



# Panhandle Water News

APRIL 2021

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## Public Notice of Hearing on Proposed Desired Future Conditions

The Board of Directors of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District (PGCD) will hold a public hearing and accept public comment on the proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the relevant aquifers within the GMA 1 Joint Planning Area. This hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** at the District's Office located at 201 W. 3<sup>rd</sup>, White Deer, Texas, 79097. The purpose of the hearing is to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide comments to PGCD related to the proposed DFCs.

Four groundwater conservation districts are located wholly or partially within Groundwater Management Area 1 (GMA 1), as designated by the Texas Water Development Board; the GMA 1 Districts include the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, and the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District. At the last GMA 1 joint planning meeting on March 18, 2021, the district representatives voted to approve the proposed DFCs. These proposed DFCs were mailed to each of the districts in GMA 1 on March 29, 2021 triggering a 90-day public comment period to close June 28, 2021. Public comments may be submitted in writing to PGCD at any time during this period or may be made addressed in person at this hearing.

### Proposed DFCs for PGCD are listed below:

#### Ogallala Aquifer:

At least 50 percent of volume in storage remaining for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Hutchinson, Carson, Donley, Gray, Roberts and Wheeler Counties; and within the Panhandle District portions of Armstrong and Potter Counties.

#### Dockum Aquifer:

No more than 30 feet average decline in water levels for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Carson County and the Panhandle District portions of Potter and Armstrong Counties.

Copies of the proposed DFCs may be requested by email at [info@pgcd.us](mailto:info@pgcd.us), or they are available at the [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us) and [www.PanhandleWater.org](http://www.PanhandleWater.org); and may be reviewed or copied at the District Office. Any person who wishes to receive more detailed information on this notice or the proposed DFCs should contact CE Williams or Britney Britten at [cw@pgcd.us](mailto:cw@pgcd.us) or [britney@pgcd.us](mailto:britney@pgcd.us) or by calling 806-883-2501.





## PGCD Begins New Video Series

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District began a new video series geared towards its 5<sup>th</sup> grade education program. The first video of the series is a Virtual Field Trip to Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

The video focuses on the impact water had on the creation of the canyon and the difference between groundwater and surface water. Students will also learn about the Ogallala Formation, the history of the park and its early settlers.

Other planned videos in the series include a trip to Lake Meredith along with a look at playa lakes and springs.

“Our hope is that teachers and parents alike will be able to use these videos as a fun way to educate students while it’s difficult for them to get out of the classroom during the pandemic,” PGCD Education Director, Suzy Pool said.

PGCD would like for everyone to subscribe to their YouTube channel “Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District” and click on the “PGCD Palo Duro Canyon Virtual Field Trip” link to watch the video. Or you can follow the link here: <https://youtu.be/zRN2azdOjfl>



## Start of Season Meter Readings

**According to PGCD Rule 4.4, operators are required to submit a picture of the register display on each flow meter at the start of every pumping season.**

- Start of season texts need to include a clear view of the meter face **while pumping**.
- The picture also needs to include a clear view of the meter number which identifies your meter to the District.
- The purpose of this picture is not to report usage, but for the District to notate the meter is operational.
- If you find your meter is missing the identifying sticker, please contact the Meter Compliance Officer, Kelly Lane to receive a new sticker.

**The easiest way to stay in compliance is to text the picture to (806) 883-2124 or email it to [meters@pgcd.us](mailto:meters@pgcd.us).**

## District Sends Out 2020 Water Usage Report

Water Usage reports were mailed or emailed by the district in February. For an example of the report and further explanation, please go to our website [www.pgcd.us](http://www.pgcd.us).

If you have not received your Water Usage Report or have any questions regarding your report, please contact our Meter Compliance Officer Kelly Lane at (806) 883-2501.

## PGCD Welcomes New Meteorologist

Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District is excited to introduce their new meteorologist, Corey Clay. Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Clay obtained his master's degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Missouri. Most of his experience includes a rain enhancement project in India and a hail suppression project in western North Dakota. Please join PGCD in welcoming Corey to White Deer and the Texas Panhandle.



