

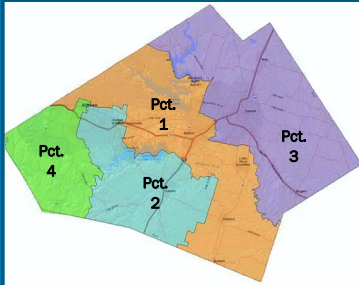
# Clearwater Source

2013 Annual Newsletter | Volume 9, Issue 1 | October, 2013

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## Clearwater Precincts >>>



## DIRECTORS & TERMS:

Leland Gersbach—Precinct 1  
2013-2016 (President)

Bill Bartlett—Precinct 2  
2011-2014 (Director)

Wallace Biskup—Precinct  
2013-2016 (Vice President)

Judy Parker—Precinct 4  
2011-2014 (Secretary)

David Cole—At large  
2013-2014 (Director)

## BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

November 14, 2013  
CTCOG Building,  
2180 N. Main St  
Belton, Texas

Preregistration request-  
ed, please call the office  
now to reserve a seat!

Call 254-933-0120

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last six months have seen your District continue to make strides in obtaining information to manage our underground water. While Bell County has received timely rains for our farmers to produce above average crops, we have not had enough to fill our aquifers, local lakes and ponds. It appears that we are now in the middle of the new drought of record. We are continuing to see our aquifers decline, more in some areas than others which causes us concern. The District is in the process of drilling new site specific monitor wells in these identified areas to help us better monitor the drawdown. We have also been blessed by citizens and

municipalities who have let us use the wells on their property to help us monitor these water levels and draw downs. To these citizens, we say thank you since you are giving us



needed science and saving the District much needed funds to do additional science projects that are needed. If any additional citizens would consider letting the District use your well as a monitor well, please call the District office. . . . (Continued on Page 3)

## UPDATE ON THE USFWS POTENTIAL LISTING OF THE SALADO SALAMANDER AS THREATENED AND ENDANGERED

The Stakeholders of Bell County recently met the September 19th deadline established by USFWS for comments related to the six month extension, before they make their final decision on the Salado Salamander. The official comments were prepared by Mike Gershon, and focused on responding to USFWS's solicitation of additional data regarding the proposed listing of the Salado Salamander pursuant of the Endangered Species Act. The solicitation for comments specified three key issues and associated categories of information in the Federal Register notice published on August 20, 2013.

The comments were provided on behalf of the five Bell County-area stakeholders: Bell County, Village of Salado, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, Salado Water Supply Corporation, and Jarrell-Schwertner Water Supply Corporation. We realize other groups and individuals provided additional funding for the research, and appreciate their support of our efforts. Mike Gershon completed



the final assembling of the documents and prepared our comments which can be viewed on our District website at [www.cuwcd.org](http://www.cuwcd.org). Mr. Gershon did an incredible job and we appreciate his efforts and professionalism. He assembled our information from the ongoing hydrogeological studies by our consultants at Baylor University coupled with new data and recently available spring flows along with Edwards BFZ groundwater pumping within Clearwater UWCD's jurisdiction.

The other new data includes our Texas A&M University consultant Dr. Toby Hibbits final report . . . (Continued on Page 3)

## WELL REGISTRATION REPORT

**Well Registration:** Since the District's opening in 2002, a total of 4,937 wells have been registered through October 2013. 160 of these wells were non-exempt and 4,830 were exempt. Well registration for 2013 through October is reported at 53.

### Well Registration Summary '02 through '13

Period	Exempts Wells		Non-Exempt Wells		Total
	Existing	New	Existing	New	
2002-2012	4,063	718	111	45	4,937
2013	8	41	0	4	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,071</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4,990</b>

*State Law requires that all wells within a groundwater district be registered with the district.*

