

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



Spring is in the air!

POSGCD SOCIAL:

 @PostOakSavannahGCD  @posgcd



Let's chat!

Phone: 512.455.9900  
Email: admin@posgcd.org

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.posgcd.org](http://www.posgcd.org)

This issue and past issues of  
the Newsletter are available  
on our website.

upcoming events

**April 21th 1:00pm-3:00pm**  
Rainwater Harvesting class POSGCD office

**April 27th 9:00am-5:00pm**  
Ag Irrigation Program 8105 FM 50 Caldwell

**May 11th Time TBA**  
Landscape Irrigation class POSGCD office

**June 27th 11:00am-2:00pm**  
Groundwater Rights for Real Estate  
Caldwell Civic Center

**August 17th 9:00am-3:00pm**  
Groundwater Summit Caldwell Civic Center

Board Meetings - the Second Tuesday of each month  
POSGCD Offices Milano TX

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).

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# Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource

## THE LEGISLATIVE ISSUE

The **Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD)** was created for Milam and Burleson counties by HB 1784, 77th Legislature in 2001. Our 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.

Our groundwater district is governed by Texas Law. This is why our legislators are important for creating and changing laws that affect groundwater. We have two State Senators that are elected from our District, **Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst**, whose district includes Burleson County, and **Senator Charles Schwertner**, representing Milam County. Currently, **Rep. Stan Gerdes** represents both Burleson and Milam Counties. Also important to Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) are committees in the Texas House and Texas Senate. The two that affect GCD's most are the **Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee, Texas State Senate and the Natural Resources Committee, Texas House of Representatives**. On page 2 of this newsletter, we introduce you to the three elected officials and list the members of those important committees. Our Legislature is composed of 181 Seats, 31 Senators and 150 Representatives. For more information on Texas State Senators, go to <https://senate.texas.gov/members.php>. For more information on the Texas House of Representatives, go to <https://house.texas.gov>.

POSGCD is a member of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), which provides educational and technical assistance to member districts and the public, serves as a resource on groundwater issues with state officials, assists members in keeping current with state law, and are a central point of contact for information on groundwater issues and practices. ([texasgroundwater.org](http://texasgroundwater.org)) They publish a Bill Status Report every year to help local GCDs keep up the Bills that affect our Districts. Some of the Bills we will be watching this year are listed below, and you can find information on our website as our staff provides reports to our Board at our meetings. <https://posgcd.org/education/>



- HB 1971-Relating to the procedures for acting on a permit or permit amendment application by a groundwater conservation district and the disqualification of board members of groundwater conservation districts.
- HB 2119 - Relating to the award of attorney's fees in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district.
- HB 2443 - Relating to the authority of certain persons to petition a groundwater conservation district to change certain rules.
- SB 156 - Relating to the regulation of groundwater conservation districts.
- SB 638 - Relating to the governance and decision-making of groundwater conservation districts in contested cases.

To help our GCD keep up with the bills that are important to our landowners, we work with Robby Cook of Riceland Consulting, a consulting firm in Austin, Texas. Robby served in the Texas House of Representatives for six sessions and was active in creating our District. He has extensive knowledge on natural resources, environmental regulation, land and resource management, eminent domain, energy and more. Robby was involved in Senate Bill One during the 75th legislative session as well as SB2 and SB3 which are laws that are important to all the GCDs in the state. During the 79th legislative session, Robby authored HB 1763 which altered the process by which GCD's manage the aquifer in the state. HB 1763 set up Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) for the purpose of joint planning by GCDs.



Robby Cook

POSGCD is also a member of Texas Water Conservation Association, (TWCA). This is a group of Texas water professionals that include river authorities, water districts, municipalities, water users, associations and other organizations with an interest in water. TWCA works with legislators and agency staff to promote sound water policies in Texas. And TWCA also initiates legislative proposals supported by their stakeholder committees.



Gary Westbrook testifies at State Capital

Gary Westbrook, POSGCD's General Manager has been invited to testify often on groundwater issues during committee meetings at the State Capital. Gary also often presents at conferences and many seminars around the state as well as in our District.



