



# Panhandle Water News

APRIL 2020

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## PGCD Hosts 5th Biennial Water Conservation Symposium

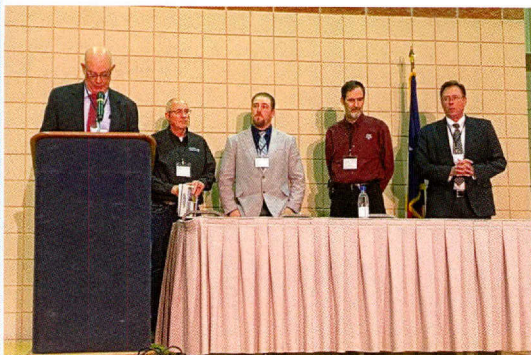
Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) hosted the 5th Biennial Water Conservation Symposium on February 12, 2020. Despite a winter storm that brought snow and ice, there were over 250 attendees present and participating in the day-long conference.

PGCD, along with their 26 sponsors, hosted 15 speakers from all over the state of Texas and even one from out-of-state. One of the hot topics of the day was the Hemp Panel, which featured Dan Hunter, Assistant Commissioner for Water and Rural Affairs with the Texas Department of Agriculture, Dr. Charles Beall, a Senior Scientist with Ana-Lab, Calvin Trostle, Researcher with Texas A&M AgriLife in Lubbock and Rafe Schroder, a Hemp Producer from Colorado. Each panelist gave their expertise regarding Hemp Production in Texas, and the unique challenges producers in our area can expect to face once production begins.

A few more highlights include: Sarah Schlessinger, Executive Director with the Texas Water Foundation, who gave an update on the foundation's plan for a state-wide water conservation campaign. Herman Berngen with Hilmar Cheese in Dalhart informed attendees of how the company practices water conservation in its facilities. Damen Ratliff with the City of Amarillo spoke about their award-winning Waste Water Reclamation Program, and shocked attendees with how much water the city is saving and reusing each year. In addition to the speaker sessions, 18 of the 26 sponsors had booths with special giveaways and provided networking and educational opportunities for the attendees.

The District has been hosting a symposium biennially since 2012. In the summer of 2011, Texas began to experience the worst drought on record in our state's history. 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. Now the District continues to host a symposium every two years whether the area is under drought conditions or not. The reality is that water conservation should always be at the forefront of our minds, so it becomes second nature and not just a necessity during times of drought.

The presentations from February were recorded and are now available to view on PGCD's YouTube Channel.



*CE Williams introducing the Hemp Panel. Left to Right: CE Williams, Dr. Charles Beall, Rafe Schroder, Calvin Trostle and Dan Hunter*



*Attendees during a break, visiting the booths and sponsors.*



## Meter Production Reports Sent

Based on information provided through the Operating Permit process, PGCD staff members were able to collect and calculate production data for each operator in the District. Last month, meter production reports were sent to operators either by email or mail. Reports are generated using information in each Operating Permit and the total production is calculated for the total contiguous acreage for each permit. For example, if an operator has three Operating Permits, they would receive three meter production reports. Page one of the report shows the total contiguous acreage and total production in acre-feet for that permit. Page two breaks down the production from each individual flow meter.

If you provided an email on your Operating Permit, this report was sent to you electronically. However, you may call the District to request a hardcopy. If you did not receive an email, please check your spam folder, and also add [meters@pgcd.us](mailto:meters@pgcd.us) to your email contacts to prevent future emails from going to the spam folder. After following these steps, if you still cannot locate your meter report, please call the Office at 806-883-2501.

It is important to note, the reports sent out last month were reports for traditional flow meters only. The District is continuing to work on and improve reports for Remote Monitoring Control Systems, such as AgSense, PivoTrac, FieldNET etc. Reports for those systems will be sent out in the near future. Please call us for more information or with any questions.

## The Importance of Social Media During Social Distancing

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, like so many other organizations and businesses in our area, is continuing to work during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our goal is to continue providing services in a safe manner that not only protects our constituents but also our employees and their families.

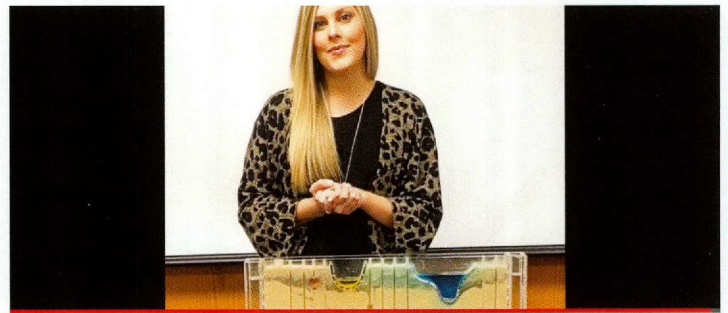
During this time, we are currently closed to the public and will remain closed until governmental restrictions are lifted and it is safe to open our doors. Although the doors are locked, we are still here to provide many services like registrations, drilling and operating permits, water quality services and much more. Now more than ever, it is important to follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter to stay up-to-date with daily District activities and announcements.

- Facebook:** Like us at [www.facebook.com/PanhandleGroundwaterConservationDistrict/](https://www.facebook.com/PanhandleGroundwaterConservationDistrict/)
- Twitter:** Follow us at [www.twitter.com/PanhandleGCD](https://www.twitter.com/PanhandleGCD)
- Email:** Visit [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us) and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage to subscribe.

## Education Program Utilizing Technology

The 2019-2020 school year marked Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's 20th year in the classroom talking about water conservation. Each year, Britney Britten, PR/Education Director, sets a goal to visit each elementary school within the District. This year several schools were scheduled for a visit in March, April and May. In an effort to continue spreading the message of water conservation, Britten utilized technology to create a shorter version of the typically hour-long presentation.

The 12-minute video can be found on PGCD's YouTube Channel. This video is a great tool for educators and parents to utilize during this time to introduce water conservation or to freshen up on some water conservation tips.



### Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's Education Program

*To find the YouTube video, visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. Once on our channel, you will find the above video and many more.*

In addition to visiting schools within the District, Britten also visits with civic groups as well. Many groups are continuing to meet via Video Conferencing apps (like Zoom). If you or your organization needs a program or speaker, please reach out to PGCD and schedule us for your next virtual meeting. For more information please call 806-883-2501 or email Britney directly at [Britney@pgcd.us](mailto:Britney@pgcd.us).

## Ag Loans Available

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District 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 with an eight year payback term. Sufficient funds are currently available. However, there are three ag loan applications pending Board approval at this time.

For more information about our ag loan program contact Katie Hodges or C.E. Williams at the District office at 806-883-2501.

