



Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District  
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Mark Your Calendar!

Board Meeting - April 9, 2024, 5:30 PM  
Board Meeting - May 14, 2024, 5:30 PM

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](http://www.posgcd.org/event/rwh2-2404)

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

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Recharge

Your Groundwater Resource



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Navigating our Water Rights: Rule of Capture



In Texas, the Rule of Capture has historically governed groundwater usage. Originating from English common law, this rule allows landowners to pump and capture any amount of groundwater beneath their property without liability to neighboring landowners who might claim the withdrawal adversely affects their well. While this may sound straightforward, the implications are far-reaching, impacting water rights and conservation efforts across the state.

Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) represent Texas's primary response to managing groundwater resources at a local level. Established by the Texas Legislature, these districts are tasked with regulating groundwater to ensure sustainable, long-term use and to prevent depletion. GCDs have the authority to issue permits for well drilling,

require well registration, monitor groundwater levels, and enforce restrictions on groundwater production based on aquifer conditions. The legal framework that empowers GCDs stems from the Texas Water Code. It outlines specific powers and responsibilities, allowing GCDs to create and enforce rules that fit local needs while adhering to broader state water management policies. This decentralized approach recognizes Texas's diverse geological conditions and water needs, granting local entities the flexibility to address their unique challenges.

While the Rule of Capture is still the states foundation for groundwater, GCDs can set rules to make sure water use is sustainable for the long-term health of the aquifers. This situation causes debates about landowner rights, government power, and protecting our environment. Finding the right balance between people's rights to use water and keeping our water sources safe is a tricky but important challenge in Texas.

However, the interplay between the Rule of Capture and GCDs creates significant challenges. The Rule of Capture's broad allowance for landowners to extract groundwater can be somewhat limited by the regulatory powers of GCDs, which can limit withdrawals to protect aquifer health. This has led to legal challenges and debates over property rights, governmental overreach, and environmental sustainability. Balancing individual rights with community needs and environmental protection remains a contentious issue, reflecting the broader challenges of managing natural resources in a state as vast and varied as Texas.

The evolving nature of water law, influenced by ongoing legislative changes and court rulings, continues to shape the landscape of groundwater management. Stakeholders, including landowners, agricultural producers, industries, and environmental advocates, must stay informed and engaged to navigate these changes effectively.

As we move forward, the role of GCDs in managing groundwater resources will undoubtedly continue to evolve. Their efforts to implement science-based management practices, foster community involvement, and ensure the equitable use of groundwater resources are vital for the sustainable future of Texas's water supplies. Understanding the legal framework, its challenges, and the ongoing efforts to address them is important for all Texans as we collectively navigate the complexities of groundwater management and conservation.



Office Rennovations: A Step Forward



In our ongoing commitment to the community and effective management of our resources, the Board of Directors have made a significant decision regarding the construction of the new District Education Center and office spaces. Over the past year, the District has been planning the development of the new Education Center and office spaces, aiming to create a facility that would serve as a long-term investment in our infrastructure. This space was envisioned to support the District’s growth over the next decade, enhance our operational capabilities, and increase transparency and availability to the public. After considerable discussion and a lengthy Executive Session during the February board meeting, the board voted to pause all actions and expenditures related to this project. This is a strategic decision demonstrating our Board’s commitment to fiscal responsibility and the effective use of resources for the community and aquifer’s benefit. We see this as an opportunity to carefully reassess our plans and explore innovative strategies to fulfill our educational and operational missions in the most impactful way. In the spirit of continuous improvement, we’re excited to announce upgrades to our existing facilities. We’ve kicked off renovations to transform a storage area into two new offices. This not only maximizes our current space but also enhances our team’s work environment, ensuring that we remain on the forefront of operational efficiency. The reallocation of space will see team members like Courtney, Kelli, and Greg moving into new locations that best suit the overall goals as a District.

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.

Aquifer	# of Monitoring Wells
Hooper	58
Simsboro	69
Calvert Bluff	80
Carrizo	139
Queen City	44
Sparta	24
Yegua-Jackson	20
Brazos River Alluvium	7

Apply Now to be a Texas 4-H Water Ambassador!



Applications are now open for the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program (4H2O)! The 4H2O program offers high school students a unique opportunity to dive deep into the world of water management in Texas. By joining this program, you’ll be part of an exclusive group that tours the state every summer to see different parts of the water industry in our state.

In addition to providing scholarships and sponsorships for students in our District, the Board annually contributes \$5,000 to support the program as a whole.

This experience is a chance to become a leader and share what you learn in your communities, making a real difference. Plus you’ll meet people who work with water every day and learn a lot from them. It’s a great way to learn, help out, and get ready for the future. **The deadline to apply is May 1, 2024.** Scan the QR code for a video talking more about the program and visit the website: <https://www.texas4hwaterambassadors.com/>



Contact: Jaclyn Wise, [jwise@posgcd.org](mailto:jwise@posgcd.org), or call/text (512) 760-6586

Stay Updated: Explore our New Online Newsfeed

We’re excited to introduce our new online newsfeed – your dedicated space to stay informed about the latest district activities and initiatives in between our quarterly newsletter mailouts. Formerly called the “social media blog,” this part of the website will feature a range of articles, including in-depth analyses of our recently approved budget, updates on changes to the management plan, monthly meeting highlights, and insights into other district activities and initiatives. Designed to keep you informed and engaged with our ongoing efforts, the newsfeed ensures you have access to timely and relevant information about how we’re working to serve and improve our community. Stay connected with us and never miss an update! <https://posgcd.org/newsfeed/>



Post Oak Savannah Scholarship for Future Water Leaders

More good news for Burleson and Milam county students - the District offers a scholarship to students in Burleson and Milam Counties that are accepted and active in the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program (4H2O). The scholarship is intended to support and encourage the exploration of the diverse career paths in the water industry and to invest in the development of future leaders in the industry.



The scholarship provides:

- 1. The annual participation fee (currently \$250) for selected and retained ambassadors.
- 2. Reimbursement for expenses and participation fees incurred with spring and fall retreats, conferences, and other water-related meetings and trainings sponsored by 4H2O.
- 3. Annual scholarship of \$1,250 accrued at the end of each school year (up to \$5,000 total) paid directly to the continuing education or higher education institution after the student’s high school graduation.

Visit our website or scan the QR code to view the application and guidelines for eligibility: <http://bit.ly/posgcd-4h20>



Welcome New Board Members!

We are pleased to announce the swearing-in of two new Board members. Jeff Zgabay now serves as the Burleson County representative for municipal water interests, taking over for Tommy Tietjen. Similarly, Robert Jekel has been appointed as the Milam County representative for rural water, succeeding Bob Wilson. This transition underscores our commitment to representing and addressing the diverse water needs of our communities.

Further emphasizing our dedication to strong and ethical leadership, the Board has elected officers for the upcoming year. Ward Roddam will lead as Board President, with John Reddington as Vice President, and Becky Goetsch as Secretary-Treasurer. These appointments, effective for one year, are part of our ongoing effort to ensure dynamic governance.

