



News Release

Contact: KEITH WHITWORTH, HPWD, (806) 762-0181, keith.whitworth@hpwd.org

Writer: MR. CARMON McCAIN, HPWD, (806) 762-0181, info@hpwd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 17, 2018

ANNUAL WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS BEGIN JANUARY 2

LUBBOCK TX -- (December 17, 2018) -- Beginning Jan. 2, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) personnel will start water level measurements to determine the effect of 2018 pumping on groundwater levels in aquifers within the district.

These annual measurements are made in a network of more than 1,350 privately-owned wells. These observation wells are spaced at a density of approximately one well per nine square miles throughout the 16-county HPWD service area.

“We want the public to be aware that our staff will be visiting observation well sites from early January until completion of this work effort. They will be driving white pickup trucks that are clearly identified as High Plains Water District vehicles,” said General Manager Jason Coleman.

These water level data are made available to the public through an interactive map on the HPWD website (map.hpwd.org).

Persons may access annual observation well data, annual supplemental well data, and daily water level data in select wells using this feature.

“Since its debut in 2013, the interactive map has grown in popularity each year. Most persons utilize this feature to obtain depth-to-water and saturated thickness information,” Coleman said.

An introduction to the interactive map and discussion of each of its features are included in tutorial videos posted to the HPWD YouTube channel.

Those without computer access are encouraged to contact Jed Leibbrandt at the HPWD office to request a printed report of annual water level measurement data for a county or counties of interest. He may be reached at (806) 762-0181.

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News Release

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Writer: MR. CARMON McCAIN, HPWD, (806) 762-0181, info@hpwd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 21, 2018

NOV. 6 ELECTION RETURNS CANVASSED; RESULTS DECLARED OFFICIAL

LUBBOCK TX -- (November 21, 2018) -- Official returns from the Nov. 6 general election show Dan Seale of Lubbock was re-elected Precinct One District Director of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (HPWD).

Official returns, canvassed at a special Nov. 20 Board meeting, show Seale with 39,261 votes to 18,089 votes for Paul Bjerk of Lubbock. Bjerk is an associate professor of history at Texas Tech University.

Seale, a retired HPWD employee, will serve a second 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.

The official returns are available for viewing at www.hpwd.org/elections

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 6, 2018

DAN SEALE RE-ELECTED HPWD PRECINCT ONE DIRECTOR

LUBBOCK, TX (November 6, 2018) – Dan Seale of Lubbock was re-elected Precinct One District Director for the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD), according to unofficial returns from the Nov. 6 general election.

Unofficial results show Seale with 39,209 votes to 18,058 votes for Paul Bjerck of Lubbock. Bjerck is an associate professor of history at Texas Tech University. Seale, a retired HPWD employee, will serve a second 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.

The Board of Directors will canvass the election returns and declare the results official during a special meeting on Nov. 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, in Lubbock.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 29, 2018

ALL RCPP COST-SHARE FUNDING CLAIMED

Approximately \$899,988 in cost share funding was obligated to agricultural producers in the Panhandle-South Plains region through the USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The voluntary three-year program concluded at the end of Fiscal Year 2018 (Sept. 30).

RCPP addressed irrigation water and soil moisture management on a regional basis. There were 149 contracts awarded on 52,938 acres.

Initial high priority funding items included irrigation system monitoring equipment, soil moisture sensors, chemigation check valves, and flow meters. The program later expanded to include medium priority items, such as irrigation pipelines, center pivots, and subsurface drip irrigation.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) served as the lead agency for the program. Supporting partners included Hemphill County UWCD in Canadian, Llano Estacado UWCD at Seminole, Mesa UWCD at Lamesa, North Plains GCD at Dumas, Sandy Land UWCD at Plains, and South Plains UWCD at Brownfield.

"We want to thank the RCPP participants for their efforts to improve irrigation application efficiencies through use of irrigation and soil moisture monitoring equipment," said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman. "This can help achieve additional water and energy savings for our region."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2018

HPWD SCHEDULES TWO DOMESTIC WATER WELL WORKSHOPS

LUBBOCK TX (October 12, 2018) -- Domestic water well owners near Lubbock and Bushland can attend a free educational workshop to learn more about their groundwater resources, well maintenance issues, and outdoor water conservation practices. High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) is sponsoring the two workshops in November.

