

Prairielands eLine

Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District
www.prairielandsgcd.org

New Permanent Rules Effective January 1st

Operating under Temporary Rules since the district was formed, the Prairielands GCD Board of Directors, after considerable discussion and compromise, proposed their first set of Permanent Rules this past October.

Stakeholder meetings and public hearings encouraged district residents to review the proposed rules and garnered a number of public comments, both oral and written, in response.

These comments were reviewed, researched, discussed and some were used to improve the originally proposed rules.

The modified Permanent Rules were then presented and approved at the December monthly board meeting to be effective January 1, 2019.

Notable Changes for Non-Exempt Wells

Notable among the changes present in the Permanent Rules is the due date for semi-annual production reports and water use fee payments. July through December semi-annual production reports are now due on February 1st while January through June reports will be due on August 1st. The report needed to submit and make payment can be found on the district website under the "Forms" tab (www.prairielandsgcd.org/forms.html).

The PGCD Board has extended the Monthly Reporting Incentive through 2019. By entering your meter readings online each month, you will receive a 10% discount on your water use fees. If you are interested in this incentive, sign up



on the database using the link on the homepage of the district's website, and enter the month's readings no later than the final day of the following month.

For more information about this cost-saving incentive, contact Stephanie Rexrode, records administrator, at (817) 556-2299.

Additionally, please highlight September 1, 2019, in your calendar. This is the last date that Historic Use Permit applications can be submitted for board consideration. You will forfeit your right to claim an Historic Use Permit after that date.

Winter 2019

Volume 5, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Your Water Well 2

Outdoor WaterWise Program 2

District Board Meeting Schedule 3

Book the Water Education Trailer 3

Winter Water Tips 4

Special points of interest:

- New permanent district rules go into effect on January 1, 2019.
- New permanent rules bring more protection for home wells.
- Next board meeting set for January 21.
- The Water Education Trailer is booking dates for Spring.
- Prepare your plumbing now for winter weather.

Worried about your Water Well?

When the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District held their monthly board meeting in Cleburne on December 17, there was still a lot of misinformation being spread regarding the district's then proposed, now adopted Permanent Rules and their impact on personal household, livestock, and agricultural water wells.

The fact is that no household well, whether **NEW** or **EXISTING**, is required to obtain a permit from the district to operate the well. They will continue on as they are currently doing. Absolutely no change.

This means **NO** meters, **NO** reporting, and **NO** water use fees.

Existing wells do **NOT** require registration; however, if they are registered, the District can help protect your investment by factoring your well into the equation when applications for new large wells come in. It's hard to protect an existing well with spacing requirements when no one knows it exists.

New wells must obtain registration approval before drilling commences, as they do now, and must comply with the two-acre minimum tract size and well spacing requirements.

New exempt wells can pump up to 25,000 gallons PER DAY.

A copy of the Permanent District Rules may be requested by email at stephanie@prairielandsgcd.org, is available for reviewing or downloading at www.prairielandsgcd.org, and may be reviewed, inspected, or obtained in person at the District office located at 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX, 76031. For more information, contact the District's General Manager, Jim Conkwright, at (817) 556-2299. Read, ask questions from the source, and think for yourself. Don't rely on the purveyors of misinformation.



Residential well in Johnson County

Outdoor WaterWise Education Program Coming

Educators that teach the water cycle know that up to 60% of household water use is consumed in the yard.

A new opportunity for them to really engage their students when exploring this topic is through the Outdoor WaterWise program courtesy of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District.

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District has funded partici-

pation in the Outdoor WaterWise Program for a select number of 4th grade teachers in Ellis County for the Spring 2019 semester. Materials to implement the program in their classroom include a teacher's guide, student workbooks, take-home water-saving devices to reinforce and make water conservation a real, hands-on learning experience. Materials are free and delivered directly to the teacher.

Additionally, an onsite visit from the Prairielands Water Education Trailer is scheduled to coincide with classroom discussion of water conservation.

