

HIGH PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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HPWD explains one-crop certification option

Certification being considered as part of HPWD rule revisions

Presentations at recent grower conferences and stories in the media have referenced a proposed “one crop rule” being discussed by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors.

“We want everyone to know that this is not a rule—but rather a proposed certification,” said HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo. “This is one of several options being considered by the Board of Directors as we look at possible revisions to HPWD Rule 5. It’s important that we have good locally-determined water conservation policies. It’s for this reason that the Board is actively seeking input from County Advisory Committees and residents within the district,” Tate said.

Possible revisions to Rule 5 include adoption of an 18-inch-per acre (1.5 acre-feet) annual production rate as well as several options to allow producers a choice in reporting groundwater use. This includes the proposed “One Crop Certification” and alternative methods such as meters, nozzle packages, and energy consumption.

The proposed certification would allow agricultural water users to certify their compliance with the allowable production rate by verifying the production of a single crop per irrigated acre.

Based on existing usage data, producers of a single irrigated crop traditionally apply no more water than the proposed 1.5 acre-feet per acre limit. Because of this, the proposed “One Crop Certification” may be a viable option for producers.

For those who practice double cropping, the rules would provide for alternate methods of reporting, such as nozzle packages and run times, utility bills, water meters, or other acceptable methods.

“Producers would voluntarily agree not to double crop under the proposed ‘One Crop Certification.’ They would plant and harvest only one crop per acre per year. Crop rotation will certainly be allowed as would cover crops for conservation purposes. We are working to develop the logistics of the certification process and will be visiting with commodity groups, area bankers, area industries, and other interest groups before any final decisions are made,” Tate said.

Confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) may be able to report their water use by animal inventory or head count.

He added that the Board is also reviewing the contiguous acres definition and water

banking provisions.

“Our County Advisory Committees will meet and work through the proposed rules. HPWD will have additional meetings to seek input from the public and other interested groups. We encourage everyone to contact their respective District Director or County Advisory Committee members to give them your input. It is our desire as a Board to take the necessary time and seek input from all parties to establish rules within the district,” Tate said.

Additional information is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District in Lubbock at [\(806\) 762-0181](tel:8067620181).

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JANUARY 20, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bessent named Legislative Affairs Director

LUBBOCK—Kody Bessent is the new legislative affairs director for the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, effective Jan. 27.

Bessent has served as Vice-President of Legislative Affairs and Producer Relations for the Texas Wheat Producers Association & Board in Amarillo since Aug. 2008. His legislative work included building and maintaining key relationships to ensure wheat producers have a strong, unified voice in industry and governmental activities.



He also served as a legislative assistant to U. S. Rep. Mac Thornberry in 2007. During this time, Bessent worked on issues relating to development of the 2008 Farm Bill and its impact upon the 13th Congressional District of Texas.

“The HPWD Board of Directors and management are excited to have Kody Bessent join the staff as legislative affairs director,” said Precinct Two District Director Brad Heffington of Littlefield.

“We believe he will have a very important role working with our constituents, our organization, and our legislators as we craft policy that will conserve groundwater while guarding/protecting our constituents’ private property rights,” Heffington said.

Bessent earned a master’s degree in agriculture in 2009 and a Bachelor of Science in agriculture education in 2007, both from West Texas A&M University.

His involvement in professional organizations and activities includes: Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program—Class XIII; Southwest Council of Agribusiness; Texas Agriculture Council (TAC) member; and member of the agriculture advisory council for U. S. Senator John Cornyn. He was named Outstanding Agriculture Education Senior in 2007 and West Texas A&M University Man of the Year in 2006.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Conservation Symposium set for Feb 12

Presentations to focus on dollars and Sense of water conservation

The 2nd Biennial Texas Panhandle-High Plains Water Conservation Symposium will be held Feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Amarillo Civic Center North Exhibit Hall, 401 S. Buchanan, in Amarillo.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, and the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District are working with the City of Amarillo to coordinate the symposium.