The first workshop is set for Nov. 1 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Laura Bush Middle School Cafeteria, 3425 118th, in Lubbock. A second workshop is set for Nov. 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Bushland Middle School Cafeteria, 20101 25th, in Bushland.

“HPWD has a wide range of information available to domestic water well owners. For example, staff will demonstrate the district’s interactive web map feature, which allows persons to estimate groundwater levels anywhere within our 16-county service area,” said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman. Other workshop presentations will focus on proper well maintenance and best outdoor water conservation practices.

“Domestic water well owners are encouraged to attend and ask questions about availability of groundwater beneath their property and the best ways to conserve it,” said Coleman.

Additional information about the Nov. 1 and Nov. 8 workshops is available by contacting the HPWD office at (806) 762-0181. Visit our website at www.hpwd.org

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Writer: MR. CARMON McCAIN, HPWD, (806) 762-0181, info@hpwd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

HPWD NOW ACCEPTING WATER DEPLETION DATA REQUESTS

LUBBOCK TX (September 21, 2018) -- HPWD is now accepting requests for data to claim a cost-in-water income tax depletion allowance.

This yearly program uses annual water level measurements to determine changes in the water table throughout the District.

The information is then made available to land owners for use in preparation of their taxes to determine if a loss of water under their property may constitute a tax break.

Please follow the steps below to participate in the program:

Visit www.hpwd.org and browse to the "Water Use" heading. Select the "Water Depletion" link to find the Initial Request and Reorder Forms.

To complete the form, you need to provide your contact information, legal description of your property, and the year of the land purchase. This information is used to determine the level of the water table ("saturated thickness") when the property was purchased.

There is no limit to the number of properties that can be requested as long as they are within the boundaries of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District.

If you normally have a tax professional prepare your return, you may also ask them to contact HPWD for your Water Depletion values.

If you would prefer a paper form, please call 806-762-0181 or stop by the HPWD office.

Once completed, the forms may be returned to us by the following methods:

- Email: Jed@hpwd.org
- Fax: 806-762-1834
- In Person or by Mail: HPWD, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79411-1499.

Please call (806) 762-0181 or email Jed@hpwd.org if you have questions or need more information.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

HPWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT 2018 TAX RATE

LUBBOCK TX (*September 12, 2018*) -- During their Sept. 11 meeting, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors approved a resolution setting the 2018 ad valorem tax rate at \$.0.0067 per \$100 valuation for operation and maintenance of the district.

The adopted 2018 tax rate is 1.1 percent less than the effective tax rate. This slight reduction provides a similar amount of tax revenue as last year.

Persons with \$100,000 in property value will pay \$6.70 in annual taxes to HPWD under the approved rate, as compared to \$6.90 in 2017. The HPWD 2019 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

"The HPWD Board of Directors have lowered the tax rate each year since 2014. It is our priority to have balanced annual budgets. This allows us to reduce the tax rate for operation of the district, while at the same time, improve services for constituents in our 16-county service area," said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

In other business, the Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda; approved application for water well permits received in August 2018; amended the adopted 2018 budget for the end of fiscal year; approved an order relating to the Nov. 6, 2018 election in HPWD District Director Precinct One; received certification of unopposed candidates and canceled the Nov. 6, 2018 election in HPWD District Director Precincts Two and Five; conducted annual review and adoption of the District's investment policy; and received an update on HPWD supported research from Dr. Dana Porter with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension at Lubbock.

No executive session was convened.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

NOV. 6 HPWD PRECINCT ONE ELECTION CONTINUES AS SCHEDULED; BOARD CANCELS ELECTION IN PRECINCTS TWO AND FIVE

LUBBOCK TX (September 12, 2018) -- Residents in Precinct One of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) will go to the polls Nov. 6, 2018, to elect a Board member to represent them in groundwater matters for the next four years.

Paul Bjerck and Dan Seale, both of Lubbock, are candidates for Precinct One District Director. Seale, the incumbent, was elected to the Board in Nov. 2014. Precinct One consists of the portion of Crosby County above the Caprock Escarpment within the district, Lubbock County, and Lynn County.

