



**Contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 11, 2016**

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**CROSBYTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN 2016 H2YOU CONTEST**

**LUBBOCK (January 11, 2016)** -- For the second year in a row, students from Crosbyton High School are winners of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District's H2YOU conservation awareness contest.

Team members Sean Gonzales, Tyriec Mooring, Noah Rubalcado, and Hunter Silva presented their urban water conservation campaign to a panel of judges at the HPWD office. Sharon West and Ben Stokes of Crosbyton Independent School District are the students' teacher and sponsor.

Judges were Vikram Baliga, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent for Horticulture-Lubbock County; Mary Jane Buerkle, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.; Stephanie Pruitt, Communications Director, Texas Corn Producers; and Aubrey Spear, P.E., Director of Utilities for the City of Lubbock.

Using the theme of "Waste Not...Want Not," the group produced an urban water conservation proposal to help area residents be more informed about the ways they can reduce water use in their daily lives.

"Water conservation has been a touchy subject when it comes to Texas. Everyone knows we need water—but some do not want to make the changes necessary to protect our water for the future. If we, as a society, cannot learn to change and conserve water, we will be destined for consequences—such as

harsh water restriction laws-and soon, no water at all," the students wrote in their proposal.

The team concluded their presentation by saying "...we have provided 11 simple ways to help in the everyday struggle that is water conservation. Follow the Proverb: Waste Not...Want Not."

One aspect of their campaign was to help youth teach other youth about water conservation. This was accomplished by producing a video, featuring Crosbyton Elementary School students, which highlighted the 11 simple tips.

The Crosbyton High School students earned an all-expense paid trip to Austin, where they will present their urban water conservation campaign to their state representative and/or the Texas Water Development Board in late January. They will also give their presentation to the five-member HPWD Board of Directors at their February 9<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Cash prizes were awarded to members of each of the top three teams.

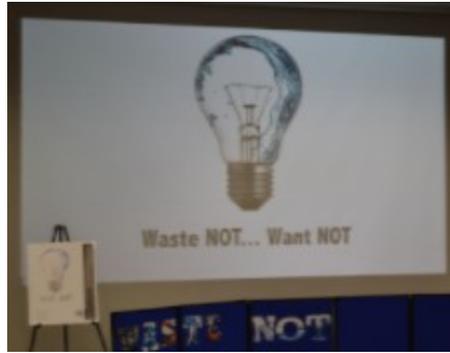
Second place honors went to Emma Rich, Lillian Scheffel, Payton Tolbert, and Victoria Wright of Sudan High School. Third place winners were McKenna Bush, Hannah Hawkins, and Bailey Hugnagle of Canyon High School.

"Our Board of Directors and staff commend the student teams from Crosbyton, Sudan, and Canyon for their hard work, insight, and dedication in addressing water conservation issues," said HPWD Education and Outreach Coordinator Adeline Fox.

Created in 1951 by local residents and the State Legislature, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 is charged with the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting, and preventing waste of groundwater within its 16-county service area. It is the first groundwater conservation district created in Texas and will mark its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.



Congratulations to (L-R) Noah Rubalcado, Tyriec Moore, Sean Gonzales, and Hunter Silva of Crosbyton High School, who are winners of the High Plains Water District's 2016 H2YOU conservation awareness contest. (Photo courtesy Crosbyton ISD).



"Waste Not...Want Not" was the theme of Crosbyton High School's winning entry in the 2016 High Plains Water District's H2YOU conservation contest.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2016**

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**WATER CONSERVATION FOCUS OF MARCH 22 WATTS CONFERENCE**

**LUBBOCK (MARCH 4, 2016)** -- Success stories in water conservation, water reuse, water treatment, and new innovative technologies will be showcased at the March 22 WATTS Conference to be held from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

WATTS stands for Water Advancement, Technology, Training, and Solutions. The conference will share success stories from companies and communities who are working to conserve the region's limited groundwater and surface water supplies.

A concurrent trade show begins at 12:30 p.m. and remarks from Senator Charles Perry of Lubbock follow at 1:30 p.m.

Afternoon sessions will feature presentations on water reuse, water treatment, and new water conservation technology used in agriculture and the oil industry.

There will be a dinner at 4:30 p.m. for conference attendees that pre-registered online.

