



Panhandle Water News

JANUARY 2012

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PGCD Presents Inaugural Water Conservation Symposium

The Texas Water Foundation and Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District are proud to present the first Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium: The Dollars and Sense of Water Conservation to be held at the Amarillo Civic Center on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

The symposium has been made possible by a multitude of sponsors and will feature a distinguished list of speakers, including Kel Seliger, Texas State Senator; Four Price, Texas State Representative; Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist; Dr. Robert Mace, Deputy Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board; Carole Baker; Chair of the Alliance for Water Efficiency; and L'Oreal Stepney, Deputy Director Office of Water with the Texas Commission on Environmental Equality. As the Keynote Speaker, Jim Parks, Executive Director of the North Texas Municipal Water District, will cover the challenges of implementing a conservation program in an urban environment.

Breakout sessions in the afternoon will focus on residential, agricultural, and municipal conservation. Topics will include rainwater har-

Drip Irrigation Implementation South of White Deer



Patrick Warminski with Drip Irrigation Filtration

Photo courtesy of Allison Purviance

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) has awarded its first agricultural loan for drip irrigation.

Stephen Warminski and son Patrick have put drip irrigation into action as an alternative to row and center pivot irrigation methods. This system is currently supplied by 1 irrigation well and services 86 acres. The well pumps the water supply to the east where a filtration system is located. Once the water has passed through the filtration system, it is then routed through a flow meter, passes through drip tapes and is buried 12 to 14 inches deep, running laterally east to west, 60 inches apart. This configuration includes 4 zones for these 86

acres.

Patrick Warminski informed PGCD Field Technician Allison Purviance that they intend to plant cotton for the 2012 growing season. In addition, the Warminskis plan for further expansion of this drip irrigation project which will entail 11 zones and encompass 211 acres.

Drip irrigation saves water by eliminating surface water evaporation and is especially suited for arid, semi-arid, hot and windy areas with limited water supply. Both water and fertilizer can be applied directly to the roots of the crop allowing for maximum uptake. Drip irrigation systems typically cost \$500 to \$1,200 more per

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Winter Water Level Measurements in Progress

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Field Technicians are currently obtaining depth to water measurements, covering 6000 square miles within the District. Approximately 850 wells will be measured from December through February. Types of wells to be measured include windmills, irrigation, rig supply, domestic, and abandoned wells.

The depth to water information gathered from these measurements is used in creating saturated thickness maps, depletion maps, and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decline maps. The maps produced, based upon the collected water level data, are useful for local property owners to determine the amount of water under their property; this is vital in the operation of the depletion management program.

The maps created from these measurements help to demonstrate how the water table has changed over the last year. They also help to establish the depletion allowance for IRS purposes.

The primary goal is to provide accurate information to constituents of the District. If you have questions about this process, please call us at 806-883-2501.

Melanie Callahan Named TWDB Executive Administrator

BY TWDB, AUSTIN

At today's meeting of the Texas Water Development Board, the Board named Melanie Callahan as the Executive Administrator. Callahan has been serving as interim Executive Administrator since March 2011.

Callahan is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 28 years experience in public sector financial management, including accounting, budget and finance. Callahan joined the TWDB in September 2001. She began her tenure at the agency as the Director of the Fiscal Services Division and the Chief Accounting Officer, and was named Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in August 2007. In her role as the CFO, Callahan monitored a \$3.5 billion debt portfolio, a \$5.1 billion loan portfolio,

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) will be participating in the Ogallala Commons Community Internship program again this year. Ogallala Commons, a nonprofit community resource network, partners with small towns and civic institutions to provide motivated youth, college students, and adults internships to carry out projects that add value to their local communities and institutions. Interns gain skill development, paid work experience, and hometown career exploration opportunities.

Internships with PGCD can range from four weeks to ten weeks during the summer and are available to students ranging from high school sophomores to college and graduate

students. PGCD is particularly looking for applicants with an interest or experience in meteorology, hydrology/geology or public relations. In addition to specific projects and activities, interns in Ogallala Commons' program are exposed to ten experiences essential to living in the Great Plains: supporting local food production, stewarding natural resources, learning and sharing local history, youth engagement and entrepreneurship, community celebrations, public speaking, fostering a sense of place, and career path development.

For more information, please contact Joy Shadid at 806-883-2501 or by email at jms@pgcd.us.



Field Technician Drew Hodges Checks Winter Levels

Symposium Cont'd from Page 1

vesting and xeriscape gardening, limited irrigation farming practices, and planning cost-effective efficiency programs.

Tickets are \$35 each and lunch will be included. Register online at the Texas Water Foundation:

<http://www.texaswater.org>. For more information, please call the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District at 806-883-2501.

and a \$1.2 billion investment portfolio and formulated and managed a \$70 million annual operating budget.

