company that primarily focuses on Energy projects. His company has extensive experience and expertise in all phases of Midstream Energy construction, from ground-up construction of pipelines natural gas plants, compressor stations, bulk loading and well-yard facilities, to modernization, renovation and demolition of existing systems. His company has worked in over 30 states across the U.S. for the nation’s leading energy companies. His experience is a perfect match for being a Board member for POSGCD. Evers represents industrial interests in Burleson County.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Rainwater Harvesting August 5, 2022 5:30-8:30pm

Program updates, information, and registration links can be found by visiting: posgcd.org/rainwater

Contact Jaclyn Robertson with questions, (512) 409-7028 and jrobertson@posgcd.org.

Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit Aug 18, 2022

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

NONPROFIT ORG.	
U.S. POSTAGE	
PAID	
PERMIT NO. 80	




IN THIS ISSUE..

- Groundwater Summit information
- How is the Drought affecting our Aquifers
- Lee Alford Retires
- New Board Member - Buster Evers
- New Staff Member - Michael Redman
- New Groundwater Facts Pocket Cards

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

upcoming events

August 5th 5:30-8:30 pm
Rainwater Harvesting class POSGCD office

August 18th 9-3pm
Groundwater Summit
Caldwell - Civic Center

September 10th 9 am -5 pm
Kolache Festival Caldwell TX (come see our booth)

Our Board Meetings are the
Second Tuesday of each month



- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Sidney Youngblood, President | Steven Wise |
| Ward Roddam, Vice President | Dana McClaren |
| Jay Wilder, Sec/Treas | Tommy Tietjen |
| Buster Evers | Bob Wilson |
| Becky Goetsch | Ed Savage |

- Staff**
- Gary Westbrook, General Manager
Elaine Gerren, Office Manager
Bobby Bazan, Water Resource Specialist
Doug Box, Education Coordinator
Craig Andrews, Field Technician
Jeff Fisher, Field Technician
Courtney Gentry, Administrative Assistant
Michael Redman, Regulatory Compliance Specialist

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 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).