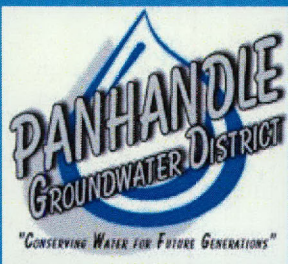


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Panhandle Water News

OCTOBER 2010

Study/Conservation Area Hearing Results

Points of Interest

PGCD Public Hearing Outcomes

Regional Water Plan Signed

2010 Water Quality

Tax Rate Set for 2011

New Chairman of Texas Senate Natural Resource Committee

Specifications for New Well Meter Installations

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's (PGCD) Study and Conservation Areas concerns were addressed at the District office August 19, 2010 during a public hearing.

The meeting was held to focus on several areas already designated throughout the District. A Conservation Area was proposed in Roberts County and additions to current Study Areas were proposed in portions of Carson and Donley counties.

Several people attended the hearing to express their positions on groundwater issues. The hearing allowed time for public comment on the implementation of PGCD's depletion rule. However, the proposed Conservation Area in Roberts County monopolized the majority of the comments.

The main water well field for Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA) is located within the proposed conservation area in Roberts County. Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA General Manager, spoke about CRMWA's actions to help relieve the depletion in this area.

CRMWA is building a new well field approximately 12 miles from the current site to help reduce the detected decline in the water table.

Satterwhite stated that he believes that the new well field will help reduce the problem area and allow CRMWA to produce the needed water.

Satterwhite explained that CRMWA is aware of the decline and is working to decrease the impacts and still meet demands.

After careful deliberation the Board decided to leave the designated area in Roberts County as a Study Area for one more year to see the effects of CRMWA's changes. The Board would like to see if the added efforts will produce any significant changes.

Minor changes were made to other Study Areas in the District. (See map located on page 2.) Additions were made to these two study areas.



PGCD Board listens to public comments at the hearing.

cont. on pg. 2

2011 Regional Water Plan Set

By Kyle Ingham, Regional Water Planning Director for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission

In 1997, Senate Bill 1 created the Regional Water Planning Process. Since that time, the Panhandle Water Planning Group (PWPG) has worked together to develop three regional water plans for the top 21 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Members representing agriculture, municipalities, academics, environmental concerns, industry, and other areas come together to identify how much water is available in the region and compare the availability to current and projected usage. In this process PWPG members are careful to balance the immediate and future economic viability of major industries in the region with long term conservation of the Ogallala Aquifer which is a finite resource in the planning area.

On August 12, 2010, the PWPG adopted the 2011 Panhandle Regional Water Plan as the third iteration of the document. The group has worked on the development of this plan since the last plan was adopted in 2006. With the help of a \$510,030 planning grant from the Texas Water Development Board and over \$300,000 of local contributions over the five year planning period the PWPG developed its most comprehensive regional plan yet. In this plan the PWPG analyzed water availability from the major aquifers in the region, limited surface water, and even analyzed the causes of the Lake Meredith decline in recent years. Subsequently, the group analyzed changes in municipal populations, agriculture demands, and industrial demands over the last five years.

Over the next 50 years, seventeen municipalities project to have a deficit of available water comparable to projected demand and several counties show to have a potential deficit in the agriculture sector. However, the 2011 Panhandle Regional Water Plan identifies conservation, new infrastructure, and technology strategies that will enable the areas depicting deficits to meet projected demands. The strategies range from the drilling of new wells for Cities to the implementation of bio-engineered crops and more conservative farming techniques in counties showing deficits due to agriculture consumption.

Ultimately, the 2011 Panhandle Regional Water Plan must go through a final review by the Texas Water Development Board before being considered for inclusion into the Texas State Water Plan. The Regional Water Plan is used by Cities, Groundwater Conservation Districts, and the residents of the Texas Panhandle to be the best stewards possible of one of the most precious resources the region has.

For more information about PWPG and the Regional Water Plan visit <http://www.panhandlewater.org/>.