Evening sessions include kids' activities, discussion of water wise plant materials, the basics of rainwater harvesting, and an overview of water conservation education.

The conference agenda and registration information is available at [www.h2oblueideas.com](http://www.h2oblueideas.com)

Conference sponsors (*as of March 4*) include Ag Texas Farm Credit Services; City Bank; City of Lubbock; Daniel B. Stephens and Associates; Netafim Irrigation; Plains Cotton Growers Inc.; Texas Alliance for Water Conservation; Texas Cattle Feeders Association; Texas Corn Producers; and Watermaster Irrigation Supply, Inc.

Conference hosts include the City of Lubbock; Garza County Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD); Hemphill County UWCD; High Plains UWCD; Llano Estacado UWCD; Mesa UWCD; Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District (GCD); North Plains GCD; Panhandle GCD; Permian Basin UWCD; Sandy Land UWCD; and South Plains UWCD.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 11, 2016**

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**BOARD APPROVES COST-SHARE FUNDING FOR CITY OF LUBBOCK  
BRACKISH GROUNDWATER EVALUATION PROJECT**

**LUBBOCK (MARCH 11, 2016)** -- At their March 8 regular meeting, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors unanimously approved a request by the City of Lubbock for cost-share funding to assist with a brackish groundwater evaluation project.

The Dockum Aquifer lies beneath the Ogallala Formation in the Panhandle-South Plains region. Groundwater in the Dockum Aquifer is generally brackish. However, some communities are able to use it for drinking water purposes after blending it with water stored in the Ogallala Aquifer.

In 2015, the HPWD Board of Directors approved a study to gain a better understanding of this deep aquifer. Since then, District staff have devoted a great deal of time on the study, including geophysical logging of Dockum wells, establishment of a Dockum water level observation well network, use of pressure transducers to monitor depth-to-water levels in selected Dockum wells, and providing cost-share assistance to communities wanting to drill test wells into the Dockum Aquifer.

Aubrey Spear, director of the City of Lubbock Water Utilities, told the HPWD Board that there are four components to the brackish groundwater evaluation project.

- Evaluation of the hydrogeology of the study area.
- Construct a test well located on the City of Lubbock's South Water Treatment plant property on FM 1585 between Highway 87 and Slaton. The test well would be completed at an approximate depth of 1,500 feet into the Santa Rosa portion of the Dockum Aquifer. After drilling and casing of the test well, groundwater samples will be collected from the on-site detention basins and sent to a laboratory for water quality analysis.

- Evaluate the field data collected to determine the feasibility of using the brackish groundwater as a potable water supply after appropriate treatment.
- Prepare a report of the findings.

"The City of Lubbock was interested in obtaining cost-share funding to assist with this brackish groundwater project. This planned project is expected to cost approximately \$300,000. A capital improvement budget of \$200,000 was approved by the Lubbock City Council. We would not be able to complete the planned scope of work without the \$100,000 in cost-share funding from the High Plains Water District," Spear said.

During the past few years--and especially with the recent drought, there has been a great deal of interest in use of the Dockum Aquifer as an alternative water supply.

"The HPWD Board of Directors believes it is the district's obligation to assist communities in their efforts to learn more about the Dockum Aquifer. Together, we will obtain valuable data and learn more about this water resource," said HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

Last year, the HPWD Board of Directors approved a similar project by the City of Abernathy to drill a test well into the Dockum Aquifer. The well was recently completed and water quality tests are underway to determine the salinity of the groundwater in that area.



**Contact:**

David Cooper, Event Chairman  
Wolfforth City Councilman  
806-866-2133

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 25, 2016**

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**"GREEN MAGICIAN" TO PERFORM AT APRIL 23 WATER EXPO**

**WOLFFORTH (MARCH 24, 2016)** -- Las Vegas performer Kevin Barnes brings his "Green Earth Magic Show" to the South Plains Water Expo on April 23 at Frenship High School in Wolfforth. The expo hours are from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**“Save Water: Every Way...Every Day”** is the theme for this year’s free event.

The “Green Earth Magic Show” encourages kids to care for the world around them. Barnes shares ideas ranging from the simplest to the grandest—teaching those that even the smallest effort can make a world of difference. He has performed at all the major Las Vegas hotels and has had special performances for Jewel, the late Luciano Pavarotti, and Tiger Woods.

