

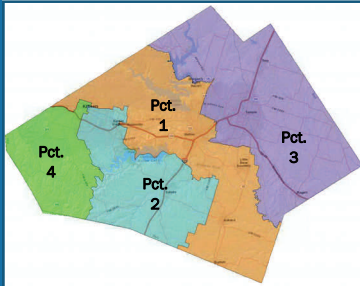
# Clearwater Source

2012 Annual Newsletter | Volume 8, Issue 1 | October, 2012

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## Clearwater Precincts >>>



## DIRECTORS & TERMS:

Leland Gersbach—Precinct 1

Bill Bartlett—Precinct 2  
2010-2014 (Director)

Wallace Biskup—Precinct 3

Judy Parker—Precinct 4  
2010-2014 (Secretary)David Cole—At Large  
2011-2012 (Director)

## BELL COUNTY WATER SYMPOSIUM

November 15, 2012  
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 been a very exciting and challenging time in our District. We have moved into our new location which has allowed us to become more centralized and efficient. If you have not been to our public access website, you will find that we now have the Spring flow Gauges for the Salado Creek and monitor well information in real time. In addition, we now have all registered wells layered over land parcels in cooperation with the Bell County Tax Appraisal District so an individual can see all wells located near them. There is an abundance of helpful information, rainfall charts, and additional sites relating to water that can be easily located and informative. The staff has been very proactive in using and updating technology to help our efficiency and to provide you, the tax-payers with additional information. The Website will continue to improve monthly until January 2013. What used to take hours is now done in minutes or in real time. This increased use in technology has been one of my main goals and the staff has been very busy in this implementation along with working on the entire revamp of our current website. In the next few months we plan to launch the new site with easier access to all the useful . . . (continued on page 4)

## ELECTION INFORMATION

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) has accepted applications from individuals seeking the director positions in Precincts 1, 3 and At Large. The CUWCD precincts mirror the County Commissioner precincts in Bell County. The filing period began on July 21 and ended on August 20th, for the two director positions representing Precinct 1, and Precinct 3. The incumbents, Leland Gersbach (Precinct 1), and Wallace Biskup, (Precinct 3) will be unopposed in the November 6, 2012 General Election. Mr. Gersbach is the current Board President and Mr. Biskup is the current Board Vice-President.

The Special Election for the At-Large position's filing period ended on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. This extended deadline was due to provisions established for Special Elections in the State of Texas for political subdivisions such as Clearwater UWCD. The At-Large position is a special election for the final two years of the unexpired four year term won by former



board member, John Mayer, on November 2, 2010. John Mayer resigned from the board in August of 2011 for personal reasons. The Clearwater UWCD Board appointed David Cole to the At-Large Director position in September 2011, as interim until the next Election Date (November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012).

Those filing for the At-Large Position are David Cole, Bradley B. Ware, Steven Lee Hoskins, and Joe Frank Torralva. Mr. Cole resides in Killeen and currently is the General Manager of the Moffat Water Supply Corporation. Mr. Ware resides in the Maxdale Community, located in the . . . (continued on page 5)

## WELL REGISTRATION REPORT

**Well Registration:** Since the District's opening in 2002, a total of 4,925 wells have been registered through October 2012. 156 of these wells were non-exempt and 4,763 exempt. Well registration for 2012 through October is reported at 63.

*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)

<b>Well Registration Summary '02 through '12</b>					
Period	Exempts Wells		Non-Exempt Wells		Total
	Existing	New	Existing	New	
2002-2011	4,027	547	96	37	4,856
2012	33	35	1	0	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4,925</b>

----- 2011 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	2,070	39	468	697	<b>2,538</b>
Trinity	1,221	42	1,271	1,892	<b>2,492</b>
Other Aquifers	365	18	1,303	1,938	<b>1,668</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3,042</b>	<b>4,446</b>	<b>6,698</b>

## CLEARWATER EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Each year Clearwater UWCD sponsors the Major Rivers Water Education Program. This program is geared toward 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and is the perfect program to assist the district in our outreach efforts throughout the county.

their homes and schools, how to care for their water resources, and how to use them wisely. The program's host, Major Rivers (named for the major rivers of Texas), and his horse Aquifer cover these topics in eight lessons that include a variety of activities in science, math, language arts, social studies and other subjects.

If you would like to know more about this program, or are interested in scheduling a presentation regarding water conservation please give us a call. Todd Strait, our Education Coordinator would be happy to visit with you about the many presentation options our organization can offer!

