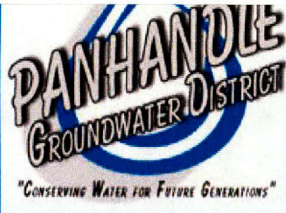


Panhandle water news.



# Panhandle Water News

APRIL 2009

## Points of Interest

Bill Mullican joins P.G.C.D.

Dr. Robert Mace Succeeds Bill Mullican at TWDB

Legislative Update

Free Meters

District's Management Standard Reviewed

Informational Meetings Held

Satellite Monitoring Wells in District

New Interest Rate for Sprinkler Loans

New Employee

## BILL MULLICAN JOINS P.G.C.D. AS SPECIAL CONSULTANT



William F. (Bill) Mullican III

Mr. William F. (Bill) Mullican III, who formerly served as Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Science and Conservation at the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in Austin, has joined Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District as special consultant. Mr. Mullican was born and raised in Canyon, Texas and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Broadfield Science-Education from Texas Tech University. In 1981, he received his Master of Science in Geology from Texas Tech University.

Before his tenure with TWDB, Mr. Mullican was employed as a research scientist associate at the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) at The University of Texas at Austin. During the time he was employed at BEG, he also did consulting work for the Panhandle Groundwater District.

Throughout his career, Mr. Mullican has provided invited testimony to the United States Congress on four occasions, over 25 occasions to the Texas Legislature, and authored and co-authored over 135 scientific books, articles, and reports, and two Texas State Water Plans.

In 2005, Gov. Rick Perry appointed Mr. Mullican to the Rehabilitation Council of Texas, as an advocate for people with disabilities in the vocational rehabilitation process.

He was appointed as a member of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology in 2007, to advise the EPA Administrator on Environmental policy technology and management issues. He was also nominated by the *Dallas Morning News* as a finalist for Texan of the Year 2007 as Texas' top water planner.

In February, Mr. Mullican was awarded the **Commander's Award for Public Service**, at the Texas Water Day Reception, in Washington, DC.

As special consultant to PGCD, Mr. Mullican will assist with many ongoing projects, such as the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) process; the regional water planning process; conduct a thorough and systematic review of previous and ongoing hydro-geologic research conducted on the Ogallala Aquifer in the PGCD region; work with and mentor PGCD technical staff; and may, on occasion, represent PGCD at congressional, legislative, federal and state agency meetings.

## DR. ROBERT MACE TO SUCCEED BILL MULLICAN AT TWDB

Dr. Robert Mace has been selected to succeed Bill Mullican as Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Science and Conservation for the Texas Water Development Board in Austin. Before joining TWDB in 1999, Mace worked as a Research Scientist Associate Hydrologist at the Bureau of Economic Geology for eight years. During his ten years at TWDB, he rose from a unit leader to Division Director for Groundwater Resources.

He has a B.S. in Geophysics, an M.S. of Hydrology from the New Mexico Inst. of Mining and Technology and a Ph.D. in Hydrology from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a licensed Professional Geoscientist .



Dr. Robert Mace





**BILL TRACKING REPORT**

As we went to press, in early April, the following bills, of special interest to the District, were being tracked through the Legislative process.

**HB 43, Corte** - Relating to permitting requirements of groundwater conservation districts, including permits to transfer water;

**HB 1818, Rose** - Relating to rainwater harvesting and other water conservation initiatives;

**HB 2063, Callegari** - Relating to the enforcement of rules by a groundwater conservation district. **Companion: SB 1190, Duncan;**

**HB 2722, Flynn** - Relating to the appointment of certain representatives on regional water planning groups;

**HB 3140, Gonzalez, Toureilles** - Relating to authorizing the transfer of certain abandoned or forfeited property to groundwater conservation districts;

**HB 3494, Corte** - Relating to the establishment of desired future conditions of groundwater resources and revision of those conditions by the Texas Water Development Board;

**HB 4258, Hilderbran** - Relating to the regulation by groundwater conservation districts of the drilling of certain water wells;

**HB 4273, Kuempel** - Relating to the issuance of a permit to a local government corporation for a public water supply project;

**HB 4655, Smithee** - Relating to priority groundwater management areas. **Companion: SB 1386, Seliger;**

**SB 540, Estes** - Relating to notice of an application for a permit to dispose of oil and gas waste in a disposal well;

**SB 1190, Duncan** - Relating to the enforcement of rules by a groundwater conservation district. **Companion: HB 2063, Callegari;**

**SB 1254, Seliger** - Relating to limits on the purpose and power of a fresh water supply district. **Companion: HB 3819, Smithee;**

**SB 1386, Seliger** - Relating to priority groundwater management areas. **Companion: HB 4655, Smithee;**

**SB 1714, Hegar** - Relating to the evidence of beneficial use in the permitting of groundwater;

**SB 2006, Hegar** - Relating to groundwater permitting

considerations of the adopted water plans;

**SB 2119, Seliger** - Relating to desired future condition requirements for certain groundwater conservation districts;

**SB 2120, Seliger** - Relating to the management, operation, and review of groundwater conservation districts. **Companion: HB 4656, Smithee;**

**SB 2296, Duncan** - Relating to the timing of submittal of groundwater management plans;

**SB 2319, Averitt** - Relating to the creation of a groundwater conservation district in a priority groundwater management area;

**SB 2320, Averitt** - Relating to the authority of a groundwater conservation district to assess production fees;

**SB 2321, Averitt** - Relating to the management of groundwater resources in the state.

**FREE METERS**

**The District is pleased to offer McCrometer meters, free of cost, for any well drilled before December of 2004.**

We also have a new program to install NetIrrigate telemetry systems on center pivots that allows you to check your production online, as well as receive alerts on your cell phone. Of course, the District must have access to this information, but it will be on a password protected site.