Expo speakers will provide a wide range of information about future weather conditions, state water legislation, rainwater harvesting, and xeric landscaping. Exhibitors and vendors will also share material with attendees.

Other activities planned for this year’s Expo include:

- A water “taste test.”
- A kids’ area, featuring a treasure hunt with activities, projects, and prizes.
- Voting for the coloring contest grand prize winner.
- A “selfie station” with Walter Drop—the South Plains Water Expo mascot.
- Local food trucks selling their wares.

“This is the third year for the Water Expo, which continues to educate the public about water in the region and its declining availability. With this knowledge, people have a better understanding of how they can stop water waste and reduce their overall water footprint,” said Wolfforth City Councilman David Cooper, who chairs the event.

Primary event sponsors are the City of Wolfforth’s Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Other sponsors include American Bank of Commerce and City Bank. Additional assistance is provided by High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, Lubbock for Kids, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Information about the South Plains Water Expo is available by contacting Cooper at (806) 866-2133 or by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/southplainswaterexpo/>.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 25, 2016**

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**HIGH PLAINS WATER DISTRICT ACCEPTING RFPs FOR RESEARCH**

**LUBBOCK, TX (MARCH 25, 2016)** -- The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) is accepting requests for proposals for funding of water conservation research, demonstration, and educational efforts in fiscal year 2017.

"The HPWD Board of Directors encourages persons working in these respective areas to submit proposals for funding no later than May 2. This will allow consideration of the projects for the following budget cycle that begins October 1," said General Manager Jason Coleman.

Coleman said the highest priority will be given to proposals relating to the Dockum Aquifer, rainwater harvesting, agricultural water conservation, and groundwater reuse.

HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo will appoint the 2017 Research and Demonstration Committee in May. The committee consists of the General Manager, two HPWD Board Members, two HPWD County Advisory Committee members, and two members-at-large. This group will make funding recommendations to the five-member HPWD Board of Directors.

The committee approved the following for funding during fiscal year 2016:

- An economic analysis to determine feasibility of groundwater supplementation from the Dockum Aquifer.
- A depth and salinity study of the Dockum Aquifer.
- An economic analysis of residential irrigation habits and landscape design.
- Purchase and demonstration of a soil moisture meter.
- Enhanced irrigation research.
- An evaluation of precision mobile drip irrigation systems.
- Playa basin educational workshops.

Additional information is available by clicking on the 2017 Research Proposal Request Criteria link at [www.hpwd.org/grants/](http://www.hpwd.org/grants/) or by calling the district office at (806) 762-0181. Email delivery of proposals is preferred and should be sent to [jason.coleman@hpwd.org](mailto:jason.coleman@hpwd.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2016**

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## **HPWD HOSTS RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOPS IN APRIL**

**LUBBOCK (MARCH 28, 2016)** -- We all know “April showers bring May flowers.” However, rainfall from April showers can be used to irrigate flowers later in the year with proper use of rainwater harvesting techniques.

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) is hosting a series of workshops in April to share rainwater harvesting information with area residents. The cost of each workshop is \$20 at the door. In addition, the first 25 persons to RSVP will receive a free rainwater harvesting barrel—courtesy of HPWD.

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

- April 7: Mallet Events Center, 2320 U.S. Highway 385, Levelland
- April 14: Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S. Columbia, Plainview.
- April 28: Cole Community Center, 300 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Canyon.

“Each workshop features a panel of local experts who will share their experience with design, installation, and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems. We look forward to sharing this ‘hands-on’ information with workshop participants,” said Adeline Fox, HPWD Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Persons are encouraged to register for the workshops at [rsvp.hpwd.org](http://rsvp.hpwd.org) or by calling the district office in Lubbock at (806) 762-0181.

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**JOIN HPWD**  
for a series of rainwater harvesting workshops.

Visit [rsvp.hpwd.org](http://rsvp.hpwd.org) or call 806.762.0181 to reserve your spot today!

The first **25** to register for each workshop will receive a **FREE** rain barrel!

Each workshop features a panel of local experts.

**\$20 fee at the door**

<b>LEVELLAND</b>	<b>PLAINVIEW</b>	<b>CANYON</b>
<b>APRIL 7</b>	<b>APRIL 14</b>	<b>APRIL 28</b>
Mallet Events Center	Ollie Liner Center	Cole Community Center
6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm

Contact [adeline.fox@hpwd.org](mailto:adeline.fox@hpwd.org) for further questions.





