

DECEMBER 21, 2018

Site 6 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On September 27th, 2018, Plum Creek Conservation District (PCCD) Directors along with county and State officials celebrated the completion of Site 6's rehabilitation project with a "ribbon cutting" ceremony. The purpose of the project was to upgrade the dam to new standards required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) dam safety for "High Hazard" dams. State provisions require dams to be able to pass 75% of the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). The PMF is "the maximum runoff condition resulting from the most severe combination of hydrologic and meteorological conditions that are considered reasonably possible for the drainage basin under study."

When built in 1967, Site 6 was classified as a "low hazard" dam with a capability of passing 52% of the probable maximum flood (PMF). In 2002 Site 6 was reclassified from a "low hazard" to a "high hazard" dam and plans were initiated to rehabilitate the dam in order to be able to pass the Probable Maximum Flood.

"This project has been the largest single project to date undertaken by the District", according to Executive Manager Johnie Halliburton. The 7.8 million dollar project incorporated a new labyrinth weir design and the extension of the dam



southeastward. The old auxiliary spillway was removed, a new intake riser and impact basin were installed, and the realignment of Goforth road was completed. Funding for the project was provided for by a funding match where 65 % of the cost was allotted to the federal government, 33.25 % to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and 1.75% to the Plum Creek Conservation District.

Those present at the ceremony were Hays County Commissioners, PCCD Directors, PCCD staff, and representatives from The City of Kyle, Archer Western, TCEQ, Freese and Nichols Inc., Hays County, Site 6 Steering Committee, the Local Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, Kyle Chamber of Commerce, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Newly Issued Modeled Available Groundwater

Newly Issued
Modeled
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Every parent delights in inquisitive questions from their children. For example, where does milk come from? and how do cars run ? As they get older more difficult questions may arise, such as why is the sky blue, and where do babies come from? At some point, parents may get questions that require some serious googling, such as, if the earth were sucked into a blackhole what would happen?

As a district, we are tasked with asking difficult questions about our aquifers; more specifically, questions dealing with the availability of water. For example, How long can pumping be sustained until the aquifer is detrimentally impacted? In order to answer these questions, we turn to groundwater models to help explain the complex nature of groundwater.

Texas’ groundwater models were developed in order to try to give the best predictions as possible. With all groundwater models it is important to realize that there are assumptions that are factored into them. One assumption, for example, is recharge rates.

Texas law requires a Groundwater Management Area (GMA) to consider groundwater models when developing and adopting its Desired Future Conditions (DFC). In short, a DFC is what a GMA would like its aquifers to be like in 50 years. For example, having water level declines not to exceed 50 ft.

When considering a DFC, various pumping scenarios are run in the model to see what the various impacts would be. Pumping is a primary pertinent predictor of what the potentiometric point will be. In other words, will my well go dry due to a specified amount of pumping?

The results of the pumping scenarios are then evaluated in respect to a number of factors: socio economic conditions, personal property rights, the interaction between surface and groundwater, and aquifer conditions. Last, a DFC has to provide for a balance between the highest practicable water use and the preservation, conservation, and protection of the aquifer.

Once DFCs are adopted by each district of a GMA, the Texas Water Development Board will issue a Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG). A MAG is the amount of water that the Executive Administrator determines may be produce on an average annual basis to achieve a Desired Future Condition. MAGs are basically derived from the pumping numbers inputted geographically into the model. When considering permitting decisions, Districts are required to consider their MAGs. PCCD has several new MAGs for several of its aquifers as shown in the table below .

GMA	Aquifers	MAG (acre-ft/ per year)	TWDB MAG Report
10	Trinity Group	276	GAM Run 16-033 MAG:
10	Saline Edwards	812	GAM Run 16-033 MAG:
13	Carrizo-Wilcox	Year 2012 = 21,073	GAM Run 17-027 MAG
		Year 2070 = 19,625	
13	Carrizo	6057	GAM Run 17-027 MAG
13	Wilcox Group (Upper, Middle & Lower)	Year 2012 = 15,015	GAM Run 17-027 MAG
		Year 2070 = 13,567	
13	Queen City	22	GAM Run 17-027 MAG

Johnie Halliburton Retires

The District has been very fortunate to have had Johnie Halliburton as its executive manager from 2003 to 2018. During these 16 years he has led the district in a number of challenges. During 2013, 2015, and 2017 there was severe flooding that occurred in our District that required the repair of many of its dams. A total of 9 dams were repaired. In addition, under the direction of Johnie, the District has successfully rehabilitated Sites 5 and 6.

As a landowner and rancher himself, Johnie has always been able to relate to the public whether dealing with dam or groundwater concerns. In this aspect, Johnie has been invaluable to the District.

Much has changed when Johnie first started and when asked on his perspective on this he replied "I couldn't have ever imagined, when I first took this job, what changes have occurred". The district had just begun groundwater regulation and "This was all new to me". Johnie played a big role in establishing groundwater rules, management plans, and registering wells.

