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PRESS RELEASE

Prairielands GCD Board of Directors Adopt Amendments to District Rules

October 30, 2019 – For Immediate Release

Cleburne, TX - The Board of Directors for the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District held a public hearing on October 21, 2019 to adopt amendments to the District Rules regulating water wells within the boundaries of the District, including Ellis, Hill, Johnson and Somervell Counties.

Over the months leading up to the meeting, the District staff and directors worked diligently to identify needed rules improvements in the course of implementing the District Rules that were adopted on December 17, 2018, and the Board's Rules and Bylaws Committee worked to develop recommended amendments to the District Rules to address such improvements.

Publication of the proposed amendments to the District Rules were made available to the public on September 27, 2019 and a public notice of a hearing on the consideration of adopting the amended rules was published in newspapers across the four county district no less than 20 days prior to the public hearing. At the public hearing, which was held in the meeting room inside the Liberty Hotel in downtown Cleburne, the Board received and considered oral and written comments from the public on the proposed amendments to the District Rules, and after taking up and considering the proposed amendments to the District Rules, the Board adopted the same during the regular board meeting of the District on October 21, 2019.

The adopted amendments to the District Rules address a number of issues, including increasing the initial annual groundwater production allowable per contiguous controlled acre, revising the fee payment structure for water use fees for non-exempt wells with an option to prepay annually or submit quarterly payment of fees for groundwater production, delayed implementation of the revised fee payment structure and revised reporting structure until January 1, 2021 and eliminating the requirement for submission of well completion report deposits by well drillers, as well as other non-substantive clarifying and conforming changes.

The adopted amendments to the District Rules are necessary to support the District's efforts in managing the groundwater resources within the boundaries of the District. Information about the public hearing and copies of the amended District Rules are available on the District's website at www.prairielandsgcd.org, and physical copies can be obtained by visiting the District office at 205 South Caddo Street in Cleburne.

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