The public is encouraged to attend and hear local, state, and national speakers

discuss economic impacts of water conservation.

The morning session includes a wide range of presentations. These include funding opportunities following passage of Proposition 6, interim legislative charges for the next session, brackish groundwater use, and aquifer storage/recovery. Also scheduled is a statewide perspective of agricultural water conservation, and discussion of potential weather conditions in 2014..

Afternoon breakout sessions feature water conservation information in the agricultural, industrial and municipal sectors.

The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch. Online registration is available at www.texaswater.org.

Symposium sponsors include Sprouse Shrader Smith, Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, Parkhill Smith and Cooper, Inc., Clift Land Brokers, Intera, Texas Corn Producers, Panhandle Cotton Growers, Panhandle-Plains Land Bank, CDM Smith, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Water Foundation, Netafim, Freese and Nichols, Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, McCrometer and Bell Helicopter

Additional information is available online at www.texaswater.org or by calling the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District at 806-883-2501.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPWD Board meets with County Committees

Proposed rule revisions among items discussed at Feb. 3 meeting

Proposed revisions to the rules of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) were discussed during a Feb. 3 meeting of the district's County Advisory Committees in Lubbock.

More than 75 participants listened on as the five-member HPWD Board of Directors outlined proposed revisions to Rule 5, including an annual groundwater production rate (APR) of 18 inches of water (1.5 acre-feet per acre), several alternative methods of reporting groundwater use, and clarification of the definition of contiguous acres.

Each of the 16 counties within the HPWD service area has an active County Advisory Committee, which serves as a liaison between the district's Board of Directors and residents of their respective county.

"The input of County Advisory Committee members and the public is critical as the Board considers revisions to the district's rules. This is just one of many meetings being held throughout the district in early 2014 to gain input from all interested parties," said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

A question and answer session on the proposed rule revisions encompassed most of the meeting. Among items discussed were different cropping scenarios under the proposed one irrigated crop certification, water banking, protection of private property rights, and groundwater issues to be discussed during the 84th Texas Legislature.

Tate added that the County Advisory Committee members are the first group to review and offer comments on a proposed set of revised rules that the Board is working to complete by April 1. The district will conduct rulemaking hearings as required by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. The Board anticipates adopting rule revisions later this year to be effective Jan. 1, 2015.

"Nothing is set in stone at this time. The HPWD Board of Directors seek the advice, consent, and support of all stakeholders in the district as we work to develop a more flexible policy and set of rules that stakeholders can agree to. Once that is accomplished, we can then return to the business of water conservation," Tate said.

Several County Advisory Committee members agreed.

"I appreciate the district's Board of Directors working to achieve the best solution. The one crop certification lets a producer make their own choice—instead of building a bureaucracy to do it for you," said Kevin Riley of Springlake.

"We must be pro-active when it comes to water issues. It's important that we come together as a family to take care of business here in the Panhandle-South Plains region," said Chris Grotegut of Dawn.

County Advisory Committee members also received an update on past, present, and future district policy goals from Precinct Five District Director Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg. HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman provided an overview of current district work programs and activities.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Common sense water policy is HPWD goal

Board of Directors working to implement policy by Jan. 2015

The following is an OP-ED article by HPWD Precinct Five District Director Ronnie N. Hopper of Petersburg, who represents residents in a portion of Floyd County, and all of Hale and Swisher Counties.

The High Plains Water District Board of Directors and staff are working to develop common sense water policy for our district. Our goal is to develop policy by April 1, 2014 and to implement it by January 1, 2015.

Water and its use are complex and often controversial issues.

Water strikes at the core of our liberty. I believe that private property ownership has made this nation greater than many others, thereby revealing the great responsibility that lies on our shoulders. In the past, the groundwater has provided livelihood for tens of thousands of our residents, paid for the education of our children and helped build our cities.