"The Texas Water Development Board was presented with a number of challenges last year: budget reductions, the drought, and a constitutional amendment. As the interim EA, Melanie was steadfast in her leadership and did an excellent job managing the agency through these difficult challenges, making the Board's decision today an easy one. She is the right person for this job, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as the new Executive Administrator," Board chairman Edward G. Vaughan said.

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data,



Callahan
Photo courtesy TWDB

assisting with regional planning and preparing the State Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources. The TWDB administers cost-effective financial programs for

the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.

You're invited to the

Inaugural Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium: The Dollars and Sense of Water Conservation

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

8:30 A.M.—4:30 P.M. • AMARILLO CIVIC CENTER

With Speakers including:

Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, *Texas State Climatologist, Texas A&M University, College Station*
“What’s Next After the Worst One-Year Drought?”

Dr. Robert Mace, *Deputy Executive Administrator Water Science and Conservation Division, Texas Water Development Board, Austin*
“Panhandle Water or Panhandling for Water? How the Drought Has Impacted Our Water Supplies (And What We Can Do About It!)”

L’Oreal Stepney, *Deputy Director Office of Water, Texas Commission on Environmental Equality, Austin*
“Drought and Conservation Issues from TCEQ’s Perspective”

Texas State Senator Kel Seliger, *District 31*
“What Water Changes to Expect for the 83rd State Legislature”

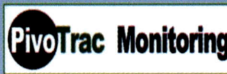
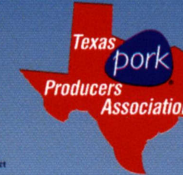
Texas State Representative Four Price, *District 87*
“Quenching Texas’ Thirst – House Interim Charges Before the 83rd Legislative Session”

Carole Baker, *Executive Director, Texas Water Foundation, Austin*
Chair of Alliance for Water Efficiency, Chicago
“Water Conservation Myths and the National Efficiency Overview”

Jim Parks, *Executive Director, North Texas Municipal Water District, Wylie*
“The Challenges to a Wholesale Provider when Implementing a Conservation Program in an Urban Environment”

Tickets are \$35 each, lunch included. Register at The Texas Water Foundation: <http://www.texaswater.org>.
For more information, call the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District at 806-883-2501.

Thank you to our sponsors!



Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Agriculture Breakout

Harold Grall, *Corn Producer, Moore County - North Plains Groundwater Conservation District*
“200-12 Demonstration Project: The Bottom Line is the Bottom Line”

Leon New, *Irrigation Specialist, Amarillo*
“The Critical Nature of Irrigation System Capacity and Efficiency”

Brent Bean, *Texas Agrilife Extension, Amarillo*
“Drought Tolerant Corn Hybrids and Limited Irrigation”

Charles Schlabs, *Producer, Deaf Smith County*
“Water Conservation in a Corn/Cotton Rotation”

Robert Meyer, *Corn Producer, Canyon and Jim Conkwright*, *General Manager, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, Lubbock*
“Tillage in a Water Conservation Program”

Public Breakout

Jim Crownover, *Conservation Consultant, Lubbock*
“Rainwater Harvesting in Texas”

Cecilia George, *Texas AgriLife Certified Master Gardener, Lubbock*
“Water Efficient Plants for the Texas Panhandle”

Barbara Payne, *President, Payne Communications, Houston*
“Learning From Our Past to Influence Our Future: Teaching Water Conservation through Texas History”

Joy Shadid, *Public Relations, Panhandle Groundwater District, White Deer*
“20 Minutes to a Lifetime—Creating Lifelong Water Warriors”

Municipal Breakout

Dan Crowley, *Director of Financial Planning, San Antonio Water System, San Antonio*
“Financially Making Conservation and Rate Structures Compatible”

Bill Christiansen, *Program Planner, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Chicago*
“Planning Cost-Effective Efficiency Programs with the AWE Water Conservation Tracking Tool”

Anai Padilla, *Water Conservation Manager, El Paso Water Utilities, El Paso*
“20 Years of Water Conservation in the Chihuahuan Desert”

Karen Guz, *Director of Conservation, San Antonio Water System, San Antonio*
“Measurement of Conservation Results; State Reports, GPCD and Other Options”



IRS Approves 2011 Decline Maps

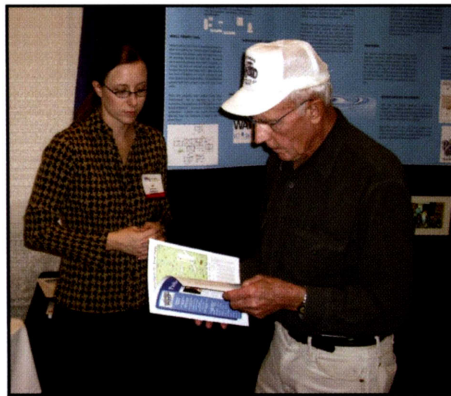
Using the winter water level measurements gathered from December to March, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Hydrologist Amy Crowell generates the District's annual Internal Revenue Service (IRS) decline maps which are published in our July newsletter.

