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THE CROSS SECTION

VOLUME 59 --No. 11

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WATER!

NOVEMBER 2013

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE HIGH PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NO. 1, LUBBOCK TX

Cross Section to go digital in January 2014

The High Plains Water District is preparing a digital version of *The Cross Section* to be e-mailed to readers every other week.

The first issue of the digital newsletter will be distributed in Jan. 2014. It is designed to provide the public with more timely information about district programs and activities as well as other water related subjects.

"*The Cross Section* marks its 60th year of publication in 2014. As we near this milestone, HPWD Board members and staff believe it is the perfect time to offer a digital version of the newsletter. This will allow the district to use new technologies to better communicate its water conservation messages to the public," said Carmon McCain, Information/Education Group Supervisor and Editor of *The Cross Section*.

Persons wanting to receive the digital version of the newsletter are encouraged to

See **FASTER** Page Four

Current rule moratoriums extended through 2014

During their Nov. 12 regular meeting, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors voted 5-0 to extend current moratoriums in the district's rules through calendar year 2014.

These moratoriums were set to expire at the end of 2013.

In Feb. 2012, the HPWD Board approved moratoriums on enforcement and civil penalties for exceeding the district's allowable groundwater production rate (APR) during 2012-2013.

At that time, the Board of Directors also approved a second moratorium on enforcement and

civil penalties for (1) failure to install meters on new wells or well systems, and (2) reporting requirements for groundwater production.

"After the public hearing at which 12 persons offered comment, the HPWD Board approved extending the current moratoriums through calendar year 2014. No fine will be assessed, presently or retroactively, for failure to install an approved meter on a new well, failure to submit a groundwater production report, or production of groundwater in an amount greater than specified in the HPWD rules," said Board President Lynn Tate

of Amarillo.

Tate said extension of the moratoriums will allow the five-member HPWD Board of Directors time to review current HPWD rules based upon feedback from stakeholder groups as well as the district's County Advisory Committees.

"We want to take the time necessary to hear from all groundwater users in the district. The Board can then make any needed revisions to the rules in order to get them right," he added.

In addition, the HPWD Board

See **NON-REFUNDABLE** Page Two

Muleshoe State Bank recognized for xeric landscaping

Congratulations Muleshoe State Bank! You are our Water Wise winner for November!

Muleshoe State Bank has used water efficiently since 1972, which is when the bank first installed xeriscape throughout the grounds.

Chairman and CEO Bob Finney said the choice was a good one to make for water savings and relatively easy maintenance.

"Xeric landscaping is relatively easy to maintain. In West Texas, the biggest problem you have is the dust blowing over the years," says Finney. "We use almost no water."

The bank was renovated last year, which also included updating the xeriscape plants.

Finney adds that professional landscapers are the key to knowing which plants work and which ones don't for the dry, arid climate of this region.

A few of the current plants include red yucca, agave varieties, and deer grass.

Muleshoe State Bank has

received many positive comments since first utilizing xeriscape in the 1970s.

"The Muleshoe community has really appreciated what we've done with the remodel and updating... we've had an amazing amount of comments particularly about the

landscape," says Finney.

In fact, Finney says the key is to keep landscape appealing for customers.

"People do appreciate nice landscaping when you compare it to the people who don't maintain their grounds around their building."



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4	District Directors visit Cargill plant at Friona

VISIT THE HIGH PLAINS WATER DISTRICT'S WEB SITE AT WWW.HPWD.COM

Non-refundable fee for permit applications will take effect in January

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also approved an amendment to Rule 7.7 (“Elements of Permits”) as well as deletion of Rule 7.8 (“Deposits”).

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, all applications for a water well permit shall be accompanied by a \$250 non-refundable fee.

Presently, all permit applications are accompanied by a \$250 deposit. The deposit is refunded if the water well permit application is denied, if the well log is completed and returned to the HPWD office, or if the permit is canceled without the well being drilled. This will remain in effect until the first of the year.

“The HPWD Board of Directors

believes the cost to process a water well permit should be the responsibility of the applicant. Taxpayers not using this service should not have to pay for it,” Tate said.

He added that a majority of the district’s County Advisory Committee members were in favor of the permit deposit rule

amendment/deletion.

The Nov. 12, 2013 amendments to the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District rules are available online at <http://www.hpwd.com/rules-and-management-plan/district-rules/>.

Printed copies are also available by contacting the district office at 806-762-0181.