Early voting for the Precinct One General Election will be conducted Oct. 22 - Nov. 2, 2018. A list of Early Voting / Election Day polling dates, times, and locations is available at www.hpwd.org/election2018

In accordance with Section 2.051 of the Texas Election Code, the HPWD Board of Directors canceled the general election in District Directors' Precinct Two and Precinct Five since these were uncontested races. Both unopposed candidates were declared duly elected to their offices at the Sept. 11, 2018 HPWD Board of Directors meeting in Lubbock.

Brad Heffington of Littlefield was re-elected to a second four-year term as Precinct Two District Director, representing Cochran County, the portion of Hockley County within the district, and Lamb County. He was first appointed to the Board in April 2013 to fill the unexpired term of Jim Copeland of Anton.

Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg was re-elected to a second four-year term as Precinct Five District Director, representing the portion of Floyd County above the Caprock Escarpment within the district, Hale County, and Swisher County. He was first appointed to the Board in March 2013 to fill the vacant position held by Bruce Rigler of Plainview, who resigned.

"Political subdivisions can declare the results of an election without conducting it -- if there are no contested positions and no propositions on the ballot," said HPWD Manager Jason Coleman. "In this instance, the election results were known when the filing deadlines passed. This provision of the Texas Election Code saves considerable time and taxpayer money."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 21, 2018

ALL COST-SHARE FUNDS FOR 2018 AIM PROGRAM HAVE BEEN CLAIMED

LUBBOCK TX (*August 21, 2018*) -- All cost-share funding for the 2018 High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Assistance In Irrigation Management (AIM) program was claimed by producers in less than three days.

AIM is a voluntary cost-share program to help producers with the purchase price of telemetry-based irrigation monitoring systems used with either a center pivot system or a subsurface drip irrigation system. This equipment allows remote monitoring of irrigation systems to detect problems or make adjustments during rainfall events.

On Aug. 17, HPWD announced \$150,000 in available grant funds from the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program. This is \$75,000 less than the total funds awarded in August 2017.

"Based on past producer interest, we knew that these funds would be claimed very quickly. As a result, the AIM Program online application site is now inactive. HPWD staff are reviewing applications for administrative completeness. Program participants will be contacted in the next 10 business days about the interlocal agreement they must complete," said General Manager Jason Coleman.

HPWD will explore future grant funding opportunities with the Texas Water Development Board. However, no additional funding is available from the agency at this time.

"The HPWD Board of Directors commends these producers for their interest in this equipment. Purchasing and installing these devices can help conserve groundwater," said Coleman.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 17, 2018

SEPT. 14 DEADLINE NEARS FOR FINAL RCPP APPLICATIONS

LUBBOCK, TX (August 17, 2018) – Interested producers are reminded that Sept. 14 is the final deadline to submit applications for cost-share funding through the USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

About \$314,000 is still available for the three-year program that concludes at the end of Fiscal Year 2018 (Sept. 30).

Currently, high priority is assigned to irrigation system monitoring equipment, soil moisture sensors, chemigation valves, and flow meters. If the high priority applications do not require all remaining funds, then medium priority applications will be considered for funding, beginning September 17. Medium priority items include irrigation pipelines, center pivots, and subsurface drip irrigation.

To date, eligible producers have received approximately \$567,599.25 in RCPP funding. This represents 131 contracts encompassing 48,246 acres.

Participation in RCPP is voluntary. Interested producers in the Panhandle-South Plains region can sign up for the program at their local USDA-NRCS service center.

Additional information about RCPP is available at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In addition, be sure to visit www.hpwd.org/rcpp for information about eligible equipment, estimated payment rates, a contact list of USDA-NRCS Service Centers, and a map illustrating the 29 counties participating in RCPP.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock serves as the lead RCPP partner. Supporting partners include Hemphill County UWCD in Canadian, Llano Estacado UWCD at Seminole, Mesa UWCD at Lamesa, North Plains GCD at Dumas, Sandy Land UWCD at Plains, and South Plains UWCD at Brownfield.

These groundwater conservation districts do not receive any funding for the program, but provide in-kind services to assist with water conservation efforts.