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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 22, 2016**

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**HPWD PROPOSES DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS FOR RELEVANT AQUIFERS**

**LUBBOCK (April 22, 2016)** -- After meeting with groundwater conservation district representatives in Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) 1 & 2, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District has completed the process of proposing desired future conditions (DFCs) for relevant aquifers within its 16-county service area.

At their April 12 regular meeting, the HPWD Board of Directors approved a proposed desired future condition based upon average drawdown of water levels in the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) and Dockum Aquifers.

A proposed DFC of average drawdown ranging from 23 to 27 feet in the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers for the next 50 years was discussed and accepted in GMA 2.

In addition, a proposed DFC of 27 feet average drawdown in the Dockum Aquifer for the next 50 years in GMA 2 was approved. Both DFCs are based upon the results of simulations using the High Plains Aquifer System groundwater availability model.

The majority of HPWD lies within GMA 2, while portions of HPWD in Armstrong, Potter, and Randall Counties are in GMA 1. The GMA boundaries were established by the TWDB.

"Our constituents are familiar with the average annual drawdown presented in the results of our annual water level measurements," said HPWD Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo. "We shared the proposed DFCs with the district's County Advisory Committee members at our April 12 meeting. In addition, our technical consultant explained the results of different model scenarios," Tate said.

A 90-day public comment period now begins, and will include a public hearing in each groundwater conservation district within the management areas. The date for the HPWD public hearing is yet to be determined. The DFC process is specified in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

A draft explanatory report of the proposed DFCs is available for review at the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue

Q, in Lubbock. It is also available on the HPWD website at [www.hpwd.org/proposeddfcs](http://www.hpwd.org/proposeddfcs). “We encourage interested persons to use this reference document to learn more about the factors that were considered during the joint planning process,” Tate added.

The process of adopting a DFC was established by the Texas legislature in 2005, and requires groundwater conservation districts to establish DFCs for relevant aquifers at least once every five years. This is only the second time that groundwater conservation districts have established DFCs.

Comments regarding the proposed DFC should be mailed to HPWD, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79411-2499 or emailed to [comments@hpwd.org](mailto:comments@hpwd.org) no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2016.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2016**

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**WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS INDICATE AVERAGE INCREASE OF  
+ 0.37 OF A FOOT IN GROUNDWATER LEVELS WITHIN HPWD IN 2015-2016**

**LUBBOCK TX (April 29, 2016)** --Annual water level measurements indicate an average increase of + 0.37 of a foot in the groundwater levels of the Ogallala Aquifer within the 16-county High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) service area from 2015 to 2016.

Above-average rainfall, which fell in a timely manner, helped increase groundwater levels during 2015-2016. This compares to the average change of – 0.56 of a foot recorded in 2014-2015.

The 10-year district average change (2006-2016) is – 9.29 feet while the five-year district average change (2011-2016) is -5.94 feet.

Water level measurements are made from December to March each year in 1,400 privately-owned water wells completed into the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer.

In addition, the district made water level measurements in 24 wells as part of the newly-established Dockum Aquifer observation well network.

“We encourage area residents to visit the interactive web map at [map.hpwd.org](http://map.hpwd.org) to view charts of water levels as well as the saturated thickness for each of the observation wells in our network. The online tools provided on the district’s website can help people understand the variability in saturated thickness and groundwater levels within the district’s 16-county service area,” said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman.

