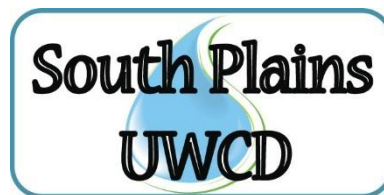


**Annual Report  
to the  
Board of Directors  
on  
Attainment of Management Plan Goals  
and  
Selected Activities  
of the  
South Plains Underground  
Water Conservation District**



**Fiscal Year 2022  
September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022**

**PO Box 986  
Brownfield, TX 79316  
806-637-7467**

# South Plains Underground Water Conservation District

## Board of Directors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Matt Hogue, President	Precinct 2	May 2024
Gabe Neill, Secretary	Director-at-Large	May 2024
Tye Day, Member	Precinct 3	May 2026
E. C. Harlan, Member	Precinct 1	May 2026
Barrett Brown, Member	Precinct 4	May 2024

Report prepared by:

Layne Marlow, General Manager  
Darice Russell, Administrative Assistant

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## **District Mission Statement**

The South Plains Underground Water Conservation District will develop, promote, and implement management strategies to provide for the conservation, preservation, recharging, and prevention of waste of the groundwater resources, over which it has jurisdictional authority, for the benefit of the people that the District serves.

## **Introduction and Overview**

SB 1, 75<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (1997), requires groundwater conservation districts governed by Chapter 36, Texas Water Code, to submit management plans for certification by the Texas Water Development Board. The management plans must specifically address the following management goals as applicable:

1. providing for the most efficient use of groundwater
2. control and prevention of the waste of groundwater
3. control and prevention of subsidence
4. conjunctive surface water management issues
5. natural resource issues
6. drought conditions
7. conservation
8. recharge enhancement
9. rainwater harvesting
10. precipitation enhancement
11. brush control
12. desired future condition of the aquifers

The management plans must also identify the performance standards and management objectives under which each district will operate to achieve their management goals.

The current District Management Plan is effective until November 2023. After notice and hearing, the Board of Directors officially adopted the plan on October 9, 2018. The plan was certified by the Texas Water Development Board on November 14, 2018

This annual report is a review of the District's activities for Fiscal Year 2022 and an evaluation of the District's performance in meeting its goals and objectives.

## **Report on Attainment of Goals**

### **Goal 1.0 Providing the Most Efficient Use of Groundwater**

#### **Management Objective 1.01 — Water Level Monitoring**

During the winter of 2021/2022, a total of 145 wells were measured: 137 Ogallala and 8 Edwards-Trinity (High Plains).

#### **Performance Standards**

**1.01a** -- 145 wells were measured in 2021/2022.

**1.01b** -- Results entered into database, sent to Texas Water Development Board and Hydrologist Amy Bush, and posted on SPUWCD website, [www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org).

#### **Management Objective 1.02 — Technical Field Services**

Thirty-five (35) requests for Technical Field Services were fulfilled in 2022. This is 6 more than the 29 requests in 2021.

Some tests were made for prospective land buyers.

#### **Performance Standards**

**1.02a** — 35 field service requests were fulfilled.

#### **Management Objective 1.03 — Laboratory Services**

The total number of lab tests performed for producers in 2022 was 44. This is less than the 60 tests run in 2021. These requests concern the suitability of irrigation water for certain crops.

Also, 7 bacteria tests were run in 2022, compared to 3 in 2021. Three (3) of the tests indicated positive for either coliform or e-coli and disinfection and/or additional testing was recommended.

#### **Performance Standards**

**1.03a** — 51 lab service requests were fulfilled.

**1.03b** — 51 records entered in database. Data was obtained from water quality lab testing onsite.

**Management Objective 1.04 — Irrigation Monitoring**

2022 marks the 20th year for the District’s Flow Meter Program. With the help of approximately 26 cooperators, the District reads flow meters during the growing season to determine water usage on various crops. Water usage for 2022 will be calculated at the end of the growing season. The following table contains a summary of irrigation water applied during previous years. The data received from the flow meter readings also helps the District calculate water efficiency in crop production.

