



# Panhandle Water News

JANUARY 2017

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## PGCD Hosts GMDA Conference

Earlier this month, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Staff hosted the Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA) Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. Attendees from New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi traveled to Fort Worth to discuss important matters regarding groundwater management, desalination projects, education and outreach programs and many more related topics. Over the two day conference, attendees listened to a total of 24 speakers.

GMDA is a regional organization composed of local groundwater management districts in several Western, Midwestern and Southern states. The Annual Meeting consists of presentations from noted experts in the fields of hydrogeology, geology, flow meters and different management strategies. Most importantly, the conference provides a forum to exchange ideas on different approaches taken by other states. For example, the primary issue in Kansas, Colorado and Texas is groundwater quantity, while in Nebraska it is groundwater quantity and quality. Some of the Districts have developed unique projects in education and management to preserve our groundwater resources for future generations.

GMDA Board President, C.E. Williams, who is also the General Manager for PGCD, said he was happy with the overall participation at the event.

“With over 120 attendees and 12 sponsors, we provided a place for people from all over to learn from each other and also to have those teachable moments, where ideas and solutions are found for a problem or dilemma happening in your own area.”

PGCD participates in GMDA meetings throughout the year, always searching for ways to improve our management processes and communication throughout our District.



*Attendees at the GMDA 2017 Annual Meeting*



*PGCD's Jennifer Puryear presenting over Weather Modification*



*Bill Mullican presenting "Ogallala Jeopardy"*



## Ag Loan Program Overview

Texas Water Development Board approved PGCD's loan request in 2016 for the amount of \$1,000,000 to continue funding our Agricultural Water Conservation Program.

In 1992, PGCD began its agricultural water conservation loan program to assist qualifying farmers in financing their irrigation sprinklers when making the shift from row watering to pivot systems, which use substantially less water. Now the District even assists with Drip Irrigation systems.

Since its inception, the program has loaned over \$12,000,000. With an unprecedented low interest rate as low as 1.12% and a payback term of up to eight years.

Interested applicants can fill out an application at [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us) or may call our office at 806-883-2501.

### General Program Guidelines:

- ◆ Eligible properties must have been previously irrigated, and loan proceeds will be used to improve efficiency of the current system.
  - ◆ The maximum loan made to any person shall be \$150,000.
  - ◆ Due to limited funds available to support this program, priority will be given to applicants who have not previously obtained an Ag Loan from the District.
  - ◆ If the applicant is a tenant, this may require the landowner to assist in the collateralizing of the loan.
  - ◆ After loan is reviewed by our professional loan reviewer, the Board of Directors will determine the collateral required to secure the loan and if all criteria are met.
- For a full list of program guidelines, please visit [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us).

## PGCD Scholarship Reminder

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District offers a scholarship to all high school graduating seniors living within the District (Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Gray, Potter, Roberts and Wheeler counties) planning to further their education. With rising tuition costs, scholarships can tremendously help in reducing financial burdens, so take advantage of the PGCD scholarship program and apply before Wednesday, February 15th.

PGCD established a scholarship program in 2002 and has since given away \$126,000 to District students. First place is awarded a four year scholarship of \$4,000, second place receives \$3,000 and \$2,000 goes to third place. Only graduating seniors from the District are eligible to apply. Applicants must write a 500-1,000 word essay on the topic chosen by the District. In order to receive the scholarship, recipients are required to enroll as a full-time student, attend the college of their choice the fall semester immediately following selection and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average. To apply, please visit [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us) and click on the Scholarship Link on the Homepage. For questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Britney Britten at 806-883-2501 or by email at [Britney@pgcd.us](mailto:Britney@pgcd.us).

The 2016/2017 essay topic is:

**“Water is an important part of our daily lives, and it is becoming a limited resource in many places, including the Texas Panhandle. What water conservation strategies should county governments, municipalities and water districts implement to be most effective in our area?”**

## 2016 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) attended the 2016 Amarillo Farm and Ranch show November 29 - December 1 at the Amarillo Civic Center. The booth displayed District information for show attendees, such as our 2016 five year average decline maps that were published in the Panhandle Water News July 2016 newsletter, District programs, information about xeriscaping and rainwater harvesting, and other District information.

Visitors that stopped by the booth were able to play a game of PGCD Plinko for a chance to win multiple prizes, receive informational brochures about the District, take home copies of last year's editions of Panhandle Water News and were able to sign up to receive a free subscription to the Panhandle Water News.

PGCD looks forward to this event each year and enjoys getting to meet and interact with the public and the chance to educate them on the importance of water conservation whether it be at home or in the field.

