

First Quarter

2016



PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties

The Water

# Newsletter

## State News

### Less Surface Reservoirs Means More Demand on Groundwater

Groundwater is increasingly being tapped as a source of potable water in Texas, as well as the rest of the United States. If you remember your Hydrological Cycle studies from Junior High, you know that we have the same amount of water now that we had hundreds of years ago. It's not like oil and gas, where we can find new reserves. It's limited. It may be in a different form or location, but it's the same amount of water. Knowing why groundwater is becoming more in demand is explained by a little history about reservoirs in Texas.

Reservoirs are important for providing water supplies, particularly in a state with such variable streamflow. More than half of the available surface water in the state is from reservoirs. Reservoirs are able to capture and store flood waters for use during times of drought when the rivers are low or dry. In fact, many of the state's major reservoirs were constructed principally for flood control, with water supply as a secondary benefit.

The history of construction of the state's major reservoirs illustrates that there was a flurry of activity in the 1960's and 1970's, but there has been a dramatic decrease in reservoir construction since that time.

In the 1984 state Water Plan, there were 44 reservoirs proposed to meet water supply needs. In the 2002 State Water Plan, there were 8 major and 10 minor reservoirs recommended. In the 2007 State Water Plan there were 14 major and 2 minor reservoirs recommended.

The slowdown in reservoir construction is due, in part, to the fact that there remain very few viable sites for new major reservoirs, permits are much more difficult to obtain primarily because of environmental concerns, and the cost of construction has gone up faster than the rate of inflation.

Add to that the fact that remediation lands are scarce and the fact that condemning properties and taking lands for reservoirs is very unpopular with citizens, makes it unlikely that the trend in not building reservoirs will not change.

#### **Inside this issue:**

State News	1
At a Glance	1
From the Desk of the General Manager	2
US Drought Monitor	3
Conservation is a Year Round Commitment	3
More on Surface Water	3

#### At a Glance:

Wells in PGCD Database 3/1/16

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

\*Total Exempt wells in database- 933

\*Total Non-exempt wells in database- 285

\*Total Production fee based wells- 200

\*Total District wells recorded- 2,481

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

---

Wow, was 2015 a strange year or what? We went from extremely wet to extremely dry and back again. What does 2016 hold for water users and providers? Well we will see. The scientific community seems to think we are headed back to an El Nina event this spring and we should have a dryer than normal summer. I seem to remember that the last time we had winds this early in the year before our typical March winds, was in 2011. We all remember 2011. Hopefully, that won't be the case this year.

The Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District was created as a Permit and Fee based funding district, rather than a tax based district. As thus, we are a small budget district, with a budget of about \$150,000.00 per year. Our fees and production charges have not changed in many years. As a result, with increasing costs due to inflation, we are faced with the inevitable task of raising fees. As many of you know, our Board of Directors raised our drilling registration and permit fees effective February 1st this year. Also, we are authorized by our legislation to charge two and one-half cents per 1,000 gallons from production wells. We have been at two cents for many years. The PGCD Board will consider amending the District's rules to charge two and one-half cents per 1,000 gallons at their April 13th board meeting. A 20-day public comment period will be held beginning March 24th. We are a bare bones budget and very frugal with your dollars, but we can't continue to do what needs done on our current funding.

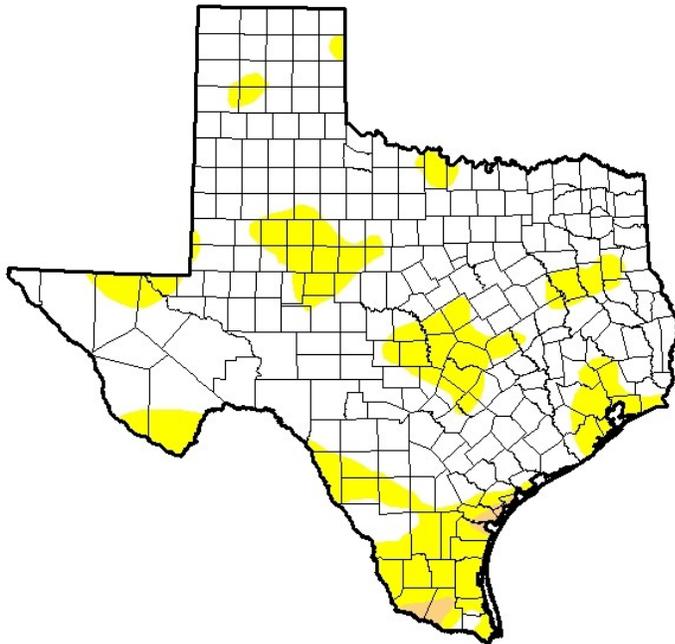
The Desired Future Conditions Process for GMA-11 and the four groundwater districts it encompasses is proceeding. This is the rate of drawdown of the aquifers that is set every five years to ensure our groundwater supplies last us for the next fifty years. GMA-11 will meet April 28th in Nacogdoches, Texas, to set preliminary drawdown rates for all or part of the 27 counties in the GMA. Then we will begin a 90-day public comment period to allow comments to be made concerning these numbers. After that, the PGCD Board will set the rates for our District and the GMA will set those rates for the counties that do not have a GCD.

The District's rig supply plugging program is proceeding nicely, with almost 200 old rig supply wells having been plugged so far.

The PGCD has a new Board member. John Derrick has been appointed by Angelina County to represent industry interests on our Board. John works for Lufkin Creosoting, who uses groundwater in their operation. John replaces Ty Thornton on the Board, and we welcome John to the PGCD Board.

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Texas**

**February 23, 2016**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	77.61	22.39	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>2/16/2016</i>	55.16	44.84	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>11/24/2015</i>	92.65	7.35	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12/29/2015</i>	95.48	4.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>9/29/2015</i>	34.51	65.49	38.32	17.55	6.27	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>2/24/2015</i>	38.35	61.65	43.39	27.86	14.34	4.46

*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:**

*Eric Luebehusen*  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

Conservation is a Year Round Commitment

As I tell the many elementary students in Nacogdoches and Angelina County every year, we can all save a little water every day. I go through a little exercise talking about the water we can save by not running water when we brush our teeth, not taking long showers, not using more bath water than necessary and many more saving ideas. It is easy to save about 100 gallons a day in a family of 5. Multiply that by 1,000 families or 10,000 families and it is a huge savings.

More on Surface Water

We mentioned earlier in this newsletter about reservoirs in Texas. There is more thing you should know. Texas as a whole was blessed in 2015. The whole state received much needed rainfall and, at one time last year, all of the state was out of drought conditions for the first time in a long time. But, we still have some 22 lakes in Texas that are not a full pool. Lake Ivie, south of Abilene is still only about 22% full. There are still water providers in the state that have less than a 90-day supply of water. Texas has its share of desert areas in the state, and water has and will continue to be an everyday concern in those areas. The takeaway from this is- all of us, everyone must make a commitment to save and conserve all the water we can. It has to become a part of our daily lives.



**PINEYWOODS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 635187  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75963-5187

Phone: (936) 568-9292  
Fax: (936) 568-9296  
Email: [pgcd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pgcd@sbcglobal.net)  
202 E. Pilar, Room 132

***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.

**Board of Directors**

*Keith Wright - President*

*David Alders - Vice President*

*Gloria Montes - Secretary*

*Keith Weathers— Director*

*Kelley Holcomb - Director*

*Jimmy Mize— Treasurer*

*John Derrick—Director*

*Jackie Risner - General Manager*

*Cheryl Benke—Administrative Assistant*

**Calendar of Events**

**2016**

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

@ Kurth Lake Lodge

April 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**