



# Panhandle Water News

JANUARY 2018

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## Biennial Symposium Set for February

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and City of Amarillo, along with their many sponsors, would like to invite you to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium. The Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the Amarillo Civic Center.

In 2011, Texas began to experience the worst drought on record in our state's history. Fires ravaged much of the state while everyone waited for precipitation that never came. Crops were destroyed as temperatures reach all-time highs, setting records for the most consecutive 90-degree days, the most 100-degree days in a year and also for the highest temperature on record. To battle the toll of the heat, residential and agricultural water consumption increased dramatically.

Watching the trend of water use rising, the need and awareness for water conservation became apparent very quickly. Over the last few years, the Water Conservation Symposium has featured speakers covering topics from drought tolerant crops to rainwater harvesting to opportunities for water reuse. The goal in mind has always been simple: use water more efficiently.

The end of 2017 brought record setting days as well, unfortunately we set records for the longest period without moisture since the 1950s. Researchers say 2018 is shaping up to turn out like 2011, unseasonably dry. Whether we have a year with record rainfall or not, the reality is we live in a semi-arid climate, and ways to use water more efficiently is important to all of us. This year we have many speakers ready to talk about issues like, using drones in agriculture, future challenges of Texas' water and much more. New to this Symposium will be more topics targeting the municipal sector, with potential for CEUs.

You may register online at [www.waterconservationsymposium2018.eventbrite.com](http://www.waterconservationsymposium2018.eventbrite.com) or by calling 806-883-2501. Lunch will be provided by The Plaza in Amarillo. Attendees will also have a chance to visit with all of our event sponsors throughout the day. More information on the agenda, event sponsors and event topics can be found on PGCD's website at [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us).



*Attendees at the 2016 Symposium*



*PGCD Board of Director Joy Shadid visiting with event sponsors*

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# 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium

**Register Now:** [www.waterconservationsymposium2018.eventbrite.com](http://www.waterconservationsymposium2018.eventbrite.com)

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018 • Amarillo Civic Center • North Exhibit Hall**

## Agenda:

- 9:00 - 9:10 a.m. **Welcome**  
- *Jared Miller*, Amarillo City Manager
- 9:10 - 9:40 a.m. **Political Update**  
- *Senator Kel Seliger*
- 9:40 - 10:10 a.m. **Hurricane Harvey: Impacts to Harris County**  
- *Jeffery Lindner*, Director Hydrologic Operations, Meteorologist Harris County Flood Control District
- 10:10 - 10:40 a.m. **What's New in the Water Conservation World, and What It Can Mean for Your World?**  
- *Carole Baker*, President/CEO, Texas Water Foundation
- 10:40 - 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. **Municipalities & the Reduction of Irrigation**  
- *Russell Grubbs*, City of Amarillo Director of Utilities
- 11:30 - 12:00 p.m. **Opportunities for Funding through SWIFT**  
- *Peter Lake*, TWDB Board of Director
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Conservation Amendment**  
- *Ken Kramer*, Water Resources Chair, Sierra Club - Lone Star Chapter
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **"Water" You Doing, West Texas?**  
- *Daniel Cunningham*, Horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife
- 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Mediation over Litigation during Water Disputes: Examples from Texas & Other States**  
- *Todd Votteler*, President of Collaborative Water Resolution, LLC
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. **Water Recycling and Reuse**  
- *Jeff Sober*, VP of Byo-Gon
- 2:30 - 3:00 p.m. **Drones in Agriculture**  
- *Dr. Brent Auvermann*, Center Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Amarillo
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. **Break**
- 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. **Overview of Texas Groundwater Law**  
- *Tiffany Lashmet*, Agricultural Law Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Amarillo
- 3:45 - 4:15 p.m. **Cybersecurity and Water**  
- *Rich Gagnon*, City of Amarillo Chief Information Office
- 4:15 - 4:45 p.m. **Optimization on Well Field Management**  
- *Dan Haddock*, PE, Director of Water Utility Services, Intera
- 4:45 - 5:15 p.m. **Finding the Water**  
- *Scott Honeyfield*, Principal, Infrastructure Sector Leader with Parkhill, Smith & Cooper
- 5:15 p.m. **Award Door Prizes**

**Co-Hosted By:**





## 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 by Thursday, February 15th.

PGCD established a scholarship program in 2002 and has since given away \$135,000 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 2017/2018 essay topic is:

**“In your opinion, why are people complacent about conserving water for future generations? Can conservation be taught, and/or what can be done to change the current mindset?”**

## PGCD Annual Report Now Online

PGCD’s 2016-2017 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.

## 2017 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) attended the 2017 Amarillo Farm and Ranch show November 28 - November 30 at the Amarillo Civic Center. The booth displayed District information for show attendees, such as our 2017 five year average decline maps that were published in the Panhandle Water News July 2017 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. This year the District raffled off a 65 gallon Rainwater Harvesting Barrel.

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.



*Booth visitors signing up for the Rainwater Harvesting Barrel Raffle.*



*Plinko was a fun opportunity to educate and engage with the visitors.*

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## Annual Winter Level Measurements

Each year Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District takes measurements on a network of 800+ wells throughout the District to determine yearly aquifer changes in water levels. The measurements are taken not only to determine the water level in the aquifer, but also to collect data, provide information for future planning and to determine IRS depletion allowances. The measurements are taken during the winter months when demands for irrigation are lower so that a more representative static water level can be obtained.

Our field technicians began water level measurements in November and will finish next month. The winter water level measurements play a critical role in gauging our compliance with the 50/50 goal, to have 50 percent of the water left in the aquifer 50 years from now, by allowing us to monitor the decline of saturated thickness in the aquifer over the past year.

The measurements taken can be viewed in our July 2018 newsletter. If you have questions please call the office for assistance (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.

