# 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 2025
## September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025

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

# South Plains Underground Water Conservation District

## Board of Directors

| Name | Representing | Term Ends |
|---|---|---|
| Barrett Brown, President | Precinct 4 | May 2028 |
| Gabe Neill, Secretary | Director-at-Large | May 2028 |
| Tye Day, Member | Precinct 3 | May 2026 |
| Tim Swaringen, Member | Precinct 1 | May 2026 |
| John Mark Addison, Member | Precinct 2 | May 2028 |

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Michelle Cooper, SOCOP/Education and Outreach Coordinator
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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, 75th 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 2029. After notice and hearing, the Board of Directors officially adopted the plan on May 14, 2024. The plan was certified by the Texas Water Development Board on June 28, 2024.

This annual report is a review of the District's activities for Fiscal Year 2025 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 2024/2025, a total of 143 wells were measured: 136 Ogallala and 7 Edwards-Trinity (High Plains).

**Performance Standards**
**1.01a** -- 143 wells were measured in 2024/2025.
**1.01b --** Results entered into database, sent to Texas Water Development Board and Hydrologist Amy Bush, and posted on SPUWCD website, www.spuwcd.org.

**Management Objective 1.02 — Technical Field Services**
Thirty-nine requests for Technical Field Services were fulfilled in 2025. This is four less than the 43 requests in 2024.

Some tests were made for prospective land buyers.

**Performance Standards**
**1.02a —** 39 field service requests were fulfilled.

**Management Objective 1.03 — Laboratory Services**
The total number of lab tests performed for producers in 2025 was 59. This is less than the 103 tests run in 2024. These requests concern the suitability of irrigation water for certain crops.

Eight of the lab tests performed for producers/landowners included bacteria testing, compared to six in 2024. While none of the tests indicated positive for either coliform or e-coli, three tested positive for some form of bacteria and disinfection and/or additional testing was recommended.

**Performance Standards**
**1.03a —** 59 lab service requests were fulfilled.
**1.03b —** 59 records entered in database. Data was obtained from water quality lab testing onsite.

**Management Objective 1.04 — Irrigation Monitoring**

2025 marks the 23rd year for the District's Flow Meter Program. With the help of approximately 20 cooperators, the District reads flow meters during the growing season to determine water usage on various crops. Water usage for 2025 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| 2022 | 12.80 | 16.35 | 10.61 | 6.10 | 11.4 |
| 2023 | 8.99 | 14.12 | 5.09 | 7.96 | 8.41 |
| 2024 | 16.10 | 18.79 | ** | 8.59 | 5.41 |
| TOTALS | 226 | 341.75 | 113.9 | 117.15 | 90.44 |
| **Average** | **10.76** | **16.27** | **5.99** | **5.58** | **7.54** |

** Reliable data not available

**Performance Standards**

**1.04a —** In 2025, there were 30 irrigation systems in the cooperative program.

**1.04b —** Each year, the crops which are monitored vary according to what producers plant. In 2025, 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 conducts an Irrigation System Inventory every five years. The District continuously updates its database as systems go in and out, converted to drip, etc. The most recent irrigation system inventory was completed in 2023.

**Performance Standards**
**1.05a —** Most current irrigation system estimates indicate there are 1,471 pivots and 141 sub-surface/above-ground drip-type irrigation systems.

## Goal 2.0 Controlling and Preventing Waste of Groundwater

**Management Objective 2.01 — Well Permitting and Completion**
Since March 1993, the District has issued 5,328 permits. The total number of permits issued during 2025 was 279 -- 199 irrigation well permits and 80 exempt/domestic/stock well permits. This is lower than the 340 issued in 2024. February had the highest number of permits issued, 37. Of the permits issued, 25 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 and three identified as replacement wells.

308 wells, which include irrigation and exempt, were inspected during 2025 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 database so that all wells can be mapped. Currently about 7,749 (85%) of the approximately 9,888 wells within the District have GPS coordinates associated with them.

**Performance Standards**
**2.01a —** 199 irrigation permits issued.
**2.01b —** 80 exempt-well registrations issued.
**2.01c** — 308 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.

**Performance Standards**
**2.02a —** There were no deteriorated or uncovered wells discovered or reported to the District in 2025.

**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**
In prior years, every odd-numbered year would have included the sampling of approximately 30 domestic water wells. Basic testing of Total Dissolved Solids, Conductivity, Chloride and Nitrate is conducted in the District office, then samples are delivered to a lab in Austin for further testing.

Due to personnel issues and budget constraints, SPUWCD Board of Directors voted to suspend domestic water well testing in 2025 and resume in 2027, testing every 4 years thereafter.

**Performance Standards**
**2.04a —** With exception of testing reported in Management Objective 1.03, Laboratory Services, no additional testing of domestic wells conducted in 2025.

## 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 resources 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 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 2024-2025, nineteen (19) total presentations were made to schools within the district.