District personnel to begin annual water level measurements Dec. 2

Starting Dec. 2, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District personnel will be making annual water level measurements to determine the effect of 2013 pumping on groundwater levels of the Ogallala Aquifer within the district’s 16-county service area.

These measurements are made in a network of more than 1,300 privately-owned water wells. These observation wells are spaced at a density of about one well per nine square miles throughout the district.

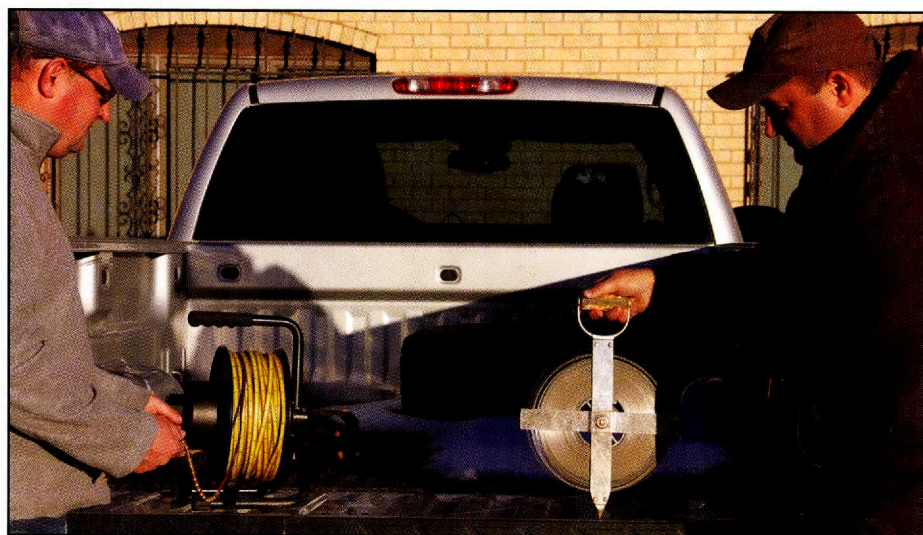
After the measurement is made, a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement, and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or

other appropriate surface near the well site.

High Plains Water District personnel measure the same wells in the observation well network each year as long as the individual wells are accessible and continue to provide satisfactory data.

The current depth-to-water level measurements in individual wells are compared to those of previous years to determine the average annual change in water levels in the Ogallala Aquifer within the district.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive map on the district’s web site at <http://www.hpwd.com/maps-and-charts> as well as publication in *The Cross Section*.



Water Level Measurements

Field Technicians Lance Epperson and Billy Barron prepare e-lines and steel tapes for use in making annual water level measurements in the district’s network of more than 1,300 privately-owned observation wells.

Texas voters approve Proposition 6 to create water implementation fund

Texas voters recently approved Proposition 6, which provides for creation of the State Water Implementation Fund (SWIFT) and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund (SWIRF) to help finance priority projects in the State Water Plan.

The final Nov. 5 vote was 836,395 in favor (73.37%) and 303,591 against (26.62%).

In a statement, Governor Rick Perry said “...the people of Texas made history, ensuring that we’ll have the water we need to grow and thrive for the next five decades without raising state taxes. Now, it’s time to get to work on the projects that’ll help us meet our growing water needs, preserving and improving both our economic strength and quality of life.”

Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, offered the following comments:

“It would have been easy to ignore this crisis and allow our State Water Plan to continue collecting dust on a shelf. Instead, a

bipartisan group of legislators put forth a responsible plan that the people of Texas have now endorsed,” he said.

Straus also thanked the more than 160 House and Senate members who worked to pass this amendment

during the last several months.

He especially thanked House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Allan Ritter of Nederland, who is retiring Dec. 31, 2014, at the end of his current term.

“My special thanks to Chairman

Ritter—not only for his leadership in this campaign—but for his tremendous work on this proposal during the 83rd Legislature. This vote is a fitting conclusion to his years of service to the people of Texas,” Straus said.



Staff Addition

Tammy Anderson is the district’s new bookkeeper. She succeeds Pat Kunkel, who retired Nov. 15 after 24 years of service with the district.

THE CROSS SECTION

CARMON McCAIN, Editor
Information/Education Group Supervisor

Telephone: (806) 762-0181
Fax: (806) 762-1834
Web: www.hpwd.com
E-mail: info@hpwd.com

THE CROSS SECTION (USPS 564-920) is a monthly publication of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas 79411-2499. Periodicals postage paid at Lubbock, Texas.