High Plains
Underground Water
Conservation District

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 17, 2018

HPWD NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 AIM FUNDING

LUBBOCK (August 17, 2018) – High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock has received \$150,000 in funding to continue operation of its Assistance in Irrigation Management (AIM) program in 2018.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in Austin provides these funds through its Agricultural Water Conservation Grants program.

“AIM is a voluntary program to assist producers with the purchase price of telemetry-based irrigation monitoring systems used with either a center pivot system or subsurface drip irrigation system,” said HPWD Manager Jason Coleman.

Qualifying equipment purchased after the May 3, 2018 contract execution date is eligible for AIM program funding.

The online application form and procedures are available at aimapp.hpwd.org. This website also includes program terms & conditions -- plus essential information to be included with the application.

“This is the preferred method to submit applications for this round of funding. Use of the website and online form will help guarantee a person’s place in line during the application process,” said Coleman.

HPWD processes applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Failure to provide proper information on the application may result in relinquishment of position in line for funding.

Last year, HPWD received \$225,000 from the TWDB to fund the program. All cost-share funds were claimed by eligible producers in less than two weeks.

“Interested producers are encouraged to submit their online applications as quickly as possible. We anticipate this second round of funding to be claimed very soon,” said Coleman.

Additional information about the AIM Program is available by contacting the HPWD office at (806) 762-0181 or by emailing aim@hpwd.org.

A large, dynamic splash of blue water is the central graphic of the header, extending from the left side towards the right. The water is captured in mid-air, with many small droplets and bubbles, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The background is a light blue gradient.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 6, 2018

FILING PERIOD CONTINUES FOR THREE HPWD BOARD POSITIONS

LUBBOCK, TX (August 6, 2018) -- Candidates for Precinct One, Precinct Two, and Precinct Five District Director of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) may file applications for a place on the general election ballot until 5 p.m., August 20, 2018. The filing period began July 21.

An application for place on the ballot may be requested by contacting the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79411-2499 during regular business hours. The district office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Board will order a Nov. 6, 2018 election at their August 14 regular meeting. This allows residents in HPWD Precincts One, Two, and Five to choose a District Director to represent them in groundwater matters for the next four years.

Precinct One

District Directors' Precinct One consists of the portion of Crosby County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Lubbock and Lynn Counties. Dan Seale of Lubbock is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Two

District Directors' Precinct Two consists of Cochran County, most of Hockley County, and all of Lamb County. Brad Heffington of Littlefield is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Five

District Directors' Precinct Five consists of the portion of Floyd County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Hale and Swisher Counties. Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg is the incumbent District Director.

Additional election information is available at www.hpwd.org/election2018 or by calling the district office at (806) 762-0181.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JULY 6, 2018

FILING PERIOD BEGINS JULY 21 FOR HPWD BOARD POSITIONS

LUBBOCK, TX (July 6, 2018) -- Candidates for the position of High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Director in Precincts One, Two, or Five must file an application for place on the ballot with the Water District office between July 21 and August 20, 2018.

An application for place on the ballot may be requested by contacting the HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79411-2499 during regular business hours. The district office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In August, the Board is expected to order a Nov. 6, 2018 election allowing residents in HPWD Precincts One, Two, and Five to choose a District Director to represent them in groundwater matters for the next four years.

Precinct One

District Directors' Precinct One consists of the portion of Crosby County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Lubbock and Lynn Counties. Dan Seale of Lubbock is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Two

District Directors' Precinct Two consists of Cochran County, most of Hockley County, and all of Lamb County. Brad Heffington of Littlefield is the incumbent District Director.

Precinct Five

District Directors' Precinct Five consists of the portion of Floyd County above the Caprock Escarpment and all of Hale and Swisher Counties. Ronnie Hopper of Petersburg is the incumbent District Director.

According to Section 141.001 of the Texas Election Code, a candidate for public elective office (including Water District Director) must:

- be a United States citizen;
- be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
- have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated; or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to

- have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for place on the ballot;
- and be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 19, 2018

RCPP FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS

LUBBOCK, TX (June 19, 2018) – About \$350,000 in cost-share funding is still available for irrigation management equipment through the USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The RCPP funding is for installation of irrigation system monitoring equipment, soil moisture probes, and other irrigation management equipment. The program ends in 2018.