Sign up for the Panhandle Water News
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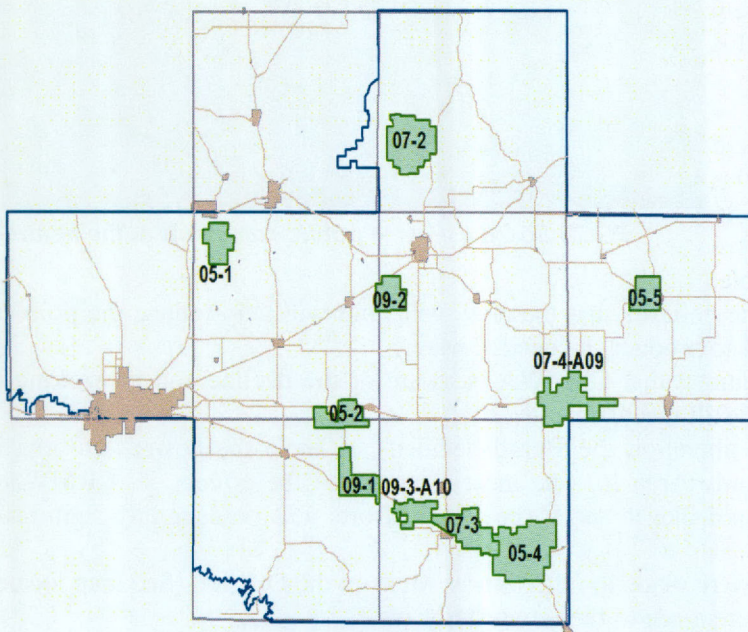
PGCD Hearing Results

cont. from pg 1.

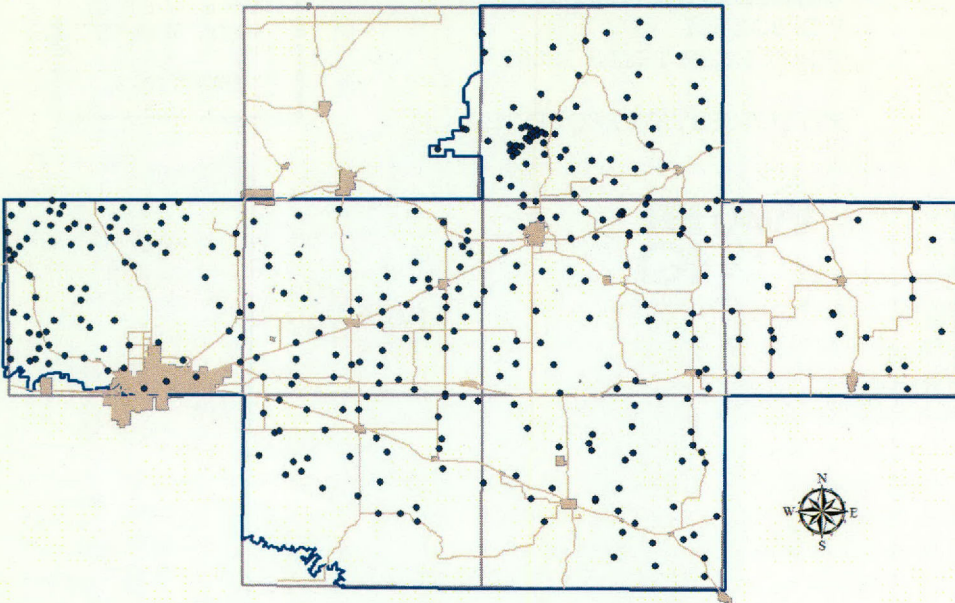
In Northwest Carson County, Study Area 05-1, a small amount of land was added. Also, in West Donley County, Study Area 09-3-A10, an addition was made to an existing Study Area. These areas will continue to be monitored for changes in the water level.

Some areas had acreage removed. These include Study Area 05-2, Study Area 09-1, Study Area 07-3 and Study Area 05-4. These four areas had small amounts removed that are not considered a trouble area at the time. Study area 08-1 in Southeast Gray County was removed and the few sections with problem areas were added to the adjacent study area 07-4-A09. Study Area 08-1 no longer exists due to the removal of all of its acreage from the area.

These changes were made to continue the protection of our groundwater. The areas will continue to be monitored for changes in the water table and possible further action. For more information about water levels in your area visit our Web site www.pgcd.us or call or come by the office.



Water Quality Information Available



The 2010 Water Quality season is complete; 273 samples were collected. PGCD analyzes each water sample for mineral content.

All water quality samples are collected over a period of two years, odd well numbers in odd years, and even wells in even years. The map to the left shows sample locations with a ten year average available. This can aid when considering developing land in a specific area.

To learn more about the water quality in your area visit our Web Site at www.pgcd.us, or contact the office at (806) 883-2501 or 201 W 3rd St. White Deer, TX 79097.

