

Dear Friends of Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District,
As we close out a challenging but successful 2021, I sincerely pray this finds each of you and your families well. Our Board and Staff continue to make great strides in our efforts to fulfill our mission statement to serve the citizens of Milam and Burleson Counties. There has never been a time when the participation and support of our constituents in these two counties has been more important to our success. As we review the District's accomplishments in 2021, we recognize the support from the citizens of our District. On behalf of the Board and Staff of POSGCD I encourage you, our friends and neighbors, to be even more involved in the future successes in the management of groundwater resources of the District.

The leadership and staff of the District continue to grow in experience and commitment as the commissioners courts of both Milam and Burleson Counties have reappointed all six Directors whose terms had expired as of December 31, 2021. To remain diligent in meeting all newly identified needs our staff grew by two full time positions in 2021. Mr. Jeff Fisher joined Mr. Craig Andrews as the District's Field Technicians as we continue to expand the District's Well Monitoring Network and establish high standards for performance. Mrs. Courtney Gentry joins our staff as Administration Assistant, while Mrs. Elaine Gerren becomes full time Office Manager. This expansion was necessitated by the ever increasing number of programs offered by the District for the benefit of the citizens of our District.

As we continue to look forward and be pro-active in identifying strategies to deal with future challenges, the Board has developed a new tool called the Management Strategies Report. This report is updated regularly by the Board's committees with the assistance of staff and consultants and is designed to identify challenges to the District's current management strategies as well as ways to meet and overcome those challenges. Due to evaluations such as these, we realize our current expansion of staff is only the beginning of possible growth in the near future to continue to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of our District as we carry out our mission of conserving and preserving the groundwater resources in our area while respecting the property rights in groundwater of all landowners.

Our District staff has risen to the challenge of offering a high quality virtual presence and level of participation to our constituents who wish to become involved with us at any of our public meetings. We value the continued input and interaction of our citizens in all facets of District business. We commit ourselves and resources to continue to increase the current level of quality communication with the public. We continue to work to find new ways to be inclusive and respectful of those who desire to participate even if they are only comfortable using a virtual platform.

Among new accomplishments through dedication of our qualified staff with the support of the Board of Directors was efforts under our Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP). GWAP was created to assist well owners whose wells lost service ability due to regional groundwater production. During 2021, District staff rendered assistance in restoring water service in 65 situations, with funds from the GWAP funding 100% of the work for a total of \$233,954, as well as \$71,297 spent on science and studies for this years projects. This important service to our citizens will continue.

Also, following a 10-month collaborative effort, the District resolved the well-publicized issue of Vista Ridge water being discharged into a creek near San Antonio. That resolution resulted in commitments of additional reporting from the permittee and its contractors and \$105,000 in additional funding to the District's GWAP and \$1000 to the District for administrative fees.

Maybe among the most overlooked accomplishments is the fact that staff and Board adjusted to the necessities and requirements of COVID protocols designed to protect the public and kept the District office open and accessible to the public with no lapse in service. This included much planning and teamwork and has proven to set a standard of excellence.

The District's Aquifer Conservancy Program continues to be innovative and popular, drawing praise from many not only in our District, but state-wide. Through cooperation of many well owners, the coverage and monitoring of water levels in aquifers in the District increased as well. And of course, the District's grant programs continue to set new standards for conservation and education.

Here are some important statistics:

Aquifer Conservancy Program

Now over 630 parcels of property, including over 47,000 acres covering both Milam and Burleson Counties are enrolled.

More than 75% of the acreage enrolled is committed for 20 years

Monitoring Well Summary

371 monitor wells, increased from 292, covering 8 aquifers in the District

31 monitor wells equipped with transducers to record continuous hourly measurements

27 monitor wells equipped with acoustic devices providing real time reporting

13 monitor wells, increased from 8, from converted abandoned oil and gas wells in strategic areas

8 monitor wells have been drilled by the District in strategically located places

All water level monitoring information is available to the public through access of the District's website

Identification of areas of interest for future monitoring well locations

Groundwater Conservation Grants

\$1,002,066 was awarded through 7 grants during 2021 to public water utilities in both counties, bringing the total

since 2006 to \$15,311,070 has been awarded for conservation

\$5,404 awarded to plug abandoned water wells

16 Rainwater Harvesting systems installed consisting of 15 cisterns with a total of 84,560 gallons of storage

Education Efforts

Cooperative Conservation classes through Texas A&M AgriLife with 5 workshops serving 138 with classes on rainwater harvesting, EarthKind, and irrigation with collected rainwater

Cooperative Water Quality Testing for more than 100 privately owned water wells

-Supported state-wide Texas A&M AgriLife 4-H Water Ambassadors program educating 66 high school students on water issues across the state

The website remains a big part of our outreach to citizens and landowners. In 2021 our website enjoyed a total of 30,000 page views during 12,000+ sessions from 6,000+ visitors. This yields an average daily page view count of 69.7, with an average of 24 visitors per day.

The POSGCD Facebook and Twitter account remains active throughout the year.

Our Board and Staff continue to look for new ways to encourage public involvement from our citizens in all of our efforts. Whether you prefer virtual or in person, your participation in committee meetings, Board meetings, workshops, educational opportunities and our annual Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit continues to prove invaluable.

Our capable staff continues to improve its understanding of our needs through attendance at trainings and meetings which enhance understanding of our challenges. We also stand ready to visit your organization and provide quality and informative educational programs on groundwater and conservation-based presentations. These can be tailored to topics that best help meet the needs of all kinds of groups, no matter the size or orientation. We thank you in advance for your continued support of our programs of conservation of these precious resources, and for your continued efforts to advance these worthwhile causes by encouraging your family, friends and neighbors to join with us as well.

You are also encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities to communicate feedback to us on your experiences with our District and its programs. Please feel free to call, email, text, or interact with us virtually, or of course you are always invited to simply drop by the office.

Again, on behalf of our Board and staff, we thank everyone for their efforts to make 2021 such a great year! We stand prepared to work with you to support the District's missions as we strive to achieve even greater progress in 2022.

Sincerely,

Sidney Youngblood
Board President
Post Oak Savannah GCD
Sincerely,

Sidney Youngblood