



RUSK COUNTY
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 97 | Henderson, TX 75653
Office (903)657-1900 | Fax (903)657-1922
www.rcgcd.org | rcgcd@suddenlinkmail.com

July 28, 2022

Rusk County Water Supply Entities & Citizens,

Re: Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District Board Initiates Stage II (2) of its Drought Contingency Plan at July 2022 Meeting

The Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District (District) is committed to working with local well owners to further its goal of protecting and conserving the groundwater resources in Rusk County.

The District Board voted to initiate Stage II (2) of its Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The Board recognizes the existence of Moderate Drought in the District. Data collected from District wells show, on average, a one-foot drop in groundwater levels from June to July. Per the District's DCP: "At this stage, it is recommended that water consumers in Rusk County initiate voluntary conservation techniques that would include limiting aesthetic water use and taking inventory of non-essential water use."

To water supply entity customers, check with your entity about any DCPs and adhere to the plan, so we can conserve our precious groundwater resource now and in the future.

You may find the District's Rules at www.rcgcd.org by going to the "Documents" link at the top of the homepage. The District's Drought Contingency Plan can also be found there.

Thanks for your cooperation in getting the message out regarding the importance of water conservation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Thornton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Thornton
General Manager



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July 22, 2022

Drought Contingency Plans in Rusk County

In keeping with RCGCD/District's mission to "preserve and protect" groundwater resources for Rusk County, RCGCD will update a list of water supply entities initiating drought contingency plans (DCP) as the District learns of them. District Rule 9.10 states: "Permittees, including but not limited to retail water utilities, shall report within 30 days to the District of when its water conservation plan, or a new stage of the water conservation plan, is put into effect."

We are aware of two water supply entities initiating DCPs: *Dirgin WSC and Crystal Farms WSC*. *Southern Utilities – Laird Hill* will implement Stage 2 of their plan the week of July 25th. The District's DCP utilizes entities' actions on DCPs as part of its criteria in enacting its own plan. Check with your own water supply entity for specific details and questions on DCPs.

Water supply entities urging conservation with watering schedules: *Crims Chapel, Ebenezer, Oakland, and Pinehill WSCs*

We are closely monitoring the drought situation. The RCGCD Board of Directors will consider initiating the District's DCP at an upcoming meeting this summer.

RCGCD encourages citizens to be mindful of water use always, especially in this period of hot and dry weather. Pray for rain!

For more on water conservation tips see <http://rcgcd.org/water-conservation/>



June 22, 2022

The Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District Urges Water Conservation

Despite above average spring rainfall across the county, hot and dry weather is taking its toll. The Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District (RCGCD) is monitoring the current dry spell and its effect on groundwater levels.

RCGCD monitors water levels in wells across the county monthly and quarterly. Since January of 2022, only twice have water levels shown a downward trend – February and June. For June, the drop of -0.3 ft. was less the average drop for June of -0.46 ft. or almost one-half foot. For the spring, the county received 16.93” of rain. This was above the average of 12.14”.

Through the end of May, Rusk County was ahead in its year-to-date total (January-May) average for rain at 3.22”. The average year-to-date total through May is 19.81”, but 23.03” of rain fell. Then, the hot weather hit. In the summer months, water use typically goes up, as the heat builds, and especially when rainfall is lacking. The average rain for the summer is 9.51”. It will be hard to reach the average should the hot and dry weather continue. The U.S. Drought Monitor in late June shows most all of Rusk County in a “moderate drought.” The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows East Texas trending warmer for the summer months. In addition, the “US Seasonal Drought Outlook” produced by the CPC shows most all of East Texas in the “Drought Development Likely” category. Pray for rain!

RCGCD urges Rusk County residents to be aware of water use, not only in dry spells, but all the time. It also believes in the importance of citizens making water conservation practices a habit. Encouraging children to conserve water can foster lifelong water conservation practices. Water demand will only increase, as the population of Texas and East Texas increases. This makes conservation necessary!

Some indoor conservation tips include taking shorter showers, using restrictive shower heads, using a bucket to catch shower water while it is heating (then using it for other purposes), turning off the water faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving, installing low flow toilets, checking for plumbing leaks to prevent water loss, and not running the water faucet needlessly while cooking or cleaning dishes. Some outdoor conservation tips include rainwater harvesting (rain barrels), planting drought tolerant plants and grasses, mulching areas around trees and shrubs, utilizing rain sensors on irrigation systems to prevent watering during rain events, watering in the early morning or evening, and limiting water use in general around your house and property.

RCGCD will continue monitoring groundwater levels, rainfall, and the potential need to enact its drought contingency plan.



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To learn more about RCGCD visit www.rcgcd.org. Click on the “Education” link of the homepage and go to the “Water Conservation” link for water conservation ideas. Like and follow us on Facebook!