

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District Board Member Authority and Duties Described:

The Board is composed of 10 members, 5 each from Milam and Burleson County appointed for alternating 4 year terms.

The law states that the district is to be governed by the Board of Directors. Each of the 5 board members from the two counties is to represent a particular interest group i.e. municipal, agricultural producers, rural water supply corporations, industrial interests and the county at large. So the state legislature here implies that each board member has a duty to be familiar with his/her specific interest group's needs and wishes regarding groundwater and to represent those interests on the board. This could further imply that the board member should report back to his/her constituents periodically regarding the policies and activities of the district.

The landowners own the water under their property, and may lease or sell those rights, and through the right of capture control that water. However, Groundwater Conservation Districts were created by the state of Texas to manage and conserve the aquifers of Texas through statutory power which gives them the power to modify this right of capture. Therefore, groundwater conservation districts have the power to limit groundwater production, limit declines in aquifer levels, issues water well permits, and modify those permits as conditions change. Therefore, districts develop management plans, establish rules, and so on by which each district operates. They are also given the power to charge production and transfer fees to generate funds to operate and to issue grants for conservation projects primarily. The members of the board of directors determine what that management plan will be, establish the rules, and how to use the fees generated with the help of a district manager and experts who they hire to provide technical assistance to the board.

The Post Oak Savannah Board meets at least quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in Milano at the District Headquarters building. They review data from over 80 monitor wells located throughout Milam and Burleson counties which track levels in the aquifers, management strategies are reviewed periodically, permits are reviewed for approval, water companies apply for grants, and other business is conducted at the meetings.

The Board members serve 4 year terms and may be reappointed. There are no term limits, and although uncompensated, these are important position of service and require a considerable amount of understanding of groundwater issues and technology in order to function effectively.