Each December, the IRS sends an engineer to study the District's maps. IRS Engineer Lorinda Busby recently met with Crowell and District Consultant Gary Sutherland to inspect the 2011 maps used for income tax deduction purposes. The decline maps and cost in water figures were approved on December 13, 2011.

The 2011 decline letters have been mailed to qualified landowners participating in the program. If you have purchased irrigated farm land that already had irrigation equipment installed, you may qualify for a depletion deduction on groundwater. Contact your CPA or Amy at the District office at 806-883-2501 for additional information.

27th Annual Farm and Ranch show

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) staff attended the 27th annual Amarillo Farm and Ranch show in Amarillo, Texas, from November 29 to December 1, 2011. The show attracts an estimated 30,000 attendees from the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. PGCD operates a booth at the annual show to provide area farmers and ranchers with information about our programs that could be of assistance to them.



Hydrologist Amy Crowell Explains Decline Maps

Drip Cont'd from Page 1

acre; however, they operate at 90% high water use efficiency as opposed to 45% for overhead sprinklers and use roughly a third less fuel.



Filtration System
Photo courtesy of Allison Purviance

PGCD is very excited to follow the Warminskis' progress with their new system and will keep you updated on their successes. For more information on drip irrigation or to apply for an agricultural loan, please contact our office at 806-883-2501.

Tapping the Wasted Waters of the Canadian River Before CRMWA

CANYON, TEXAS—Prior to the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, three generations of conservationists worked to find ways to tap the wasted waters of the region's largest stream. On Saturday, January 21, 2012, at 10:00 am in the Hazlewood Lecture Hall at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Dr. Margaret Bickers will present *Conservation Before CRMWA: Dam Plans for the Canadian River, 1914-1945*, describing the people and events that led to the formation of CRMWA.

A.S. Stinett's efforts between 1918 and 1930 led to the first Canadian River Compact. His plan, first presented in 1919, was to tap the river for irrigation. After the 1924 floods that crippled Oklahoma, Stinett participated in the drafting of the original Canadian River Compact and following Texas' failure to ratify the compact, served as a non-voting observer of Commission

proceedings.

John McCarty led the second generation of conservationists through the Panhandle Water Conservation Association. Not as focused on the Canadian, McCarty and his associates in the 1930s and early 40s envisioned a Panhandle dotted with small recreational lakes, four of which were eventually built by the Works Progress Administration and the Soil Conservation Service. The arrival of WWII brought an end to these local conservation efforts.

The last pre-CRMWA generation looked to A. A. Meredith. As regional WPA director, he watched and followed the construction of Conchas Dam, a project funded in part by donations from Amarillo businesses and individuals. During the War he remained in touch with the Bureau of Reclamation, which had suggested building a canal from Conchas to the Panhandle for irrigation purposes. As Borger struggled

to find adequate water supplies and Amarillo overstretched its own sources, Meredith and others formed a network of interested conservationists. By 1947 connections and communication links led to meetings and the formation of a working group, culminating in the Canadian River Project Organizing Committee and the Canadian River Municipal Water Users Association. These groups led the efforts that culminated in the 1951 Congressional authorization of a Canadian River Project.

For additional information, contact Andrea Porter at 806-651-2235 or aporter@pphm.wtamu.edu.

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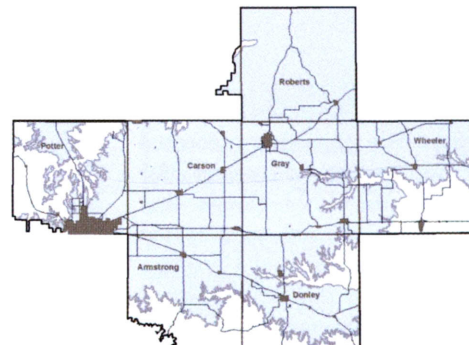
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TWDB Approves Loan to PGCD

On October 20th, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) approved a loan to Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) in the amount of \$1,000,000 to be used to provide loans to farmers within the District to purchase center pivot and drip irrigation systems. The District entered into the Agricultural Water Conservation Equipment Loan Program in April 1992 and has since received 18 loans. Through this program, PGCD borrows money from the TWDB and then lends it to producers at a low interest rate, which is currently set at 1.08% for an eight year term. Since entering the program, loans totaling \$7,298,367 have been disbursed to area farmers with zero defaults. For additional information on applying for a loan, please call our office at 806-883-2501.



**Would you like to
save money on
your taxes?**

**If you have purchased farm land
with irrigation equipment already
installed, we may be able to help.**

Contact your CPA or
Amy at the District
for more information.
Tel: 806-883-2501