This year marks the 20th annual "Water Conservation Calendar Artwork Contest" for local 4th & 5th grade students within the District. Students submit water conservation artwork after hearing a presentation about water usage and conservation practices. The winning artwork is featured in the 2026 calendar to be published, distributed, and made available to the public by the District. Over 400 entries were received in Spring 2025. Approximately fifty (50) 2025 SPUWCD Water Conservation Calendars were distributed throughout the District of Terry County.

September 2024 – Terry County Ag Career Expo (8th graders)

October 2024 – Kids, Kows & More program (4th graders) & Terry Co Kids Farm Tour program (5th graders)

March 2025- Calendar Artwork Presentations to schools – Oak Grove Elementary, Wellman-Union Elementary, Meadow Elementary (4th & 5th grades; 5 presentations total)

April 2025 – Women in Ag Annual Conference

May 2025 – Present Calendar Artwork Contest winners to Meadow, Oak Grove, and Wellman-Union (3); Present Scholarship Essay Contest winners to seniors from Meadow, Brownfield, and Wellman-Union (3)

May 2025 – Rainwater Harvesting Awareness Week – education trailer & workshop

June 2025 – Kendrick Memorial Summer Reading Program (PK-10th grade); Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group (9th-12th grade)

July 2025 – ACES Health Fair on the Square with Water Ambassadors & SOCOP Education Trailer

**Performance Standards**
**7.01a** – Nineteen (19) ongoing and long-term classroom and library education presentations and programs were made available to children ages pre-kindergarten to 12th grade during 2024-2025.

**Management Objective 7.02 – News Releases**
Brownfield News and Town Talk Radio are news outlets for the county. However, there have been issues getting news releases published in a timely manner from Brownfield News. News releases were sent but may not have made print due to their internal operations. We will continue to post on Facebook, Twitter/X, and release information to both Town Talk Radio and Brownfield News. Approximately 115 posts on Facebook and Twitter/X between September 2024 and August 2025 were made.

September 2024 – TWON (Texas Well Owners Network) Press release on domestic water well testing through TAMU

December 2024 – 2025 SPUWCD Calendars available article with winners/pics noted

December 2024 – 2025 Scholarship Essay Contest info & topic release article

March 2025 – Groundwater Awareness Week and World Water Day press release

March 2025 – Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Applications press release

May 2025 – SPUWCD 2025 Calendar Winners press release & pics (resent in Sept 2025)

May 2025 – SPUWCD Scholarship Winners article and pictures

**Performance Standard**
**7.02a —** Seven (7) articles were published in the local newspaper and/or local news media websites and social media.

**Management Objective 7.03 -- Public Speaking Engagements**
The District fulfilled seventeen (17) public speaking engagements during the 2024/2025 fiscal year. These included:

**SPUWCD:**
March 2025 - Kids Farm Tour, Kids Kows and More

May 2025 Rainwater Harvesting Week

June 2025 Tier 1 Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group.

The District donated 4 -5 Rain Barrels throughout the year for different nonprofit events and fundraisers.

**SOCOP:**
September 2024 – Texas Well Owners Network informational meeting explaining test results w/ Joel Pigg, TAMU

October 2024 – Take Tx 4H Water Ambassadors to Fall Retreat in Brownwood

December 2024 – Water Ambassadors Advisory Committee meeting; TAGD Education & Information committee meeting

January 2025 – TEEAC (Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee) annual meeting; TTU Water College Conference

February 2025 – TGWA Conference – Water Ambassadors participated in booth

April 2025 – Town Talk Radio regarding Women in Ag Conf;

May 2025 – Terry Co Soil Conservation & Stewardship Breakfast; District Soil & Water Conservation Awards Banquet

June 2025 – Host Tier I Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Leadership group; Summer Library Programs; Take Water Ambassadors to Leadership Academies in College Station

July 2025 - ACES Health Fair on the Square with Ambassadors and SOCOP Education Trailer;

August 2024 – TAGD Groundwater Summitt; Ogallala Commons Quarterly Roundtable meeting/discussion; Water Wonks Webinar on AI integration

**Performance Standard**
**7.03 –** Twelve (12) programs were presented in conjunction with and by Education Coordinator/SOCOP.

**Management Objective 7.04 — 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.

Four items were distributed from the resources center.

**Performance Standards**
**7.04a —** All four publications distributed from the reception area of the SPUWCD office discussed private domestic wells, permitting/registration, and dealing with contaminated wells.

**Management Objective 7.05 — 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 website.

**Performance Standards**
**7.05a —** USGS Interactive Hydrogeologic Data Map - Ogallala Formation Saturated Thickness Zone Layer - is Maintained by USGS and updated annually with District water level measurements webapps.usgs.gov/HDE/SouthernHighPlains/

**Management Objective 7.06 — 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**
**7.06a —** 14 publications are dedicated to water conservation.

