

Dear Friends of Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District,

It is with sincere gratitude and good cheer that we send well wishes this holiday season and prosperity in the new year. We were able to achieve great things for our District this year with the support of our Board of Directors, staff, and communities. There is much progress to share and celebrate with you!

This year was memorable for us in several ways:

We officially announced, and made great strides with, the POSGCD Aquifer Conservancy Program. This program continues to pave the way for the future of water conservation as the interest increases for the program!

We added two full time staff members in Ralph Sifuentes, Field Tech, and Doug Box as Education Coordinator. Also, we are working with two interns; Lawrence Lin is helping Bobby Bazan update our current well records and Jaclyn Robertson is helping Doug Box in our education push especially in our Social Media efforts.

We dramatically increased the number of Monitoring wells in 2018 and we added 10 Acoustic Measurement tools to enable off-site and constant measuring of water levels.

Our 5th annual Milam and Burleson County Groundwater Summit was a great success with over 220 people in attendance. As always, the speakers received overwhelming approval in our survey.

We completed our 4th Rainwater Harvesting class offering this educational opportunity to over 120 students. Since the beginning of the program, the district has participated in the installation of 13 systems with over 51,500 gallons of total storage.

We worked with all 18 Fire Departments in our District. We reimbursed over \$20,000 for foam and for the Foam dispersing Pro Packs, which conserves 50-90% of the water required to extinguish fires. In the summer of 2018 we unveiled our Public Interface section of the website that brings field data to your desktop! This exciting new program provides real-time updates of groundwater data to increase transparency and collaboration between the district and landowners.

We also continued providing Grants to Local Water Utilities in 2018 awarding \$1,254,150. Our goal 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 in the District. The qualifying water conservation projects and programs will include, as appropriate, projects that result in the conservation of groundwater and reduce the loss or waste of groundwater.

The Plugging of Abandoned Water Wells Grant program is intended to protect the Aquifers from contamination from the abandoned wells. At first, we shared the cost, but the Board realized the importance of Plugging the Wells that they improved the program to pay 100% of the cost to plug a well for qualified applicants, up to a total District expense of \$2,500.00. This year three wells were plugged at of cost of \$10,175, protecting all of the aquifers in our District.

Our education program engaged local Lions club, Rotary Clubs, etc. We gave several townhall meetings to introduce the Aquifer Conservancy Program. We held two Public Outreach meetings, presented programs to school children from our District by working with the local county AgriLife offices, in addition we provided assistance to Brazos Valley GCD and Lone Star GCD. These programs teach students about the importance of natural resources, groundwater and environmental stewardship. We conducted two Well Education Programs,

in conjunction with our Free water testing program in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife. We also hosted a program for the local water well drillers as well as a workshop for our local water utilities who deliver water and services to our local citizens. And finally, we hosted the local Master Gardner's class at our office.

Thank you for helping make 2018 a year of successes at POSGCD. We couldn't do this good work without you!

Help us spread the word to your friends and neighbours as we continue making progress toward our mission of conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, prevention of waste of groundwater, and leadership that ensures clean, abundant water for the citizens in our District. And we encourage everyone to attend all of our functions including Board Meetings, Outreach Meetings, the Groundwater Summit, Town Hall Meetings and any of our classes. We encourage you to get involved!

Sincerely,

Sidney Youngblood