Johnie is planning to spend time in retirement with the simple life: ranching, family, and travel. The District thanks him for his service and wishes him well in retirement. He will be missed.



2018 Water Levels

The table below shows water levels for 8 wells that were measured during 2018, respectively, along with their corresponding lowest recorded water level. If you are interested in finding out the water level in your well and how it compares to other wells in the area, contact us to schedule a time to measure your well. A complete listing of PCCD water levels can be found on our website at www.pccd.org

Well	2018 Levels	Lowest Recorded Level
Kosarek	- 48.3	- 50.8
Larsen	- 20.2	- 22.8
Lipscomb	- 87.1	- 93.9
Lockhart #8	- 74.00	- 108.0
McCormick #2	- 65.20	- 71.00
McCormick #1	- 70.3	- 71.75
Collier	- 67.55	- 70.6
Wells	- 78.75	- 90.35

Water Conservation Tip

You just finished a festive holiday meal at grandmas and are on your way back home. The temperature outside has been dropping dramatically. When you arrive home and go to turn on the faucet you immediately realize something is terribly wrong. There is no water pressure! You investigate outside and find a pipe cracked and water is spraying all over the place.

There are a couple of measures that would have helped in preventing a situation like this. Now is a good time to check your piping system, taking precautions before these cold spells arrive. Following are seven preventative measures. A necessary first step would be to weatherize pipes, especially pipes exposed directly to the elements. Most hardware stores can recommend the type and size of insulation to purchase to meet your needs. Second, during sub-freezing temps, let your faucets drip. Third, open up kitchen and bathroom cupboards that are facing outside walls allowing heat to enter these areas. Fourth, install valves strategically so you can quickly stop any water leaks. Five, inspect your property for overly wet areas. Six, double check your meter periodically when the water is off to see if it continues to run. And seven, be observant of not only your own home, but also areas in your neighborhood. So if you notice a leak in your community, report it immediately to the appropriate water utility.

Director- James Lipscomb

After 40 years of commendable service, James Lipscomb will be stepping down from the Plum Creek Conservation (PCCD) Board. Of the six PCCD Directors, James Lipscomb represented the Lockhart—rural area. From 1979 -2018 James Lipscomb has served in the capacity of District Vice President. Having a background in the construction and excavation business, Mr. Lipscomb was instrumental in providing guidance for many of the District's construction projects. Also, over the many years, Mr. Lipscomb has taken the leadership role in the financial and investment aspects of the District.

The District and its staff appreciate and thank him for his service for all these years and wishes him well in his future endeavors.



Adopted Groundwater Rules

At November 18, 2018's Board meeting, Plum Creek District Directors approved the adoption of its amended groundwater rules. There were a number of changes to the rules. One of the primary changes involved Rule 14 and the requirements for permit renewals and the transferring of permitted wells. Another major change involved adding provisions for the permitting of brackish groundwater. Having an alternative water source, such as brackish groundwater, available for permitting is crucial for meeting the long term water demands of the District. Major portions of Rule 20 dealing with procedures for handling excessive aquifer declines and the compliance of Desired Future Conditions were also revised. The content of some rules, such as Rule 24, were reduced extensively due to the passage of House Bill 655 (84th Texas legislature). The new law now gives the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ), not Groundwater Conservation Districts, exclusive jurisdiction to permit and regulate Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells. An additional provision was, however, added to Rule 24 for circumstances where the withdrawal of water from an ASR well would exceed its TCEQ permitted amount. Last, all new and existing permit terms are now extended for a duration of 30 years. Every 5 years a permit will be reviewed. A copy of the District's amended rules are available at the District office, or can be downloaded from its website.

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The District's Groundwater Management Plan was approved by the Board on November 18, 2018. Management plans are a requirement by the state and need to be reapproved every 5 years. A Groundwater Management plan must be updated within 2 years, however, when a Desired Future Condition is adopted by a Groundwater Management Area (GMA). This was the case with this newly adopted plan.

At the heart of the District's management plan is its goals and objectives. There are a total of 8 categories of objectives that must be addressed. These goals and objectives include promoting conservation, handling drought, the prevention of waste, and the compliance of Desired Future Conditions. As part of the process of establishing these goals, groundwater availability and water supply demands along with water management strategies in the state water plan are taken into consideration.

Other important goals included in the plan are goals addressing alternative water resources. Both the saline Edwards and the Trinity aquifer are prolific aquifers in PCCD that have not been utilized. According to population projection forecasts, areas in our District will continue to experience considerable growth. Having an alternative water source, such as the Trinity and Saline Edwards, to supplement the increasing water demands is vital.

Management plans are then used as a guideline for the development and amendments of district rules. In addition, management plans are compared with other districts' management plans within their Groundwater Management Area for regional planning purposes.