

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Annual Update



Presented to

Milam Co. Commissioner's Court
October 28, 2019

By Gary Westbrook, POSGCD General Manager

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Serving the citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties

Update Agenda

1. Milam County Directors and Officers
2. Overview of Responsibilities/Purpose
3. 2019 Highlights
4. 2019 Budget Review
5. 2020 Proposed Budget Highlights
6. Questions

POSGCD Directors for Milam County

(appointed by Commissioner's Court)

<u>Director</u>	<u>Interest Represented</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Durwood Tucker	Agriculture	Dec. 31, 2021
Chris Whittaker	Municipal	Dec. 31, 2021
Sidney Youngblood	Industrial	Dec. 31, 2021
Bob Wilson	Rural Water	Dec. 31, 2019
Steven Wise	At Large	Dec. 31, 2019

2019 POSGCD Officers

President- Sidney Youngblood

Vice-President- Steven Wise

Sec./Treasurer- Tommy Tietjen

POSGCD Overview- Responsibilities

HB1784, 77th Leg., 2001 (Enabling Act)

SECTION 1.02. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is:

(1) to ratify and create locally controlled groundwater districts in order to protect and recharge groundwater and to prevent pollution or waste of groundwater in the central Carrizo-Wilcox area, to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from the groundwater reservoirs in that area, and to regulate the transport of water out of the boundaries of the districts;

Chapter 36, Texas Water Code

SECTION 36.0015. PURPOSE. In order to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, and to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs... Groundwater conservation districts... are the state's preferred method of groundwater management...

Overview- Ownership of Groundwater

TWC 36.002 states: The groundwater ownership and rights described by this section: (1) entitle the landowner,... to drill for and produce the groundwater below the surface of real property, ... without causing waste or malicious drainage of other property or negligently causing subsidence, but does not entitle a landowner,... to the right to capture a specific amount of groundwater below the surface of that landowner's land; and (2) do not affect the existence of common law defenses or other defenses to liability under the **rule of capture**.

POSGCD Management- Equitable & Flexible

- Focus on aquifer conditions through 225 monitoring wells in 8 aquifers of the District (posgcd.half.com/Map/Public)
- Protective aquifer drawdown limits in place since 2005
- Equitably respects private property rights in groundwater while protecting water levels in aquifers
- Equitable distribution of resource at any given time-
- Permits are contingent upon availability of resource
- Includes equitable curtailment of permits if necessary, primarily based on max allowable production/acre
- Local Water Utilities are exempt from curtailment

POSGCD tools to protect water levels

- Well Spacing
- Contiguous Acreage requirements
- Management Zones
- Production limits per acre
- Total permitted
- Permit requirements
- Five year reviews of permits
- DFC Process (GMA and District)
- Thresholds and Monitoring
- ***Requirements of large permit holders to recognize in writing the District's ability to curtail permitting and production
- ***Requirements of recipients of District water to maintain primary/alternative water supplies

2019 Highlights

1. Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP)

- Sign-up extended to October 31
- ~35,000 acres enrolled to date
- Approx. 75% chose 20 year option

2. Groundwater Conservation Grants

- Local Water Utilities(Rockdale \$170,547, SWMWSC \$115,000)
- Rainwater Harvesting & Assoc. Classes (~100 participants)
- Water Well Testing (~100 water samples tested)
- Vol. Fire Dept. (Reimbursements for foam, nozzles, ProPaks)

3. Milam & Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit

- 250+ in attendance
- Evaluation on Vista Ridge and other projects on aquifers

4. Public Hearings of October 3, 2019

5. District Water Level Monitoring Summary

District Water Level Monitoring Summary

- Comprehensive Report at June & November Meetings & available on website
- Currently a total of 225 Monitor wells in 8 formations (aquifers)
- Seeking additional wells
- Noticed Trends & Issues for 2019
 - Carrizo-Wilcox: mostly consistent with overall slight declines
 - Carrizo- unresolved issues near Caldwell & along FM908
 - Calvert Bluff- unresolved issues north of Gause
 - Simsboro- mostly consistent with little to no change
 - Hooper- mostly consistent with little to no change
 - Queen City- Mostly consistent with one unresolved issue near Highway 21 & FM 60
 - Sparta- Reached Threshold 1- Initial evaluation shows impacts from production in BVGCD
 - Yegua-Jackson: Consistent with little to no change
 - Brazos River Alluvium- Significant increase in water levels

****Must re-evaluate joint management strategies between POSGCD and BVGCD**

2019 Budget Review

1. \$500,000 Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP)
2. \$1 Million Groundwater Conservation Grants
3. \$225,000 to date for Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP)
4. \$200,000 Science & Advanced Aquifer Studies
5. \$150,000 Water Level Monitoring
6. \$75,000 Rainwater Harvesting Grant Program
7. \$85,000 Education Efforts
8. \$25,000 Vol. Fire Dept. Reimbursements
9. \$25,000 Well Plugging
10. Production Fees of \$.013/1000 gal. permitted
11. Transport Fees of \$.10/1000 gal. permitted

2020 Draft Budget Preview

1. \$500,000 Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP)
2. \$1 Million Groundwater Conservation Grants
3. \$100,000 for Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP) *will bring total to \$325,000*
4. \$250,000 Science & Advanced Aquifer Studies
5. \$125,000 Water Level Monitoring
6. \$75,000 Rainwater Harvesting Grant Program
7. \$85,000 Education Efforts
8. \$25,000 Vol. Fire Dept. Reimbursements
9. \$25,000 Well Plugging
10. Production Fees of \$.013/1000 gal. permitted
11. Transport Fees of \$.10/1000 gal. permitted

Questions?

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