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How much water do we use? AWWA executive director shares his water log

EDITOR'S NOTE—Water is such an important component of our daily lives...but do we really stop and think about the amount of water we use each day? David LaFrance, executive director of the American Water Works Association, kept a log of his water use on Sept. 28, 2013 and shared his insight in the November issue of *JournalAWWA—CEM*.

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By David LaFrance
Executive Director
American Water Works Association

It's Saturday; no alarm needed. I wake up before 7:00 a.m., which is measurably later than during the work week. I can tell that fall is starting; the air in my bedroom is crisp and cool. I look back at the clock. Somehow minutes have passed and I need to get going.

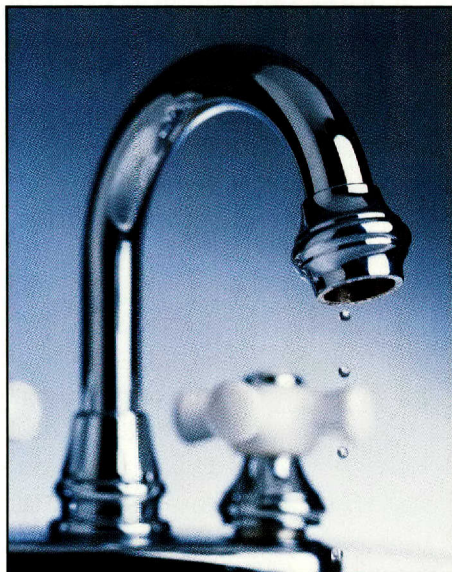
As I get up, I grab the pen and pad next to my bed; I had decided the night before that I would log all my encounters with water for the day. Of course, I appreciate water—but I thought that perhaps this one-day log would make me see exactly how I use it.

It's 7:21 a.m. and I use the washroom, wash my hands, brush my teeth, and take a sip of water from the faucet. It's now 7:24, and I log my first encounter with water for the day.

I then pack my wetsuit and other necessities in preparation for a Saturday morning swim at the reservoir. It's 7:43, and I use the washroom again.

I head down the stairs and outside, pick up the Saturday newspaper, and then—with a twist of the pliers—I lift the meter lid. The water meter reads 352,390 gallons, which, of course, includes some of the day's usage. It is 7:53 a.m.

Back inside I fill a pint glass of water and drink it in one breath. It's 7:57. I fill the dog's bowl with water; he, too, drinks it in what



seems like one breath. I fill his bowl again. It's 8:02 a.m. and I head out.

I arrive at the reservoir around 8:30. There aren't many swimmers today because it's the last day of the season, and the air and water are cold. The water is flat, and even with the wetsuit it takes a while to warm up. By 9:38 a.m., the workout is over—but it is without question a great water encounter—and I head home.

From 10:02 until 10:12 a.m., I am again in the washroom cleaning up, preparing for the day, and I give my wetsuit its final rinse of the season.

Back in the kitchen, I fill another pint glass with water along with the teapot, which I put on the stove. It's 10:22 a.m., and I use soapy water to clean the French press. By 10:26 the teapot whistles, the coffee grounds are in the clean French press, and I pour the hot water on top to make my morning coffee. I pour the first cup and look at the mug that says, "No Water, No Coffee." How appropriate. I drink the pint of water I poured earlier and head to the breakfast table with coffee, breakfast, and newspaper in hand.

I read the paper, and by 10:47 a.m., I am pouring my second cup of coffee. Three minutes later, I'm rinsing dishes and loading them into the dishwasher. I grab three water bottles and fill them with water and ice for the day's hike with my wife, Justine. Already my uses of water seem many and in rapid succession but somewhat mundane and repetitive.

We arrive at the trailhead, and I take a sip of water from a water bottle as we start. I realize that encounters with water are now turning from municipal forms of water to nature's forms. We cross a creek, the mountain peaks are covered with the first snow of the season, and the yellow aspen leaves

are wet from the snow the night before. We sit on a rock, eat snacks, take in the view, and drink water.

Back home we rinse the water bottles and place them in the dishwasher—which will not be run this day. It's 4:53 p.m., and I wash my hands, start a load of laundry, and then wash my hands again. It's 5:04 p.m. and the dog needs more water.