Approximately \$525,397 in RCPP funds have been awarded to date. This represents 119 contracts encompassing 44,754 acres. An additional \$15,000 may be awarded in pending applications.

Participation in RCPP is entirely voluntary. Interested producers in the Panhandle-South Plains region can sign up for the program at their local USDA-NRCS service center.

Additional information about RCPP is available at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In addition, be sure to visit www.hpwd.org/rcpp for information about eligible equipment, estimated payment rates, a contact list of USDA-NRCS Service Centers, and a map illustrating the 29 counties participating in RCPP.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock serves as the lead RCPP partner. Supporting partners include Hemphill County UWCD in Canadian, Llano Estacado UWCD at Seminole, Mesa UWCD at Lamesa, North Plains GCD at Dumas, Sandy Land UWCD at Plains, and South Plains UWCD at Brownfield.

These groundwater conservation districts do not receive any funding for the program, but provide in-kind services to assist with water conservation efforts.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 18, 2018

RESEARCH & DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FUNDING APPROVED

LUBBOCK, TX (*June 18, 2018*) – More than \$143,000 in grant fund requests for water-related research and demonstration projects were approved by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors at their June 12 meeting in Lubbock.

“The five-member HPWD Board and its seven-member research and demonstration funding reviewed 16 proposals this year. These addressed a wide range of water-related subjects,” said Manager Jason Coleman.

The 11 projects approved for full or partial funding include:

- Edwards-Trinity Aquifer Investigation.
- Plant Polymers for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Removal.
- Xeric Landscape Installation at an Area Middle School.
- Drought-Tolerant Corn Hybrids.
- Water Quality Parameters for Recharge Wells.
- Water Productivity of Aquaponics.
- Lawn Irrigation Management Workshop.
- Soil Health in Residential Landscapes.
- Playa Field Days and Festivals.
- Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors.
- Rainwater Harvesting Tanks for a Local Community Garden.

“The HPWD Board of Directors are pleased to support these educators and researchers as they work to improve crop production methods, educational efforts, and water use efficiency. All of the approved projects are designed to help conserve and preserve groundwater resources for the future,” said Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo.

Final reports and other information relating to previously-funded projects are available at www.hpwd.org/research.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 13, 2018

WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS INDICATE AVERAGE DECREASE OF -0.16 OF A FOOT WITHIN HPWD SERVICE AREA IN 2017-2018

LUBBOCK TX (April 13, 2018) – An average change of -0.16 of a foot was noted in the groundwater levels of the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer from 2017 to 2018 within the 16-county High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) service area.

The 10-year District average change (2008-2018) is -8.76 feet while the five-year district average change (2013-2018) is -2.07 feet. The average saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer within the District is about 56 feet (2017-2018).

HPWD staff shared this information with the District's five-member Board of Directors during their April 10 regular monthly meeting.

In early 2018, HPWD field personnel made annual water level measurements in a network of 1,353 privately-owned water wells completed into the Ogallala/Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers. In addition, water level measurements were also made in 33 Dockum Aquifer wells.

Since the 2017 measurements, there are nine counties with an average increase in water levels and seven counties with an average decrease.

Field Technician Supervisor Keith Whitworth shared statistics for the 1,250 observation wells with publishable measurements. He noted that about 40 percent of the observation wells measured in 2018 had water level increases.

- 545 observation wells with increases ranging from 0.1 to 12.73 feet.
- 462 observation wells with decreases ranging from 0 to -.99 of a foot.
- 142 observation wells with decreases ranging from -1 to -1.99 feet.
- 63 observation wells with decreases ranging from -2 to -2.99 feet.
- 20 observation wells with decreases ranging from -3 to -3.99 feet
- 13 observation wells with decreases ranging from -4 to -4.99 feet.
- 5 observation wells with decreases ranging from -5 to -6.96 feet.

"Each year, there are wells that show water level rises and others that show water level decreases. The largest water level rise was 12.73 feet in a Lubbock County well while the largest water level decline was -6.96 feet in a Castro County well," said Whitworth.

