

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
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Your Groundwater Resource



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Connect: Phone: 512.760-6856 Email: jwise@posgcd.org	Sign-up for eNewsletters: https://bit.ly/posgcd-updates	View past publications on our website: www.posgcd.org
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Mark Your Calendar!

Board Meeting - January 9, 2023, 5:30 PM

Rainwater Harvesting 101 - Presented by AgriLife
 Date: Friday, January 26, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 Register at: www.posgcd.org/event/rwh-2401

Rainwater Harvesting 101 - Presented by AgriLife
 Thursday, May 2, 2024 - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 Register at: www.posgcd.org/event/rwh-2405

Rainwater Harvesting 201: Irrigation - Presented by AgriLife
 Friday, April 5, 2024 - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (Lunch provided)
 Register at: www.posgcd.org/event/rwh2-2404

EarthKind Landscapes - Presented by AgriLife
 Friday, March 8, 2024 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 Register at: www.posgcd.org/event/ek-2403

Contact:
 Jaclyn Wise
 Public Relations & Education Coordinator
jwise@posgcd.org or (512) 760-6856



Board of Directors

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
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Staff

- Gary Westbrook, General Manager
- Courtney Gentry, Administrative Assistant
- Kelli Timmerman, Office Manager
- Greg Perry, Water Resources
- Mike Redman, Regulatory Compliance
- Craig Andrews, Field Technician
- Jeff Fisher, Field Technician
- Jaclyn Wise, Public Relations & Education

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Post Oak Savannah!

As we embrace the warmth and joy of this festive season, it's a time to reflect on the year gone by and to look forward with enthusiasm to the year ahead. Here at the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District, we are filled with gratitude for the strides we've made together and are excited to continue this meaningful journey into the New Year. Our commitment to safeguarding our precious groundwater resources has never been stronger. Let's celebrate our collective efforts and achievements as we step into another year of growth, learning, and dedicated service to our community. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Plans for the New Education Center and Offices Move Forward

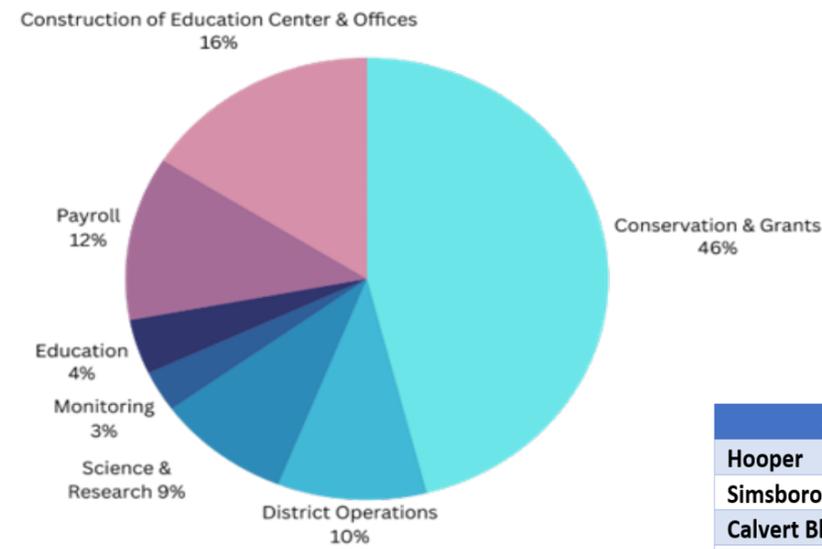


The Board authorized Goodwin Lasiter Strong to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the construction of a new education center and offices. This decision marks a critical step in expanding the District's capabilities to serve the community better. The move addresses potential concerns about budget overruns, ensuring fiscal responsibility and accountability in this significant project. The expansion of our District's programs dedicated to serving the community necessitates a new building. With a multitude of programs and initiatives in place, our focus remains on enhancing services. This new space is crucial for accommodating our growing organizational structure, which has outgrown our current premises. Anticipating

future staff and expansions aligned with the increasing importance of groundwater management, this building is pivotal to sustain and amplify our impact in the coming years. The building plans are being proofread and are expected to be released for competitive sealed bids in January. Currently, Milam County is excavating ditches, installing culverts, and sealing the road on Holdiness Lane, where the property is located. This construction is a part of the \$27.3 million granted to the county by the Texas General Land Office as a part of the to improve roads, drainage, water, and sewer infrastructure to prevent flood disasters similar to those experienced throughout the State during Hurricane Harvey. The City of Milano specifically was awarded \$4, 317, 323 to improve citywide roads and drainage improvement projects. More information about this infrastructure grant can be found by visiting: https://posgcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/GLO_Grant_Milam_County.pdf

Contact: Gregroy Perry, Water Resources Specialist - gperry@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.