For more information about the new Outdoor WaterWise program, please contact the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District, at (817) 556-2299 or email info@prairielandsgcd.org.

Did You Know ...?

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors holds regular monthly board meetings which are open to the public.

Meetings are normally scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month in the Board Room of the Liberty Hotel, 205 S. Caddo St., Cleburne, TX, 76031. (Board meetings that fall on a holiday, as in February, are scheduled for an alternate date.)

The Board Meeting typically begins at 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

January 21, 9:00 a.m.
February 19*, 9:00 a.m.
March 18, 9:00 a.m.

Liberty Hotel Board Room
205 S. Caddo Street
Cleburne, TX 76031

***3rd Tuesday**

As mentioned before, both are open to the public, however, certain restricted topics may be discussed by directors only during a closed Executive Session.

Meeting notices and agendas are publicly posted prior to the date of the meeting at the PGCD office and on the district's website at www.prairielandsgcd.org.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting is set for Monday, January 21, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Don't get left out - book a WET experience!



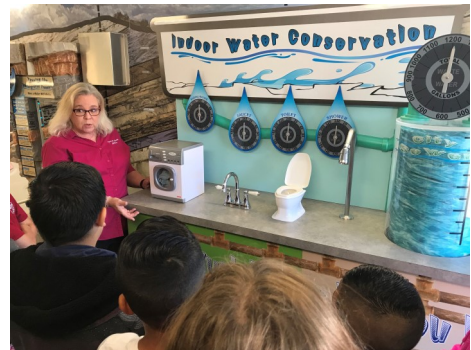
Now is the time to schedule the Prairielands Water Education Trailer (the WET) for a classroom visit for the spring semester.

Presentations with exhibit demonstrations of our local aquifers, groundwater, and water conservation topics are tailored to the needs of the teacher, class, age group, and are FREE.

Presentations support TEKS standards and provide lesson enrichment.

At this time, the WET still has dates available for classroom or school-wide presentations and demonstrations.

For more information or to schedule the WET at your school, contact the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District by phone at (817) 556-2299 or email the district's general information email address at info@prairielandsgcd.org.



Karen Siddall, public relations & education administrator, discusses water conservation measures with students.



Students can visualize how aquifers and groundwater works with the WET's hands-on, working aquifer model.





**PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
ELLIS HILL JOHNSON SOMERVELL

Conserving, protecting, and enhancing
groundwater resources in Ellis, Hill,
Johnson, and Somervell counties

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205 S. Caddo Street
Cleburne, TX 76031

We're on the web at
prairielandsgcd.org.



In 2008 & 2009, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality designated large areas over the Trinity Aquifer from the Red River to Central Texas as Priority Groundwater Management Areas (PGMA) due to critical groundwater declines facing the area.

The Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2009 by the 81st Texas Legislature with a directive to conserve, protect and enhance the groundwater resources of Ellis, Johnson, Hill and Somervell Counties in Texas.

Watch Out for Winter Weather Woes!

Winter weather usually brings icy winds and dipping temperatures which can do a lot of damage to your home by freezing pipes and leaving you without flowing water. But that's not all! When things warm back up you may find your precious water leaking out through breaks.

Don't despair! There are a few precautions you can take now to help you avoid the expense of frozen pipes during a sudden cold snap.

#1 - Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets. Be ready to protect those outside faucets from a deep freeze with insula-

tion, newspaper, or one of the many ready-made devices for that purpose.

#2 - Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas such as the garage, crawlspace, and attic ahead of time. Check with your local home improvement store for which materials to use to insulate your pipes.

#3 - Turn off and drain irrigation systems and backflow devices. Wrap backflow devices with insulating material.

#4 - Leave your home's heat on at least 55 degrees and open cabinet/cupboard doors under sinks,



especially where plumbing is in outside walls, to let interior heat warm the pipes.

#5 - When the temperature takes a nosedive, keep a steady drip of cold water at an inside faucet farthest from the meter. This keeps water moving and making it less likely to freeze.