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BOARD APPROVES 2025 BUDGET AND NEW AQUIFER CONSERVANCY PROGRAM REFERRAL INCENTIVE

MILANO, TEXAS — The Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District (POSGCD) Board of Directors convened on November 12, 2024, to approve the District's 2025 budget, including significant increases to community-centered programs and access to grant funds. Among the most significant changes was the introduction of a new referral incentive for the Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP), created by the Board of as a way to promote conservation while putting money back in the hands of people living in the district, even if they don't own property.

The ACP now offers a \$5 per acre referral incentive for successfully enrolling new landowners into the program, with a maximum of \$1,000. This new referral program comes soon after the Board approved an increase in the sign-up bonus payment, doubling that incentive from \$25 to \$50 per acre enrolled paid soon after enrollment. Both incentives were created to encourage landowners to retain their water rights and offer an alternative to leasing those rights, a part of the Board's efforts to preserve local groundwater supplies by keeping it in place.

Highlights of the approved budget include:

- Well Assistance Program budget increased by \$500,000 for a total budget of \$900,000 to support maintenance and operability of wells impacted by regional pumping, ensuring local residents have reliable access to groundwater.
- Community-centered Conservation Programs increased by \$2 million for a total budget of \$3.58 million to go towards environmental collaboration initiatives with county governments and grants for local utilities to replace obsolete or leaking pipes aimed to avoid costs being passed along to customers due to improvements.
- Aquifer Conservancy Program budget increased by \$1.1 million for a total of \$2.52 million to landowners in Burleson and Milam counties for committing to keep their water rights.

The Board expressed appreciation for the input received during the meeting and encouraged ongoing public engagement. Community members interested in learning more about the ACP or other initiatives are invited to visit the District's website or contact the office directly.