For generations, West Texas landowners have struggled to purchase land. I sometimes think that water policy should be decided solely by my fellow landowners and me. After all, we are the only group immediately affected by water district policy. West Texas producers and landowners are generally an independent lot. It is easy for us to become self-absorbed and solely independent until we stop to realize that we, like others, need someone else.

Yes, we produce the commodity, but someone else processes it and sends it along the chain toward public consumption. Someone else educates our children and prepares them for their future. Someone else protects our homes and businesses from fire and theft. Think of the thousands of businesses, both large and small, that depend on each other for their livelihoods. The list is endless. I am amazed how little I do for myself each day and how much others do for me.

Our water decision, as I see it, is a debate between preservation versus conservation.

There are those who believe the groundwater stored under lands of our district should be set aside (preserved) for future use. They believe water will be of greater value to the future residents. For those who favor conservation, on the other hand, believe the groundwater should be used in a judicious and prudent manner (conserved) in present times.

Remember, land always moves to its highest and best use. When our area was first settled, it was ranch land for cattle. Later, the land was broken out and it became irrigated farmland, a higher and better use. Irrigated agriculture generates more dollars moving through the economy than does dryland production.

I explain the difference as \$400.00. In round numbers, I spend \$700.00 in production expenses for each irrigated acre that I farm and \$300.00 for each dryland acre. The \$400.00/acre is reduced revenue to our local communities, impacting local businesses. It is easy to see the reduction in revenue when our farmland moves from irrigated to dryland agriculture. Over time, irrigated

farmland will continue to move toward dryland production.

Still, agriculture has a great story to tell. More than ever before, crops such as corn, wheat, sorghum and cotton produce higher yields with greater efficiencies using less water. For example, the amount of water required to produce one pound of cotton forty years ago is now producing more than three pounds. This is only one of many examples: a great success! This trend will likely continue.

My fellow Directors at HPWD and I will not have the wisdom to develop sound water policy without the advice, consent and support of the stakeholders. We ask for this input and support as we move forward with our task.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rainwater harvesting workshops scheduled

HPWD promotes practice to maximize precipitation benefits

For many years, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) has shared the philosophy of former Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Superintendent R. E. Dixon of Spur: ***“Don’t pray for rain if you don’t take care of what you get!”***

With this in mind, HPWD is sponsoring a series of workshops in April and May to share concepts of rainwater harvesting with area residents. The cost of the workshop is \$20 and includes all presentation materials.

The workshops will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- * **April 10:** Mallet Event Center, 2320 Highway 385, Levelland.
- * **April 17:** Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S. Columbia, Plainview.
- * **April 24:** Bailey Co. Electric Co-op, 610 E. American Blvd., Muleshoe.
- * **May 1:** Randall Co. Extension Office, 200 N. Brown Rd., Canyon.

"We never know when the next rainfall event will occur. Therefore, it's important that we be ready to maximize the benefits of the free moisture provided by Mother Nature. Rainwater harvesting allows us to capture water that would normally be lost to runoff and use it later during dry times," said Adeline Fox, HPWD education and outreach coordinator.

The district's presentation includes an overview of basic rainwater harvesting techniques for both small and large scale applications. Installation of gutters, rainwater harvesting barrels, and rain chains for home and businesses will be discussed. In addition, information about water conservation in the landscape will be provided.

She said the same program and materials will be presented at each workshop. "This allows persons who can't attend their preferred workshop to receive the same information at another location," Fox said.

Persons are encouraged to register for the event at rsvp.hpwd.com or by calling the district office in Lubbock at (806) 762-0181. The first 20 persons to RSVP for each of the four workshops will receive a free rainwater harvesting barrel, courtesy of HPWD.

Additional information is available by contacting the HPWD office in Lubbock or visiting the district's web site at www.hpwd.com.

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New starting time for HPWD Board Meetings

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) is changing the starting time of its monthly Board of Directors meetings from morning to afternoon, beginning April 8.