“Since 2013, the number of persons using the interactive map for depth-to-water and saturated thickness information has increased significantly. Because of this, HPWD is discontinuing its printed water level report starting this year,” said Jason Coleman, General Manager. He added that moving to an online data platform eliminates the cost of printing and mailing the previous 84-page report, which saves taxpayer money.

Those who would like printed information should contact Jed Leibbrandt at (806) 762-0181 or email him at jed.leibbrandt@hpwd.org. He can provide hard copies of water level measurement data for an individual county or specific counties of interest.

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You can also find HPWD on Facebook and Twitter.



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 23, 2018

HPWD NOW ACCEPTING RFPs FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

LUBBOCK TX (March 23, 2018) – High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) is now accepting requests for proposals for water conservation research, demonstration, and education project funding.

“HPWD funds a number of research and demonstration projects each year. We invite those with innovative ideas to submit requests for proposals that focus on water conservation demonstration, education, or research,” said General Manager Jason Coleman.

Proposals are due no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2018. Email delivery is preferred and should be sent to jason.coleman@hpwd.org

Since 2014, HPWD has provided supplemental funding for 22 research and/or demonstration projects. Some of these include completion of test wells into the Dockum and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) aquifers; installation of a water conservation education garden at Bushland Elementary; rainwater harvesting research; investigation of residential Turfgrass irrigation habits; as well as other water saving measures.

The research and demonstration funding committee was appointed by Board President Lynn Tate of Amarillo at the March 20 HPWD Board of Directors meeting.

Committee members include:

- Mike Beauchamp, Chairman (HPWD Precinct Three Director).
- Ronnie Hopper (HPWD Precinct Five Director).
- Jason Coleman (HPWD General Manager).
- Michael Carlson (HPWD County Advisory Committee member).
- Linda Taylor (HPWD County Advisory Committee member).
- Todd Pope, Wellington State Bank (At-Large Member).
- Aubrey Spear, P.E, Director of Utilities, City of Lubbock (At-Large Member).

In accordance with current policy, the committee will evaluate each project for possible funding. A final recommendation will be presented to the HPWD Board of Directors at their June meeting.

Proposal requirements and links to past projects are available at www.hpwd.org/research.



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 15, 2018

HPWD SEEKS PRODUCERS FOR IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

LUBBOCK TX (*March 15, 2018*) – High Plains Underground Water Conservation District is now enrolling producers for participation in its 2018 Irrigation Assessment Program.

Since the program's reinstatement in 2013, cooperating producers have volunteered to have their center pivot or subsurface drip irrigation system evaluated by HPWD staff. Water levels in wells are measured at the beginning and end of the growing season. In addition, flow rates of the wells/irrigation systems are checked with an ultrasonic flow meter. This service is provided by HPWD at no cost to willing participants.

The pumping hours, total gallons of water per minute, and the number of irrigated acres are calculated to determine the total acre-inches of groundwater applied during the growing season. Rainfall totals are determined through the use of radar estimates from April to September. This gives an estimate of the total inches of water available for plant use.

Water samples are also collected as an extra service to those participating in the program. HPWD is able to check Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), chloride, and pH levels of groundwater. It is important to understand water chemistry since it impacts the efficient use of supplemental nutrients applied to crops.

All this information is used to better understand the groundwater conditions in aquifers within the HPWD service area.

For example, the 2017 program participants' well data reveals an average depth-to-water of 216 feet and an average flow rate of 110 gallons per minute. The average amount of irrigation water applied in 2017 by program participants was 6.6 inches for cotton, 9.9 inches for wheat, 10.5 inches for peanuts, 11.8 inches for silage, and 12.2 inches for corn.

All information gathered from each site is shared with program participants. Several producers have said the data has helped them better understand their irrigation system's performance.

"High Plains Water District encourages all interested producers to participate in the 2018 Irrigation Assessment Program. There are two major benefits. First, it helps farmers understand how much water is used per year for crop production. Second, it provides beneficial data for future water planning efforts where accurate irrigation pumping information must be considered," Whitworth



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 9, 2018

RCPP COST-SHARE FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS

LUBBOCK TX (March 9, 2018) – Producers in the Panhandle-South Plains region are reminded that cost-share funding is still available for installation of irrigation system monitoring equipment, soil moisture probes, and other irrigation management equipment through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

Approximately \$600,000 is available for the remainder of the program, which ends in 2018.