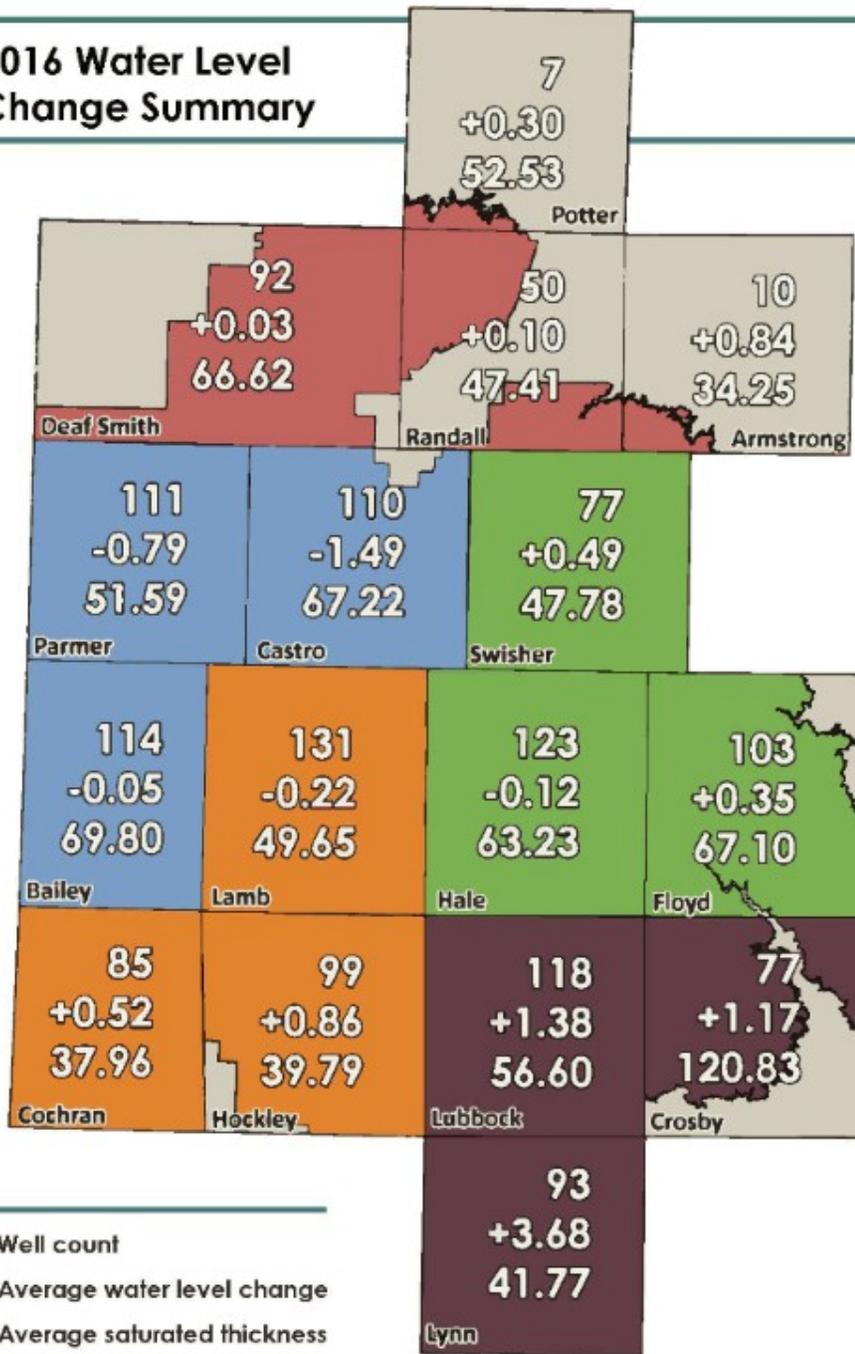
Results of the 2016 HPWD water level measurements are also presented in a 80 page report available for online viewing/downloading at [www.hpwd.org/reports/](http://www.hpwd.org/reports/)

A limited number of printed copies are available by contacting the HPWD office at (806) 762-0181.

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## 2016 Water Level Change Summary



1. Well count
2. Average water level change
3. Average saturated thickness



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 31, 2016**

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**HPWD SETS TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ABOUT PROPOSED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS FOR AQUIFERS**

**LUBBOCK (May 31, 2016)** -- In compliance with Chapter 36.108 of the Texas Water Code, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD) Board of Directors will receive public comment on proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for area aquifers recently adopted by Groundwater Management Areas 1 & 2.

The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

**Hearing # 1:**

**2:30 p.m., June 14, 2016, Plains Land Bank Office, 5625 Fulton Drive, Amarillo TX.**

**Hearing # 2:**

**1:30 p.m., July 12, 2016, HPWD Office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX.**

The proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the area aquifers and other related supporting materials are available for public viewing at the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX or online at [www.hpwd.org/proposeddfcs](http://www.hpwd.org/proposeddfcs). Questions should be directed to Manager Jason Coleman at (806) 762-0181.