	Cotton	Peanuts	Grain	Wheat	Grapes
2002	8.44	19.35	6.00	7.00	
2003	10.79	19.85	5.30	5.87	
2004	7.99	14.46	0.49	6.25	
2005	9.86	16.59	0.50	3.42	
2006	14.09	20.51	7.03	5.71	
2007	6.52	13.36	9.16	3.34	
2008	10.70	13.78	5.78	9.61	
2009	13.46	20.81	8.35	8.07	
2010	10.15	14.69	4.43	4.42	
2011	17.92	24.58		7.54	
2012	12.59	25.19	5.32	6.24	
2013	14.71	23.02	15.98	8.95	6.27
2014	11.29	14.23	7.14	5.94	4.78
2015	5.52	8.90	5.09	2.61	4.51
2016	8.34	10.90	2.00	3.33	4.92
2017	9.91	13.64	1.81	1.45	8.80
2018	11.74	17.08	3.54	3.82	11.86
2019	7.98	13.95	9.66	3.62	5.64
2020	9.96	15.94	5.02	4.21	12.33
2021	5.38	10.86	6.90	5.97	6.11
	207.34	331.69	109.5	107.37	65.22
<b>Average</b>	<b>10.37</b>	<b>16.58</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>7.25</b>

**Performance Standards**

**1.04a** — In 2022, there were 39 irrigation systems in the cooperative program.

**1.04b** — Each year, the crops which are monitored vary according to what producers plant. In 2022, 8 different crops were monitored. These crops included cotton, peanuts, grain, wheat, watermelons, pumpkins, peas, and grapes.

**1.04c** — The table above shows the irrigation application for the major crops monitored.



**Management Objective 1.05 — Irrigation System Inventory**

The District conducted an Irrigation System Inventory in 2018. With inventory conducted every five years, the next scheduled inventory will be during the 2023 growing season.

**Performance Standards**

**1.05a** — No Irrigation System Inventory was required in 2022.

**1.05b** — 1,403 pivots and 129 sub-surface/above-ground drip-type irrigation systems were inventoried in 2018 and entered in District’s database and posted on website.

**Goal 2.0**      **Controlling and Preventing Waste of Groundwater**

**Management Objective 2.01 — Well Permitting and Completion**

Since March 1993, the District has issued 4,332 permits. The total number of permits issued during 2022 was 372 -- 320 irrigation well permits and 52 exempt/domestic/stock well permits. This is higher than the 335 issued in 2021. March had the highest number of permits issued (78). Of the permits issued, 15 were either not used or a well was not completed or was plugged. Of the permits issued, approximately 10 were reported as deepening existing wells.

329 wells, which include irrigation and exempt, were inspected during 2022 to ensure proper completion and spacing. At the time of inspection, the GPS location of each well is obtained. This information is added to the database. The coordinates are also added to the District’s ArcMap program so that all wells can be mapped. Currently 7,161 (83%) of the 8,899 wells within the District have GPS coordinates associated with them.

**Performance Standards**

**2.01a** — 320 permits issued.

**2.01b** --- 52 exempt-well registrations issued.

**2.01c** — 329 well sites inspected.

**Management Objective 2.02 — Open, Deteriorated or Uncovered Wells**

Open or uncovered wells are discovered in one of two ways:

1. a person reports it to the District office; or
2. District staff discovers the well during a field visit.

One (1) deteriorated or uncovered well was reported to or discovered by District staff during 2022.

**Performance Standards**

**2.02a** — One (1) deteriorated or uncovered well discovered by the District.

**2.02b** — Initial inspection January 17, 2022; landowner contacted; issue resolved immediately.

**Management Objective 2.03 — Maximum Allowable Production**

No instances of a maximum production violation were discovered this year.

**Performance Standards**

**2.03a** — Not Applicable

**Management Objective 2.04 — Water Quality Monitoring**

Water quality samples were taken from approximately 75 irrigation wells during the summer and fall of 2022. Efforts to obtain samples were thwarted due to severe drought and lack of running wells.

Available samples were tested in-office for conductivity, total dissolved solids, chlorides, and nitrites.

**Performance Standards**

**2.04a** — Approximately 75 samples collected and tested in-office.

**2.04b** --- Approximately 75 water quality test and analyzation results entered in database.

**Goal 3.0**      **Controlling and Preventing Subsidence**

(Not applicable.)

**Goal 4.0**      **Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues**

(Not applicable.)

