



Heartbeat of the Hickory

Overall this 80th legislative session has to be regarded as very successful by the state's groundwater districts. A great deal of credit is due to Bob Turner for the outcome of this session. Bob also met one-on-one with all of the House Natural Resources Committee members early in the session and took many new members, such as Representatives Tuffy Hamilton and Ryan Guillen, out to dinner to educate them on groundwater districts and issues. When the going got tough at the end, that groundwork paid off.

The following is a summary of the most important bills and their fate during the session:

SB 714 (Fraser) This was one of the most important favorable bills for the WTRGMA. Production for oil and gas exploration remains exempt from permitting, but this legislation allows GCDs to require oil and gas companies to report how much water is being used in their drilling operations. This is especially important now that we need to account for all water use in determining our Managed Available Groundwater under the provisions of Section 36.108.

SB 3 (amendment on the floor by Hilderbran, incorporating some of the provisions of HB 1699) - Now codified in Sections 36.113 (d) (5) and 36.117 (d) (1), this amendment to SB 3 allows districts in the Hill Country PGMA to

regulate the use of groundwater for "vanity ponds." HB 1699, which would have allowed all districts to regulate vanity ponds, failed to pass.

SB 1383/ HB 2962 (Seliger/Smithee) provides procedural steps for a citizen filing a private cause of action against a neighboring landowner who illegally drills or operates a water well in a groundwater conservation district. The version which passed requires the landowner to file a complaint with the groundwater district prior to filing suit, and allows the district to make a determination on whether it will take action. This version was favored by the WTRGMA over one which did not require the landowner to notify the groundwater district before suing.

HB 556 - (Hilderbran, with Duncan amendment) exempts districts with less than 2000 population from the requirement of using the new electronic voting stations, and allows districts with less than 5000 to use only one machine in the district, with notice as to where that machine will be located. Multi-county districts are allowed to consider each county within the district as a separate political subdivision for the purpose of exemption under the 2000 and 5000 population limits. The bill entirely exempts the Hickory UWCD No 1 from voting station requirements.

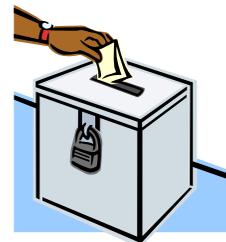
HB 4009 - Changes the

name of the Emerald UWCD to the Crockett County GCD and allows district voting to take place in Ozona.

Ten new groundwater conservation districts were created by legislation during this session and one proposed district's enabling legislation failed to pass.

Sen. Averitt insisted on amendment of several new single-county districts' bills with a clause providing for the dissolution of the district by a specified date if the district does not enlarge its territory outside of the original county. The dissolution clause was not in bills originally filed in the House. It was attached to six districts' enabling legislation in the Senate Natural Resources Committee, was removed from three of them in the House, one district's legislation didn't pass, so McLennan County and Tablerock are the only new districts which remain subject to dissolution for failure to add more territory.

(article taken from report by Caroline Runge)



Directors

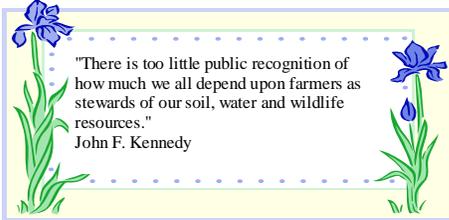
- Owen Parks.....President
- Bill Sloan.....Vice-President
- Bert Striegler.....Secretary
- Wendell Moody.....Director
- Larry Lehmborg.....Director

Staff

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

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Water Camp 2007

We are proud to have the opportunity to sponsor two local area high school students for this year's State Youth Water Camp. Both students currently attend Brady High School. Nicolas Garcia, the son of Ernesto and Ruthie Garcia of Brady, will be a junior this year. Josh Behrens, son of Joe and Jacque Behrens of Voca, will be a sophomore this year.

Texas State Youth Water Camp teaches high school youth about the importance of water stewardship. This five day educational camp uses hands-on experiences, guest speakers, and field trips to train youth in water conservation and preservation and show them how our water resources are being used by industry, agriculture and municipalities. Texas State Youth Water Camp is held in July each year, at the 50-acre George

and Opal Bentley 4-H Center in Monahans, TX. Camp begins Sunday afternoon and concludes with a luncheon the following Thursday. This year the dates are July 8 through 12.



If you have a well within the District boundary and you don't think its registered or permitted, please, contact us either by phone (325) 597-2785, email: hickoryuwcd@yahoo.com or in person at 111 East Main in Brady.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The need for a local underground water conservation district to properly manage water from the Hickory Aquifer in Central Texas was first identified in the early 70's. In November 1981, local citizens submitted a petition to the Texas Water Commission calling for the creation of the Hickory UWCD No. 1. A confirmation election was held August 14, 1982. The District was officially estab-

lished at that time with 94% of the votes in favor.

So what does this mean? It means that the Hickory UWCD No. 1 is 25 years old this summer! In that time, we have seen many changes. In 1999 our petition was amended to include all the aquifers in this area. In 2003, the rest of Mason County was annexed. Times change, things change but one thing

remains the same, we are here and intend to be here to protect YOUR WATER and work for you!

