



Heartbeat of the Hickory

Tax Rates and Spending

In 2006/2007, you paid \$0.037 per hundred dollar valuation on your property. Because of the increase in appraised values, we are reducing that tax-rate to \$0.035 this year. This rate still generates enough revenue for us to conduct our mission.

This fiscal year (2007/2008) we intend to designate \$55,000 to Hydro/Geo Research. In the 2006/2007 Budget, we had earmarked \$35,000 for that purpose.

This summer, the Board made the decision to hire D.B. Stephens and Associates, specifically Hydrologist Allan Standen, to conduct studies in the District. A large part of these studies involves the analysis of the District's water monitoring program.

Allan Standen will help the District choose wells that best give an accurate depiction of what is occurring within the various aquifers.

Frequency of measurements is a very important part of the new monitoring program. This last year has proved to be a difficult year for measuring water levels. Many of the winter levels and early summer levels were postponed due to heavy rains. In order to get around these problems, the District has recently purchased 20 Troll 300 water level loggers to be deployed strategically throughout the District. These devices are placed within the well, recording changes in water levels. We intend to collect data in 1-hour incre-

ments. Once a month, the field tech will visit each site and download the data. We hope to buy 30 more Trolls within the next 18 months, giving us a total of 50 monitoring stations. The Trolls are read using a handheld device known as a Rugged Reader. (pictured below)



In order for the District to wisely manage the groundwater in the area, the accumulation of scientific data is mandatory. We work for you, the taxpayer, to protect and conserve YOUR water. What we do is your business.

Water levels are up!

Ronnie Moore, Lab/Field Tech, has been working on the Summer Water Levels. So far we're seeing an average rise in water levels of 6.25'. The greatest increase was 34.2' Oddly enough, this was in one of the TWDB wells on the side of Hwy 87. Well 4262909 is about 20 feet away and only saw an increase of 4.9'. That means the water level in one of the wells is at 138.6' and the other is 109.1', definitely demonstrating some faulting.

Directors

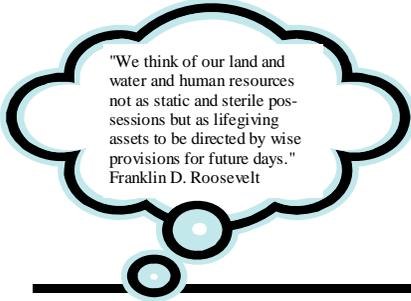
- Owen Parks.....President
- Bill Sloan.....Vice-President
- Bert Striegler.....Secretary
- Wendell Moody.....Director
- Larry Lehmborg.....Director

Staff

- David Huie.....Manager
- Caroline Runge.....Consulting Manager
- Angelina B. Deans.....Assistant Manager
- Ronnie Moore.....Field/Lab Technician

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RAINFALL 2007

2007 has been, beyond a doubt, a wet year. With only 3/4 of the year behind us, we've already doubled rainfall amounts from last year in certain areas. Northern McCulloch County, for example, received only 14.33" in 2006 and 16.56" in 2005. As of September 5, 2007, that area received 34.15". Another gauge a few miles south-east of Voca has recorded 44.16 inches so far this year. 2006 was 21.48" and 2005

was 19.78". The 2005 and 2006 Rainfall Maps are still available on our website: www.hickoryuwcd.org.

According to the National Weather Service, "At San Angelo Regional Airport, the total summer precipitation (June through August) was 13.93 inches. This establishes a new record for the wettest summer in San Angelo. The previous wettest summer was set back in 1911...when 13.08 inches of

precipitation was recorded."

The Brady Standard Herald's Report of Rainfall Monthly and Annually for McCulloch County is printed regularly. These records go back to 1913. According to this list, 1971 saw 46.48" with 13.99" in July. 41.40" fell in 1919, 40.91" in 1935, 40.74" in 1941. At the other end of the spectrum, 1954 was the driest with only 8.71" all year.

