

TGR SPRING 2024 RESOURCE

GM GEORGE WISSMANN RETIRES FROM TGR

After 40 years of service in the groundwater profession in San Antonio, George Wissmann has retired as General Manager of the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR). He served the District for 18 years after completing 22 years at the San Antonio Water System (SAWS).

During his time at SAWS, he was involved with the development and implementation of several water resource acquisitions which included the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project in the Carrizo Aquifer, surface water from Canyon Lake and the installation of the largest water recycling (wastewater reuse) program in the country at the time. As part of his position in SAWS' water quality department, he worked with some high-profile businesses downtown to plug historic artesian wells located in the basements of the Majestic Theatre, Nix Hospital and the Gunther Hotel.

When Wissmann began his work as General Manager of the Trinity Glen Rose District, there had been no concerted efforts to address groundwater issues on a regional basis. In 2010, Groundwater Management Areas were formed and the first Desired Future Conditions were established to help the region plan for the preservation of the Trinity Aquifer over the next 50 years. In 2015, the Texas Legislature created the Comal County GCD and the Southwest Travis GCD. Due to successes at TGR, Wissmann and Emily Green were called on to start up the operation of Comal County GCD and establish its funding mechanism and operating policies and procedures while still managing the TGR.



"I am very thankful to all of the GCDs, industry professionals, organizations and individuals I have worked with along the way from past and present board members and staff to all of the great people in the groundwater world in South Texas. I leave the district in great hands with Amanda Maloukis who I am confident will manage and guide the TGR into the future no matter the challenge," Wissmann said. "Through lots of collaboration, we were able to establish solid reserve funds for TGR, excellent community awareness programs and beneficial partnerships in our water conservation outreach efforts. Just recently, we spent a year or so working with stakeholders and the board to update our existing district rules which should serve the district for years to come."



TGR UPDATES ITS DATABASE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

Roughly two years ago, the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR) set out to update its groundwater data management and integrated mapping system. After a rigorous request for proposals and interview process, TGR chose Halff Associates (Halff) to deliver the new system. Halff has been providing groundwater database solutions to Districts across Texas since 2010.

Halff proposed starting with its own Groundwater Management System (GMS) solution which is a fully integrated web-based data management, analysis, reporting and mapping application. GMS was specifically designed as a base platform that provides the framework for a district-specific database. It is fully customizable and allowed TGR to select the applications it needed.

“As the District has grown over the years, we have continually worked to stay up to date with the latest geologic assessment technologies, groundwater modeling capabilities and other science-based advancements associated with managing the Trinity Aquifer within our district and the region,” said TGR General Manager Amanda Maloukis. “At some point, all of the data produced by that technology has to be readily accessible and manageable for it to be used effectively. Consequently, we knew our existing database management system needed to be improved and so we undertook a thorough consultant selection process so we could get to work in updating the District’s system. We’re extremely pleased with our new data management capabilities and look forward to sharing more information about this new tool in the future.”

In creation of the database a public mapping tool was developed that is available to the public for informational purposes that you can find at the District’s website [here](#). Please contact the TGR office for any assistance with the tool.

TGR DISTRICT MOVES TO DROUGHT STAGE 2

Northern Bexar County received much needed rain this past January. Though it is the second wettest January on record and we saw a range of 4”-6” of rain over a weeks period, the district is split between severe drought conditions on the west side to moderate drought on the east side of the district.

The rainfall raised Trinity aquifer levels at all district well monitoring stations slightly to moderately, but further

recovery is still vital. With 2022 being the area’s second driest year on record and 2023 being the hottest year on record with below average rainfall, this compounded our declining aquifer levels, so recovery is still needed. Years with normal rainfall amounts help water supplies recover and keep up with ongoing demand. Our Hill Country neighbors to the north received less rainfall than our area, which is where it really matters to benefit the reservoirs and aquifers upstream.

Continued on Page 4

CAMP BULLIS RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FOR CONSERVATION RESEARCH



The Camp Bullis Sentinel Landscape Partnership's (CBSL) grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been fully funded for roughly \$502,000. This project will result in the creation of a critical resources to enable strategic, on-the-ground conservation work in the CBSL project area with the CBSL Groundwater Study.

Camp Bullis, which straddles the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers, along with surrounding communities, relies on karst aquifers for drinking water and other important uses. Increasing population growth and development throughout the CBSL project area has and continues to bring increased risks to the aquifer system, and subsequently the wildlife and people that depend on it.

