

Second Quarter

2016



PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water

Newsletter

State News

The first half of 2016 has seen lots of rainfall in Texas. While there are still dry pockets around the state, where some lakes are still at less than 25% capacity, it has been a good recovery year for water unless flooding has been a concern in some areas. I always say, conservation is a two edged sword– while we may be conserving water during these wet periods, city and water systems as well as our GCD budgets are adversely affected. When you budget for “normal” use and it rains a lot, then budgets go out the window. But plan ahead; it will be dry again.

Senate and House committees and sub-committees continue their off year meetings and hearings, while gearing up for the next legislative session in Texas. While reviewing some of the committee agendas, I see where water issues– both surface and groundwater are receiving a lot of attention, so expect lots of focus on water this next session. I had very good meetings with Representatives Ashby and Clardy this spring, who both represent our District in the House of Representatives. I think all of us came away from the meetings with good information and some practical ideas. Our representatives take the issues of our district quite seriously and are doing a great job representing your interests in Austin.

It seems the weather predictors have a milder than normal summer temps on track for now. It remains to be seen, of course, whether mild summer temps continue, and if the predicted La Nina (dry period) develops as predicted for much of Texas. The last report I saw moved back the predicted start of La Nina from late spring to early fall. I guess that is why we talk about the weather so much, because even in today’s age of technology, it is still a moving target.

There are several water projects planned that we are following with interest across the state. Several public-private partnerships are being formed to develop water well fields for groundwater and pipe it several miles away from the source to meet demands in growing cities. I have also heard of some proposed pipeline projects for moving surface water from region to region.

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At a Glance:

Wells in PGCD Database 6/1/16

*11 exempt wells and 1 non-exempt well in progress

*Total Exempt wells in database– 941

*Total Non-exempt wells in database– 284

*Total Production fee based wells– 200

*Total District wells recorded– 2,500

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

In April of this year, the Boards of the four groundwater districts in GMA-11 adopted preliminary proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) for the counties in GMA-11. Then on April 28, 2016, the GMA-11 Board officially adopted those proposed DFC's recommended by their consultant who ran the predictive models for groundwater use.

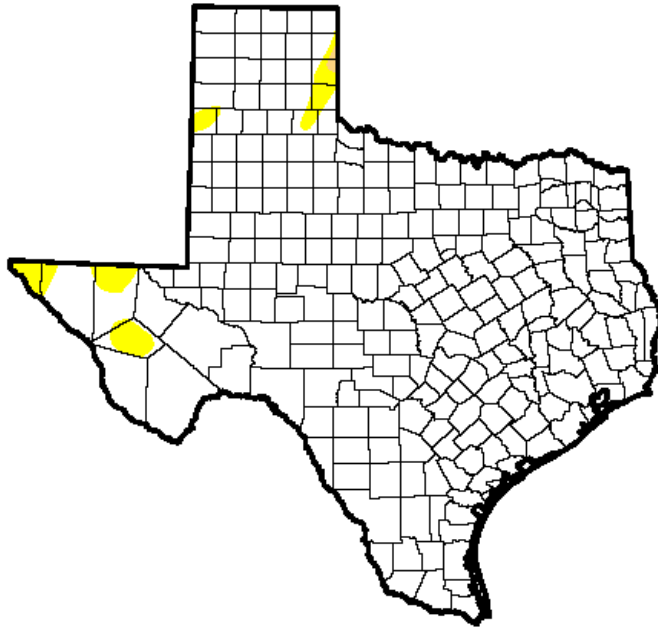
As of adoption of those DFC's on April 28th, the 90-day public comment period began for comments on the proposals. Each of the groundwater districts will also hold a public comment hearing for comments during the 90-day period. The Pineywoods GCD has set our public hearing for comments to coincide with its quarterly Board meeting to be held on July 13, 2016. All comments received will be reviewed by each Board and the GMA board. The GMA board will then meet on October 6, 2016, to review any comments and set the final DFC's. A copy of the resolution and the proposed DFC's in Technical Memorandum 16-02 Draft 2 is available for review on our website at www.pgcd.org. Comments can be mailed to the District, emailed to the District at staff@pgcd.org or presented at the July public hearing.

The District's rig supply water well plugging program is still progressing, and it continues to be a puzzle to solve for Cheryl as we continue to track down these wells that have been sold multiple times and changed ownership. I still encourage all property owners who are approached by these companies about accepting ownership of the water wells to contact the PGCD office to explore your rights and responsibilities before accepting these water wells.

The drilling of new water wells in the District has tapered off. This is typical during periods of lots of rainfall, but of course we always have new homes or existing wells to replace. I want to remind everyone— if your property containing a water well changes hands, we need to know so we can update our records. This is an ongoing problem for the District. Also, if you have a well that is metered— remember, you must report quarterly pumpage to the district to avoid fines. Even if you did not pump in a quarter, you must report 0. This information is important as we log total usage from the aquifers.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

May 17, 2016
(Released Thursday, May. 19, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	97.40	2.60	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 5/10/2016	90.05	9.95	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 2/19/2016	55.16	44.84	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	95.48	4.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	34.51	65.49	38.32	17.55	6.27	0.00
One Year Ago 5/19/2015	70.11	29.89	15.37	3.29	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Old Water?

Some interesting results from the study we cooperated with the USGS on were worth telling you about. We know that some rainfall will eventually make its way through the ground and eventually recharge our aquifers. But how long does it take? There are several schools of thought about that. Some think a few months— others a few years. Well according to the test conducted by the USGS, when they aged the water tested here recently— it all tested to being in place prior to 1950. And could possibly be older.

USGS Studies Groundwater in the District

In 2015 the United States Geological Service approached us and two other GCD's here about cooperating on a water quality study to determine the affect, in any, on the groundwater in the Haynesville Shale play by the exploration and production of oil and gas. The study was conducted in a 5 county area of East Texas overlying the Haynesville Shale play. Wells in Nacogdoches and northern Angelina Counties were included. Water was tested for a broad range of constituents including: major ions, nutrients, trace elements, VOC's, hydrocarbons and age dating techniques. The results basically found no elevated levels or effects of oil and gas production in the wells tested. Participation in this study is a part of the ongoing efforts of the PGCD to monitor groundwater quality in our district.



**PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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***Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches
Counties***

The Water Newsletter is published quarterly as needed by the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District to help the public and the professional stay current on state and local issues dealing with water conservation, rules and groundwater. The District Office is located in room 132 in Nacogdoches City Hall at 202 E. Pilar Street, Nacogdoches, TX.



Would you like to receive the newsletter in digital form? Let us know and send us your email address.

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Calendar of Events

2016

Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District, 1:30 PM

@ Kurth Lake Lodge

July 13, 2016

[Meeting dates subject to change, please check with the office for any changes. All meetings are posted in the courthouses of each county in the District, in the District office, and on our website.]

THE DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

2016

January 1 New Years Day

January 18 MLK Day

March 25 Good Friday

May 30 Memorial Day

July 4 Independence Day

September 5 Labor Day

November 11 Veteran’s Day

November 24-25 Thanksgiving

December 23 and 26 Christmas