



LOCAL GROUNDWATER NEWS

Welcome to the second edition of our Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District newsletter. We are excited to continue providing you with valuable insights and updates about our essential local groundwater. In this newsletter, you'll find the latest district events and happenings to keep you well-informed. Please feel free to share this newsletter with others in our community. Enjoy reading about our recent updates and initiatives.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY: Well owners in Blanco County are required by State Law to notify our District when there is a change in well ownership, condition, operation, status or nature of use (e.g., from domestic to commercial or large pumping volume). Read the "Rules" section of our website, or check with our office for precise definition.

"NOT NEW" BOARD DIRECTOR: A new - but not new - Board Director is back with us. At our April 25 Board meeting, James Sultemeier was appointed to fill our vacant Precinct 2 position. He is a local-local, and was one of our first Board of Directors back in 2002. He is a retired County Commissioner and has served in many capacities in Johnson City and Blanco County. Welcome home, James!



BPGCD BOARD RESOLVES CONTINUES OF LEVEL 4 DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS IN BLANCO COUNTY

At their monthly meeting on May 16, 2024, the board of Directors of the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District heard reports by consulting geologist Ron Fieseler and BPGCD General Manager George Cofran on the water level test results obtained from many of the County's 27 test wells.

A few wells tested since mid-April showed significant water level increases, but many more produced static results or decreases, even in the wake of the county's recent Spring rainstorms.

Blanco County drought restrictions have been at Level 4, the highest level of water-use curtailment, since August of 2023. Considering recent groundwater level measurements at the test wells, the Board of Directors voted to leave drought restrictions at Level 4.

WELL INSPECTION VOLUNTEERS ATTEND TRAINING DAY

BPGCD consulting geologist Ron Fieseler conducted a training day for well inspection volunteers on May 8. Volunteers attended classroom instruction in the

District offices, then went out to a local property, where 3 wells of different types provided a range of inspection testing examples.





WELL INSPECTION PROGRAM: We have launched the next phase of our field services program focused on inspecting wells. We prepared classroom materials and held a live training session with inspection of four wells. Ron Fieseler, PG, taught the course, including classroom presentations and field experiences. Volunteer Scott Courtney, PG, assisted in the development of our training materials. Scott and our inspectors are volunteers, as are those folks serving on our well monitoring team.

VOLUNTEERING: If any of this sparks an interest, please don't hesitate to contact George or Erik to explore your volunteer interests. Whether it is field work or in-office data work regarding our well records and processing of same, or computer work, or special projects and studies. Just give us a hint and we will help you explore options.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM PRESENTATION: Our Director, George Cofran, participated in the annual field day event on 4/30 held by Pedernales Soil & Water Conservation, and provided an update on "what's happening" with drought, groundwater, rules, and answered lots of questions.

OFFICE UPDATES:

We have acquired several "All-In-One" computers to support our growing staff.

We can now process your payment checks electronically right from our office using our new internet connected check reader device from our bank. Easy peasy.

ART DONATION: We have launched our "Deck the Walls" program to encourage donation of art with a water and conservation theme. We hope to grace our empty walls with interesting, informative and pretty art and photo works. Anyone know how the walls got so empty? We will glorify such donations with a description card that will include a title, donor name, etc. Loan arrangements are welcomed, as well. Contact George or Erik to coordinate. Thank you!

Speaking of donations, anyone want to get rid of an office desk or two (particularly light weight desks suitable for staff and project work? File cabinets? Late model computers. More? Contact us.

PUBLIC INTERACTON: We are happy to assist local groups by providing George or Erik to speak about water and conservation matters. Just reach out and we will work out the arrangements. No charge, but donations are welcomed.

REMINDER: If you didn't know, you can go on-line to our website and click a link into our Hydros database system and see the details about your well. Likewise, you can go to the State website link and see what is known about our wells.

LOTS MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE: Take a look and find lots of interesting things. Meet our Board (volunteers) and staff, web links, water-related definitions, many of our commonly used forms, always current drought stage, newsletter sign-up, newsletter archive, and more.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ALL THINGS GROUNDWATER: Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have unanswered questions. We are glad to help and have the door wide open. We are a "transparent" organization. And, please tell us what you would find helpful to include in our newsletter, website and our service offerings.

UPCOMING:

CYPRESS CREEK WATERSHED STUDY: We are co-sponsors and are field participants in a project to measure water levels and flow-rates in the Cypress Creek Watershed in the north-central part of Blanco County. Data results from this will be compared to previous studies in that area to determine gain or loss and other geo-oriented factors. Do you have your own waders and would like to help in the field?

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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