A monthly work session to discuss agenda items begins at 2 p.m. It will be followed by the regular monthly Board of Directors meeting at 3 p.m. The Board meeting will end by 5 p.m. when the HPWD office closes for the day.

Monthly work session and board meeting agendas are available for online viewing at <http://www.hpwd.com/about-hpwd/agendas-and-official-notice>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irrigation assessment program reinstated

Voluntary program provides insight into groundwater use

After a four-year absence, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) is bringing back its irrigation assessment program for the 2014 growing season.

Under the program, producers volunteer to have their center pivot or drip irrigation system evaluated by HPWD staff. Several times during the growing season, water wells are metered with an ultrasonic flow meter to determine the

total gallon per minute flow at each pivot or drip irrigation site.

The total hours that water flows through each irrigation system is also monitored. The pumping hours and the gallon per minute flow data are then calculated to obtain the total gallons of water pumped during a typical 2,000 hour irrigation season.

“As drought continues on the Panhandle-South Plains region, it is important for producers to know exactly how much groundwater is pumped during an irrigation season,” said HPWD Manager Jason Coleman, P.E.

“Because of this, the HPWD Board of Directors and staff felt it was important to reinstate the irrigation assessment program to give producers insight into the amount of water being applied to their crops,” Coleman said.

As an extra service to the producers participating in the irrigation assessment program, district staff will take water quality samples at each site—including total dissolved solids and water pH.

Furthermore, water level measurements for each site are also taken at the beginning and end of the season.

“It’s important to understand water chemistry as it impacts the efficient use of supplemental nutrients applied to crops,” he said.

All information gathered by district staff will be entered into a database. At the end of the irrigation season, the total hours are obtained and a final pumping average is calculated from data obtained throughout the season.

Producers receive a report of all information gathered from their site, including irrigation amounts and pumping data.

“We encourage interested agricultural producers to participate in the program,” Coleman said. “It helps them understand how much water they use each year, and it also helps the Water District in future water planning efforts where accurate irrigation pumping information must be considered. The program is free and all participants remain anonymous,” he added.

Additional information is available by contacting Field Staff Supervisor Keith Whitworth at (806) 762-0181 or by e-mail at keith.whitworth@hpwd.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPWD supports research to determine best turfgrass varieties for semi-arid climates

For many years, people have wondered which turfgrass variety is best suited for semi-arid climates. A new research project by Texas Tech University, with funding from the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD), is designed to answer that question.

“Water quantity and quality are becoming increasingly important issues in the region. There has been a great deal of research focusing on agricultural water conservation—but not as much pertaining to urban water conservation. We

believe that improved water conservation efforts in the urban landscape will provide greater water resources to all,” said Dr. Joey Young of the Texas Tech University Plant and Soil Science Department (PSS).

Young and Dr. Glen Ritchie are co-principal investigators for the project.

At their April regular meeting, HPWD Board members approved \$6,000 in grant funding for the research project, which includes purchase of sod with freight and management equipment.

“The High Plains Water District not only has a vested interest in agricultural water conservation—but urban water conservation as well. This is important research for our area. HPWD is excited to assist with the research,” said Precinct One District Director James Powell of Lubbock.

Young said there are three primary objectives for the research:

1. Determine the precise amount of supplemental irrigation needed to sustain acceptable turfgrass quality in semi-arid climates.
2. Evaluate performance/survival of various turfgrass species under minimal supplemental irrigation.
3. Provide an educational site to guide homebuilders, realtors, organizations, and others in making turfgrass decisions.

The research plots, located at the 130-acre PSS Quaker Avenue Research Farm in Lubbock, will include both warm-season and cool-season turfgrass species.

Common bermudagrass, hybrid bermudagrass, Japanese lawngrass, Manilagrass, Buffalograss, Seashore paspalum, and Lady Bird Johnson native mix (Buffalo, Curly Mesquite, and Blue Grama) are the warm-season grasses to be tested.

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the cool-season grasses.