Currently, there is a lack of information on aquifer dynamics across the CBSL project area. Without knowing where groundwater is flowing from, where it is being depleted, and where it is being recharged, one cannot optimally protect this essential resource. To that end, CBSL will implement a groundwater study to identify groundwater flow paths within and between the

Edwards and Trinity aquifers and increase the understanding of where areas of groundwater depletion and recharge might be affecting the aquifers. The study will be performed by the USGS Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center along with collaboration by Hill Country Groundwater Conservation Districts along with the EAA and other CBSL partners. By focusing on cross-communication between aquifers, this study will fill a significant data gap and result in water-level maps and reports that enable groundwater protection.

The lack of aquifer data with which to compare water levels in the Edwards Aquifer to those in the Upper, Middle, and Lower zones of the Trinity Aquifer limits the CBSL Partnership's ability to protect this critical resource. These missing landscape-scale data are needed to understand where depletion, recharge, and communication between aquifers is happening. The proposed CBSL Groundwater Study will fill this critical data gap, providing an understanding of groundwater communication (i.e., flow paths) within and between the zones of the Trinity Aquifer and Edwards Aquifer.

[Learn more about the CBSL partnership here.](#)

TGR Drought Stage 2 story continued

The increased rainfall and aquifer levels are a hopeful sign that we will continue to receive rainfall over the next few months and see more effects of El Nino showers we just experienced this past January. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Climate Prediction Center](#) shows Texas to see average or slightly above average levels of rain over the next 3 months.

With these slight improvements the District is rolling back to Drought Stage 2. The aquifer levels are still in a recovery stage and still below healthy levels. While in

the recovery stage the aquifer benefits from a boost in water conservation efforts right now. Stage 2 still indicates for us to maintain year-round conservation and moderate efforts. Find more information on [water restrictions here](#).

We are currently not in the season for lawn watering and ask any lawn watering practices to maintain watering on your designated watering days. See the weekly recommended lawn and bed [watering advice here](#), at Garden Style San Antonio put out by SAWS.

GO GARDENING

*Check out what's happening in the February edition of your favorite landscape show - **Go Gardening!***



The Season 3 premier of the Go Gardening Show aired on the first Friday in February. Two years ago, the Trinity Glen Rose District and Gardening Volunteers of South Texas decided to launch this ambitious video series as part of their water conservation programs. Each month, the show brings viewers some great how-to segments on basic gardening techniques and great ideas for converting high water use landscapes to low water use. The show also features beautiful spots around the community which demonstrate the use of native plants for enhancing landscapes.

Keep an eye out on our Facebook page as we will preview each show and let you know how you can actually earn some rewards points for watching the show. The points can be converted to dollars to buy native plants at local nurseries.

Go Gardening's mission is to help people conserve water in the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers by teaching homeowners how to convert turfgrass areas to low-to-no water use landscapes featuring native plants.

We appreciate your support in watching each month and telling your friends and neighbors about the show.

You can watch Go Gardening at: www.TrinityGlenRose.com/gogardening.

TGR DID YOU KNOW?

The Trinity Aquifer is one of the most extensive and highly used groundwater resources in Texas. Although its primary use is for municipalities, it is also used for irrigation, livestock, and other domestic purposes. The subsurface area of the aquifer covers 21,308 square miles.

NEWS BRIEFS



TGR Resource Newsletter to Publish Quarterly

The TGR Resource Newsletter will be moving to quarterly editions rather than monthly. You can look for the next edition of TGR Resource around the first Friday of February of each quarter. If there are any special announcements, we will send those out via our email notice system. And, we will be updating our News Page and social media channels as needed for time-sensitive information. You can find our News Page at: www.TrinityGlenRose.com/news. You can click the social media icons on the last page of this newsletter to follow us on Facebook.

Upcoming TGR Board Meetings

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District board typically meets on the second Thursday of the month. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 8. Due to some scheduling needs, the March board meeting will be held March 7th instead of the second Thursday.

The meetings start at 9:30 a.m. and are held at the Helotes City Hall located at 12951 Bandera Rd. All of the agendas are posted ahead of time on the District's website. www.TrinityGlenRose.com/meetings

Texas Water News - Teas Water Webinars

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department administers educational webinars for their Texas Waters Specialist program. All webinars are open to the public, including upcoming offerings on San Antonio's water supply, Proposition 6, desalination, and more. Click [here](#) to learn about the program.

Tips for Private Well Owners

For domestic water well owners there are no federal or state requirements for monitoring drinking water quality as there are for public water supply systems. Likewise, there are no "right to know" reports informing well owners of the quality of their drinking water and no requirements for treatment. Proper well practices are crucial to protecting water quality and well longevity.

Groundwater Awareness Week (GAW) is taking place March 10-16 in 2024

Since 1999, the U.S. has celebrated Groundwater Awareness Week (GAW) to highlight the responsible development, pollution prevention and water quantity management of groundwater around the country. Groundwater advocates across the country also use GAW to highlight local water issues in their communities. [Find out more here.](#)

The National Ground Water Association and its partners will be focusing their advocacy on promoting professional opportunities in the groundwater industry. According to the American Geosciences Institute, nationally there are more than 135,000 open positions in the industry now, which is far too high to keep up with consumer demand.

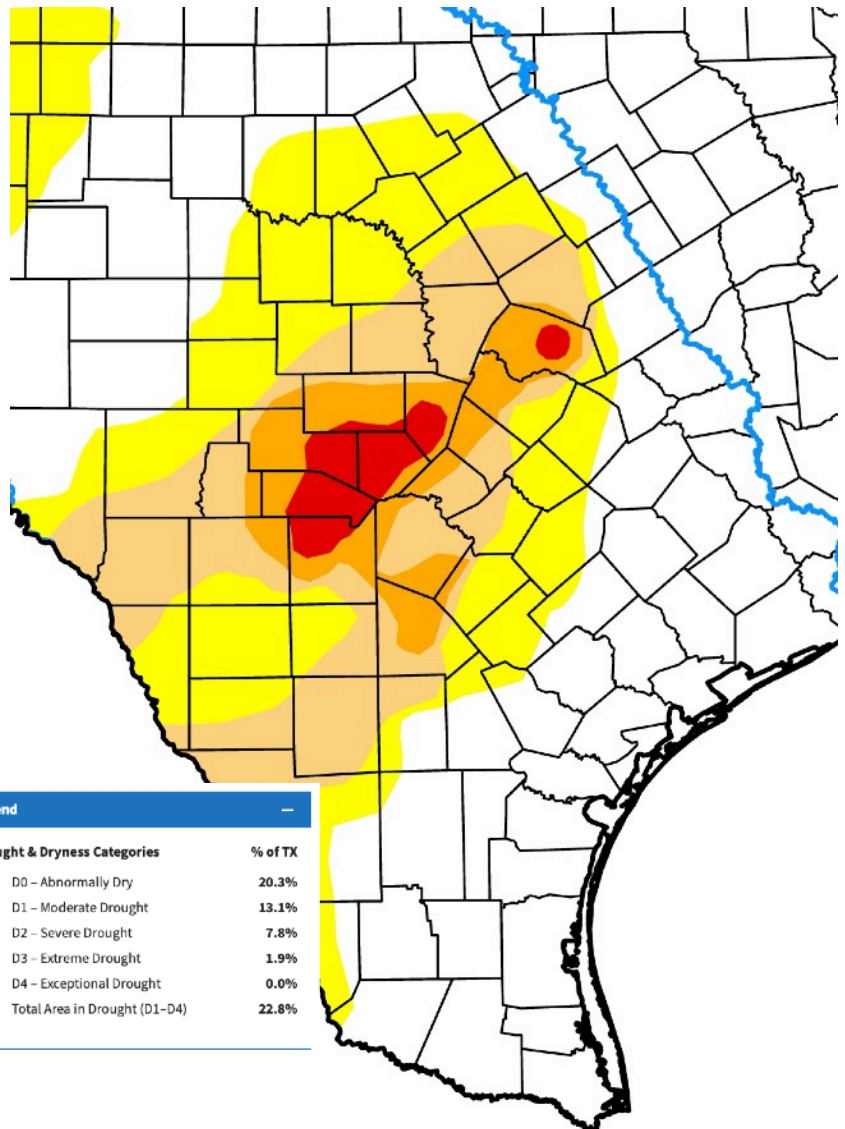
DROUGHT MONITOR

Current drought conditions for Texas as of February 1, 2024.

The U.S. Drought Monitor depicts the location and intensity of drought across the country. The map uses 5 classifications: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1-D4).

This map is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to trigger some disaster declarations and loan eligibility. Individual states and water supply planning may use additional information to inform their declarations and actions.

You can find out more information where Texas drought conditions stand each day by visiting the U.S. Drought Monitor website at: <https://www.drought.gov/states/texas>.



TGR DETAILS

Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District



Connect with TGR on Facebook.

Board of Directors

- Dr. Stuart Birnbaum - Precinct 1
- Joe duMenil - Precinct 2 (Chairman)
- Steven Peterson - Precinct 3
- Joe Silman - Precinct 4
- Katrina Waring-Castillo - Precinct 5

General Manager

Amanda Maloukis

TGR Contact Information

14789 Old Bandera, Ste. 105
Helotes, Texas 78023

Phone (210) 698-1155
Fax (210) 698-1159
Email - tgr@TrinityGlenRose.com
Website: www.TrinityGlenRose.com

TGR Mission

The Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District was created in 2001 to conserve, preserve, and protect the Trinity Aquifer within the District.