**Goal 5.0**      **Natural Resource Issues**

**Performance Standards**

The District received no complaints related to surface water, groundwater, or any natural resource within the District.

**Goal 6.0**      **Drought Conditions**

**Management Objective 6.01 — Rain Gauges**

The District maintains a network of 36 electronic rain gauges. These gauges allow staff to gather rainfall information at any time, not necessarily at the end of each month. The exact time and amount of rain collected is downloaded from the gauge to a computer. This information is published on the District’s web site, [www.spuwcd.org/Conservation/rainfall](http://www.spuwcd.org/Conservation/rainfall) monitoring.

**Performance Standards**

**6.01a** -- 36 rain gauges in District network.

**6.01b** --- Rain gauge results posted to website on interactive map and historic printout and mailed to landowner participants.

## **Goal 7.0**

### **Conservation**

#### **Management Objective 7.01 – Classroom Education**

During 2021-2022, twenty total presentations were made to schools within the district.

Annually, teacher baskets are distributed to campuses, specifically targeting science teachers. Baskets contain classroom items, information about curriculum resources, available literature/library resources, and other instructional materials available to campus staff.

This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> annual “Water Conservation Calendar Artwork Contest” for local 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the District. Students submit water conservation artwork after hearing a presentation concerning water usage and conservation practices. The winning artwork is featured in the 2023 calendar to be published, distributed, and made available to the public by the district. Several hundred entries were received in the spring of 2022. Approximately seventy-five (75) 2022 SPUWCD Water Conservation Calendars were distributed throughout the District and local communities.

October 2021 – Kids, Kows & More (4<sup>th</sup> grade); Meadow & Wellman-Union Farm Tour for Kids (5<sup>th</sup> grade); Hockley County Ag Day (4<sup>th</sup> grade); West Texas A&M University presentation to Ag Leadership class (college freshmen);

November 2021 – Oak Grove Elementary Farm Tour for Kids (5<sup>th</sup> grade); Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool & Kindergarten) Story Hour;

February 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool & Kindergarten) Story Hour; Oak Grove Elementary (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades) Calendar Artwork Contest;

March 2022 – Meadow 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades Calendar Artwork Contest; Wellman-Union 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades Calendar Artwork Contest; Meadow ISD Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day (2);

April 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool & Kindergarten) Story Hour; Terry County Soil & Water Conservation Breakfast (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades);

May 2022 – Presented to Meadow & Wellman-Union Calendar Art winners (2); Scholarship Essay Contest winners presentation to seniors at Meadow & Wellman-Union (Brownfield did not participate);

June 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Summer Reading Program (Preschool & Kindergarten - 10<sup>th</sup> grade); Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group (9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades);

#### **Performance Standards**

**7.01a** – Twenty (20) ongoing and long-term classroom education presentations and programs continued throughout 2021/2022.

**Management Objective 7.02 — Newsletter**

The District’s paper newsletter, South Plains Groundwater News, was discontinued during the 2020 fiscal year. The District continues to maintain and update appropriate information on the website [www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org). Website upgrades and updates, along with links to complimentary websites, provide comprehensive information. SPUWCD is directing efforts into providing historical and contemporary information via digital access of social media and website.

**Performance Standards**

**7.02a** — Previous editions of paper South Plains Groundwater News archived and available on website [www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org) under the *Newsletters* heading.

**Management Objective 7.03 – News Releases**

Brownfield News and Town Talk Radio both posted news releases for SPUWCD. There were also approximately 120 posts to Facebook and Twitter between September 2021 and August 2022.

January 2022 – SPUWCD Calendars Ready article

January 2022 – Scholarship Essay Contest info & topic release article

March 2022 – Essay contest reminder article

March 2022 -- Women in Ag event information article

March 2022 – Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Applications open

March 2022 – Water Awareness – National Groundwater Awareness Week article

April 2022 – Women in Ag Article with Terry County Soil & Water Conservation District

May 2022 -- Promotion of Rainwater Harvesting Week and workshop on Facebook and Town Talk Radio page/website

**Performance Standard**

**7.03a** — Eight (8) articles were published in the local newspaper and/or local news media websites and social media.

**Management Objective 7.04 -- Public Speaking Engagements**

The District fulfilled 13 public speaking engagements during the 2021/2022 fiscal year. These included:

**SPUWCD:**

April 2022 – Noon Lions Club;

April 2022 – Ag Appreciation Dinner;

May 2022 – Rainwater Harvesting week – Newspaper interview, Town Talk feature on Radio and Facebook page.