Written comments regarding the proposed Desired Future Conditions must be received in the District office no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2016. They can be mailed to the HPWD office, delivered during regular business hours, or emailed to [comments@hpwd.org](mailto:comments@hpwd.org)

Groundwater Management Area 1 (GMA 1) includes the following water conservation districts: Hemphill County UWCD, HPWD, North Plains GCD, and Panhandle GCD.

Groundwater Management Area 2 (GMA 2) includes the following water conservation districts: Garza County UWCD, HPWD, Llano Estacado UWCD, Mesa UWCD, Permian Basin UWCD, Sandy Land UWCD, and South Plains UWCD.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 17, 2016**

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## **BOARD APPROVES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH/DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

LUBBOCK (June 17, 2016) – The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors approved \$152,472 in funding requests for water-related research and demonstration projects at their June 14 meeting.

Research concerning groundwater quality and quantity in the Dockum Aquifer topped the list of requests presented to the HPWD Board of Directors.

An eight member committee, consisting of the HPWD general manager, two Board Members, three County Advisory Committee members, and two public members-at-large, evaluated the 10 proposals. Of these, seven were recommended for funding.

The approved projects are:

- Brackish Groundwater Quality Monitoring in the Dockum Aquifer.
- Bushland Elementary School Native/Xeric Landscape Demonstration Garden.
- Evaluation of the Depth and Water Quality of the Dockum Aquifer in Southwestern Potter County.

- Inclusion of Alternate Crops into Cropping Systems to Extend the Life of Limited Ground Water.
- Plant-based Polymers as Effective Treatment Agents in Removal of Dissolved Solids and Other Materials from the Dockum Aquifer.
- Small and Medium Scale Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices for Maximum Economic Value.
- Soil Endoscope for Subsurface Irrigation Uniformity Testing.

In other business, the district's Board of Directors approved applications for water well permits received in May 2016; heard a progress report from Dr. Susan O'Shaughnessy with the USDA-ARS about HPWD funded research relating to Precise Mobile Drip Irrigation (PMDI) in corn production; and approved employee health care provider rates for 2016-2017.

The next HPWD Board meeting is set for July 12 in Lubbock. Agendas and meeting minutes are available online at [www.hpwd.org/agendas](http://www.hpwd.org/agendas)

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**Contact:** HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman, 806-762-0181, [jason.coleman@hpwd.org](mailto:jason.coleman@hpwd.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2, 2016**

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## **VICTORIA MESSER NEW HPWD GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**

**LUBBOCK** (*September 2, 2016*) – Victoria Messer is the new Governmental Affairs Director for the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD), effective August 23.

“Victoria is a great addition to our organization. Her expertise with public policy and the Texas Legislature are very impressive, which will be of great benefit to the district and its constituents,” said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

A native of Hereford, Messer attended Canyon High School and is a recent graduate of the Texas Tech University School of Law, where she received her Juris Doctorate (J.D) degree with a Law & Science Concentration in Energy Law. She was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to serve a one-year term as Student Regent for the Texas Tech University System for 2015-2016.

Messer also worked as a legislative aide to Rep. Drew Darby of San Angelo during the 83rd and 84th Texas Legislature. She served as policy advisor for multiple areas including higher education, rural healthcare, energy, and natural resources.

Prior to that, Messer was a congressional intern for Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

“I am so thrilled to begin this new journey with the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District. I look forward to being a member of the team and utilizing my policy experience, legal education, and passion for my home area to foster an effective voice for the High Plains,” Messer said.

Some of her honors and awards include: Appointed Student Representative, Texas Tech Presidential Search Committee; TTU School of Law Top Austin Regional Extern; Capital Crowd’s “House Intern Most Likely to Run the Texas Legislature in Ten Years;” and Texas Tech President’s Select Outstanding Senior.

She and her fiancé, Jeffry Whitehead, will be married in October. She is the daughter of Roy Dale and MaryBeth Messer of Canyon.

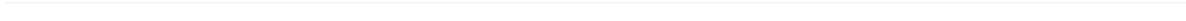
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**Victoria Rose Messer**  
**HPWD Governmental Affairs Director**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2016**

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## **KATHERINE DRURY NEW EDUCATION & OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

**LUBBOCK** (*September 7, 2016*) – Katherine (Rowe) Drury is the new Education and Outreach Coordinator for the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, effective Sept. 1.