Participation in RCPP is entirely voluntary. Interested producers can sign up for the program at their local USDA-NRCS service center. Additional information about RCPP is available at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

In addition, be sure to visit www.hpwd.org/rcpp for information about eligible equipment, estimated payment rates, a contact list of USDA-NRCS Service Centers, and a map illustrating the 29 counties participating in RCPP.

High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock serves as the lead RCPP partner. Supporting partners include Hemphill County UWCD in Canadian, Llano Estacado UWCD at Seminole, Mesa UWCD at Lamesa, North Plains GCD at Dumas, Sandy Land UWCD at Plains, and South Plains UWCD at Brownfield.

These groundwater conservation districts do not receive any funding for the program, but provide in-kind services to assist with water conservation efforts.

Be sure to “like” the High Plains Water District Facebook page to receive updates on district activities or follow us on Twitter at @HPUWCD.

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A large, dynamic splash of blue water is the central graphic of the banner, moving from left to right across the top half of the page.

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 8, 2018

HPWD SCHEDULES APRIL RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOPS

LUBBOCK TX (March 8, 2018) – 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 to share rainwater harvesting and water conservation information with area residents.

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

- **April 5:** Cole Community Center, 300 N. 16th Street, Canyon.
- **April 12:** HPWD office, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock.
- **April 19:** Mallet Event Center & Arena, 2320 Highway 385, Levelland.

The first 25 persons to RSVP for the three workshops will receive a free rainwater harvesting barrel per household, courtesy of HPWD. Registration is available at rsvp.hpwd.com or by calling the district office in Lubbock at (806) 762-0181.

There is a \$20 fee, which is payable by cash or check at the door the night of the event.

"Despite recent drought conditions in our area, it is a good idea to be prepared to catch the rain when it does arrive. Capturing rainwater is a great way to conserve our limited groundwater resources. It can also help save money on your utility bill," said Katherine Drury, HPWD Education and Outreach Coordinator.

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A large, dynamic splash of water in shades of blue and white, moving from left to right across the top half of the page. The water droplets are captured in mid-air, creating a sense of movement and freshness.

News Release

Contact: DAVID W. SMITH, 4-H Program Coordinator, (979) 862-1989, davidsmith@tamu.edu

Writer: MR. CARMON McCAIN, HPWD, (806) 762-0181, info@hpwd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 7, 2018

APPLY NOW FOR 2018 TEXAS 4-H WATER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

LUBBOCK TX (*March 7, 2018*) – Students within the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) service area are encouraged to submit applications for the 2018-2019 Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors program. Deadline for submissions is May 20.

Each year, high school age youth are selected to join the program which provides knowledge about management of water resources in Texas.

“HPWD is proud to be among the supporters of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors program. This is a great opportunity to mentor future water leaders for our state,” said Carmon McCain, HPWD Information/Education Supervisor. HPWD provided grant funding for the program, which began in 2017.

Those chosen will participate in a summer 4-H2O Youth Leadership Academy. This tour, set for July, allows students to meet with statewide water professionals and observe conservation practices. The group will visit the HPWD office in Lubbock during their tour of the Panhandle-South Plains region. In addition, the students will view rainwater harvesting installations at Samuel Jackson, Inc. in Lubbock and Bob Durham’s ranch at Abernathy.

A leadership, mentorship, and community service component is included as part of the program. Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors commit to a minimum of 40 hours of service during a 12-month period. This is earned by presenting water education programs to local 4-H clubs, schools, fairs, and other community events. In addition, the students may also assist their local water utilities, groundwater conservation districts, and County Extension Agents in their water outreach programs.

Applicants must be 14 years old as of Aug. 31, 2018 and must be entering the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade in the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year. A short essay and letters of reference are required.

There is a \$250 participation fee due by June 20. Applicants do not have to be a current member of Texas 4-H, but must agree to become a 4-H member and pay a \$25 annual membership fee, if selected.