Young said a portion of the research test plots will receive water through subsurface drip irrigation buried to a depth of five inches. Other research plots will receive overhead sprinkler irrigation.

“The research will simulate homeowner turf management practices. This includes mowing heights of 1.25 and 3 inches as well as general fertilizer applications,” Young said.

Although the first data from the project may be a year away, Young said there will be a field demonstration day later this summer on July 21, 2014 at the Texas Tech Quaker Farm.

Additional information about the research project will be featured in future issues of the HPWD newsletter, *The Cross Section*.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPWD Board of Directors encourage public comment on proposed revisions to Rule 5

Board began drafting "reasonable, practical rules" in Nov. 2013

LUBBOCK (May 23, 2014)-- "Our Board is just one step away from being able to adopt a revised set of rules related to water use," says High Plains Water District (HPWD) Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

"Before we ratify these changes, we want the public to comment and weigh in on the proposed Rule 5. As always, our top priorities throughout this process have been to conserve water and to protect private property rights," he said.

HPWD has encouraged input to the rules writing process since the project began

in November of last year.

“We worked with commodity groups, individual crop and livestock growers, our District's County Advisory Committees, municipal users, city managers and others as we sought to understand every perspective on these rules,” Tate reports. “Now that we have the rules drafted, we'll seek final input from the community through the summer.”

In an effort to promote conservation of underground water resources without intruding on private property rights, the proposed Rule 5 accommodates a wide variety of approaches in crop and livestock production.

The Board believes the proposed Rule 5 will further the management goals for all the aquifers in the District. The Rule includes an Allowable Production Rate for wells, groundwater reserve provisions, and recording and reporting options.

A draft of the complete proposed Rule 5 document is available at www.hpwd.com/rules-and-management-plan/draft-proposed-hpwd-rule-5

According to Tate, the Board is also taking a look at the broader rules document, which includes definitions and provisions related to other aspects of the District's mission. HPWD rules were last amended November 12, 2013.

“As a board, we're eager to fulfill the mission of the water district and the vision of the 10-Year Amended Management Plan with rules that provide a reasonable and practical framework for water users. We're glad we've taken the time we have with Rule 5 and will be deliberate as we consider the other provisions in our Rules,” Tate concludes.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO HPWD RULE 5

- **Allowable Production Rate –**

- o Beginning January 1, 2015, the allowable production rate per contiguous acre will be 1.50 acre-feet (18”) per year.
- o A contiguous acre may be counted only 1 time.

- **Conservation Reserve –**

- o A well owner or operator may reserve all or a portion of their annual Allowable

Production Rate by adhering to prescribed application and reporting requirements. Beginning on January 1, 2015, eligible well owners or operators shall have an initial groundwater reserve of 0.50 acre feet (6") per acre.

• **Recording and Reporting by Owner or Operator –**

Options include but are not limited to:

- o Meters measuring aggregate production from well systems, individual wells, sprinklers or drip systems.
- o One Irrigated Crop planted and harvested in a calendar year. Conservation cover crops are allowed. Second crops are allowable in case of crop loss to weather.
- o Energy Consumption Records.
- o Nozzle Packages measuring flow rates and hours of use.
- o Alternative data gathering devices such as PivoTrac, AgSense or WagNet.
- o CAFO multiplier formula based on gallons per head per day.
- o Contiguous acres with production rates of less than .93 gallons per minute per acre will be deemed unable to exceed the Allowable Production Rate. Once verified by the District, they are exempt from reporting.
- o Other reporting methods may be considered through an application process.

• **Optional Meter Installation and Sealing**

- o If any owner or operator chooses to report through the use of meters, they will be responsible for the purchase, installation, operation, maintenance and repair of meters associated with a well or well system. Meter readings shall be recorded and groundwater production reported as required by District Rules.
- o District staff may inspect and seal meters.

