

# Panhandle Water News



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*Skip Hulseby presents PRPC award to C. E. Williams*

Randall County Commissioner Skip Huskey, chairman of the PRPC Board of Directors, presented PGCD General Manager C. E. Williams, chairman of the Panhandle Regional Planning Group, with the Goodwin Regional Public Administrator award at the organization's annual meeting on Thursday, October 10.

The award was established 10 years ago by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) to recognize a Panhandle area public servant for his or her contributions to our region. The award is named in memory of the late BeeLee K. Goodwin, former City Manager of the City of Friona. Mr. Goodwin provided regional leadership in the public administration field for a number of years and was a fine example of a dedicated public servant.

Williams' early years were spent in farming and ranching. He participated in the Texas Farm Bureau and served on the Carson Co. 4-H Adult Leaders Council. He has been general manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District since 1990. During that time he has been active in Groundwater Management Districts Association (GMDA), Texas Water Conservation Association, (TWCA), and Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD). At various times, he has served as the president and on the Board of each of these organizations. He served on the Pantex Plant Citizen Advisory Board and is currently chairman of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group.

C. E., and wife Kay, reside in Panhandle. They have two children and three grandchildren.

## PGCD LOWERS TAX RATE

**WHITE DEER** - At their meeting on August 20, 2002, the Board of Directors of Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District voted to lower the District's tax rate, once again. According to C. E. Williams, general manager of the groundwater district, this marks the third year in a row that the District has been able to lower the tax rate. "We are going to the effective tax rate, so this will be a small decrease, but it is still a decrease, and that's good," Williams said.

The Board set the tax rate for 2002 at \$0.0154/\$100 taxable value. This means that the taxes on a \$40,000 home would be \$6.16. The 2001 tax rate was \$0.0156/\$100. The Board of Directors consists of nine locally elected members: Charles Bowers, president; Phillip Smith, vice-president; Jason Green, secretary; and directors Jim Thompson, Robert A. Clark, Danny Hardcastle, John R. Spearman, Jr., John McKissack, and Billy Van Crawford.

## GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREAS (GMA)

PGCD General Manager C. E. Williams, and other water district managers throughout Texas, have been working with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to delineate Groundwater Management Areas. The management areas were mandated by the last session of the Texas Legislature (Texas Water Code §35.004). According to TWDB officials, the management areas are an attempt to foster cooperation between groundwater districts within the same management area.

At a meeting on August 21, 2002, the TWDB Board approved a draft map and rule for the GMAs. These are being published in the Texas Register and are also available on the TWDB website (<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/>) to inform the public and solicit comment. Additionally, TWDB staff have conducted public meetings at eight locations throughout the State, Plainview, Alpine, San Angelo, Fredericksburg, Corpus Christi, Wharton, Tyler, and Stephenville, to solicit public comment.

Under TWDB's proposal, several water districts would be in more than one management area, thereby increasing the work on water district staffs. PGCD would be in three management areas. After meetings with the TWDB, the District manager believes that there will be several amendments to the original draft that will address many of our concerns.

The Texas Water Development Board is expected to approve the GMA map and rule at its regular meeting on November 20, 2002.

## 2002 WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Eight workshops, sponsored by several water associations and commissions, including Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), Texas Water Foundation, Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA), Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), Texas Water Wise Council, Texas Rural Water Association (TWRA), Texas Water Resources Institute, and others, were held around the state, in September and October, offering education, resources and technical assistance for water conservation programs.

Bart Wyatt, Director of Education/Information for the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District gave presentations at the meetings in Amarillo and Odessa. Wyatt described conservation as managing a natural resource to avoid waste or destruction. He said the goal of the workshops was to educate the utilities that in turn educate the public. Consumers must conserve to insure future water supplies.

Other workshops were held in Friendswood, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, McAllen, Arlington, Tyler.

## RAY BRADY TO ADDRESS GSA

The District's assistant manager/geologist, Raymond M. Brady, Jr., presented a research paper to the Geological Society of America (GSA) recently. Mr. Brady's paper is entitled "Managing Ogallala Aquifer Depletion in the Northeast Texas Panhandle." The GSA has invited him to present this paper at their 114<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, to be held October 27-30, 2002, at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver Colorado. Approximately 6,300 geoscientists are expected to attend this meeting. To receive a copy of Mr. Brady's paper, please call our office, 883-2501.