Meet Your Legislators



**Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst** is a sixth generation Texan with ancestral roots dating back to the Texas War of Independence. Married to her high school sweetheart Jim, she is a dedicated mother and small business owner. In 2014, after seven successful terms in the Texas House, she was elected to the Texas Senate in a special election, becoming only the 17th female to serve in the Texas Senate since 1845. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Senator Kolkhorst sets public health policies and oversees physicians and licensed health professionals. Senator Kolkhorst lead the State of Texas through the COVID-19 pandemic and created new initiatives to improve women's health and maternal mortality rates. Additional committees Senator Kolkhorst serves on in the Texas Senate include the Senate Committees on Finance; Business & Commerce; Natural Resources and Economic Development; Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee; the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund Advisory Committee; the Texas Windstorm Advisory Board and most recently, the Legislative Budget Board. Senator Kolkhorst is known for achieving significant public policy changes that impact the lives of every Texan, such as lowering the price cap for insulin, increasing homestead property tax exemptions, and enacting constitutional protections for patient visitation rights during a pandemic. Known by her colleagues for being a hard worker, Kolkhorst has also passed legislation that impacts every code of Texas law, ranging from increased government transparency to fighting human trafficking. A longtime voice for private property rights, Senator Kolkhorst has worked with land owner groups to stop eminent domain abuse.



**Senator Charles Schwertner, MD** is a sixth-generation Texan and lifelong conservative Republican. Since 2013, Senator Schwertner has represented Senate District 5, an eleven-county region of central and east Texas that includes Bastrop, Brazos, Freestone, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Milam, Robertson, San Jacinto, Walker, and Williamson counties. As Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Business and Commerce and the Sunset Advisory Commission, Senator Schwertner oversees a number of critical policy areas for the state of Texas, including electric utilities, insurance, banking, technology, and telecommunications. Senator Schwertner also serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Finance, State Affairs, and on the Legislative Budget Board. Throughout his time in the Texas Legislature, Senator Schwertner has led the way on a number of important policy initiatives including authoring one of the strongest Constitutional Carry laws in the nation, reforming the state's electrical grid, expanding access to mental health services, improving the state foster care system, strengthening landowner rights, cutting taxes for small businesses, protecting seniors from abuse, and fighting to lower tuition at public universities.



A 5th generation Central Texan, **Stan Gerdes** resides in Smithville, Texas. After high school, Stan made his way to Austin to attend college at The University of Texas, where he met his wife, Samantha, on the first day of class. Prior to Stan's election to the Texas House, he worked with Governor Rick Perry for over a decade – beginning when he was Governor of Texas, and throughout his time as Secretary of Energy, where they were able to achieve U.S. Energy Independence for the first time in nearly 60 years. As Senior Advisor to Secretary Perry, Stan led an extensive team to organize and manage every aspect of the Secretary's agenda – including travel to all 17 national labs, and to over 25 countries promoting American energy solutions abroad. During his tenure in Washington, D.C., Stan quickly sharpened his ability to lead large and diverse teams – managing and coordinating staff within multiple departments across the 105,000 employee agency, along with staff at foreign embassies and security teams from around the world. Stan is a proud Camp Longhorn alumnus and a lifetime member of the Texas Exes, the Dallas Safari Club and the National Rifle Association. Stan recently completed his service on Smithville City Council, and looks forward to serving House District 17 as State Representative.

**The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) publishes a Bill Tracking Report to help interested citizens keep up with the Texas Legislative Bills that effect Groundwater. If you would like to keep up with these Bills at our website: <https://posgcd.org/education/>**