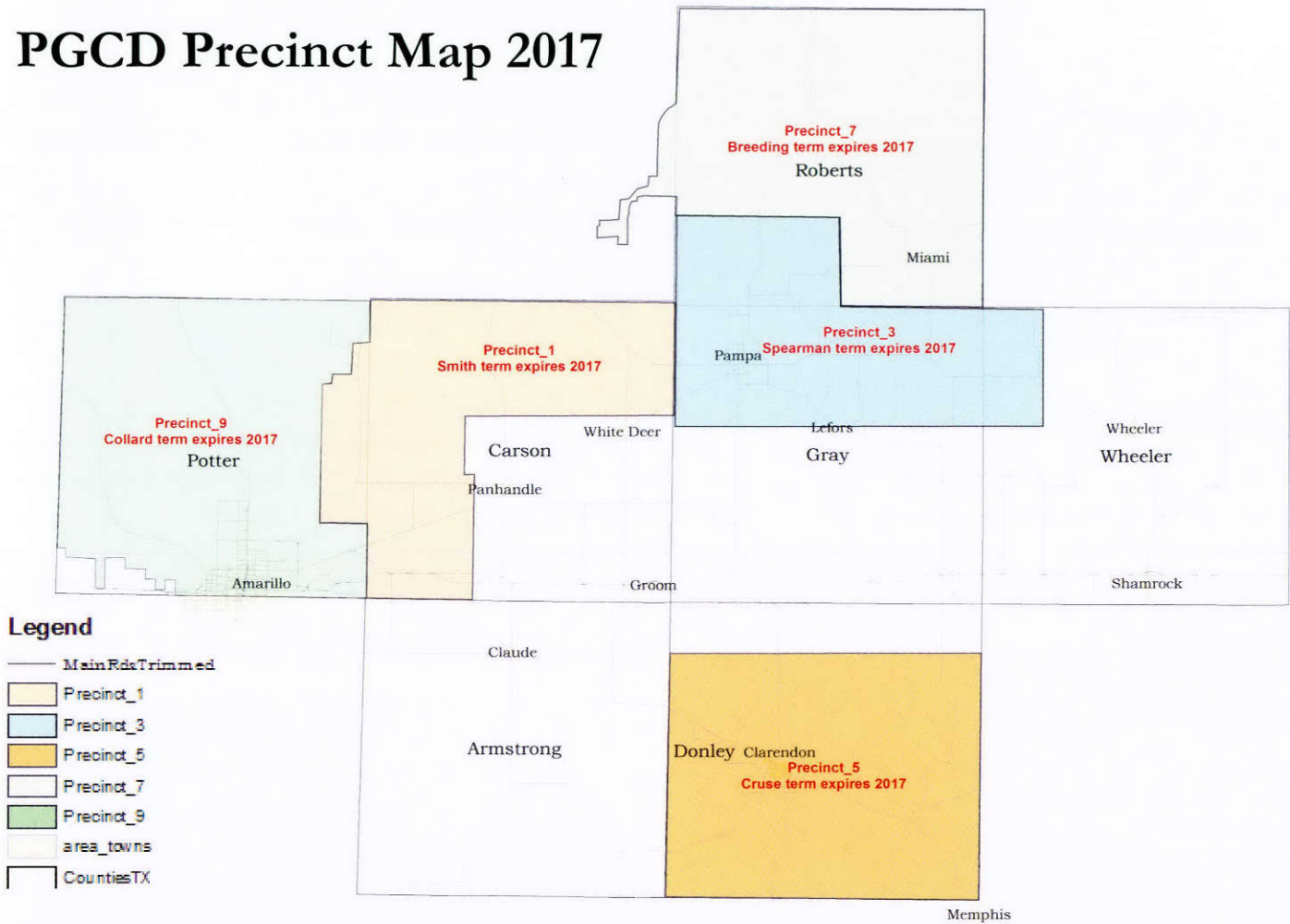


## 2017 PGCD Board of Director Elections

PGCD Board of Director Elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. The four year terms of five District Directors expire this year. These five include: Philip Smith—Precinct 1, John R. Spearman—Precinct 3, Chancy Cruse—Precinct 5, Bill Breeding—Precinct 7 and Butch Collard—Precinct 9.

February 17th is the final date to file for a Director’s seat. Forms needed to file for a seat are available at the District office. For additional questions and information, please call 806-883-2501.

### PGCD Precinct Map 2017



### PGCD Annual Report Now Online

PGCD’s 2015-2016 Annual Report is now available online at [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us). Each year the District has a set plan of goals and objectives that must be completed. The Annual Report serves as an outline for those goals.

Each objective is listed as well as marked *Complete* or *Incomplete*. PGCD is proud to show District’s constituents our accomplishments throughout the year, as well as the areas we would like to improve. For questions regarding the Annual Report, please call 806-883-2501.

### PGCD’s Civic Presentations

Part of our mission at PGCD is to promote water conservation, and one of the ways we do that is by speaking to various groups about what programs we have here at the District, and also about what people can do at home to save water.

We offer presentations on a variety of topics that would be appropriate for Lion’s Club groups, Rotary, Girls or Boys Scouts, Garden Clubs and much more. Please call Britney at 806-883-2501 for more information.

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*Panhandle Water News* is published quarterly. Subscriptions are free, upon request.

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## Board of Directors Recognizes Longtime Employees

PGCD Board of Directors recently recognized three longtime employees of the Districts. General Manger, C.E. Williams, for over 25 years of service, Meteorologist, Jennifer Puryear for 10 years and Permitting Clerk & Secretary, Anita Haiduk also for 10 years.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication these employees have exuded over their time at the District, and we look forward to seeing more of their accomplishments in the years to come.



General Manager, C.E. Williams presenting Jennifer Puryear (above) and Anita Haiduk (below) with their certificates.



General Manager, C.E. Williams presented with a certificate by Board President Danny Hardcastle.

