



PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PANHANDLE WATER NEWS

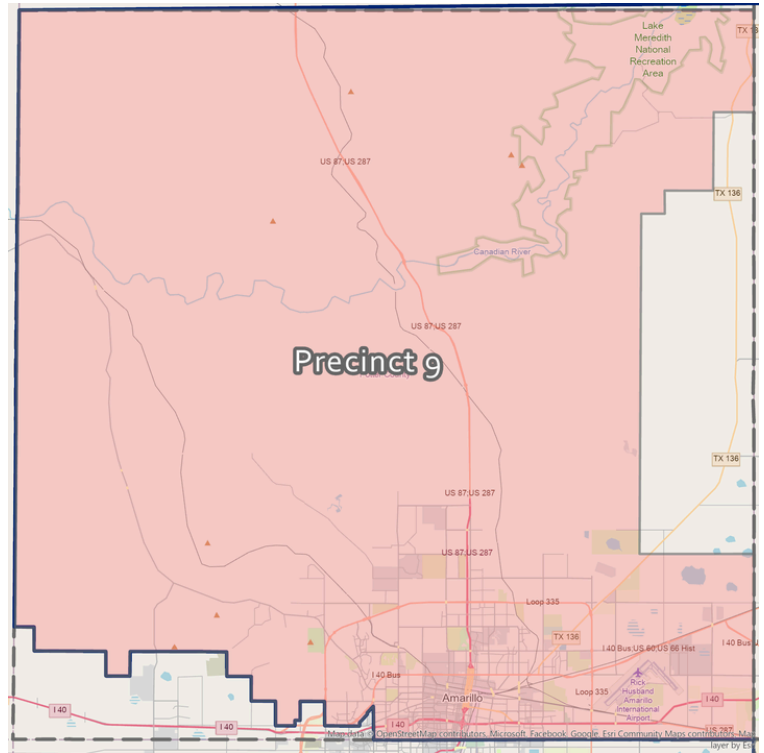
"Conserving Water For Future Generations"

APRIL 2025

PGCD PRECINCT 9 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION SET FOR MAY 3, 2025

An election for Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's (PGCD) Board of Directors Precinct 9 will take place Saturday, May 3, 2025. The Precinct covers the majority of Potter County. Early and election day voting will take place in Amarillo at multiple voting locations, along with one location in Bushland and Valle de Oro, respectively. There are two candidates on the ballot, incumbent Mr. Lee Peterson and Mr. Dan Rogers. Mr. Peterson has served on the PGCD Board since May of 2021.

Early voting will take place April 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 28-29 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Election Day voting will take place Saturday, May 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For a list of early voting and election day polling places, please visit www.pgcd.us/election-information.



For a detailed map view, visit:
www.pgcd.us/election-information

POINTS OF INTEREST

- District Education Program Update
- Low Interest Agricultural Loans Available
- 98% of Operators in Compliance with the District's Production Rule
- Legislative Update
- Precipitation Enhancement Program Update

Unopposed candidates in PGCD District Precinct's 1, 3, 5 and 7, have allowed for the cancellation of elections for those precincts. Directors Devin Sinclair, Precinct 1, John R Spearman, Precinct 3, Chancy Cruse, Precinct 5, and William Breeding, Precinct 7, will continue to serve on the board for the next four years. For any questions or concerns, please call the PGCD office at 806-883-2501.

www.pgcd.us

DISTRICT EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The District's Education Program has been successful thus far this fiscal year. We have had the chance to educate a wide age range, from kindergarten through 8th grade, about water conservation and various water topics, as well as the opportunity to speak to many civic organizations.

Recently, District Staff attended the Carson County Ag Day, where local 4th graders had the chance to learn about area agriculture and the important role water plays. We also have had several classes visit the district office for educational field trips. During each presentation, our District staff keeps students engaged with educational information, games and activities. Our education program is designed to assist teachers as they teach their students about water conservation, the water cycle and aquifer knowledge.

The last week of March, PGCD participated in Ogallala Commons' Rainwater Harvesting Conference in Amarillo. General Manager, Britney Britten, presented at the conference along with many other area experts. The conference presented a wealth of knowledge regarding the benefits of rainwater harvesting in our area, system installation, and tours of local harvesting systems.