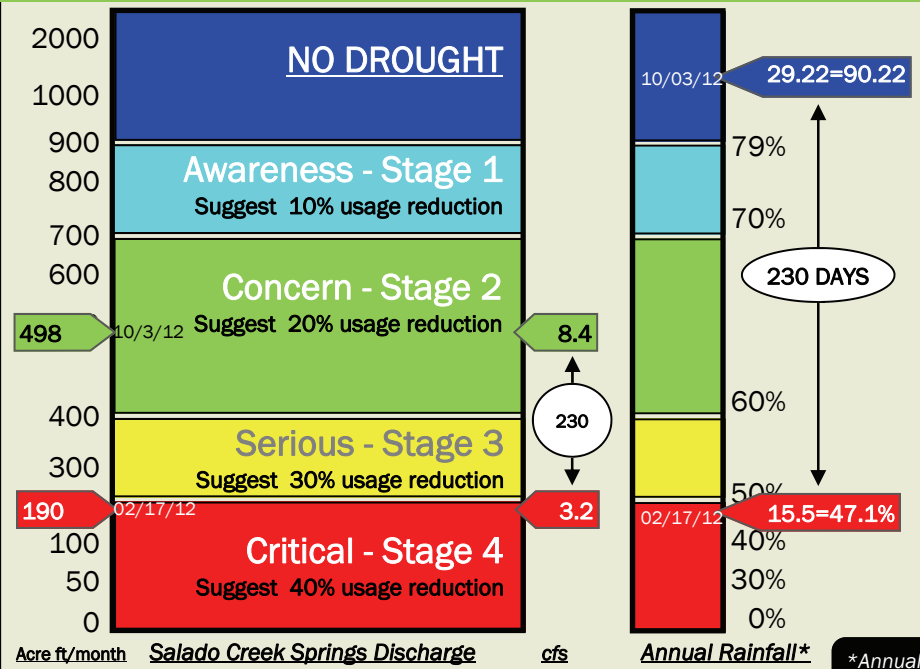


Major Rivers and his horse Aquifer will make learning all about water in Texas irresistibly fun. Major Rivers is a water education curriculum designed to teach students about Texas' major water resources, how water is treated and delivered to

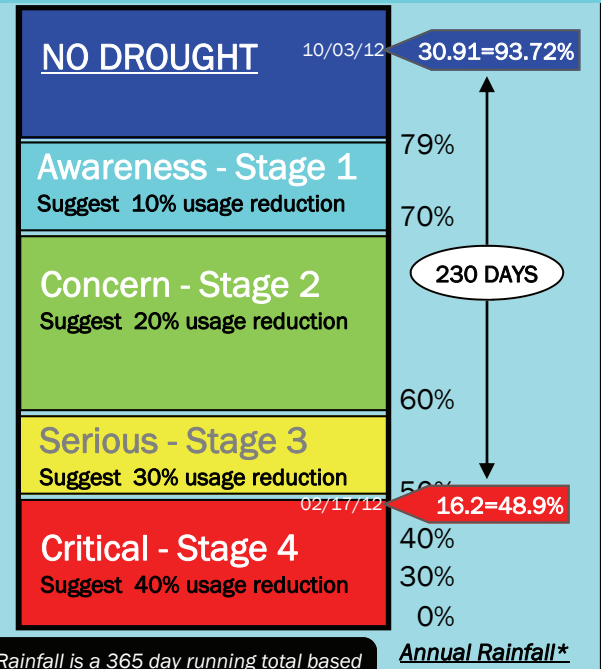
© Lower Colorado River Authority, 2002. All rights reserved.

**DROUGHT STATUS REPORTS FOR THE EDWARDS AND TRINITY**

**EDWARDS BFZ:  
CONCERN - STAGE 2**



**TRINITY AQUIFER:  
AWARENESS - STAGE 1**



\*Annual Rainfall is a 365 day running total based on the 33.33" normal yearly average.

"Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has continued their very cautious position on remaining at the current Stage 2 Drought Declaration," says Dirk Aaron, General Manager. Aaron stressed, "The District wants those businesses and utilities that have permitted wells to be supportive of this very conservative position". The permit holders and exempt well owners of the wells in the Edwards Aquifer are encouraged to remain actively conserving under the "Concern" Stage 2 Declaration Level.

Aaron stressed, "The Edwards aquifer has responded due to the recent rains and the District's system of watching and recording rainfall averages over the Edwards Aquifer. The Data shows that we are still -4.11 inches behind in the Edwards Recharge Zone based on the 33.33 inches of annual rainfall expected over the previous 365 day running total. We are cautiously optimistic that as the rainfall measurements increase, we will see growth as well from the Salado Creek Springs.

Aaron states, "The need for continuing to ask well owners (both permitted and exempt well users) not to utilize this precious resource inappropriately and excessively for landscape purposes is the best way to conserve for a possible repeat of last year's drought. We realize businesses and homeowners have a significant investment in their landscape, and feel a need to protect that investment". "Our position," states Aaron "is to properly protect the Aquifers in accordance with the District's Management Plan and available groundwater data pursuant with Chapter 36 Texas Water Code. We have a job to do and that is to protect water quantity for the future."

"Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has taken a very cautious position on remaining at the current Stage 1 Drought Declaration," says Dirk Aaron, General Manager. Aaron stressed, "The District wants those businesses and utilities who have permitted wells to be supportive of this very conservative position". The permit holders and exempt well owners of wells in the Trinity Aquifer are encouraged to conserve under the "Concern" Stage 2 Declaration Level. Permit holders and well owners with wells in the Trinity Aquifer are still encouraged to remain actively conserving even under the "Awareness" Stage 1 Declaration Level.

The Trinity Aquifer's ability to respond to rainfall is a much more complex and slow process. But the District's drought trigger is only the rainfall deficit measurement based on the very specific rainfall over the identified recharge region of the Trinity Aquifer. The recorded rainfall data and average deficit over the Trinity Aquifer region is currently - 2.42 inches. This simply means we expect 33.33 inches of rain over a running 12 month period, but the District's data measurement system says that only 30.91 inches of rain has fallen in the Trinity Recharge Region. "Going into the driest season," states Aaron, "It is prudent to declare Stage 1 at this time. Trinity well owners in west Bell County should support this after experiencing severe drawdown in their wells last summer and fall."

**WATER TIPS THAT SAVE \$\$\$**



- \* If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.
- \* When you are washing your hands, don't let the water run while you lather.



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)**

information provided. The board members and I encourage all Civic Organizations to contact staff to arrange for Staff and a Board Member to speak and give presentations on the new access site as well as a district update.

Some of our challenges this year have been the proposed listing of the Salado salamander that could have an effect on the southern part of our county, our ongoing drought, and the continued decline of many of our Trinity aquifer wells located in the southwest part of our District. The District has spent countless hours educating and providing information to minimize the potential impact of this proposed listing. While the drought this year has not been as severe as last year, we are still below our average rainfall which is not allowing our groundwater to be recharged sufficiently. We have initiated a study with USGS to provide us water quality and additional information regarding the Edwards aquifer.

While much is still not known about what is happening in our aquifers, the continued decrease in the Trinity aquifer is causing us concern. One of the ways we monitor the aquifer and its changes is the use of monitor wells. The more monitor wells we can measure, the better information we can gather to help us determine the areas of drawdown. If you have a Trinity or Edwards well that you would allow us to use as a monitor well, please call Dirk Aaron at our office to determine if it can be used as a viable monitor location. It does not make any difference if it is or is not being used. We currently have technology that enables us to utilize noninvasive procedures to measure water depth in monitor wells. The volunteering of a well would benefit all of us that use and want to protect our underground water resources.

I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage all well owners to come to our free upcoming water symposium and to utilize resources our office makes available like free water testing. These services and other water related resources are free to all registered well owners. Call or contact our office for additional information.

**Leland Gersbach**  
 President  
 Clearwater UWCD

**Join the District for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual  
 Bell County Water Symposium**

Central Texas Council of Governments Building  
 2180 N. Main Street (old Walmart)  
 Belton, Texas  
 November 15, 2012 8:30 A.M. — 4:00P.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**

**The Weather Forecast (2011 vs 2012?)**  
 Dr. John Nielson-Gammon, State Climatologist at Texas A&M

**300 Years of Groundwater Management in Texas (Viceroys to GCD's)**  
 Dr. Charles Porter, Assistant Professor, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, St. Edwards University, Austin Texas

**Status of Surface Water Supply in Central Texas and Future Water Plans**  
 David Collinsworth, Brazos River Authority  
 Central Basin Business Development Manager

**Old PGMA vs New PGMA Process**  
 Kelly Mills, Groundwater Planning & Assessment Team Leader Water Availability Division, TCEQ

**Clearwater Public Information and Access System Overview**  
 Dirk Aaron, Clearwater General Manager  
 Todd Strait, Clearwater Education Coordinator

**Ground Water Issues Across Texas**  
 Kristen Fancher, Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law

**New Understanding of the Northern Segment of the Edwards BFZ**  
 Dr. Joe Yelderman, Hydrogeologist, Baylor University

**Understanding the Geochemistry of the Edwards BFZ**  
 Dr. MaryLynn Musgrove, Research Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey

**Water Conservation Opportunities and Resources in Texas**  
 Mr. Lyle Zoeller, County Extension Agent Agriculture  
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bell County

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

**----- Event Sponsors -----**

- Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension—Bell County
- HALFF Associates
- BarW Groundwater Exploration, LLC
- Lloyd-Gosselink Attorneys at Law
- Bell County





## WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR WATER?

There are two types of water sources: **groundwater** (water that is found below ground level) and **surface water** (water that appears above the ground). Bell County has two main surface water reservoirs—Lakes Belton and Stillhouse Hollow, and two main groundwater resources—Edwards BFZ and Trinity aquifers. The source of water supply is shown below for local cities and water supply corporations (WSC).

**Belton Lake**—Cities: Belton, Copperas Cove, Ft. Hood, Harker Heights, Killeen, Moffat\*, Morgan’s Point Resort, Nolanville, Temple, and Troy\*; WSC: Bell County WCID #2\*, Pendleton\*

**Lake Stillhouse Hollow**—Cities: Buckholts, Holland, Kempner, Lampasas, Lott, Rogers, and Rosebud; WSCs: Armstrong\*, Bell-Milam-Falls\*, Bell County WCID #5\*, Dog Ridge, East Bell\*, Jarrell-Schwertner\*, Little Elm Valley\*, Oenaville & Belfalls\*, Salem-Elm Ridge, West Bell, and Westphalia.

**Edwards BFZ Aquifer**—WSCs: Salado\* and Jarrell-Schwertner\*.

**Trinity Aquifer**—Cities: Moffat\* and Troy\*: WSCs: Armstrong\*, Bell County WCID #2\* & #5\*, Bell-Milam-Falls\*, East Bell\*, Little Elm Valley\*, Oenaville & Belfalls\*, and Pendleton\*.

\*Indicates a mixture of groundwater and surface water.

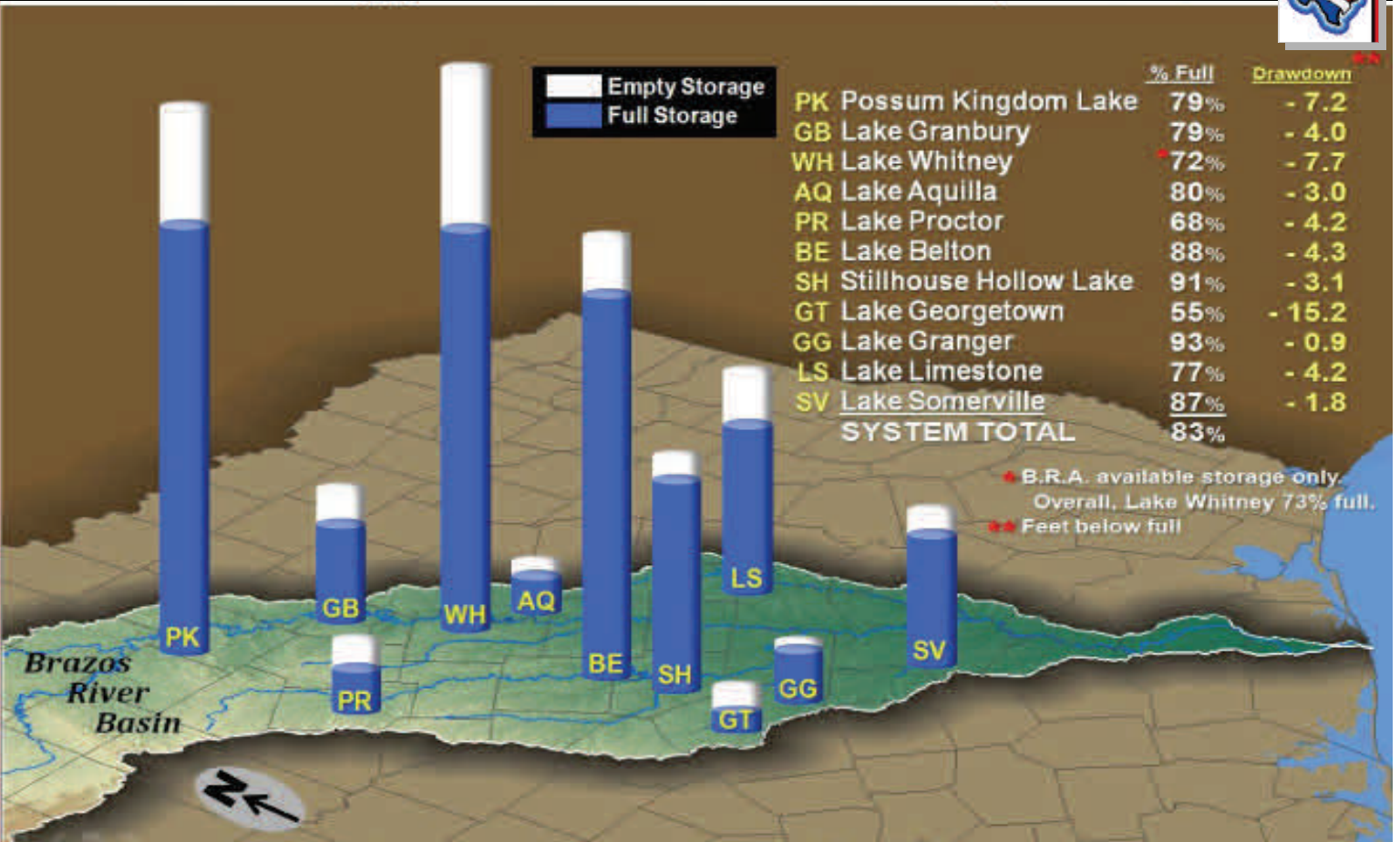
NOTE: Use of groundwater for areas outside of Bell Co. was not determined.