**SOCOP:**

September 2021 – Terry County Farm Tour (adults);

October 2021 – Tractor Treat Event at Whitehouse Parker (all ages);

February 2022 – Brownfield Noon Lions Club;

March 2022 – Terry County Commissioners Court; Town Talk Radio;

April 2022 – Terry County Ag Appreciation Dinner with Water Ambassadors; Women in Ag Conference & Luncheon; Terry County Soil & Water Conservation Breakfast; Town Talk Radio;

May 2022 – SPUWCD Rainwater Harvesting Program;

June 2022 – Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group;

July 2022 -- Meet with High Plains Water Conservation District education/outreach/public relations staff.

**Performance Standard**

**7.04a** -- Twelve (12) programs were presented in conjunction with and by Education Coordinator/SOCOP.

**7.04b** -- One (1) public speaking engagement presented by General Manager Layne Marlow.

**Management Objective 7.05 — Printed Material Resource Center**

Over 36 different publications are displayed in the reception area of the office. These publications are obtained from various sources, including the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and AgriLife Extension Service. District staff developed twelve of the brochures.

Sixty-nine (69) items were distributed from the resources center.

**Performance Standards**

**7.05a** — Of the 69 different publications distributed from the reception area of the SPUWCD office, 27 items related to water conservation/harvesting, 5 covered rules/management plan, 28 explain water quality, and 9 discuss water level/aquifer.

**Management Objective 7.06 — Saturated Thickness Maps**

In years past, saturated thickness maps were printed and reproduced and kept in the office. We have suspended this process due to the fact that information on the maps was too small to read and better, more legible information is available on the [www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org) website.

**Performance Standards**

**7.06a** — A poster identifying saturated thickness information is available in the office. Additional information can be obtained at our website [www.spuwcd.org/Maps/Saturated Thickness/Base of the Aquifer](http://www.spuwcd.org/Maps/SaturatedThickness/BaseoftheAquifer).

**Management Objective 7.07 — Conservation Literature**

Fourteen (14) publications displayed in the reception area of the office are devoted to water conservation for the home and the farm.

**Performance Standards**

**7.07a** — 14 publications are dedicated to water conservation.

**7.07b** — 27 items were obtained by the public.

**Goal 8.0**

**Recharge Enhancement**

(Not applicable.)

**Goal 9.0**      **Rainwater Harvesting**

**Management Objective 9.01 — Public Awareness Program**

Rainwater Harvesting Week 2022 took place the first week of May, Monday, May 02, 2022 through Thursday, May 05, 2022. The educational trailer was parked at Terry County Heritage Museum, located at 600 E. Cardwell all three days, between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Local residents were invited to visit and view the trailer and register to win a rain barrel and rain chain. Winners were: Monday, May 02 – Shirley Flache; Tuesday, May 03 – Gilbert Salas; Wednesday, May 04 – Fay Competio.

Approximately 20 people attended the Rainwater Workshop on Thursday, May 05, 2022, Lindy Harris Day. Lindy Harris, founder of Rainwater Harvesting Week, presented a talk regarding the importance of harvesting rainwater. Layne Marlow presented a PowerPoint presentation and information regarding Xeriscape, Softscape and Hardscape in homeowner landscaping. The first 18 pre-registered attendees received rain barrels and rain chains.

Winners of the “Every Raindrop Counts” award were Terry & Sandra Davis, who took home a certificate and a rain barrel and rain chain.

**Performance Standards**

**9.01a** — District published two articles in Brownfield News about rainwater harvesting and ran ads and promotions for two weeks on Town Talk Radio’s website and Facebook page. Information and photographs, daily rain barrel and rain chain winners were posted on SPUWCD Facebook page, the Town Talk Radio Facebook page and Brownfield News FaceBook page.