• **Production Reports**

- o Meter readings or readings from alternative measuring methods must be recorded prior to January 15 of each year and be included in the District-approved production report submitted to the District no later than March 1 of each calendar year.

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Annual water level measurements indicate average decline of -1.32 feet in HPWD groundwater levels in 2013

Annual water level measurements indicate an average decline of -1.32 feet in the groundwater levels of the Ogallala Aquifer within the 16-county High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) service area in 2013.

This decline is 0.55 of a foot less than the -1.87 feet decline recorded in 2012 during extended drought conditions.

The 10-year average change (2004-2014) was -8.83 feet while the five-year

average change (2009-2014) was -6.85 feet.

“It is important to remember that these values represent the average change in water levels across the district’s 16-county service area. As always, we recommend that landowners review data from observation wells nearest their property for more representative data,” said HPWD Manager Jason Coleman, P.E.

Winter water level measurements are made from December to March each year. This allows time for water levels in the aquifer to stabilize following the previous year’s groundwater production.

Results of the HPWD water level measurements will be presented in a different format this year.

“In previous years, this information was included in a special issue of *The Cross Section*, the district’s monthly newsletter. HPWD is making the information available this year in a new 76-page magazine-style report. It features larger maps showing location of the observation wells in each county as well as 11 years of water level data for the respective wells, where applicable. We hope that the new format is beneficial to everyone,” Coleman said.

Persons on the newsletter mailing list will receive a copy of the 2014 water level measurement report by mail. It is also available for downloading at <http://www.hpwd.com/ag-and-urban-water-use/winter-water-level-measurements>.

Water level data is also available using an interactive map on the HPWD web site at <http://waterlevels.hpwd.com>

“This feature provides easy access to water level data for those using mobile devices as well as desktop applications. The newest feature added to this application is the calculation of saturated thickness at the water level observation sites—but is limited to those sites where the district has an accurate driller’s log,” Coleman said.

As always, the HPWD Board of Directors and staff thank the many landowners and operators who continue to support the water level observation network by providing access to their wells for depth-to-water level measurements each year.

“These measurements provide a wealth of important information which assists the district with its water conservation efforts. We greatly appreciate everyone’s

assistance,” he said.

Created in 1951 by local residents and the Texas Legislature, the High Plains Water District is charged with conserving, preserving, protecting and preventing waste of groundwater within its 16-county service area.

###



High Plains Underground Water

Conservation District No. 1

2930 Avenue Q

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPWD Board of Directors schedule hearings on revisions to Rules and Management Plan

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) seeks public input at hearings to be held in Levelland July 29 and Canyon Aug. 5.

The July 29 hearing is scheduled for 3-6 p.m. at the Mallet Event Center, 2320 U.S. Hwy 385, in Levelland. The Aug. 5 hearing is also 3-6 p.m. at the Kuhlman Center, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office, 200 N. Brown Road, in Canyon.

“All interested persons are encouraged to comment on proposed revisions to our District Rules and Management Plan,” said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo. “We’ve been working on this for several months and expect to adopt

the finalized documents at our regular monthly meeting in August.”

Highlights of the proposed rules are available at www.hpwd.com along with the full 31-page document that includes administrative detail not included in the summarized highlights.

The current HPWD management plan and proposed revisions are also available on this web page.

“We encourage anyone with questions or comments to be at these hearings or to submit comments in writing to rulecomments@hpwd.com if they are unable to attend,” Tate said.

Tate reminds everyone that all written comments must be received in the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX 79411 no later than 5 p.m. on Aug. 5.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board Adopts Rules and Management Plan

LUBBOCK (August 12, 2014) – At their regularly scheduled August board meeting, the Board of Directors of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) approved water conservation rules and a 10-year amended Management Plan outlining locally controlled goals and activities of the district.

“West Texans have always pulled together to find solutions when issues arise. We’re proud to see our city and rural constituents all working together to make the best use of water in our aquifers,” said HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

New rules were developed over an 18-month period during which water users were encouraged to offer input.