2024 Budget and Fee Schedules Approved



The POSGCD Board approved the 2024 budget following a detailed public hearing process. Starting from January 1, 2024, the production fees will increase from 1.3 to 1.8 cents per 1,000 gallons and transport fees from 10 to 12 cents per 1,000 gallons. These changes are part of the district's ongoing efforts to manage groundwater resources sustainably while balancing the needs of the community.

Aquifer	# of Monitoring Wells
Hooper	57
Simsboro	69
Calvert Bluff	79
Carrizo	137
Queen City	44
Sparta	24
Yegua-Jackson	20
Brazos River Alluvium	7

Monitoring Network Update

The District publishes an update report made by Gregory Perry, the District's Water Resources Specialist, on the status of the Monitoring Network at each monthly Board Meeting. These reports can be found by visiting the website, and information from the December meeting is provided below.

Local Utilities' Groundwater Conservation Grants: A Sustainable Step Forward

As part of our ongoing commitment to preserving our precious groundwater resources, the District is proud to announce the 2024 cycle of the Groundwater Conservation Grant Program. This initiative is a testament to our dedication towards fostering a sustainable future through collaborative efforts with local water utilities.

Why Groundwater Conservation Matters

Groundwater plays a pivotal role in our daily lives, serving as a critical source of water for domestic use, as well as agricultural, industrial, and other uses that maintain our day-to-day lives. Protecting and conservatively managing this resource is not just an environmental responsibility; it's essential for ensuring a reliable water supply for future generations. The Groundwater Conservation Grant Program aims to support projects that effectively reduce groundwater waste and promote its sustainable use.

Project Types and Funding

The grant supports various projects, including the introduction of water-saving technologies to identify and curb water loss, public education to promote conservation, rainwater harvesting to lessen groundwater dependency, wastewater recycling to reduce freshwater extraction, and research to discover new conservation methods. We also back the development of billing incentives for reduced use. We encourage local water utilities to think creatively and propose projects that not only conserve groundwater but also set a precedent for sustainable water management practices.

Apply for the 2024 Cycle

Applications for the 2024 cycle are now open! We invite local water utilities to use this opportunity to make a meaningful impact on groundwater conservation. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. CST on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the POSGCD Office. Grant packet and guidelines can be found by visiting: <https://bit.ly/utlities-grant-2024>

Contact: Gary Westbrook, General Manager - gwestbrook@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.

The Power of Working Together: Your Role in the Monitoring Network Program



A Partnership for Groundwater Protection

At the heart of the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District's efforts to safeguard our water resources is the Monitoring Network Program. This initiative represents a unique collaboration between the District and local well owners, highlighting the power of community involvement in environmental stewardship.

Benefits for Well Owners

- 1. Water Quality Assurance:** Monitoring wells helps in assessing the quality of groundwater. This is essential for public health, as many communities rely on groundwater for drinking, agriculture, and industrial uses.
- 2. Resource Sustainability:** Regular monitoring helps ensure the sustainable use of groundwater. Over-extraction of groundwater can lead to depletion, negatively impacting the water supply for future generations.
- 3. Environmental Protection:** Groundwater levels impact the health of ecosystems. Fluctuations can affect surface water bodies, wetlands, and habitats dependent on consistent water levels.

Making Informed Decisions Together

The data gathered from your wells is instrumental in shaping the District's management strategies. It feeds into sophisticated groundwater models that guide our decisions and policy amendments. The data collected not only reflects the health of our aquifers but also powers the groundwater models

essential for the District's decision-making. This information guides policy updates and management strategies, playing a pivotal role in conserving and protecting our groundwater resources for the future. This collaborative approach ensures that the measures we take are based on comprehensive, community-sourced data, leading to more effective and inclusive groundwater conservation efforts. Learn more at: <https://posgcd.org/monitoring-network/>.

Contact: Gregory Perry, Water Resources Specialist - gperry@posgcd.org or (512) 455-9900.

Welcome Jaclyn Wise, Our New Public Relations and Education Coordinator

We are thrilled to introduce Jaclyn Wise as the new Public Relations and Education Coordinator at Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District. This selection followed a thorough and transparent selection process involving over 20 candidates. Jaclyn, a graduate of Texas A&M University with degrees in Renewable Natural Resources and Forestry, was born in Milam County and represents the fourth generation of her family to call this area home.



Jaclyn Wise, middle center, with LaVelda and Doug Box at the staff Christmas party in December.

Jaclyn began as an unpaid intern for the District, then honed her skills at the Texas Water Resources Institute with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, focusing on water conservation and community outreach programs. In her new role, Jaclyn aims to strengthen our community engagement and expand our educational

initiatives. We are confident that Jaclyn's passion for the environment and her skill in public relations will significantly contribute to our goals at Post Oak Savannah. Please join us in warmly welcoming Jaclyn to our team. We look forward to the new perspectives and initiatives she will bring to our community!

Contact: Jaclyn Wise, Public Relations & Education Coordinator, jwise@posgcd.org or (512) 760-6856.