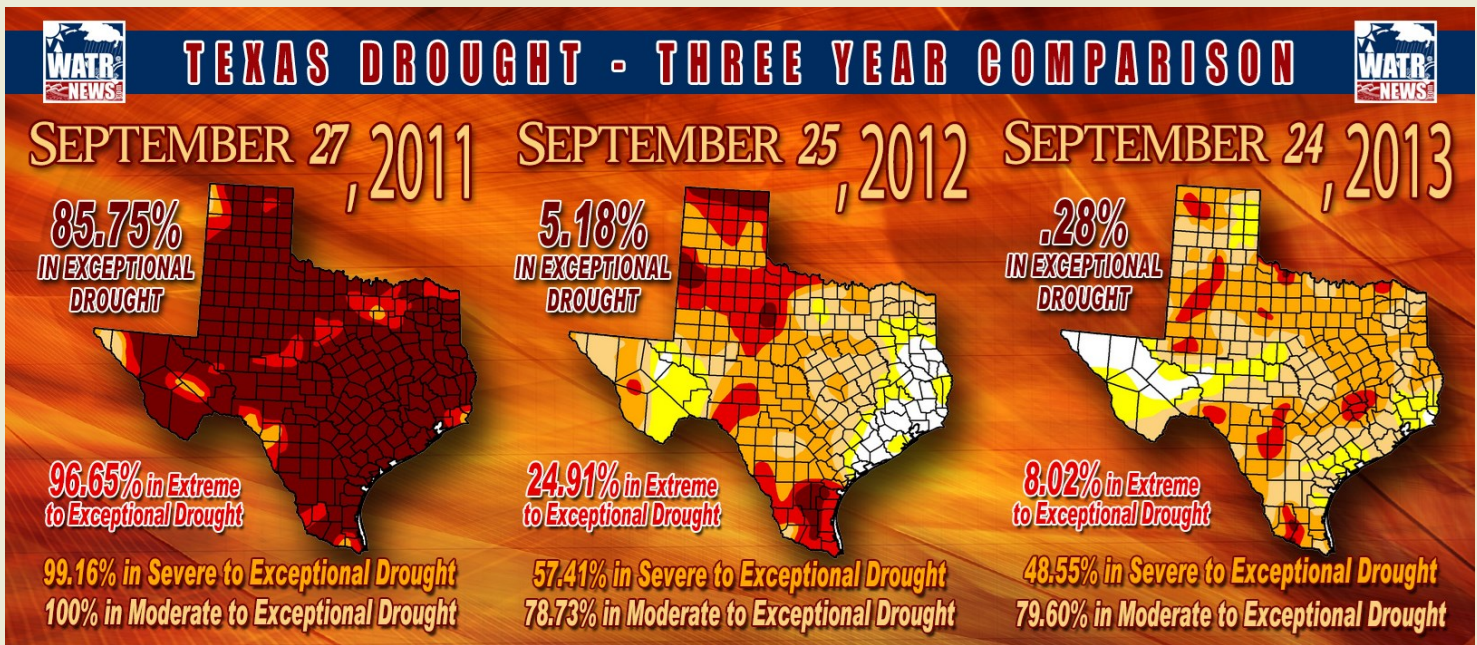
## WELL PRODUCTION REPORT

Non-exempt wells are capable of producing a large volume of groundwater (over 17 gallons per minute), located on less than 10 acres, or are used for purposes other than Domestic, Livestock, or Poultry. All other wells are "exempt".

**What is an acre-foot of water?** The amount of water needed to cover an acre, one foot deep in water. (325,851.43 gallons)

### ----- 2012 NON-EXEMPT & EXEMPT WELL PRODUCTION -----

Aquifer	Non-Exempt Production (ac-ft/yr)	Number of Non-Exempt Wells	Estimated Exempt Well Production (ac-ft/yr)	Number of Exempt Wells	Total Production (ac-ft/yr)
Edwards BFZ	1,999	51	468	703	<b>2,467</b>
Trinity	1,005	72	1,271	1,980	<b>2,276</b>
Other Aquifers	280	16	1,303	1,979	<b>1,583</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>4,662</b>	<b>6,335</b>



Thinking the drought is over due to recent rains? Well the answer is not as simple as some may think. On the surface we have seen some improvement from recent rain fall events. However, the much needed recharge to the aquifers is still way behind. After such record drought conditions in 2011, recovery will require more than just average rainfall. The lack of precipitation over time created what's known as a deficit, meaning normal weather won't be enough to change the conditions. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon, state climatologist and a professor with Texas A&M University's department of atmospheric sciences estimates Texas' drought susceptibility "could continue another five to 15 years." Dr. Nielsen-Gammon will be speaking at our annual Bell County Water Symposium on November 14th, 2013. Call for more information.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

We have entered into contracts with Baylor University and the USGS to perform specific projects to help us understand the aquifers and their recharge. Some of this science will assist us in providing information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their proposed listing of the Salado Salamander. We currently have a six month extension as we gather and prepare more research. We will continue to obtain the science needed to better understand the aquifers that under lie our county as our budget allows.

We are again having our annual water symposium in November. I would encourage all interested citizens to attend this free symposium for the full day or any part as your schedule will allow. Your District is here to help you. If you have a need for a program, speaker or information, please contact the District office.

As a parting comment, please be conscious and conserve our water resources. What you use today may be the water you or your children may be needing to drink in the future.

**Leland Gersbach**, President  
Clearwater UWCD

## SALAMANDER UPDATE (CONT.)

concerning species surveys undertaken between September 20 and November 30, 2012.

Based on the studies conducted to date, we submitted these comments maintaining our position that the evidence does not indicate the Salado Salamander should be listed and designation of a critical habitat is not necessary. The comments urge USFWS to recognize our continued ongoing research and collection of data. This allows for a better understanding of the Salado Salamander's life cycle and habitat needs, as well as the Edwards BFZ Aquifer resource upon which the salamander and local communities depend.

The six documents submitted can be viewed and downloaded by finding the article posted under News online at [www.cuwcd.org](http://www.cuwcd.org).

I want to again commend Mr. Gershon with Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law and our consultants at Texas A&M University and Baylor University for doing a tremendous job on behalf of the stakeholders of Bell County.

**Dirk Aaron**, General Manager  
Clearwater UWCD

## Join the District for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual *Bell County Water Symposium*

Central Texas Council of Governments Building  
2180 N. Main Street (old Walmart)  
Belton, Texas

November 14, 2013 8:30 A.M. — 3:30P.M.