Her duties include classroom presentations to students, presentations to civic clubs and professional organizations, and assisting with public education about water and water conservation.

“We are pleased to have Katherine join the HPWD information/education staff,” said General Manager Jason Coleman. “Her writing skills, expertise in video production, and knowledge as a Master Gardener will be very helpful in the water district’s continuing efforts to educate the public about water and water conservation.”

A native of Tyler, she graduated from Texas Tech University, where she received her B.A. in News Editorial Journalism.

Prior to joining the HPWD staff, she worked five years for Ramar Communications as reporter/producer for the Ag Day Lubbock and Good Day Lubbock programs airing on FOX34 KJTV. She also hosted, produced, and edited “Kat’s Kitchen,” a local cooking segment that aired on Good Day Lubbock two days a week.

In addition, she is a certified Texas Master Gardener and a member of the Lubbock Master Gardeners Association. She also enjoys cooking, gardening and serving her community.

Katherine and her husband, Aaron, were married in August.

“I am thrilled to be part of the HPWD team. I look forward to helping cultivate a culture of water conservation within the district’s 16-county service area,” Drury said.

Created in 1951 by local residents and the Texas Legislature, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) is charged with the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting, and preventing waste of groundwater in aquifers within its 16-county service area. HPWD is the first underground water conservation district in Texas. It celebrates its 65th anniversary in September 2016.

Visit [www.hpwd.org](http://www.hpwd.org) for more information. You can also find HPWD on Facebook and Twitter.



**Katherine Drury**  
**Education and Outreach Coordinator**  
High Plains Underground Water Conservation District  
Lubbock TX



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 13, 2016**

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## **HPWD ADOPTS LOWEST TAX RATE IN 20 YEARS**

**LUBBOCK, TX (September 13, 2016)** -- During their Sept. 13 meeting, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors approved a resolution reducing the 2016 ad valorem tax rate to \$.0075 per \$100 valuation for operation and maintenance of the district.

Persons with \$100,000 in property value will pay \$7.50 in taxes to HPWD under the approved rate, compared to \$8.03 in 2015. Overall, the lower tax rate will decrease tax revenue by about six percent as compared to 2015.

"I am pleased to announce that the HPWD Board of Directors have adopted the lowest ad

valorem tax rate in the past 20 years,” said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo. “Beginning three years ago, the Board set a priority to achieve balanced annual budgets. We have worked diligently with HPWD management to get to this point which allows us to reduce the 2016 tax rate,” he said.

HPWD Board Vice-President Brad Heffington of Littlefield agreed.

“Our five-member Board appreciates the efforts of Manager Jason Coleman and the district staff in streamlining services and cutting expenses of the district. We are pleased that we are able to reduce the 2016 tax rate for operation of the district, while at the same time, improving services for constituents in our 16-county service area,” Heffington said.

In other business, the HPWD Board adopted an order canceling the Nov. 8, 2016 general election in District Director Precincts Three and Four; took action to amend the approved 2016 budget; engaged Halff Associates for consulting services to upgrade the district's SQL database; and heard a presentation concerning HPWD supported Dockum Aquifer research from Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri, P.E., director of the Texas Tech University Water Resources Center.

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## Historic HPWD Tax Rate 1996-2016

1996	0.0084
1997	0.0084
1998	0.00835
1999	0.0084
2000	0.0084
2001	0.0083
2002	0.0084
2003	0.0083
2004	0.0083
2005	0.0083
2006	0.0083
2007	0.00794
2008	0.00794
2009	0.00794
2010	0.00785
2011	0.00776
2012	0.00754
2013	0.0081
2014	0.008026
2015	0.008026
2016	0.0075



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 29, 2016**

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## HPWD NOW ACCEPTING H2YOU CONTEST ENTRIES

**LUBBOCK TX** (*September 29, 2016*) – Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to participate in the third annual H2YOU contest sponsored by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD).

Deadline for entries is December 5, 2016. Participating students must attend school or reside within the 16-county HPWD service area.

“The H2YOU Contest encourages students to share innovative ideas about water conservation. Each four-member team will design a detailed conservation campaign that proposes at least two new ways to reduce water use by either agriculture, municipalities, or local residents. The students have the option of selecting the water user group for the campaign,” said Katherine Drury, HPWD Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Each campaign centers around a conservation catch phrase and must include elements of writing, graphic design, and photography.

The top three entries will present their proposal to a panel of judges at the HPWD office in Lubbock. Winners will be selected based upon the judges’ recommendations.

First place team winners each receive a \$250 cash prize and an all-expense paid trip to Austin in early 2017. They will present their water conservation project to their local State Representative and/or representatives of various water-related agencies, including the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The students will also be recognized during the 85th Texas Legislature which convenes in January 2017.

Second place team winners each receive a \$200 cash prize and third place team members each receive a \$150 cash prize.

Teams representing Crosbyton High School were named the H2YOU conservation campaign winners in the 2014 and 2015 competition.

The H2YOU contest rules and entry form are available at [www.hpwd.org/contest](http://www.hpwd.org/contest).

Additional information is available by contacting Katherine Drury at (806) 762-0181 or by email at [katherine.drury@hpwd.org](mailto:katherine.drury@hpwd.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 26, 2016**

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## **NEW DFCs SET FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA # 2**

**LUBBOCK TX** (October 26, 2016) – Representatives of seven groundwater conservation districts unanimously adopted new Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for relevant aquifers in Groundwater Management Area # 2 (GMA # 2) at an October 19 meeting at Brownfield.

A total average drawdown of approximately 23 to 27 feet for the period 2012-2070 was adopted for the Ogallala and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers within the GMA. In addition, a total average drawdown of 27 feet was adopted for the Dockum Aquifer for the same 58-year time period.

This provides for a single DFC for all of GMA # 2. It replaces the total average drawdown and “50/50” DFCs adopted in 2010.

“Planning ahead is essential for success in managing groundwater in the Panhandle South Plains area. The GMA # 2 representatives are doing their best to bring common sense solutions to these real world challenges,” said Voting Delegate Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg.

Both DFCs were based upon examination/evaluation of 16 scenarios by a groundwater consultant using the High Plains Aquifer System (HPAS) groundwater availability model.

Each district in GMA # 2 conducted hearings to receive public comments about the proposed DFCs prior to adoption. Only one oral comment and one written comment were received.

“Adoption of these new Desired Future Conditions will have no major impacts upon groundwater users in the region,” said Jason Coleman, GMA # 2 Administrative Officer. “The DFCs are for planning purposes only. None of the groundwater conservation district rules have changed as a result of adopting the new DFCs,” he said.

The process of adopting a DFC was established by the Texas Legislature in 2005, and requires groundwater conservation districts to establish DFCs for relevant aquifers at least once every

five years. This is only the second time that groundwater conservation districts have established DFCs.

GMA # 2 includes the following counties: Andrews, Bailey, Borden, Briscoe, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Gaines, Garza, Floyd, Hale, Hockley, Howard, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Parmer, Swisher, Terry, and Yoakum.

The groundwater conservation districts in GMA # 2 are the Garza County Underground Water Conservation District, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District, Mesa Underground Water Conservation District, Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District, Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, and South Plains Underground Water Conservation District.

More information about GMA # 2 is available at [www.gma2.org](http://www.gma2.org).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 11, 2016**

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## **DEADLINE NEARS FOR H2YOU CONTEST ENTRIES**

**LUBBOCK TX** (November 11, 2016) – Students in grades 9-12 are reminded of the upcoming December 5 deadline for entries in the third annual H2YOU contest sponsored by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD).

Participating students must attend school or reside within the 16-county HPWD service area.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 19, 2016**

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## **ANNUAL WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS IN PROGRESS**

**LUBBOCK TX** (*December 19, 2016*) – High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) personnel are now making water level measurements to determine the effect of 2016 pumping on groundwater levels in the aquifers within the district's 16-county service area.

Measurements are made annually 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.

In recent years, the district has established a network of observation wells in the Dockum Aquifer within its service area.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive observation well map on the district's web site ([map.hpwd.org](http://map.hpwd.org)) as well as publication in an annual water level measurement report.

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Field Technician Mark Hamilton uses an e-line to make a water level measurement in a HPWD observation well. District personnel will visit well sites from December 2016 to March 2017 to obtain depth-to-water level data.

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