**Goal 10.0**      **Precipitation Enhancement**  
(Not applicable.)

**Goal 11.0**      **Brush Control**  
(Not applicable.)

## **Goal 12.0**      **Desired Future Condition of the Aquifers**

The process of adopting a Desired Future Condition (DFC) was established by the Texas Legislature in 2005 and requires groundwater conservation districts within their respective GMA to establish DFCs for relevant aquifers at least once every five years.

The members of GMA 2 met on March 25, 2021 via virtual meeting. Each GMA 2 district was represented at the meeting. Representatives of Groundwater Management Area 2 adopted the proposed desired future conditions.

- A GMA 2-wide average drawdown of 28 feet between 2013 and 2080 for the Ogallala and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) Aquifers.
- A GMA 2-wide average drawdown of 31 feet between 2013 and 2080 for the Dockum Aquifer.

GMA 2 member Districts had a 90-day public comment period (March 25-June 23, 2021). Each district conducted a public hearing to receive comments about the proposed DFCs during this time.

August 17, 2021: Dr. Hutchison presented Resolution 21-01 which adopts the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the Ogallala, Edwards-Trinity (High Plains), and Dockum Aquifers in GMA 2. The GMA 2 members also discussed, considered, and approved the final draft explanatory report for the adopted desired future conditions. The Explanatory report, along with Resolutions, was submitted to the TWDB October 18, 2021.

### **Management Objective 12.01 — Calculate Annual Drawdown**

#### **Performance Standards**

**12.01a** -- The average drawdown result of minus one point twenty-one feet (- 1.21') was presented to the District Board at the March 2021 Board meeting.

**12.01b** -- The average drawdown results were published on the District website, [www.spuwcd.org](http://www.spuwcd.org).



## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **SPUWCD.ORG**

SPUWCD continues to build and upgrade its website. Content and offerings are updated monthly. The site provides education and information for District constituents, as well as people state-wide. The website can be accessed from the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's website and is linked from various water district websites. General information, hydrologic maps, a 2018 Terry County vineyard map, rainfall information, newsletters, rules, management plan, and water level data are available on the site.

In 2015, a weather station was installed at the District office. The real-time information is accessible on the Home Page. Interactive maps were also added to enhance water levels and water quality information.

In 2022, new headings were added to easily identify Newsletters and Regulatory & Compliance information. Additionally, a submittal form for website visitors to sign up for SPUWCD newsletter via email was added to the Home page. As of the publishing of this Annual Report, there have been no takers, but should interest increase, an emailed newsletter is being considered.

### **HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

2021-2022 was the eighth year scholarships were made available to all three high schools within the District. The Essay Topic for 2022 was "Making the Invisible Visible" which correlated with the theme for World Water Day 2022. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors from each high school for a total of \$4,500. Unfortunately, Brownfield High School did not have any students participate in 2022. Therefore, a third-place scholarship was given to graduates of Wellman-Union and Meadow so that the entire \$4,500 was awarded across the District.

### **SOUTHERN OGALLALA CONSERVATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM (SOCOP)**

In 2007, the District joined Llano Estacado UWCD and Sandy Land UWCD to form The Southern Ogallala Conservation and Outreach Program (SOCOP) which serves the education needs of the three districts. Through the Education Coordinator hired by SOCOP, more emphasis has been placed on education to students in the three school districts in the SPUWCD.

The education website, [www.savingH2O.org](http://www.savingH2O.org), as well as the Facebook and Twitter pages for SOCOP, continue to be a part of the District's public education outreach. The website contains water conservation tips and information regarding the District's education program along with curriculum ideas for teachers. The social media pages serve as an up-to-date resource regarding program participation, including but not limited to the Texas 4H Water Ambassador program, school programs etc. They also provide a method to share resource from other entities such as Farm Bureau, FFA, etc. through which local students can become more involved in water conservation.