We still have openings in our education program calendar and would appreciate the opportunity to assist in educating your students, entity or civic organization. To schedule a presentation please contact Korri Packard at kpackard@pgcd.us.



LOW INTEREST AGRICULTURAL LOANS AVAILABLE

In January, PGCD received approval of an agricultural loan through the Texas Water Development Board in the amount of \$1,000,000. These funds help local producers purchase center pivot sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, soil moisture probes and other water-conservation equipment.

Applications are being accepted and are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. The current interest rate is 5.23% with an eight-year payback term. For more information, please contact Katie Hodges at 806-883-2501 or by email at kh@pgcd.us. Our loan application and checklist can be found on our website at www.pgcd.us/water-conservation-loans.

98% OF OPERATORS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISTRICT'S PRODUCTION RULE

For the second year in a row, Operators have achieved a compliance rate of 98% for the District's production rule of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre owned or leased.

The Board of Directors adopted the production rule in 2004. However, the Directors went through an extensive rules review and update in 2016-2019. The goal of the review was to make sure the rules were implemented in a way that helped the District accomplish its management plan goals and ultimately achieve its Desired Future Conditions (DFC). The DFC is an overall goal that the District adopted for the area aquifers to manage the groundwater appropriately. The District's DFC for the Ogallala Aquifer is 50% volume in storage remaining in 50 years or commonly referred to as the 50/50 goal.



At this time, water level measurements and water meter data are the best available science the District has to measure whether or not it is meeting this goal. The District stays committed to working with Operators across the District to help keep them informed of trends and the most current data.

General Manager Britney Britten says a phrase you commonly hear in the water industry is that *you can't manage what you don't measure*. "I believe one of our main duties as a District is to provide all water users with as much reliable information as possible to help them make the best decisions when using their groundwater," said Britten.

For more information or if you have any questions regarding water usage, please contact Britney Britten at britney@pgcd.us or by calling the office at 806-883-2501.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As the Texas 89th Legislature continues its work throughout this session, lawmakers are tackling a variety of pressing issues, with groundwater and water supply legislation being a prominent focus. Groundwater, which supplies about 60% of the state's water needs, is a critical resource for Texans, particularly given the state's susceptibility to droughts. With water shortages becoming an increasingly frequent challenge, the Texas legislature is under mounting pressure to pass meaningful laws that protect and manage this valuable resource.

As a political subdivision of the state, PGCD monitors session activities and bills that might affect local policies regarding groundwater management, property taxes, and local elected officials. There were over 10,000 bills filed this legislative session, and the District is currently tracking over 200 bills.

The regular session is set to end on June 2, 2025. For more information, please contact Britney Britten at 806-883-2501 or britney@pgcd.us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Early Voting for PGCD Board Precinct 9 is April 22-25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 28-29 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Election Day voting is Saturday, May 3rd from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- PGCD Board Meeting is set for May 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chancy Cruse, President
Devin Sinclair, Vice President
Lee Peterson, Secretary
Charles Bowers, Director
Marcus Hardcastle, Director
William Breeding, Director
David Hodges, Director
John R. Spearman, Jr., Director
Wes Stockett, Director

Britney Britten, General Manager

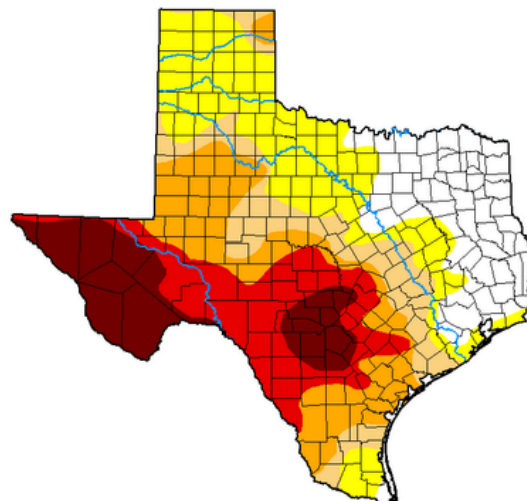
Panhandle Water News is published quarterly.
Subscriptions are free, upon request.

PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

April 1 marked the start of our 25th year of PGCD's precipitation enhancement program. For more information about this program visit our website at www.pgcd.us/precipitation-enhancement. Check back in our next edition of *Panhandle Water News* for a mid-season update.

U.S. Drought Monitor
Texas

April 8, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 10, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu