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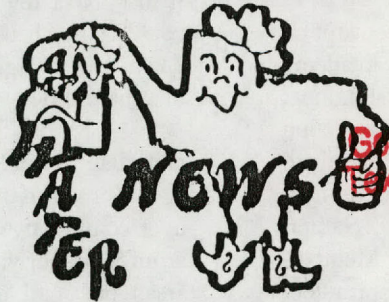
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PANHANDLE



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CITIES, COUNTIES ADOPT RESOLUTION ON ARKANSAS RIVER SHINER

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to add the Arkansas River Shiner to the federal list of endangered species, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials. Area residents have rallied together in opposition of the proposed listing.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials held three public hearings, in three different states, to receive public testimony from concerned citizens regarding the proposed listing of the Shiner to the endangered species list. Approximately 800 persons attended the meetings held in Meade, Kansas; Woodward, Oklahoma; and Amarillo, Texas. The officials will now sift through the testimony and then forward their recommendations. The director of the service is scheduled to make a decision by August 3, 1995.

Among those testifying at the hearing in Amarillo was C. E. Williams, manager of Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District. Mr. Williams stated, "the listing concerns, and potentially threatens, everyone within the bounds of this District. We feel that ground water pumpage in the portion of the Canadian River that is in our District has not shown over-depletion from excessive pumpage.

We oppose the listing of the Arkansas River Shiner on the grounds that over-pumpage is a perceived problem not a substantiated one. We feel that the necessary scientific evidence is very lacking for this listing and should be further investigated. If the shiner were to be listed and pumpage curtailed, cities, towns, agriculture and the associated business throughout this region would be economically devastated."

Among the cities and counties that have adopted resolutions opposing the listing of the Arkansas River Shiner to the Endangered Species list, are: McLean, Groom, Pampa, Fritch, Miami, Panhandle, Amarillo, Donley County, Gray County, and Carson County. These resolutions have been forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

GMDA MEMBERS ADDED TO MAILING LIST

The Groundwater Management Districts Association held its annual meeting in Wichita, Kansas, December 7-9, 1994. At the GMDA Board meeting, the problem of getting news and information published for members was addressed. The Board decided that a solution to the problem would be to ask each district member to include all the members of GMDA in the mailing list of newsletters. Therefore, all GMDA members have been added to our mailing list, and we will be printing GMDA news in Panhandle Water News.

Plans are to hold the summer seminar in Grand Island, Nebraska this year. You will be receiving information on this seminar later this spring.

LESLIE P. CLEEK RESIGNS

The resignation of Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District's field/lab technician, Leslie P. Cleek, became effective on January 5, 1995. Leslie began his duties in December 1991, and had been a familiar figure throughout the District as he monitored wells and assisted area farmers by performing flow and efficiency tests.

Leslie accepted a position in another field of work. He is missed, but we wish him the best of luck in his new career.

74TH LEGISLATURE

Now that the 74th Legislature is in session, Mr. Williams is journeying to Austin for one or two days, almost every week. This is necessary, to keep track of the large number of bills filed by legislators. A number of these bills either directly or indirectly affect the water conservation districts.

Some of the bills being tracked at this time include: HB 1989, by Rodriguez, relating to the appropriation and regulation of State Water for beneficial use, including underground storage or recharge of State Water in aquifers; HB 2294, by Yost, relating to the regulation of groundwater; HB 2476, by Walker, relating to regulation of water well drillers and water well pump installers; SB 14, by Bivins, and its companion, HB 2591, by Combs, relating to protecting private real property rights from certain actions of this state or a political subdivision of this state; and HB 3042, by Puente, relating to the administration and powers of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Committee hearings on these bills were held on March 27th and 28th. Mr. Williams was present to testify on these bills.

**WATER -- A PRECIOUS SOURCE OF LIFE.
DON'T WASTE IT.**

PGWCD HIRES FIELD/LAB TECHNICIAN

Jeremy A. Mulkey was employed by the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District as Field/Lab Technician on January 23, 1995.

He is a graduate of Panhandle High School and Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics with an Agribusiness Option.

Jeremy is familiar with farming operations and is presently farming his grandfather's land near Groom. The son of Bob and Louise Mulkey, he is a member of First United Methodist Church in Panhandle.

Jeremy will be conducting flow tests, efficiency tests and assisting with sprinkler evaluations for area farmers. His computer and lab skills will be put to use collecting and running water samples for the District's Water Quality Program, mapping, data entry and taking static level measurements.

TWCA 51st ANNUAL CONVENTION

C. E. Williams attended Texas Water Conservation Association's 51st Annual Convention in Austin on March 1 - March 3, 1995.

Featured speakers at this year's convention included Sandy Sage, Vice-President, The Academy of Natural Sciences; Jane N. Saginaw, Regional Administrator United States Environmental Protection Agency; Senator Eddie Lucio, Chair, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Senate Natural Resources Committee; Rep. David Counts, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee; Rep. Bob Turner, Member, House Land & Resource Management Committee; and Garry P. Mauro, Commissioner, General Land Office.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to the respective committee and panel meetings. Mr. Williams is a member of the Ground Water Panel.

REP. WALKER RECEIVES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Gary Walker, State Representative District 80, has been assigned to three House of Representative Committees for the 74th Legislature. Mr. Walker will serve on the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, the Natural Resources Committee and the House Select Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs.

The House Select Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was recently formed, in part, to address the potential closure of two military bases in Texas.

Mr. Walker can be reached by phone at 512/463-0678 or by mail at P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910.

FIELD HEARING HELD

The Endangered Species Act Task Force held a joint hearing in Boerne, Texas, March 20, 1995. PGWCD manager, C. E. Williams, was present for this hearing, the second in a series of hearings held by the three Task Force's created by Chairman Don Young, (R-AK). Testimony was heard on the Endangered Species Act re-authorization.

U. S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry, (R-Amarillo) a member of the task force, said the committee's main purpose was to listen and ask questions. "Most of the people invited to testify were those who had personal run-ins with the ESA as it is written," he said.

One of those invited to testify was Wayne Wyatt, manager of High Plains Underground Water Conservation District. Mr. Wyatt discussed the Arkansas River Shiner and its affect on the Texas Panhandle if listed as an endangered species.

WHAT IS AN AQUIFER?

An aquifer is a rock layer that will yield enough water to serve as a water supply for some use. It may be a few feet or hundreds of feet thick. It could be just beneath the surface, or hundreds of feet down, and it might underlie a few acres, or thousands of square miles.

More than three quarters of Texas is underlain by seven major and sixteen minor aquifers. A **major aquifer** produces large quantities of water in a comparatively large area of the state. **Minor aquifers** either yield large quantities of water in small areas or small quantities of water in large areas. Minor aquifers are especially important in Texas because in some regions they supply the only significant source of water.

Aquifers in Texas can be divided into three general types. Unconfined or **water table aquifers** are those in which atmospheric pressure changes move freely downward through an unsaturated zone of soil or rock to the water table. Water table aquifers provide water to wells by draining the aquifer material surrounding the well. Water table aquifers such as the **Ogallala Aquifer** are primarily found in the western part of Texas.

Confined or **artesian aquifers** are those overlain by impermeable rock layers that prevent free movement of water. Therefore, the water is under pressure and drilling a well into a confined aquifer is like puncturing a water pipe: the water under pressure gushes into the well, sometimes even rising to the surface and overflowing. Artesian aquifers such as the Edwards and Carrizo aquifers are primarily found in the central and eastern portions of the state.

Finally, there is the **Gulf Coast aquifer**, formed of alternating layers of clay, silt, sand and gravel. Water can pass between these layers at various points, forming a large, leaky artesian aquifer system. The Chicot and Evangeline aquifers are examples of the Texas Gulf Coast aquifer.

-Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

CAN YOU AFFORD TO GUESS WHEN TO WATER?

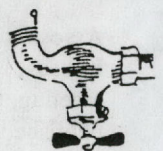
PGWCD has purchased a number of efficient, inexpensive soil moisture meters that will give quick and easy soil moisture readings. This meter will help schedule irrigations by telling the producer how much water the soil contains. This meter will be more efficient and easier to use than the gypsum blocks.

With the emphasis on water conservation and efficient water use in our area, we feel that this meter will be a handy tool for irrigators.

These meters are available at the District office at \$50.00 each.

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Use what you need,
then turn it off!



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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