



HTGCD New Board Elected

On May 8, 2010, Hays Trinity GCD held board elections for three outgoing district members. Districts 1, 3, and 5 Board representatives had completed their two-years of service and two candidates from each open position campaigned. The newly elected members will be sworn in the May 19th monthly HTGCD Board meeting.

Newest incoming Board Members will be: Jimmy Skipton, Mark Key, and Dr. Joan Jernigan, representing Districts 1, 3, and 5 respectively.

These three, along with David Baker, District 4 and Greg Nesbitt, District 2 who joined the board in 2009, will complete our five (5) member Board for 2010. At the meeting, members will also vote to decide who will fill the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer for the 2010-2011 term.

HTGCD Management Plan Update

A first review of the HTGCD Management Plan has been completed. This is a preliminary look at the outline and overall objectives which the District must submit to the TWDB for approval. Also, the line item commitments must be met and reported on by the District on an annual basis.

Co-Manager, Dana Carmean, worked with TWDB representative, Rima Petrossian to create the initial proposed plan outline then passed that over to the Board for their input.

Newest On-line Features Now Available

Last quarter I told you that additional functionality was being developed and added to our website to allow for electronic well registration submission. I'm very pleased to report that this is now available. Access to the new system began in April, allowing drillers to enter their registration information through our website then follow up with payment, map, and a property plat either through the mail or by stopping by our offices. The new system provides automated well owner and driller notification of approval and will greatly streamline the process and reduce paper for HTGCD office staff.

Drought Status Update

In December 2009, the Board of Directors, upon review of the most recent drought data, officially declared the drought over and moved the drought status to voluntary conservation stage. Fortunately that state has continued through winter and spring. The wildflowers this year have been spectacular and the temps have held at normal or below for the season.

We are now at the beginning of our summer and the "el Nino" effect that has been controlling our weather pattern is expected to continue. I say, enjoy it now, because what's normal for Texas weather is that it's sure to change.

Selective Brush Removal Shows Positive Results

The Watershed Study in Honey Creek State Natural Area was established in 1999 by the

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to evaluate the combined effects of using Selective Brush Removal (Ashe Juniper) to increase water quantity while protecting water quality. Project findings were that in 2 years following the ashe juniper removal, spring flow in the watershed increased about 49,000 gallons per acre per year.

At the same time, the watershed study team made sure not to disturb the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler's nesting sites by staying at least 300 meters away from the known nesting areas. This allowed the Conservation Practice of Selective Brush Removal to be carried out while also improving habitat for the Warbler as well as other species of birds. Since the completion of Selective Brush Removal, overall diversity and populations of all bird species has increased.

CONSERVATION KUDOS.....

"I want to commend President Dave Williams, the WISD Board of Directors and Superintendent York for their leadership by voting to install a rainwater harvesting system on the Jacob's Well Elementary School. This important first step to conserve the aquifer by WISD will act as a demonstration project to preserve Jacob's Well and Cypress Creek by teaching our youth how to conserve and value our life giving water." [David Baker, Executive Director for Wimberley Valley Watershed Association and Vice President, HTGCD.]

HTGCD Walks in Founder's Day Parade

Staff and friends from the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District got plenty of exercise on Friday, April 9th. Rick Broun and Dana Carmean, along with several other volunteers walked the parade route and handed out HTGCD "Be Smart" bookmarks, along with *Smarties* candy rolls, to the crowd.

Dripping Springs Founder's Day Parade is an annual event, but this was HTGCD's first year to participate. Rick and Dana said it was well worth the time though each agreed that next year they should catch a ride!

Don't Forget

July 25 - Wildflower Center
Lady Bird Tribute Day

October 9 - Dripping Springs
Rainwater Revival Meeting

This will be my last ***Hays Trinity GCD News***. Thank you all for the support and most of all for reading!

Cathy