Texas House of Representatives - Natural Resources Committee



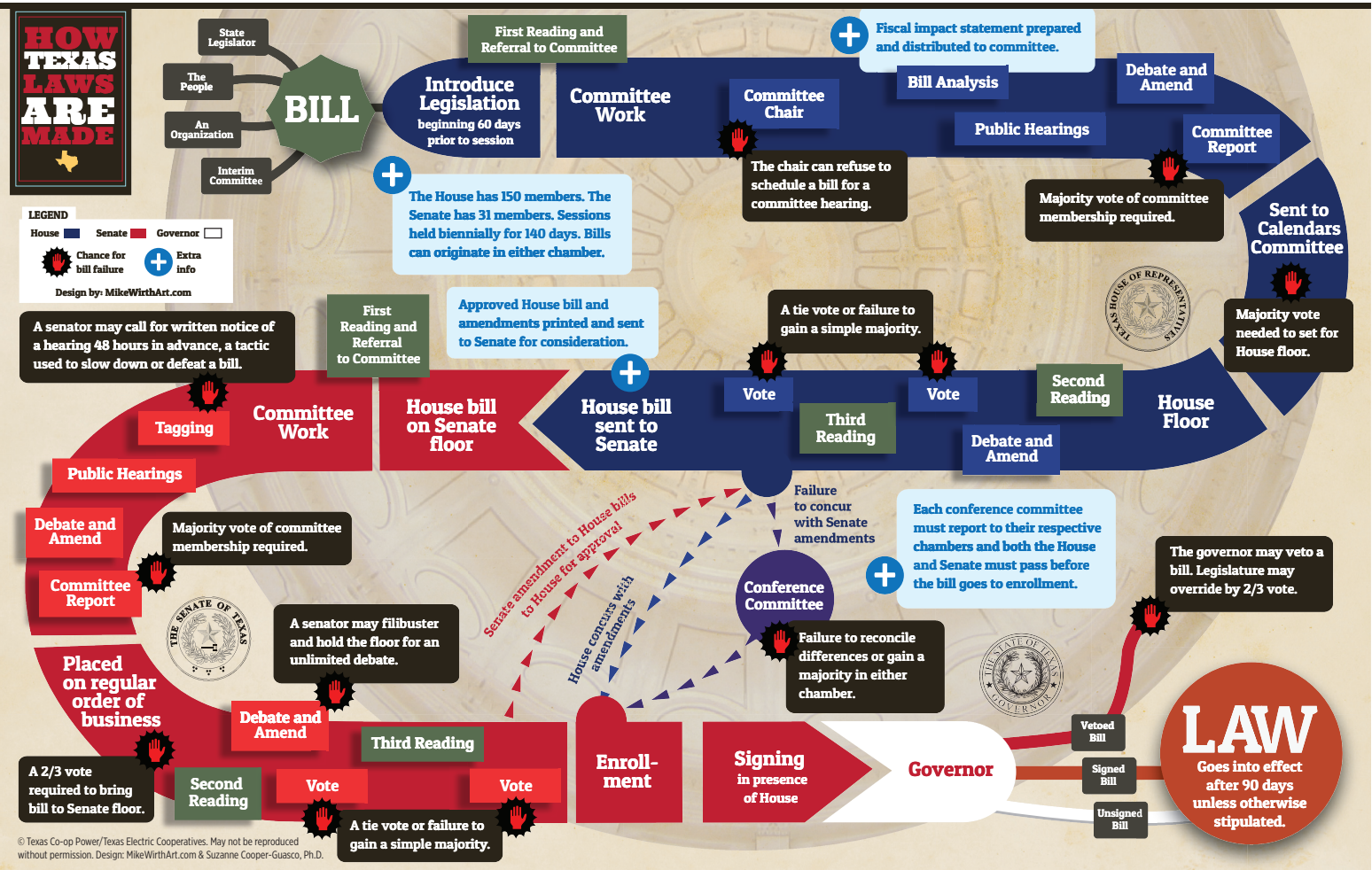
Texas Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs



For more information on Texas State Senators, go to <https://senate.texas.gov/member>  
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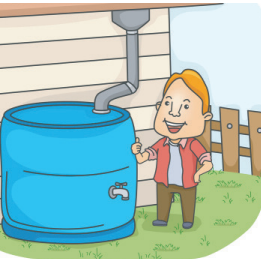
How Laws are Made in Texas

In Texas, the process of lawmaking begins with the Texas Legislature. The legislature is made up of two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Each chamber is responsible for introducing bills and proposing amendments to existing laws. Once a bill is introduced, it goes through a committee process where it can be discussed and debated. During this time, members of the public can provide input on the bill through public comment. Afterward, if it passes out of committee, it will be put on the calendar for a vote by both chambers. If both chambers approve it with a majority vote, then it will become law in Texas.



Greg Perry joins POSGCD as Water Resource Management Specialist

Gregory Perry began working for the District in January of 2023 as the Water Resource Management Specialist. He previously worked for Blue Bell Creameries, LP for nearly 15 years. He was involved in Process Supervising, Research Engineering, Regulatory Compliance, Process Safety Management, and Project Planning. His most enjoyable accolade was being a member of the prestigious Blue Bell Taste Panel. Gregory is a 2012 graduate of Blue Bell Creameries, LP Ice Cream Manufacturing Course. He was sponsored by Blue Bell Creameries for the Leadership Washington County Program where he is a graduate member of the class of 2020. Gregory graduated from Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management along with a minor in Business. In 2012 Gregory married his wife Jennifer. Together they are raising their three children on his family's cattle ranch in the Deanville area. Gregory is a dedicated member of St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. He volunteers in various ministries as the current Parish Council President, as a Lector, and as Altar Server Coordinator.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

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**Ag Irrigation Program** April 27, 2023 9:00am-5:00 pm 8105 FM 50 Caldwell  
**Landscape Irrigation** May 11, 2023 Time TBA  
**Groundwater Rights for Real Estate** June 27th 11:00am-2:00 Caldwell Civic Center  
**Groundwater Summit** August 17th 9:00am-3:00 Caldwell Civic Center  
Program updates, information, and registration links can be found by visiting: [posgcd.org/rainwater](https://posgcd.org/rainwater)  
Contact Jaclyn Wise with questions, (512) 409-7028 and [jwr@tamu.edu](mailto:jwr@tamu.edu).