## THERE'S \$\$ MONEY \$\$ AVAILABLE

The District still has some money available to finance energy efficient pivot or towable sprinkler systems. The interest rate is 2.95%, and the borrower is required to pay 20% down. Money for these loans is made available through a loan from the Texas Water Development Board. For more information, call Yvonne, 883-2501.

## MEET YOUR DIRECTOR



**John McKissack** serves as District Director of Precinct 9. Mr. McKissack was appointed to that position following the election held on August 12, 2000, which annexed Potter County into the District.

John is employed as director of marketing and governmental representative at Baptist St., Anthony's Hospital (BSA), in Amarillo and served 6 years (3 terms) on the Amarillo City Commission. John, his wife Susan, and son Michael, reside in Amarillo.

Precinct 9 includes the majority of Potter County. If you reside within the western two-thirds of Potter County, Mr. McKissack is your director on the Board.

## DESALINATION PROJECT DISCUSSED

In August, PGCD general manager C. E. Williams, chairman of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, and other regional water-planning officials, gathered in Austin to meet with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) officials and Brooke Rollins, policy director for Gov. Rick Perry. The purpose of the meeting was Gov. Perry's proposed desalination plant pilot project to help supply clean water in the future.

Gov. Perry has asked the Texas Water Development Board, working with the regional water-planning panels, to put together the details. The demonstration plant would strip the salt from ocean water to create drinking water for the state. The original project calls for a coastal plant, but planners say they also hope to use the technology in West Texas and the Panhandle to treat brackish water sources.

Water projects in other communities across the state would lessen the demand for Panhandle water. Water has been a topic of utmost concern in the Panhandle area in the wake of Boone Pickens' plan to pipe water from the Ogallala Aquifer to communities downstate.

According to Bill Mullican, TWDB director of planning, "Recent drought has forced officials to reconsider desalination as a viable alternative."

A plan is scheduled to be completed by December, presented to the TWDB for approval, and then sent to the Texas Legislature and the governor's office.

## SUMMARY OF 2002 PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

This year's Precipitation Enhancement Program ran from April 15 through September 30. According to meteorologist Orlando Nunez, "It was a successful season, with ample opportunities to seed clouds throughout the operational area."

In May, the District purchased a Piper Comanche and hired Chad Gerard as pilot. The addition of this plane and pilot enabled us to seed at the base of clouds. Chief Pilot Herb Speckman, in the Cessna 340, seeds clouds from the top. Two planes gave us the capability of reaching more seedable clouds, in a short period of time.

During most of the season, the Cessna was housed at Tradewind Airport, near Amarillo, and the Comanche was housed at Perry Lefors Airport, near Pampa. This worked well, allowing quick access to any part of the operational area.

Thirty-five missions were flown during the 5-month program. The effectiveness of the District's enhancement program will be assessed by Dr. Arquimedes Ruiz, of Active Scientific Management and Dr. William Woodley, of Woodley Weather Consultants. Both consultants are under independent contracts with the Texas Department of Agriculture. The assessment results will be reported to the District's Board of Directors later this year.

When the assessment is completed, a series of public meetings will be held throughout the District, to report the results. There will be at least one public meeting per county. The time and place for these meetings will be published in the District's newsletter, on the District web site and in each county's local newspapers. These meetings will provide citizens of the District the opportunity to give input to the Board concerning both the benefits and risks of the rainfall enhancement program. The counties in the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District are Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Gray, Potter, Roberts, and Wheeler.

The Directors and staff encourage those interested in learning more about rainfall enhancement to attend one or more of these meetings.

## WACKY WORLD OF WATER

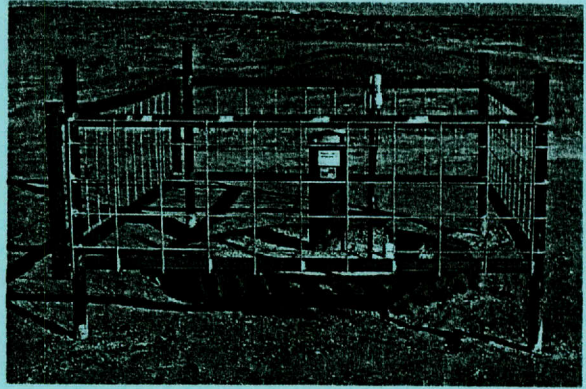
By Bart Wyatt

### DID YOU KNOW????

- That 70% of your body weight is water?
- That 98% of the world's water is unusable because of salts and glaciers?
- That the Ogallala aquifer's name came from the Og la la Indians?
- That a person may use up to 160 gallons of water a day?