*Meteorologist, Corey Clay*

## Summer Internship Program

PGCD invites applications for its Summer Internship Program. The District will only be accepting one intern application at this time. The position is available for upper-level undergraduates with an interest in hydrology and water conservation.

Any full time or part time applications will be considered; hours will be agreed upon as the intern’s class schedule allows. Click on this link for more information and ways to apply: <https://www.pgcd.us/contact>



# Board of Directors Elections Set to Take Place

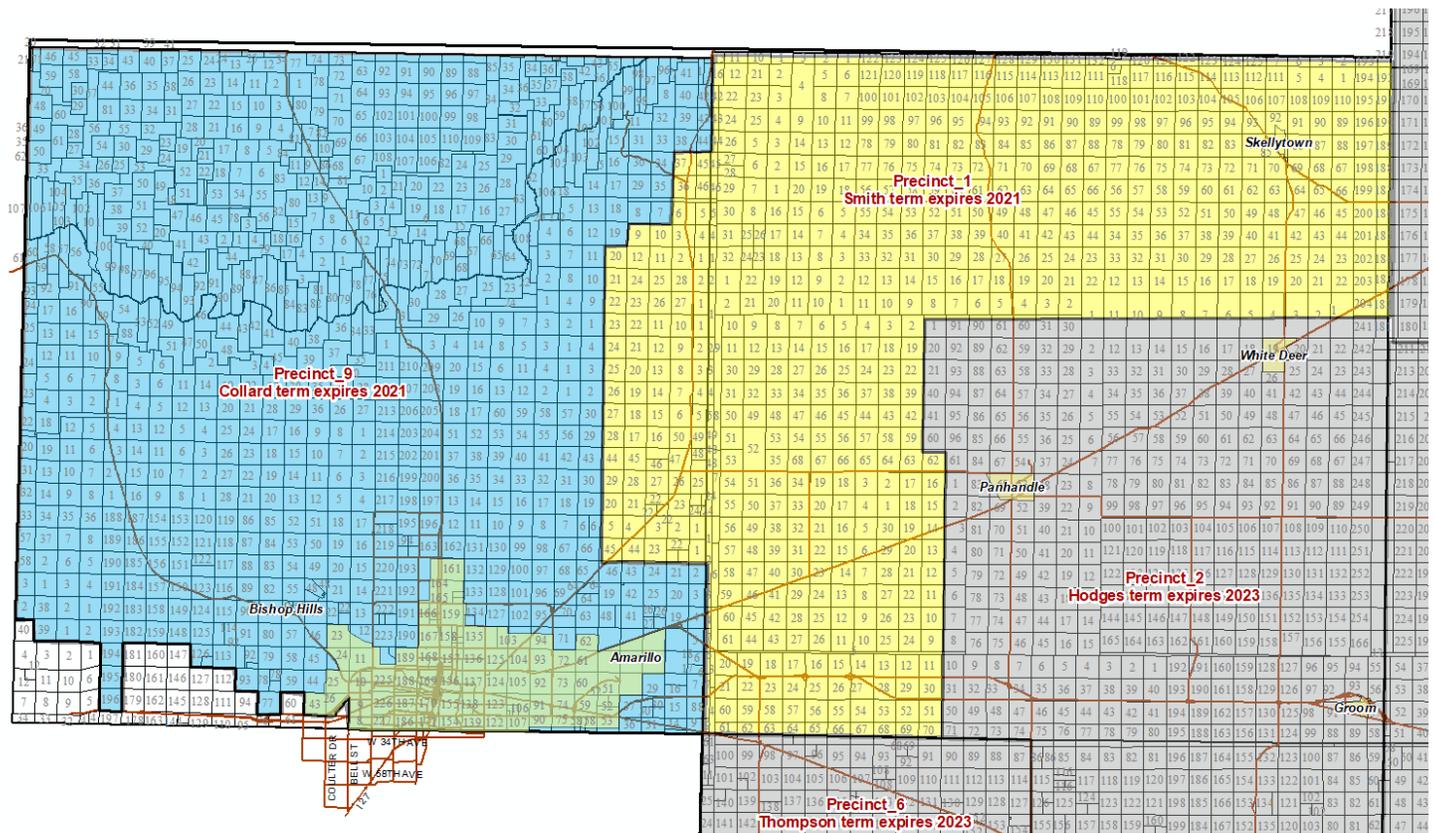
The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will be holding elections for two of its precincts on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Early voting is set to take place beginning on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The two precincts holding an election this year are Precinct 1 currently held by Chairman Phillip Smith of Panhandle and Precinct 9 currently held by Director F. C. “Butch” Collard of Amarillo.