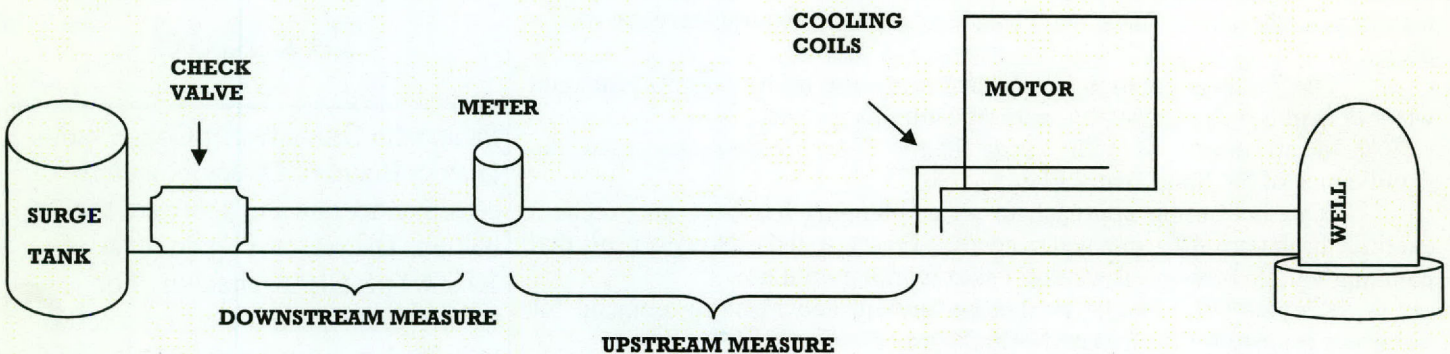
Required Specifications For New Well, Meter Configuration

Meter Size	Clear Upstream Run Req (ahead of meter, inches)	Clear Downstream Run Req (behind meter, inches)
4	40	20
6	60	30
6 5/8	66	33
8	80	40
8 5/8	86	43
10	100	50

PGCD rule 4.4 (c) states; All new wells drilled after the effective date of these rules that are equipped with a 4 inch or larger column pipe diameter shall be required to install a flow metering device approved by the District. These new wells must be constructed with a sufficient clear run of 10 pipe diameters upstream and 5 pipe diameters downstream of the meter, or in a sufficient manner to meet the installation specifications of the chosen approved meter.”

In order to acquire more accurate data the above new well specifications are cited and below is a measure matrix and graphic illustration of the recommended configuration.

If you are drilling a new well please contact the office for the proper information. You may call, (806) 883-2501, or come by, 201 W. 3rd St. White Deer, TX during normal office hours 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



DISTRICT OFFICE

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

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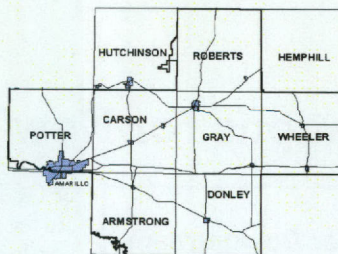
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New Chairman of Senate Natural Resource Committee

State Senator Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, was recently named chairman of the Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee.

"I look forward to assuming the responsibilities of the chairmanship and want to thank Lt. Gov. Dewhurst for the opportunity," Fraser said. "I am excited to take on this new challenge as Texas fights the federal government's attempt to control our natural resources."

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources focuses on legislation in a number of policy areas, including water resources, agriculture, oil and gas, air quality, and parks and wildlife. In addition, Fraser has been asked to develop a State Energy Plan based on his extensive knowledge of the oil, natural gas, alternative fuels, and electric generation and transmission industries.

The Texas population is expected to double in the next 50 years and water demands will continually increase with this growth.

In an interview with *Texas Water News*, Fraser discussed the significance of the State Water Plan.

"Our bottom-up approach to water planning has been an excellent exercise in determining our water needs," Fraser stated. "However, all that planning will go to waste if we don't start working on it now."

Keeping up with the population growth and resulting demand for water is a priority for the Senate Natural Resource Committee.

To learn more about Senator Fraser or the Senate Natural Resource Committee visit <http://www.senate.state.tx.us>.

Don't Forget to Schedule your Water Conservation Presentation!!!

Call (806) 883-2501, come by 201 W 3rd St White Deer, TX, or e-mail bgillespie@pgcd.us, us to schedule a presentation for your school or organization.

PGCD Board Sets Tax Rate

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors set the effective tax rate and approved the budget. The rate was again set at \$0.0089 per \$100 valuation. For further details, call the office at (806) 883-2501 or come by at 201 W 3rd St. White Deer, TX 79097.