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEBRUARY 16, 2018

CITY OF WOLFFORTH TO DRILL NEW MUNICIPAL WATER WELL

LUBBOCK TX (*February 16, 2018*) – Drilling will soon begin on a new municipal water supply well in Wolfforth, which will also be used to investigate the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) and Dockum Aquifers in western Lubbock County.

Texas based Layne Christensen Company will begin drilling the well early next week. The entire project is expected to be completed in two weeks.

The City of Wolfforth is exploring possible use of groundwater in the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer for municipal use. This aquifer lies directly beneath the Ogallala, which is the primary aquifer on the Southern High Plains.

A small diameter test hole will be drilled through the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) and Dockum aquifers to a depth of approximately 1,700 feet. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will then log the entire borehole using advanced technological methods. The information from this survey provides very detailed analysis of the formations, including water quality. After the logging is complete, the Dockum Aquifer portion of the test hole will be plugged to the base of the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifer, which is about 300 feet below land surface.

If adequate water is located and can be produced from the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) aquifer, the test hole will be reamed, cased and completed for use as a municipal well to increase the City of Wolfforth's current groundwater supply. If this effort proves successful, it will be less costly than pumping water from the city's other water rights which are located southwest of Wolfforth.

City of Wolfforth officials are working to ensure citizens have a reliable source of clean drinking water for years to come. The recently completed electro-dialysis reversal (EDR) treatment plant addresses this need. This state-of-the-art water treatment plant went online in May 2017 and is currently serving approximately 4,600 citizens. Officials are hopeful this test well project will increase the city's current water supply.

The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) Board of Directors unanimously agreed to cost-share this exploratory well with the City of Wolfforth in early 2017. The HPWD Board agreed to allocate \$90,000 to assist with the project, plus USGS logging costs.

"The Edwards-Trinity Aquifer will hopefully provide us with a water source that will not compete

region, and that will help all of us. HPWD's cooperation and support will allow us to obtain much more complete data than we would be able to obtain and understand on our own."

This is the District's third partnership with a municipality to explore the Dockum Aquifer. In 2016, the cities of Abernathy and Lubbock, with assistance from the HPWD, drilled test wells to determine the quality and quantity of the brackish aquifer. Lubbock's test well, located near the South Water Treatment Plant, was completed in December 2016.

"We are learning more about the Dockum Aquifer as a result of these efforts," said HPWD General Manager Jason Coleman. "In recent years, the District has established a monitoring network in this aquifer, and these partnerships allow us to add additional data collection sites."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 26, 2018

HEREFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN H2YOU CONTEST

LUBBOCK TX (January 26, 2018) – Hereford High School students Victoria Betzen and Aubrey Schueler are winners of the 2018 H2YOU water conservation awareness contest, sponsored by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPWD) in Lubbock.

Betzen and Schueler presented their municipal water conservation campaign to a panel of judges at the HPWD office on January 25. Nathan Betzen and Amy Schueler are the team sponsors.

Judges were Vikram Baliga, Lubbock County Extension Agent-Horticulture; Darrell Newsom, City Manager of Wolfforth; and Victoria Whitehead, HPWD Governmental Affairs Director.

Using the theme, “Splash to the Future,” Betzen and Schueler examined use of irrigation scheduling, soil moisture sensors, artificial turf and xeriscaping, leak detection, rainwater harvesting, greywater use, and enforcing water waste ordinances as ways to save water for the future.

The Hereford High School students earned an all-expense paid trip to Austin, where they will present their water conservation campaign to their state representative and/or members of the Texas Water Development Board. They will also give their presentation at an upcoming meeting of the HPWD Board of Directors.

Second place honors went to Aubrie Fields, Rori Phillips, and Emma Rich of Sudan High School. The FFA members’ campaign, “Our Water – Our Future” shared information about water conservation techniques used by local agricultural producers, Red Rock Dairy at Amherst, and the “Plant X” / Tolk Station electric generating stations in Lamb County.

Third place went to Koby Houston, Haley Lawson, Brandon Madison, and Kayla Rodriguez of Crosbyton High School. Their campaign, “Be Green, Let’s Go...Save H2O” included a public awareness component in which the students provided water conservation tips that they distributed to the public at their local bank, pharmacy and store.