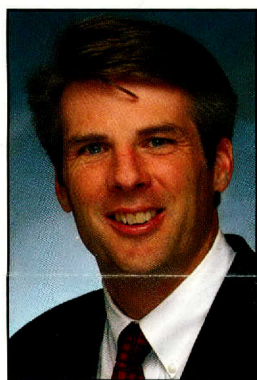
At this point, writing down all the times I encounter water begins to wear on me. So let's fast forward a bit. From 5:07 until 9:30 p.m., we use water to make dinner, drink, wash dishes, and use the washroom.

It's a bit after 9:30 when I grab a flashlight and the pliers and head outside. The water meter reads 352,500 gallons. We used 110 gallons—and we were gone for half

the day. I head inside, brush my teeth, and go to bed wondering how I used that much water.

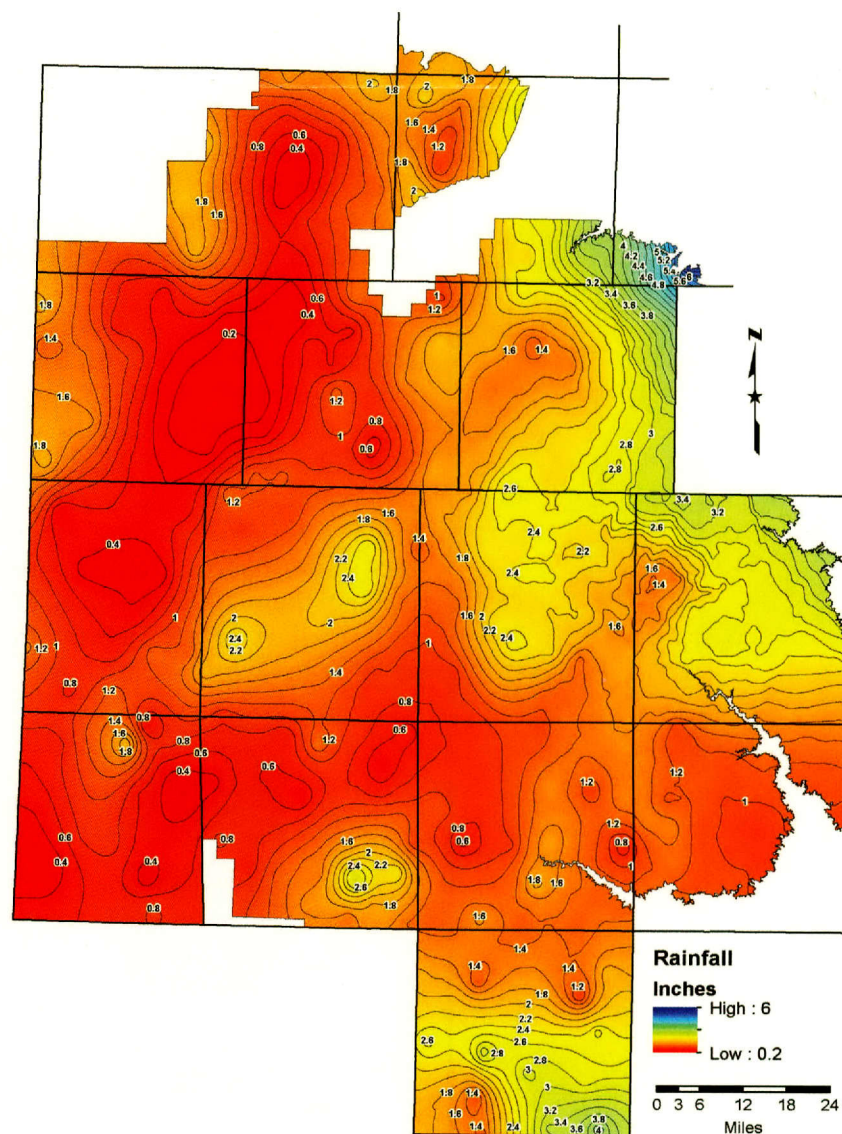
I think the lesson I learned from the log is that I—like most people—used water throughout the day in routine and simple ways without fully appreciating its value. Mathematically I know that 110 gallons for a day is not an extreme amount for two people, but it sure seems like more than what I thought we used. If I hadn't written down my usage, I would have thought I used water only a few times and in an amount much less than I really did.

Why don't you give it a try? Keep a log for one day, and send it to me at the e-mail address below. You just might learn something that surprises you.



