

PANHANDLE WATER NEWS

OCTOBER 2022

COMPTROLLER GLENN HEGAR VISITS AMARILLO



Texas Comptroller, Glenn Hegar, visited Tradewind Airport on September 20, 2022.

The Comptroller's visit was one of many as part of his Good for Texas Tour with a focus on maintaining and investing in Texas' water management infrastructure. The tour included visiting with Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District staff to talk about the various water management strategies they are implementing.

"The Ogallala Aquifer is a prime resource for the High Plains but unfortunately, it's not a resource that's recharging. The High Plains, much like the rest of the state of Texas is growing every single year in population; in order to meet the needs of everyone we have to make sure we have a sustainable water resource and are using every opportunity of enhancement," said Texas Comptroller, Glenn Hegar.

Left to Right: Texas Water Development Board Director, George Peyton, Texas Comptroller, Glenn Hegar and General Manager, Britney Britten

To see more information on the Good for Texas Tour, visit comptroller.texas.gov



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

POINTS OF INTEREST

Comptroller Hegar Visits Amarillo

RMS Grant Opportunity

Education Kicks Off

Precipitation Enhancement Update

"Conserving Water for Future Generations"

WATER WELL OWNERS EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) is a free, educational training for Texas residents who depend on household wells for their water needs. TWON is for private well owners who want to become familiar with groundwater resources, septic system maintenance, well maintenance, water quality and water treatment.



TWON is hosting one of two educational meetings on Tuesday, November 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Windmill Room at the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Office, 203 West Third in White Deer.

Well Owners may pick up sample containers with instructions at any of the following locations: Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Office, 203 W Third St. in White Deer; Potter County Extension Office, 2201 SE 10th Ave, Building 1 in Amarillo; Armstrong County Extension Office, 100 Trice Street in Claude; Carson County Extension Office, 501 Main St. in Panhandle or Donley County Extension Office, 4430 Highway 70 North in Clarendon. Well owners may bring their water samples the day prior to the event (Monday, November 14) to be screened for nitrate-nitrogen, total dissolved solids (TDS), arsenic and E. coli bacteria, to any location mentioned above and between the times of 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The cost per sample is \$15.00.

The second educational training will be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with sample drop off being on Tuesday, November 15 between the times of 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sample containers and instructions can be picked up prior (to Nov. 15th) at the Hemphill County UWCD Office, 211 N. 2nd Street in Canadian; Hemphill County AgriLife Extension office, 10965 Exhibition Center Rd. in Canadian; Roberts County AgriLife Extension Office, 112 Waters Street in Miami or Wheeler County AgriLife Extension Office, 7939 U.S. Highway 83 in Wheeler.

These are the two training options for everyone residing within the District. Please choose the one that is most convenient for you.

Please call Aspen Edgar with any questions at 806-883-2501, or email, aedgar@pgcd.us.

TWDB AWARDS GRANT FOR TELEMETRY SYSTEMS

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) has received grant funds from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to help local producers purchase telemetry systems for their center pivots.

TWDB will provide a 50/50 cost share with producers interested in participating in the program. Due to limited funds, producers will only be allowed one system per calendar year and the program will be run on a first come first serve basis. For more information, please reach out to Meter Specialist, Jake Robinson at 806-883-2501, or email at, jrobinson@pgcd.us

EDUCATION

PGCD KIDS KAMP



CARSON COUNTY PLAYA FESTIVAL

Education at PGCD has kicked off and is in full swing. We have a calendar full of programming and are excited to bring conservation awareness to students across the Panhandle.

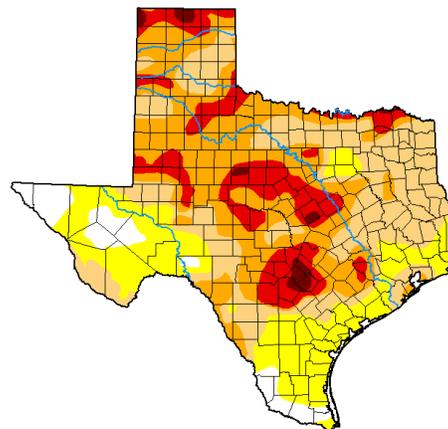
Our first annual Kids Kamp was a huge success. Students enjoyed hands on experiments including making water bombs, using the intake and outtake of candy in cups to help understand how much water we use on a daily basis, and making their own storm clouds. Students from Groom, Panhandle and White Deer participated in a Playa Festival on October 4th. The festival included presentations from Playa professionals along with visiting a Playa in Carson County.

PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

Each year from April-September, PGCD implements its rain enhancement program. Planes are directed by a trained meteorologist to a suitable cloud where cloud seeding methods take place. This program started in the year 2000 due to a growing concern over drought conditions across the Panhandle and the need for water. Last year, we saw drier than normal conditions for the second year in a row with Amarillo recording 15.03 inches of total liquid precipitation, the average being 19.66 inches. This has continued into this year with only 11.70 inches recorded as of September 15th, 3.87 inches below average. Along with the drought has come the relentless heat with July topping out at 5.1°F above average. May also saw highs well above average with +5.2°F. This heat only acts to exacerbate drought conditions as the rate of evaporation increases. For this summer, 20 days have topped 100 degrees.

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

October 11, 2022
(Released Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
None
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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next Board Meeting is set for Thursday, October 27th
- The Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show will be held from November 29th- December 1st

PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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TAX RATE UPDATE

During the August 18 Board Meeting, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's Board of Directors approved the 2022-2023 tax rate. As required, the District placed proper notices in newspapers and online. PGCD received no public comment regarding the tax rate.

Directors voted to adopt the tax rate of \$0.009361 per \$100 of taxable valuation. All funds will be used to fund the District's general operations.