Farmers and Ranchers can receive 3 Hrs CEU's. These are fee based and can be purchased at the event from  
*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*

## Key Topics and Speakers

### Overview of Clearwater Activities & Staff Update

*Leland Gersbach—Clearwater District Board President*

### Is the Legislature Concerned about Groundwater? and Brackish What?

*Kristen Fancher, Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law*

### TWDB and Groundwater Management (Rules, DFC, Statewide Groundwater Monitoring)

*Dr. Larry French, Director Groundwater Resources Division, Texas Water Development Board*

### Status of Surface Water Supply in Central Texas and Future Water Plans

*Brad Brunett, Brazos River Authority Water Services Manager*

### Drought of Record? (2011 to 2013?)

*Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, State Climatologist at Texas A&M University*

### What we know about the Edwards BFZ Aquifer in Bell County

*Randy Williams, BarW Groundwater Exploration, LLC*

### Life after the Endangered Species Designation

*Mike Gershon, Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law*

### New Understanding of the Northern Segment of the Edwards BFZ

*Dr. Joe Yelderman, Hydrogeologist, Baylor University Hydrogeology Department and Ms. Stephanie Wong, Graduate Assistant, Baylor University Hydrogeology Department*

### Understanding the Geochemistry of the Edwards BFZ

*Dr. Marylynn Musgrove, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey*

### Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Update

*Lisa Prcin, Research Associate, Texas A&M AgriLife Research*

**This event is free but requires RSVP  
call by November 7th 5:00 p.m.**

## ----- Event Sponsors -----

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District

Bell County Texas A&M  
AgriLife Extension

Lloyd-Gosselink  
Attorneys at Law

HALFF Associates

Bell County

**Mission Statement >>>**

To implement an efficient, economical, and environmentally sound groundwater management program to protect and enhance the water resources of the District.

**PUBLIC ADVISORY**

Tom Madden—Precinct 1

Henry Bunke—Precinct 2

Marvin Green—Precinct 3  
(Committee chair)

Bradley Ware—Precinct 4

Bill Schumann —At Large

**WATER QUALITY TEST**

The District's in house lab offers registered well owners free testing for common constituents and bacteria. Testing bottles are available in our office. Annual testing is recommended.

join our  
**facebook**  
fan page

**E-MAIL CONTACT LIST**

Contact the District office if you would like to be included in our e-mail list for agendas and press releases.



Clearwater District  
P.O. Box 1989  
700 Kennedy Court  
Belton TX 76513

Ph: 254-933-0120  
Fax: 254-770-2360  
www.cuwcd.org

**THE MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has moved into the new fiscal year (October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014) with a renewed emphasis on the original expectations of the citizens of Bell County. Our District was created under Article XVI, § 59 of the Texas Constitution and operates pursuant to its enabling legislation and Chapters 36 and 49 of the "Texas Water Code". The District was created to manage and protect the groundwater resources of Bell County, Texas.

The guiding principles of the District are stated and confirmed by the Board of Directors in the District's Management Plan as well as the District Rules. This puts me (General Manager) on a defensible course to implement a staffing effort that meets the goals, objectives, and performance standards described in the management plan. The current board directives and decisions are conservative in nature, yet accomplish the day to day responsibilities with a staff of three, which includes the General Manager, Administrative Assistant and the Education Coordinator/Field Technician.

Clearwater UWCD moved to our current facility about one and half years ago. We became a stand-alone entity at that time. We had been preparing for this transition during the ten year affiliation with the Central Texas Council of Governments. Because the affiliation was temporary with an ultimate goal of decoupling from the CTCOG within ten years, the new staff in 2011 was challenged to steer the district towards independence by the end of March 2012. This goal was met with success and the doors opened at 700 Kennedy Court, Belton on April 1, 2012. Clientele often comment on the easy access location in the Belton Business Park.

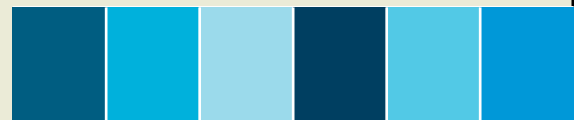
I added to our team, Mr. Todd Strait, the Education Coordinator in October of 2012. This has been an exciting time for Clearwater UWCD as we focus on education outreach to the youth and residents of Bell County. The District has an obligation to help well owners and tax payers find ways to conserve our groundwater. This resource can only go so far to meet the needs of our County.

I also encourage well owners to make sure that our files are complete on their respective wells. We also acknowledge that a well is a tremendous financial asset when properly registered and constructed in accordance with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations. Clearwater UWCD communicates with local and region wide well drillers and pump installers on the State rules of construction and completion of wells and demands that those rules are adhered to on behalf of the well owner. Constructing and maintaining a well of any kind is very expensive and a huge liability if unregistered and improperly completed.

Please feel free to call our staff at any time for assistance. We pride ourselves on accurate and efficient response to your needs.



**Dirk Aaron**, General Manager  
Clearwater UWCD



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(NAME)  
(STREET)  
(CITY)