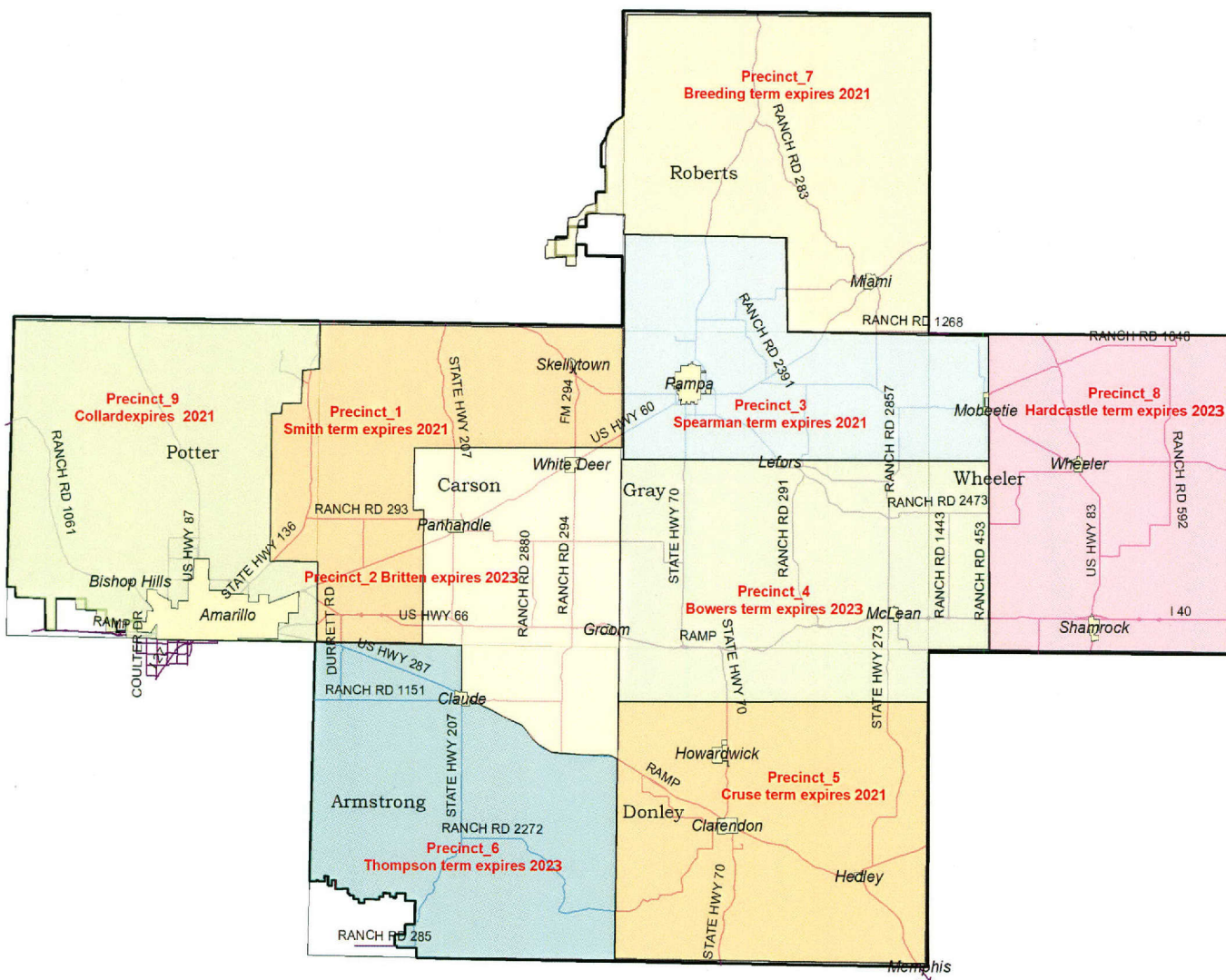


# District Board of Directors to Appoint Stakeholder Committee

At their March meeting, District Board of Directors voted to form a stakeholder committee to discuss future rule compromises and possible amendments. At the last several PGCD Board of Director meetings, many attendees have expressed concern regarding District rule changes from December 2018 and new enforcement guidelines. Attendees were encouraged by the Board to continue and complete the Operating Permit process to gather necessary information needed to begin discussing possible rule amendments. At this time, almost all of the Operating Permits are complete and approved.

At January's meeting, Director Charles Bowers asked if the Board should form a work group of area producers to work through issues with the Directors. During March's meeting, the Directors discussed the best way to form a committee to ensure one area was not over or under represented. Director Brett Britten said the committee should be formed by the Directors going out and meeting with many constituents in their individual precincts, and selecting someone that could best represent the precinct and the issues in that area. The Board voted unanimously for each board member to do so. General Manager CE Williams noted that no more than four Directors at a time would be able to participate in the stakeholder committee to avoid having a quorum.

Below is a District map with each Director listed in their precinct. For more information or for any questions, constituents are encouraged the call the Office at 806-883-2501, and District Staff will be able to answer questions or get you in touch with the Director that represents your precinct.



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FAX: 806/883-2162  
Web Page: [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Phillip Smith, , President  
Chancy Cruse, V-President  
Bill Breeding, Secretary  
Charles Bowers, Director  
John R. Spearman, Director  
Jim Thompson, Director  
Brett Britten, Director  
F. G. "Butch" Collard, Director  
Danny Hardcastle, Director  
\*\*\*\*\*  
C. E. Williams, General Manager  
E-Mail: [cew@pgcd.us](mailto:cew@pgcd.us)

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A large blue-outlined graphic of a smartphone. A speech bubble originates from the top right corner of the phone's screen, containing the text "Don't Forget".

**Don't  
Forget**

According to PGCD Rule 4.4, operators are required to submit a picture of the register display on each flow meter at the start of every pumping season.

The easiest way to stay in compliance is to text the picture to 883-2124 or email it to [meters@pgcd.us](mailto:meters@pgcd.us).

Pictures must clearly show the display and the well must be pumping at the time the picture is taken to confirm the meter is operational.