

Prairielands eLine

The Newsletter of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District

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PGCD Field Staff Taking Annual Water Level Measurements

In the vast landscape of water management, understanding groundwater levels is a crucial aspect that directly impacts the sustainability of this invaluable resource. Each year in early November, Prairielands GCD field staff begins annual water level measurements, a meticulous process designed to capture accurate static levels. The timing of these measurements is strategic, capitalizing on the lower demand for groundwater during the winter months. This period allows sufficient time to turn off wells, allowing them to fully rebound, leading to more precise and reliable static level measurements.

To ensure the reliability of water levels the District consistently measures the same wells in the monitoring well network each year. This approach establishes a dependable dataset, offering a long-term perspective on groundwater trends. The monitoring well network, currently comprising of 252 wells located within the District, acts as a comprehensive tool for understanding groundwater behavior.

PGCD has advanced monitoring equipment in 28 wells, measuring water levels on a daily basis. These high-frequency measurements machines (pictured to the right), provide real-time data, offering a detailed picture of the groundwater dynamics. In addition to these automated measurements, field staff visit the remaining 224 wells annually to manually gather water levels. This combination

of automated and manual data collection ensures a complete understanding of groundwater levels across the District.

The wealth of data collected during these measurements serves as a powerful tool for PGCD to assess the impact of pumpage on groundwater levels. By studying the annual change in water levels, the district gains valuable insights into the health of the aquifers. This knowledge is instrumental in shaping effective water management strategies, ensuring the sustainable use of this precious resource for generations to come. As demands on groundwater continue to increase, the importance of proactive and data-driven water management cannot be overstated.

In a world where water scarcity is a growing concern, ensuring the responsible use of groundwater is crucial. The annual water level measurements conducted by fields staff provide a blueprint for sustainable water management. As we navigate the complexities of water resource management, the commitment to accurate data collection and analysis will pave the way for a more sustainable and water-secure future.



PGCD continually seeks to expand its monitoring network by incorporating additional wells. If you have a well and would like to inquire about the monitoring network, please contact the office at 817-556-2299.

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Proposition 6: Creation of the Texas Water Fund

On November 7, Texas voters decisively approved Proposition 6, establishing the Texas Water Fund and allocating \$1 billion for the enhancement of water infrastructure and supporting new water supply initiatives. Administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), these funds will be allocated to innovative water supply projects, financial assistance programs, and a statewide water awareness initiative. The TWDB serves as the state agency overseeing the collection of water-related data, regional water and flood planning, and the administration of economical financial assistance programs for diverse water-related projects. In response to the state's population growth, the Texas Water Fund aims to support communities in implementing cost-effective water supply and wastewater projects through loans and grants, fostering economic opportunities.

Of the \$1 billion allocation, a minimum of \$250 million is mandated for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, emphasizing innovative approaches such as desalination, water treatment, and aquifer storage. The objective is to generate 7 million acre-feet of new water supplies by December 31, 2033. Furthermore, a portion of the fund will prioritize water infrastructure projects in rural areas with populations under 150,000, along with initiatives focusing on water conservation and loss mitigation.



Proposition 6

Texas Water Fund

Support Sufficient Water Supply During a Drought

Proposition 6 will help support the development of new water supplies to meet the needs of our growing population, especially during an extended drought.

Promote Water Conservation

Proposition 6 will help repair and replace water infrastructure such as leaky pipes and support conservation awareness.

Help Local Communities and the Texas Economy

Proposition 6 will help expand water and wastewater infrastructure in local communities to preserve Texas' vibrant economy.



Staff Spotlight: Nicole Windham

Office Assistant - Joined PGCD in November 2023

Tell us a little about yourself.

"I grew up in The Woodlands and moved to this area from Katy, TX. I am a former middle school science teacher and my husband and I have 4 grown children."

Do you have hobbies outside of work?

"I love to read and spend time with my husband, Ray, and our dog, Rose. There's lots to do in our new home, so it takes up most of my free time these days."

What do you enjoy about working at PGCD?

"After teaching middle school, I like that everyone here has been so welcoming and appreciative. I love to learn new things and the PGCD rules and regulations regarding groundwater have certainly proven to be a challenge."