(Election Information: continued from page 1) southwest portion of Bell County, and is a self-employed Farmer. Mr. Hoskins resides in Harker Heights and is a retired Police Officer. Mr. Torralva is a resident of Temple and the Utility Design & Construction Manager for SouthWest Water Company.

The Clearwater UWCD Board of Directors issued the Orders for the elections at their August 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting and instructed the General Manager to contract with the Bell County Clerk’s Office to hold the election as a part of the general election on November 6, 2012. The five Clearwater UWCD Directors serve a four year term. The terms are staggered with positions in Precincts 1 and 3 up for election this year, and Precincts 2, 4 and At-Large will be up for election in 2014.

The Clearwater UWCD main office is located in Belton, Texas at 700 Kennedy Court in the Belton Business Park. For additional information call 254-933-0120.

## BRA WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS “PERCENT FULL” 9/26/2012



**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.*



**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.*



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700 Kennedy Court  
Belton TX 76513

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Fax: 254-770-2360  
dirk.aaron@clearwaterdistrict.org  
www.clearwaterdistrict.org

**THE MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District has moved into the new fiscal year (October 1, 2012–September 30, 2013) 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 GM, Administrative Assistant and the Education Coordinator/Field Technician.

Clearwater, in the early months of 2012, on-boarded to the new facility in the Belton Business Park. We are now a stand-alone entity who was fostered and prepared in a positive way by the 10 year affiliation with the Central Texas Council of Governments. Because the affiliation was temporary with an ultimate goal of decoupling from the CTCOG with in 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.

I have added to our team, Mr. Todd Strait, the Education Coordinator. This is an exciting time for Clearwater as we will be able to have more of an impact than ever on the youth and residents of Bell County. Being education and outreach orientated, the

District has an obligation to help well owners and tax payers find ways to conserve our groundwater.

Todd Strait comes to us with a very diverse background. He holds a teaching certificate in elementary education, but also has extensive experience in the technology realm to include many years as a web developer. Todd recently stated “I am honored to be able to use my background in both education and technology to help create awareness throughout the county on such an important issue as water conservation.” He brings to the district an understanding of water conservation and the importance of educating young people to help conserve such a limited resource.

Because of his mindset, we at Clearwater UWCD are ecstatic to see such enthusiasm and belief in the educational future of Clearwater. “I feel this is such a great opportunity to take my passion for teaching beyond just one school, and work to make a difference throughout Bell County,” said Todd. This is a major component of our legislative mandate, thus we will be better able to serve the residents of the county by reaching out and expanding water knowledge along with methods in conservation strategies.

My decision to hire Todd, from a pool of incredible applicants, is based on his unique skills and personality to on-board to our team smoothly and effectively. He has that special dynamic understanding of education and communication strategies and creativity we need as we move forward in 2013.



**Dirk Aaron**  
General Manager  
Clearwater UWCD

(POSTAGE STAMP)

(NAME)  
(STREET)  
(CITY)