Candidates running for the Precinct 1 seat are Smith and Devin Sinclair of Panhandle. Candidates running in Precinct 9 are as follows: Brian N. Walker, Lee Peterson, J. Zimmer and Tim Ingalls all of Amarillo.

Registered voters in Precinct 1 can come to the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District’s office at 201 W. Third in White Deer during normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for early voting. The election day polling place for Precinct 1 is City Hall in Skellytown – 500 Chamberlain St, Skellytown, TX 79080.

Registered voters in Precinct 9 may vote at any of the polling locations for early voting. For a complete list of early voting and election day polling places follow this link to our website: <https://www.pgcd.us/public-information> Likewise, any registered voters in Precinct 1 that reside in Potter County may vote at any polling place in Potter County.

Below is a map of Precinct 1 and 9. Only registered voters in these two precincts are able to vote in this election. If you have any questions regarding the election, please call PGCD at (806) 883-2501 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.



## Spring Monitoring Program

Panhandle Groundwater District is looking for landowners within our District who may have natural springs on their property and are interested in partnering with PGCD and Texas Water Development Board to monitor the overall health of our aquifers.

The purpose of this program is to monitor and inventory a consistent network of springs across the area on an annual basis, and to monitor the short and long-term changes to flow and water quality as it relates to the conditions and health of the aquifer. Data collected would be made available to landowners who participate in the program. For more information, contact Ashley at [ara@pgcd.us](mailto:ara@pgcd.us) or by phone at 806-883-2501.

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201 W. Third St, PO Box 637  
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## District's Long-range Forecast

The Texas Panhandle's weather is influenced from many areas. To the south, there is the Gulf of Mexico which can transport moisture northward into the area. On the other hand, westerly flow can cause dry air to move in from the Desert Southwest.

Unfortunately, over the years, this area has become drier and drier. One of the main driving forces of our weather is what is known as ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation). This phenomenon is comprised of two main phases: El Niño and La Niña, with El Niño being the warm part of the phase while La Niña is the cool part. These phases generally occur every 2-7 years and lasts 9-12 months. ENSO originates over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. When the eastern tropical Pacific is warmer than average, El Niño occurs. The opposite is true for La Niña. Currently, we are in the La Niña phase of ENSO. Typically, this phase brings warm and dry conditions to the Panhandle. This pattern is expected to persist for the next month or so before transitioning to more of a neutral phase.

To get an idea how La Niña impacts our weather, we can take a look at some more recent La Nina years. Since 2010, there have been three years where La Niña was actively occurring during the spring (2011, 2012, and 2018). During these years, 2011 saw 7 inches of liquid water, 2012 saw 12 inches, and 2018 saw 14 inches. 2020 was also a La Niña year (starting in the summer) with 13 inches of liquid precipitation. With the yearly average of liquid precipitation for Amarillo being 20 inches, La Niña brings much drier conditions to the area.

So far for this year, Amarillo has seen 2.2 inches of liquid. On average, we should be at 2.7 inches through the end of March. In general, we can expect a dry and warm summer. - *Provided by Corey Clay PGCD Meteorologist*