“We visited with several hundred individuals throughout the District. Our intent has always been to protect water rights while instituting realistic approaches to water conservation,” said Board Vice President James Powell of Lubbock.

“We have appreciated the time spent by people who were willing to attend our meetings or offer their opinions by email and phone calls. No doubt there will still be questions about some of the finer details moving forward,” Tate said.

He added that the HPWD Board of Directors will be holding county advisory committee meetings and visiting with interested individuals to answer questions. In addition, a question and answer page will soon be posted on the HPWD website.

Visit www.hpwd.com to see the complete rules document and the amended District Management Plan.

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXEMPT WELL REGISTRATION OFFERS SPACING PROTECTION

LUBBOCK TX (Sept. 30, 2014) -- Persons can now register their domestic water wells, or other exempt wells, with the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) to have the well protected by the district's water well spacing requirements.

"Exempt water wells are defined as those wells that produce 17.5 gallons per minute or less. HPWD Rule 4.2 allows persons to register both new and existing exempt wells," said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman.

Once registered, Coleman said the well is protected under district spacing requirements from the nearest valid well site or proposed well site. In addition, registered wells are protected by the district's requirements for minimum distance from the nearest property line.

"This can help prevent large capacity wells from being drilled too close to smaller domestic wells," Coleman said.

Persons can register their wells using a one-page form available online at the district's web site (www.hpwd.org/forms). An accompanying instruction sheet provides details on

how to submit the form to the HPWD office in Lubbock. Print forms are also available upon request.

“The latitude and longitude of the exempt well is important for proper registration. Persons can obtain this information for the form by using either Google Maps or a GPS device. Use of Google Maps is discussed in more detail on the instruction sheet,” Coleman said.

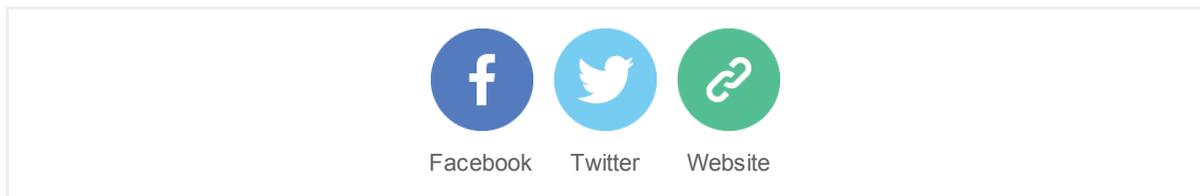
A \$100 application fee applies if a landowner supplies all necessary information on the district’s well registration form, including latitude and longitude.

A \$250 application fee applies if district personnel visit the site to obtain the latitude and longitude of the well.

Once the district receives the well registration form, the well owner will be notified regarding fee payment.

“Well registration for existing wells is completely voluntary. HPWD offers this service to landowners with exempt wells as a means to protect their well site from potential interference,” Coleman said.

Additional information about the exempt well registration process is available by contacting Permit Supervisor Juan Peña at (806) 762-0181.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOTERS ELECT SEALE, HOPPER AS DISTRICT DIRECTORS

LUBBOCK (November 4, 2014) -- Dan Seale of Lubbock was elected Precinct One District Director and Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg was elected Precinct Five District Director for the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD), according to unofficial returns from the Nov. 4 general election.

Unofficial results for the Precinct One Director race show Seale with 15,472 votes to 13,705 votes for incumbent James Powell of Lubbock. Powell is an agricultural consultant.

Seale, a retired HPWD employee, will serve a four-year term representing the portion of Crosby County above the Caprock Escarpment within the district, all of Lubbock County, and all of Lynn County.

Hopper, an agricultural producer, was elected Precinct Five District Director. He defeated agribusinessman Jess Sammann of Plainview, 2,697 to 2,157 votes.

Appointed in 2013 to fill an unexpired term, this is Hopper's first four-year term representing the portion of Floyd County above the escarpment within the district, all of Hale County, and all of Swisher County.

