

Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

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Fall 2007

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Water Links

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts - www.texasgroundwater.org

Texas Water Development Board - www.twdb.state.tx.us

National Groundwater Association—www.ngwa.org

Texas Ground Water Association - www.tgwa.org



General Manager Updates

District Welcomes Intern Drew Gholson to Staff



Congratulations to Drew Gholson as he begins work with the District. Drew comes to us in a part time capacity as he continues his work towards attaining his Masters Degree in Water Management from Texas A&M University. Drew is currently working to verify locations of exempt wells that have been recorded with the District.

As Drew continues his work he will be contacting everyone who has recorded an exempt well with us so that he can use a GPS device to verify the location of your well. This will insure that every appropriate well owner will receive a notice if someone else desires to drill a non-exempt well in the immediate area. It will also assist the District in sending out information to well owners in case of any contamination of groundwater in your area.

Currently Drew is working in Burleson County, with Milam County to follow later next year. When Drew gives you a call, please help him to help us to help you!

Well Water Level Monitoring

As with last year POSGCD will be conducting the annual Depth to Water measurements in the wells that are part of the District's Well Monitoring Program. These measurements will again be taken beginning in January. If your well is currently enrolled in the program be sure to

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POSGCD staff uses an E-line to measure the water level in this irrigation well in the Brazos River bottom.

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be on the lookout for a letter concerning this from the District early next year. If you would like for your well to be enrolled please contact the District office.

District Names Groundwater Conservation Grant Recipients

So far in 2007 the POSGCD has awarded \$419,960 to four local water utilities for use in projects that will conserve or prevent waste of groundwater.

The awards so far for 2007 are:

Southwest Milam WSC \$173,250

Milano WSC \$113,400

Lyons WSC \$43,310

Cade Lakes WSC \$90,000.

Most of these projects involve replacement and/or repair of older leaking water lines.

Approximately \$80,000 still remains to be awarded this year and the District will continue to accept grant applications from local water utilities within the District through November 16, 2007.

In 2006 the District awarded nearly \$460,000 to five different local water utilities to complete much needed repair projects. According to estimates, the work made possible by last year's grants will conserve approximately 7.1 million gallons of groundwater annually, and as much as 284 million gallons over the expected lifetimes of the projects.

The objective of this program is to obtain the active participation and cooperation of local water utilities in the funding and successful completion

of programs and projects that will result in the conservation of groundwater and the protection or enhancement of the aquifers in the District.

A local water utility must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for a Groundwater Conservation Grant from the District: A non-profit water supply corporation, a general law or home-rule city, a special utility district, a municipal utility district or any other person included in the definition of "retail public utility" under *Section 13.002, Texas Water Code, whose defined service area, or a portion thereof, lies within the boundaries of the District.*



Above are pictures of recent repair and replacement of obsolete water lines from the project in Somerville made possible by the District's Conservation Grant Program.



Post Oak Savannah GCD General Manager Gary Westbrook gives a groundwater presentation in Rockdale

Need a Program for Your Group? Contact Post Oak Savannah GCD

If you would like to schedule a program or presentation for your group's next meeting please give us a call. Our staff will be more than happy to come to your meeting and give an appropriate presentation.

We have a variety of programs available on water related topics, and we present these programs to civic organizations, churches, service clubs, schools and student groups, businesses, and political organizations. We can make use of maps, models, handouts, and/or power point projection.

We can also tailor the presentation to fit the available time and venue. Just contact our offices to schedule your program at 512-455-9900, or email us at posgcd@tconline.net.

Congratulations to Former District Intern Mark Barker

Former District Intern Mark Barker is due to graduate from Texas A&M University this December with a Master's Degree in Water Management. Mark served the District as an intern and important part of our staff for over a year. Thank you to Mark for a job well done, and good luck in the future!

District Still Has Funds Available to Assist in Plugging Abandoned Wells

POSGCD's Well Plugging Assistance Program still has funds remaining for the year of 2007. To receive funds for plugging your abandoned groundwater well, simply go to the District's website and download the application form or call the District offices to receive an application form by mail. The District will cover up to 75% of the expense to plug these wells. The landowner can use different methods to come up with their matching 25% such as using their approved material and/or equipment in the project.

Plugging abandoned water wells not only prevents possible contamination of underground water resources, it also covers and removes what might be unsafe openings in the ground which could cause injury to animals and/or persons.

Groundwater conservation districts are the state's preferred method of groundwater management through rules developed, adopted, and promulgated by a district.

POSGCD Mission Statement—Our mission is to strategically manage the groundwater resources of Bureson and Milam counties in order to protect against aquifer depletion and pollution and to ensure an adequate water supply for future generations. Through responsible management, we will accomplish this undertaking of preservation by collecting data, monitoring groundwater levels, regulating excessive production, permitting, educating the public and coordinating with neighboring districts for mutual benefit.

Calendar of Events

November

- 13 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Hearings on 2008 Budget, Fees, and Applications, and Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX
- 15 - GMA 8 Meeting at Bellmeade City Hall in Bellmeade, TX
- 22-23 - Thanksgiving Holidays POSGCD offices will be closed
- 28 - Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Quarterly Meeting in Austin, TX

December

- 6,7 - Texas Water Law Institute Conference in Austin, TX
- 11 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX
- 24-25 - Christmas Holidays POSGCD offices will be closed

January

- 1 - New Year's Day POSGCD offices will be closed
- 8 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting at POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

Deadlines for Applications Approaching Fast

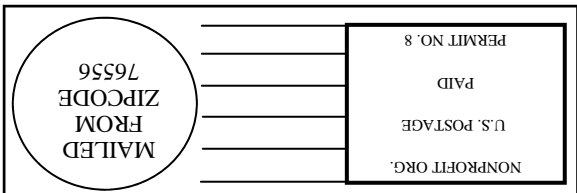
The deadline for filing applications for Historic Use Permits is December 31, 2007. An Historic Use Permit gives a producer an opportunity to apply for and secure a permit for an amount of water produced from a non-exempt well during any single year prior to the existence of the District (POSGCD Rule 7.14). All producers must have an Historic Use Permit or an Operating Permit from the District to produce water from non-exempt wells. Without an Historic Use Permit a producer must apply for an Operating Permit which provides slightly less protection of rights.

ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?
 The District Staff would like to know what information you would like to see in this newsletter. Contact us at the District offices or email us at posgcd@tconline.net with your suggestions.



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).

Look for our next issue in Winter 2008!



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