These mind-boggling facts are only a few reasons why CONSERVATION is so IMPORTANT!!!! Please conserve and preserve your water. Future generations are counting on it.

## THREE MONITORING WELLS DRILLED



In September and October, the District drilled three monitoring wells. With the cooperation of landowners, two wells were drilled in Roberts County and one well was drilled in Carson County. The purpose of these wells is to track impacts of groundwater production on the aquifer, giving the District better data than measuring a well that is currently in use.

More monitoring wells will be drilled in the near future, adding to the water level network of 825 wells that are currently measured by the District annually.

## District Puts "WRAPS" on Tri-State Fair

By Bart Wyatt

For the third year in a row, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District participated at the Amarillo Tri-State Fair. Our booth, containing various water saving brochures, District flyers and aquifer facts, a groundwater flow model, and water level measuring equipment, was located in the Better Living Center. Fair visitors could pick up water education literature and speak with a District employee. Those taking turns in the booth included Manager C. E. Williams; Hydrologist Ray Brady; Field Tech Alvin Stamps; Chief Pilot Herb Speckman; and Director of Education/Information Bart Wyatt.

Many questions and concerns were presented to the staff over the nine-day period. Topics of main discussion included water rights, aquifer characteristics, and precipitation enhancement. The District staff thoroughly enjoyed visiting with everyone who took the time to stop by for a visit, or ask a question. We believe many people left with more knowledge and a better understanding of the District's goals and accomplishments.

A contest was also held at the PGCD booth. A five-gallon bottle of water with an undisclosed amount of water was placed on the table. The object of the contest was to guess the weight of the water in the bottle. Sixty-seven people gave their best educated guess. The correct answer was 24.91 lbs. The top ten guesses, nearest to the exact weight, will receive a PGCD cap.

I would like to thank everyone who stopped by the booth to visit. As we all know, education is the key and we are never too old to learn. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us.

PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER  
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**DISTRICT STAFF**

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 Raymond Brady, *Asst. Mgr./Geologist*  
 Yvonne Thomas, *Adm. Assistant*  
 Bart Wyatt, *Education Director*  
 Kari K. Wilson, *Secretary*  
 Alvin Stamps, *Field Technician*  
 Orlando Nunez, *Meteorologist*

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"CONSERVING WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS"



**Federal PRIMARY/SECONDARY STANDARDS as Adopted by the State**

CONSTITUENT	SOURCE OR CAUSE	SIGNIFICANCE
Fluoride (F) MCL = 4.0 mg/L	Dissolved in small quantities from rock and soil; fluoride may in some cases actually be added to drinking water supplies.	May cause mottling of the teeth in children depending on quantity and temperature average per year; in proper amounts, may reduce dental cavities.
Nitrate (NO <sub>3</sub> ) MCL = 10 mg/L as N	Produced by decaying organic matter, sewage, fertilizers, and nitrates in the soil.	High concentrations may suggest pollution; water of high nitrate content may cause blue-babies and should not be used for infant feeding; some animals such as cattle can be poisoned by high concentrations of nitrate; nitrate encourages the growth of algae and other organisms which may produce undesirable tastes and odors.
Chloride (Cl) 300 mg/L	Dissolved from rock and soil; found in large amounts in oil-field brine, sea water, and industrial brine.	When combined with sodium, gives salty taste to drinking water and may increase the corrosiveness of water.
Dissolved Solids (TDS) 1000 mg/L	Dissolved mineral constituents from rock and soil.	Considered a general indicator of the quality of water.
Iron (Fe) 0.3 mg/L	Dissolved from rock and soil; may also come from iron pipes; pumps and other equipment if the water is corrosive. Polyphosphates can be used to keep Fe and Mn in solution. Oxidation followed by filtration is the common removal process.	On exposure to air, iron in groundwater oxidizes to reddish-brown (red water) which may stain laundry and utensils; large quantities can cause unpleasant taste and encourage the growth of iron bacteria.
Sulfate (SO) 250 mg/L	Dissolved from rock and soil containing gypsum, iron sulfides, and other sulfur compounds; commonly present in industrial wastes.	Sulfate in water containing calcium forms hard scale in steam boilers; in large amounts, sulfate can give a bitter taste to water and/or have a laxative effect.