The Board of Directors will canvass the election returns and declare the official results on Nov. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, in Lubbock. The regular monthly board meeting was moved to Nov. 18 since the district office will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans' Day.

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DAN SEALE



RONNIE HOPPER



Facebook



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROSBYTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN H2YOU CONTEST

LUBBOCK (Nov. 24, 2014) -- A team of Crosbyton High School students are the winners of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District's (HPWD) H2YOU conservation campaign contest.

Dominique Flores, Desmond Garcia, Natalie Rodriguez, and Ciera Ware shared their agricultural water conservation proposal to the five-member HPWD Board of Directors during their Nov. 18 meeting.

Using the team name of "Catch-22," the group produced an agricultural water conservation proposal to provide creative and inventive solutions to help farmers and ranchers become more informed on water conservation methods and techniques. "A Catch-22 is defined as an unsolvable logic puzzle. Water conservation is indeed an unsolvable puzzle; water availability will always be a problem. However our ultimate goal for the water conservation puzzle is for it to be solved as much as it possibly can," the students wrote in their project overview.

Each student spoke on the merits of water conservation. "It (water) is our greatest resource—for without it, there is no life." "We must be stewards of this precious resource." "It is important to revitalize water-saving technologies, reinvent soil management, and redesign crop production." "Everyone is connected to agriculture...from the clothes you're wearing to the food you're eating. Therefore, everyone should be concerned about water conservation."

The students also presented a video they produced which showcases state of the art agricultural water conservation technologies, including Field Connect, SmartField, Precision Hawk, use of conservation tillage, and crop rotation.

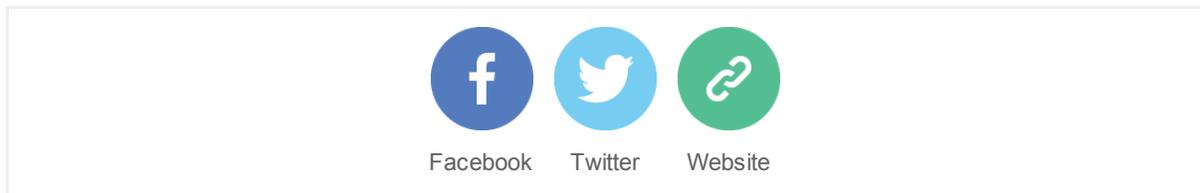
Following their presentation, HPWD Legislative Affairs Director Kody Bessent said the HPWD contest was open to all high school students within the district's 16-county service area. "This is an opportunity to foster new conservation concepts and allow the students to showcase their ideas," he said.

Each team member will receive a \$500 scholarship and will travel to Austin to give their presentation to local state legislators and the Texas Water Development Board.

"The HPWD Board of Directors commends these students and their instructor, Sharon West, for an outstanding presentation. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the students to this project," said HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HPWD PERSONNEL MAKING ANNUAL WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS

LUBBOCK (December 4, 2014) -- High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) personnel are now in the field making annual water level measurements to determine the effect of 2014 pumping on groundwater levels of the aquifers within the district's 16-county service area.

These measurements are made in a network of more than 1,400 privately-owned water wells. These observation wells are spaced at a density of about one well per nine square miles throughout the district.

After the measurement is made, a blue vinyl sticker with the observation well number, the depth-to-water level measurement, and the date of the measurement is affixed to the well equipment or other appropriate surface near the well site.

High Plains Water District personnel measure the same wells in the observation well network each year as long as the individual wells are accessible and continue to provide satisfactory data.

The current depth-to-water level measurements in individual wells are compared to those of previous years to determine the average annual change in water levels of the aquifers within the district.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive observation well

map on the district's web site as well as publication in an annual water level measurement report.

Additional information about the water level measurement program is available by contacting HPWD at (806) 762-0181 or by visiting the district's web site at **www.hpwd.org**.

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