

Recharge: Your Groundwater Resource

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Newsletter

Volume 2 Number 1

Summer 2008

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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 Clay Ohlendorf to Staff



Congratulations to Clay Ohlendorf as he begins work with the District.

Clay comes to us in a part time capacity as he continues his work towards attaining his Bachelor's Degree in Rangeland Ecology and Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M University. Currently Clay is verifying well locations across both Burleson and Milam counties.

Clay continues to compile GPS and GIS data so that we can grow the Districts data base, to further increase our knowledge of the district water resources. As Clay moves through the different areas of the county he looks to contract each individual with a registered well, that does not yet have GPS coordinates. This information allows the district to better notify land owners of special situations in their area.

Clay has also been working along-side General Manager Gary Westbrook in the continued effort to measure flow rates on irrigation wells . With the little rain seen across the district, farmers once again have needed to irrigate, and with this the District has under taken the task of compiling as much information as possible about the irrigation being done within the District . We thank all those who have cooperated and helped make it possible for us to measure the flow rates for these wells.



Irrigation well in the Brazos River bottom.

Inside This Issue

- General Manager Updates
- District Grants
- Water Conservation
- Calendar of Events

District Awards \$800,000.00 in Grants to local water utilities in 2008

Earlier this year the Board of Directors awarded \$800,000 to local water utilities in the District for Groundwater Conservation and Enhancement Grants. According to estimates, the work made possible by last year's grants will conserve approximately 26.75 million gallons of groundwater annually, and more than one billion gallons over the expected lifetimes of the projects. So far to date the three year estimated totals for the District's Grant program show annual savings of 58.85 million gallons per year and over 2.19 billion gallons saved during the lifetime of the projects.

The 2008 Grant recipients are:

City of Somerville- \$19,664 to plug two municipal wells

City of Caldwell- \$277,698 for replacement of obsolete water lines

Lyons WSC- \$299,893 for replacement of obsolete water lines and water well

City of Buckholts- \$33,791 to plug a municipal well

North Milam WSC- \$168,954 to install a rural leak prevention and reporting system

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 completed recent repair and replacement of leaking 12-inch water lines from the 2007 Southwest Milam WSC project and the 2008 Somerville well plugging and removal.

Helpful hints to conserving water during the hot summer months?

Why Conserve?

Currently Texas is the fastest growing state in the Union, with a population expected to double in the next 50 years. At current levels of use our state cannot support the future size of our population. In 2003 the state of Texas per capita consumption of water was 238 gallons per day. The average consumption in the United States is 159 gallons per day, and the rest of the world uses 25 gallon per day. Here are some helpful hints to cut your personal water consumption:

- Replace showerheads with water-efficient models. This can save 6 gallons a minute.
- Only run dishwasher when completely full. The average dishwasher uses 9 to 12 gallons a load.
- Wash only full loads of clothes or switch to more efficient models. Conventional washers use 55 gallons of water while high-efficiency models use 40% less water.
- Prevent evaporation of water. Water lawns during early morning and late evening to help guard against this loss of water in the hot summer months.
- Learn the actual needs of the plants and grass that you water. Most citizens water their lawns and shrubs far more often than necessary.

Source: Texas Water Development Board: IQ Program

District supports Texas Water Foundation Water IQ Media program

At the District Board meeting of July 8 the Directors committed \$1100 to join other Groundwater Conservation Districts from around the state to participate in the Texas Water Foundation's Water IQ media program.

The Texas Water Foundation is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of generating a heightened public awareness among all Texans regarding the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Water impacts key elements of the quality of life Texans enjoy, from human health and economic growth to our natural environment.

The mission of the Texas Water Foundation is "to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all Texans by mobilizing Texans to recognize the vital role water plays in protecting human health, supporting economic growth and safeguarding natural resources."

The Texas Water Foundation is a privately funded non-profit organization which seeks to lessen the burden of government by educating the citizens of Texas about water issues so they will be better informed and prepared to participate in the state's water planning goals so that they will implement the role of water efficiency in their everyday lives.

The Water IQ media program for conserving water is set up much like the very successful "Don't Mess with Texas" campaign against litter on the State's highways in the 1970's and 1980's.

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

August

- 5 - Senate Natural Resources Committee Hearings on Groundwater issues, 10:00 a.m., Amarillo, TX
- 12 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 p.m. POSGCD offices in Milano, TX
- 28 - GMA 12 Meeting , 10:00 a.m. Milano Community Center, Milano, TX

September

- 9 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 p.m. POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

October

- 14 - Post Oak Savannah GCD Board of Directors Meeting, 5:30 p.m. POSGCD offices in Milano, TX

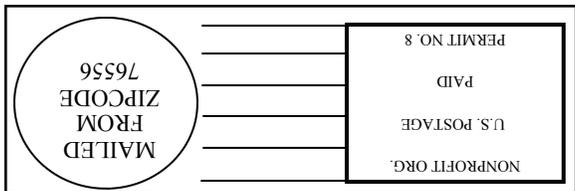
ARE WE PROVIDING INFORMATION YOU NEED?

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 Fall 2008!



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