



Panhandle Water News

JANUARY 2020

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High Percentage of Operating Permits Completed

Over the past year, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) worked toward ensuring the new operating permitting process was put into place effectively and efficiently. "I am pleased to report about 98 percent of operating permits are completed or in the process of being completed, due to the diligence of every District employee" said General Manager, C. E. Williams. PGCD appreciates the cooperation from owners and operators throughout the District who were required to obtain a permit. Most commented that the process seemed necessary and was not as difficult as they perceived it to be.

If you missed the deadline and operate a tract of land with a well that pumps more than 17.5 gallons per minute, please call the office at 806-883-2501 to begin your permit today.

Biennial Symposium Set for February

PGCD and City of Amarillo, along with their many sponsors, would like to invite you to attend the 5th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium. The Symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Amarillo Civic Center in the North Exhibit Hall.

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. You may register online at <https://water-conservation-symposium-2020.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 is on page 2. Event sponsors and event topics can be found on PGCD's website at www.pgcd.us.



Senator Seliger at the 2018 Symposium.



2018 Door Prize Winners.



5th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium

Register Now: <https://water-conservation-symposium-2020.eventbrite.com>

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 • Amarillo Civic Center • North Exhibit Hall
Agenda:

- 9:00 - 9:10 a.m. **Welcome**
 - *Mayor Ginger Nelson, City of Amarillo*
- 9:10 - 10:10 a.m. **Growing Hemp in Texas Panel**
 - *Dan Hunter, Texas Department of Ag, Dr. Charles Beall, Ana-Lab, Dr. Calvin Trostle, Texas A&M AgriLife, Rafe Schroder, Hemp Producer*
- 10:10 - 10:40 a.m. **A Historical Look at the Ogallala Aquifer**
 - *Robert Mace, Meadows Center for Water & the Environment*
- 10:40 - 11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. **High Plains Aquifer Modeling**
 - *Wade Oliver, PG, Intera, Inc.*
- 11:30 - 12:00 p.m. **Don't Mess with Texas, Water Edition**
 - *Brooke Paup, TWDB Board of Director*
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. **Texas Water Foundation's New Education Program**
 - *Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Water Foundation*
- 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. **Cotton's Role in Water Conservation**
 - *Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M AgriLife Amarillo*
- 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Amarillo's Waste Water Reclamation Program**
 - *Damen Ratliff, City of Amarillo*
- 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. **Xeriscape 101**
 - *Neal Hinders, Canyon's Edge Plants*
- 2:30 - 2:50 p.m. **Break**
- 2:50 - 3:10 p.m. **High Plains Water District's AIM Program**
 - *Victoria Messer & Jason Coleman, High Plains Water District*
- 3:10 - 3:40 p.m. **Hilmar Cheese Full Circle Water Cycle**
 - *Herman Berngen, Hilmar Cheese*
- 3:40 - 4:10 p.m. **Corn/Cotton Rotation in the Texas North Plains**
 - *Nich Kenny, North Plains GCD*
- 4:15 p.m. **Award Door Prizes**



District Job Openings

PGCD currently has two job openings available. Interested applicants can apply online at www.pgcd.us/ contact.

The District is searching for a GIS & Data Technician to assist with data entry and review. The ideal applicant will also help with mapping. Applicants should be familiar with GIS-related hardware, ESRI, ArcGIS, ArcEditor, Access and SQL.

PGCD is also searching for a Meteorologist/Weather Modification Operator. A Bachelor's degree in Meteorology or a graduate from the US Military Atmospheric Science Program is a requirement.

The District offers insurance and retirement benefits to qualifying employees. For more information, please call CE Williams at 806-883-2501.

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 our 50/50 goal, 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 in the next couple months. The measurements taken can be viewed in our July 2020 newsletter. If you have questions please call the office for assistance (806) 883-2501.

Ag Loan Reminder

PGCD is accepting loan applications from District producers for center pivot sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, soil moisture probes, and other water saving equipment. The loan is available to producers at an interest rate of 3.03 percent and an eight-year payback term. Approximate funds remaining are \$960,150.

For more information contact the District office at (806) 883-2501.

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 **Monday, March 2nd**.

PGCD established a scholarship program in 2002 and has since given away \$153,000 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 and click on the Scholarship Link under Programs. For questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Britney Britten at 806-883-2501 or by email at Britney@pgcd.us.

The 2019/2020 essay topic is:

“Imagine a day without water. What would the impacts be? Describe in great detail impacts and water conservation strategies that would need to be implemented for survival.”

PGCD Annual Report Now Online

PGCD's 2018-2019 Annual Report is now available online at 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.

DISTRICT OFFICE
201 W. Third St, PO Box 637
White Deer, TX 79097
Phone: 806/883-2501
FAX: 806/883-2162
Website: www.pgcd.us

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E-Mail: cew@pgcd.us

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PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 637
WHITE DEER, TEXAS 79097

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2019 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) attended the 2019 Amarillo Farm and Ranch show December 3–5 at the Amarillo Civic Center. The booth displayed District information for show attendees, such as our 2018 five year average decline maps that were published in the Panhandle Water News July 2019 Newsletter, District programs, information about xeriscaping and rainwater harvesting, and other District information. Much of the discussion was dominated by the rule changes that took place last month.

Visitors that stopped by the booth received giveaways, 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. If you are not signed up for our newsletter already, visit www.pgcd.us and fill out the form at the bottom of our homepage.

PGCD looks forward to this event each year and enjoys meeting and interacting with the public and educating them on the importance of water conservation whether it be at home, in the field or within our cities.



Join us next year on December 1-3, 2020 for the next annual Farm & Ranch show.



(Left) Booth visitors signing up for the PWN newsletter.