SOCOP participated in and held numerous education programs for the three school districts. Other education outreaches are held within the District through SOCOP:

- Four (4) Presentations at Kendrick Memorial Library;
- Three-plus invitations by Town Talk Radio to talk about education and outreach programs;
- This year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> annual “Water Conservation Calendar Artwork Contest” for local 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the District. Students submit water conservation artwork after hearing a presentation concerning water usage and conservation practices. The winning artwork is featured in the 2023 calendar to be published, distributed, and made available to the public by the District;
- Texas 4H Water Ambassadors program – SOCOP/SPUWCD has been involved in the program since 2016 through donations and sponsorships. Students representing Tier I and Tier II Ambassadors within the District. Education Coordinator (Michelle Cooper) serves on the Texas 4H Water Ambassador Advisory Board for the State of Texas. The Ambassador program allows students to learn about water resources in all areas of the state in addition to their own groundwater district;
- SOCOP Education Trailer was taken to numerous events, including Farmhouse Vineyard Tractor Treat; Kids, Kows & More; Farm Tour for Kids; Hockley County Ag Day, etc. It continues to travel throughout the District to both student and adult events;
- Education & Outreach Coordinator Michelle Cooper presented to an Ag Leadership class at West Texas A&M University and participated in a leadership luncheon hosted by the College of Ag Science at West Texas A&M University;
- SOCOP participates in the statewide Groundwater Education Collaborative – a network of groundwater educators from across the state.

**Participation in Community/School Activities:**

- October 2021 – Kids, Kows & More (4<sup>th</sup> grade); Meadow & Wellman-Union Farm Tour for Kids (5<sup>th</sup> grade); Hockley County Ag Day (4<sup>th</sup> grade); West Texas A&M University presentation to Ag Leadership class (college freshmen); Tractor Treat Event at Whitehouse-Parker (all ages);
- November 2021 – Oak Grove Elementary Farm Tour for Kids (5<sup>th</sup> grade); Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool - Kindergarten) Story Hour;
- February 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool - Kindergarten) Story Hour; Oak Grove Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades Calendar Artwork Contest; Brownfield Noon Lions Club;
- March 2022 – Meadow 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades Calendar Artwork Contest; Wellman-Union 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades Calendar Artwork Contest; Meadow ISD Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day (2); Terry County Commissioners Court; Town Talk Radio;
- April 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Library (Preschool - Kindergarten) Story Hour; Terry County Soil & Water Conservation Breakfast (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades); Terry County Ag Appreciation Dinner with Water Ambassadors; Women in Ag Conference & Luncheon; Terry County Soil & Water Conservation Breakfast; Town Talk Radio;
- May 2022 – Presented to Meadow & Wellman-Union Calendar Art winners (2); Scholarship Essay Contest winners presentation to seniors at Wellman-Union & Meadow (Brownfield did not participate); SPUWCD Rainwater Harvesting Program;

- June 2022 – Kendrick Memorial Summer Reading Program (Preschool - Kindergarten through 10<sup>th</sup> grade); Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades); Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group;
- July 2022- Met with High Plains Underground Water Conservation District education/outreach/public relations staff.

### **AGRICULTURAL CAREER EXPO (ACE)**

In 2012, a group of ag and education professionals held the first Ag Career Expo. The goal of the Ag Career Expo (ACE) is to inform high school sophomores about the many different education and job opportunities which are available in the agricultural field. Local colleges, equipment companies, and other types of vendors/companies which deal in any form of agriculture are represented at the ACE event. The district has participated in and helped organized each ACE Day since its inception.

Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 were both cancelled due to Covid. Spring of 2022 was not held due to limited availability of vendor staff, decreased participation in West Texas Young Farmers, and changes in local school programming in a post-covid world. We hope that interest will be renewed in Spring 2023 and the event will be held.

### **RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECT**

Several Producers and landowners indicated interest in applying for the District’s assistance with rainwater harvesting projects. Plans and location designs pending further direction.

### **WOMEN IN AG**

The third and fourth annual Women in Ag Conference scheduled for April 2020 & April 2021 were cancelled due to Covid-19.

The event was re-organized and took place in April 2022 for the third year. This is a joint project with Terry County Soil & Water Conservation District. The event has grown yearly and in 2022 had participation from both local and National Women in Agriculture members, in addition to recognition by Texas Congressmen and Legislators. The theme for April 2022 was “Home on the Range” with a specific focus on ranching and life on the prairie.

## **SUMMARY**

The original legislative intent of groundwater district performance evaluations through management plan certification and auditing was to answer two main questions:

1. Is the district operational, and
2. Is the district actively engaged in achieving stated goals, objectives, and performance standards?

Without a doubt, the South Plains Underground Water Conservation District is operational and is achieving its stated goals, objectives, and standards.