Schedule the Water Education Trailer for 2024

Discover the wonders of water education with the Water Education Trailer (WET), a unique mobile classroom offering free, engaging exhibits designed to educate and inspire. Launched in 2015, the WET has become a valuable resource, reaching over 16,700 adults and children through more than 140 events.

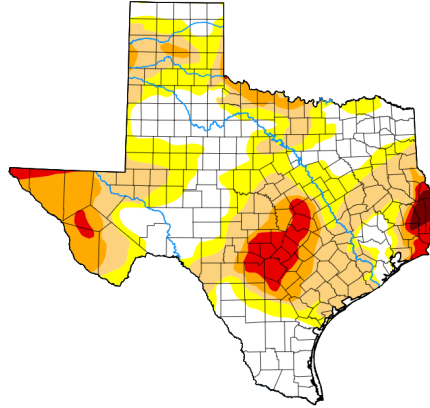
The WET showcases a variety of exhibits that cover essential topics such as rainwater harvesting, indoor water conservation tips, the mechanics of water wells, and even features a working aquifer model. These exhibits provide not only valuable insights but also hands-on demonstrations, making learning about water conservation and management an interactive and memorable experience.

The impact of the WET extends beyond traditional classrooms. It is available for a wide range of events, including community gatherings, meetings, and workshops. The versatility of the WET allows it to be tailored to meet the specific needs of different audiences, providing a customized and enriching educational experience.

To schedule a visit from the WET for your elementary, middle, or high school class, teacher development program, community event, meeting, or workshop, simply reach out to kgarcia@prairielandsgcd.org. Let the WET bring the fascinating world of water education directly to you, fostering a deeper understanding of water conservation and aquifers in an engaging and interactive way.



District Drought Update



Over the past few months, Texas has experienced a welcome reprieve from the extreme drought conditions that gripped the state in late summer and early fall. The stark contrast between then and now is evident in the remarkable changes

witnessed across the landscape.

During the height of the drought, boat ramps were closed and water levels reached or hovered near historic lows. The increased risk of large wildfires loomed, with dry conditions turning soil into large cracks, moisture levels plummeting, and dust and sand storms becoming all too common.

In the recent three-month period, the District office in Cleburne has recorded approximately 25 inches of rain, bringing a much-needed relief. Many areas within the District have seen significant improvements, with bodies of water replenishing and the threat of wildfires diminishing. However, despite these positive changes, around 30% of the District still faces abnormally dry conditions. While the relief is widespread, it's crucial to acknowledge the persistence of dry spells in certain regions, emphasizing the need for continued vigilance and water conservation efforts. Water is a finite resource, and many regions around the world are already facing water stress. Conserving water helps ensure that we use this resource sustainably, allowing it to be available for future generations. Water conservation is a crucial practice that goes beyond responding to immediate drought conditions. It supports environmental sustainability, economic efficiency, and the well-being of both present and future generations.

About Prairielands GCD

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created in response to a finding by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that groundwater shortages were expected in Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell counties over the next 25 years. The TCEQ finding required local residents to create a groundwater conservation district, or else TCEQ would mandate one. Enabling legislation for the Prairielands GCD was passed in 2009.

The Mission of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District is to develop rules to provide protection to existing wells, prevent waste, promote conservation, provide a framework that will allow availability and accessibility of groundwater for future generations, protect the quality of the groundwater in the recharge zone of the aquifer, insure that the residents of Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell Counties maintain local control over their groundwater, and operate the District in a fair and equitable manner for all residents of the District.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

December

22-26 In Observance of Christmas
PGCD Office Closed

January

1 In Observance of New Year's Day
PGCD Office Closed

22 PGCD Board Meeting
9:00 a.m.
208 Kimberly Dr
Cleburne, TX 76031

23 WET - Hubbard Elementary
Hubbard, TX

February

14 Leadership Cleburne Presentation
Cleburne, TX

20 PGCD Board Meeting
9:00 a.m.
208 Kimberly Dr
Cleburne, TX 76031

21 Cleburne Lions Club Presentation
Cleburne, TX

General Manager
Kathy Turner Jones

Board:

President
Charles Beseda
Hill County

Vice President
Paul Tischler
Johnson County

Secretary/Treasurer
Maurice Osborn
Ellis County

Director
Marty McPherson
Somervell County

Director
Kathy Tucker
Ellis County

Director
John Curtis
Somervell County

Director
Brad Daniels
Hill County

Director
Barney McClure
Johnson County

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