The equipment is free, but producers are responsible for a 5-year data fee of \$30/month. This is payable in annual payments, or a 7% discount is given if the 5-year total is prepaid. Only one unit per producer, please.

These meters, and the equipment, are sponsored by a grant through the Texas Water Development Board.

Call the District and talk to any field technician for more information.

**PGCD STAFF**

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Drew Hodges ( <a href="mailto:dhodges@pgcd.us">dhodges@pgcd.us</a> )	Field/Lab Technician
Herb Speckman	Chief Pilot
Brenda Knutson	Pilot



## BOARD HEARS REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT'S DEPLETION MANAGEMENT STANDARD

In November 2008, the Board of Directors considered bids from four sources for a technical and scientific review of the District's Depletion Management Program. After reviewing the bids, the Board selected Intera Incorporated, of Austin, Texas, to perform the review.

At the Board's meeting on March 4, 2009, Mr. Van Kelly, hydrologist for Intera Incorporated, gave a Power Point presentation entitled, "Peer Review of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Ogallala Depletion Calculation Methodology."

The review was performed to assess the data and methods used to determine compliance with the 50/50 Standard (and the 1.25% acceptable decline in saturated thickness per annum), review key calculations made by PGCD staff in implementing the standard, and make recommendations for future enhancements.

### The following conclusions were listed:

- Based upon our review, the PGCD is correctly implementing the 50/50 Standard
- Supporting data is organized and provides a good basis for implementation
- A review of calculations performed revealed no significant error or omissions
- Management Sub-Areas boundaries were found to be consistent with PGCD stated criteria
- Floor rate calculations are generally reproducible at the scale of a Management Sub-area
- Study Areas provide a local means of addressing depletion which is proactive and isolated to the area experiencing the declines.

### Recommendations for Improvements:

- We recommended a slightly different workflow for delineation of Study Areas:
  - a. Perform mathematical calculations on grids
  - b. Produced similar results as PGCD for 2006
- Automate the Surfer workflow

## DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS HELD IN DONLEY AND GRAY COUNTIES

In an effort to make constituents more aware of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, and have a better understanding of why the District was created and what it does, the Board of Directors and staff are in the process of hosting informational meetings in each county within the District.

The first meeting was held at the Gray County Annex in Pampa, on February 10th, with another meeting on February 12th, at Clarendon College in Clarendon.

Although a good number of interested persons attended the Donley County meeting, attendance was light at the Gray County meeting.

Topics discussed at the meetings included well permitting, depth to water measuring, Water Quality testing, down-hole camera, Ag Loan assistance, precipitation enhancement, pump tests, meters, education, water conservation, etc.

The Board and staff will host meetings in Roberts, Carson, Wheeler, Potter and Armstrong counties in the near future and we encourage everyone to join us. Board and staff members will be happy to discuss the program, or programs, of particular interest to you. Watch your local newspaper for notice of these meetings.

Refreshments will be served at each meeting.

*Think of the earth as a huge terrarium:  
Water is continually changing form, but there is  
no gain or loss.*

*USGS "Where is Earth's Water Located?"*

## SATELLITE MONITORING WELL



*David Martinez, of the Texas Water Development Board, assists PGCD personnel with the installation of a satellite monitoring well.*

Panhandle Groundwater District operates 13 satellite-linked monitoring wells throughout the District. These well monitoring systems collect depth-to-water information every hour and publish it on a website hosted by TWDB. The information is also available on the PGCD website at:

<http://www.pgcd.us/Water%20Level.htm>

Such detailed water level information can better help the District understand the aquifer responses to pumping, as well as help the TWDB calibrate water supply models for the future.



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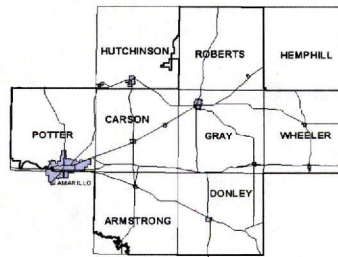
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## NEW INTEREST RATE ON SPRINKLER LOANS

*The District has obtained a new interest rate from the Texas Water Development Board. The new rate will be 1.67% to producers. With this new interest rate, loans of up to \$125,000 can be made for a maximum of 7 years. Typically, loans are made for low energy, water conserving sprinkler systems.*



*For more information, or to receive an information / application packet, call the office at 806-883-2501.*

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW EMPLOYEE



*Drew Hodges*

Drew Hodges joined the District on February 2, 2009. Drew will serve as Field/Lab Technician. In this capacity, he will assist with meter and rain-gauge reading and maintenance, water quality monitoring and sampling, depth to water measurements, well-spacing, down-hole camera, and vehicle management.

Drew served in the U.S. Air Force from 2001-2005, and was most recently employed at the Celanese Chemical Plant, near Pampa. He was raised on the family farm near White Deer, and graduated from White Deer High School.

He is also raising a few cows, and in his spare time, he enjoys riding his Harley, working out at the gym, going to the lake, and playing with his three boxer dogs.

Drew is the son of Davy and Debbie Hodges of White Deer.