LAFRANCE

September to November 2013 Rainfall High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (Contoured in Inches)



Rainfall totals ranged from 0.2 of an inch in Parmer County to six inches in the portion of Armstrong County within the district, according to data collected at 394 HPWD rain gauge sites from September to November 2013.



Cargill Conservation

High Plains Water District Board Members Mike Beauchamp and Lynn Tate recently toured the Cargill Meat Solutions plant at Friona to learn more about the company's water conservation efforts. Shown on the Nov. 1 tour are GIS Specialist Jed Leibbrandt, Manager Jason Coleman, Cargill Environmental Superintendent Nicholas McFarland, Beauchamp, Tate, Information Technology Administrator Gray Sanders, and Field Technician Supervisor Keith Whitworth. (Photo by Adeline Fox)

Faster communication is district's goal

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visit the district's web site at www.hpwd.com.

Clicking on the blue "newsletter" button on the

far right side of the web page allows visitors to join an e-mail list to receive the latest news and information from the High Plains Water District.

"If you are an ag producer with an absentee landowner, the High Plains Water District encourages you to make sure the landowner is on the mailing list to receive *The Cross Section*. It's important to keep them informed as well," McCain said.

Visitors will also find links to the district's social media efforts below the "newsletter" button.

These include LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and the HPWD blog.

Comments and suggestions are always welcomed by the District's information/education group. Contact them at (806) 762-0181 or by e-mail at info@hpwd.com or adeline.fox@hpwd.com

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Conservation Conversation

News briefs and other conservation-related information

DEATH—Dr. James R. Supak, 74, died Nov. 14 at his home in Bryan TX. He attended Texas A&M University from 1962-1971 where he earned B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Plant and Soil Science, Soil Chemistry, and Soil Chemistry and Mineralogy, respectively. He joined the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAES) in Lubbock as an Extension Agronomist in 1972. Dr. Supak became the Extension Cotton Specialist for the High Plains region in 1974 and served in that capacity until he accepted the State Extension Cotton Specialist position in College Station in 1992. He retired in Jan. 2001.



SUPAK

Survivors include his wife, one son, three daughters, four sisters, and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife and his parents. The High Plains Water District sends its sincere condolences to the Supak family.

HIGH PLAINS AG CONFERENCE--The High Plains Ag Conference is set for Dec. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294 in Lubbock. The registration fee is \$35 per person prior to Dec. 10 and includes lunch. Registration after Dec. 10 is \$45 and there is no lunch guarantee. Speakers will cover a number of topics including cotton varieties, alternative crops, pigweed weed resistance, 2014 extension program updates, pesticide laws and regulations, chemigation, irrigation efficiency, and updates on HPWD regulations, and growing crops using aquaponic technology. The Texas Department of Agriculture has approved the following continuing education units (CEUs) for this conference: 1 hour laws, 1 hour integrated pest management, and 3 hours general information. Contact Robert Scott, Lubbock County Extension, at (806) 775-1680 for more information.

HONORS--Floyd County producer Eddie Teeter is one of the 2013 winners of the "Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture" from the Water Conservation Advisory Council. The award will be presented Dec. 4 during the 13th annual Texas Commodity Symposium, held in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show. Teeter has farmed in Floyd County for more than 45 years and has been a long-time participant in the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation's (TAWC) demonstration project. He has held numerous leadership positions and has supported water conservation outreach programs to educate producers on irrigation management. The Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture is awarded annually to recognize outstanding water conservation efforts and successes in the agriculture community. Congratulations Eddie!

SUPER SAVER—Niagara Conservation Corporation has generously donated a **Stealth® Ultra High Efficiency toilet** to the High Plains Water District to demonstrate the latest in conservation technology. The EPA WaterSense labeled toilet uses 0.8 of a gallon per flush and will be installed at the district's Lubbock office. District personnel will compare water use before and after the installation.

WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM—You'll want to attend the 2nd biennial Panhandle-South Plains Water Conservation Symposium set for Feb. 12, 2014 at the Amarillo Civic Center North Exhibit Hall. The theme for the symposium is "The Dollars and Sense of Water Conservation," and will feature local, state, and national speakers on the value of water conservation. Afternoon breakout sessions will feature presentations on xeric gardening and rainwater harvesting, surviving the drought in agriculture, and innovative water conservation technologies for cities, schools, utilities, and industry. More information is available at www.pgcd.us