**7.06b —** Zero water conservation 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 2025 took place the first week of May, Monday, May 05, 2025 through Thursday, May 08, 2025. The education trailer was parked at the district office barn at 802 E Tahoka Roal Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between the hours of 11:00AM and 1:30PM. Local residents were invited to visit and view the trailer and register to win a rain barrel and rain chain. Winners were: Monday, May 05 – Eric Horton; Tuesday, May 06 – No Entrants; Wednesday, May 07 – Veronica Holguin.

Approximately 10 registrants attended the Rainwater Workshop on Thursday, May 08, 2025, Lindy Harris Day. Layne Marlow presented a PowerPoint presentation and information regarding Xeriscape, Softscape, and Hardscape in homeowner landscaping. All 10 pre-registered attendees received rain barrels and rain chains.

Winner of the “Every Raindrop Counts” award was Israel Limon, who took home a certificate and a rain barrel and rain chain for the second year in a row.

**Performance Standards**

**9.01a —** District ran ads for one week in the Brownfield News. Those same ads were posted on SPUWCD Facebook page and website. Town Talk and the Brownfield Chamber of Commerce also posted information and photographs on their social media accounts. Information and photographs, daily rain barrel and rain chain winners were posted on SPUWCD 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 (5) 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. The District's hearing was 6/15/2021 and no comments were received.

GMA 2 was notified by TWDB in February 2022 that the DFC and explanatory report were administratively complete. There was an addendum from TWDB on June 15, 2022.

**Management Objective 12.01 — Calculate Annual Drawdown**

**Performance Standards**

**12.01a --** The average drawdown result of approximately minus one point sixty-two feet (-.1.62) was presented to the District Board at the October 2025 Board meeting.

**12.01b --** The drawdown results were published on the District website, www.spuwcd.org.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### SPUWCD.ORG

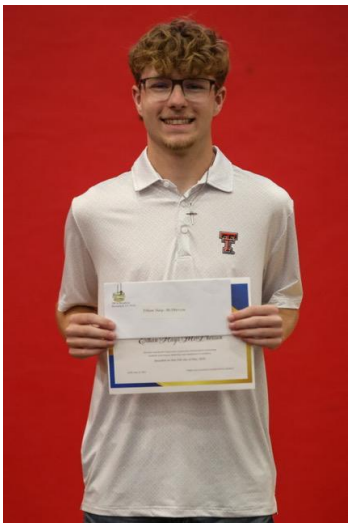
SPUWCD continues to build and upgrade its website. Content and offerings are updated monthly. The site provides education and information for District constituents, as well as people state-wide. The website can be accessed from the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's website and is linked from various water district websites. General information, hydrologic maps, a Terry County vineyard map, rainfall information, 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 has been accessible on the Home Page of SPUWCD.org. In early 2025, the data/software provider of the weather station changed or updated the system, the SPUWCD location experiences frequent and prolonged difficulty in connecting and, once connected, will not maintain connection for an appreciable period of time. The Current Weather link on the SPUWCD.org website links to West Texas Mesonet.

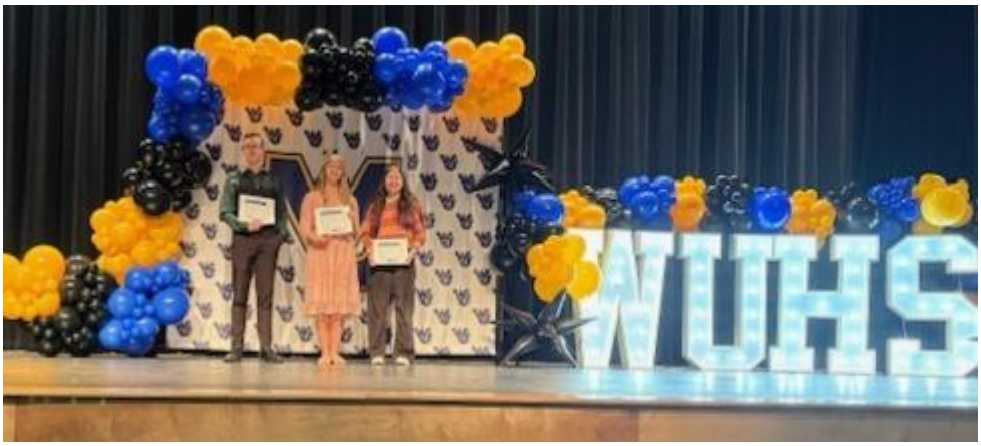
In 2025, the Newletters heading was removed from the website, as newsletters are no longer published and archived.

### HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2024-2025 was the 11th year scholarships were made available to all three high schools within the District. Scholarship entries presented an essay on the topic of water in their communities. 1st and 2nd place scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors from each high school in Terry County, for a total of $4,500. The scholarship winners for the 2024/2025 school year were:



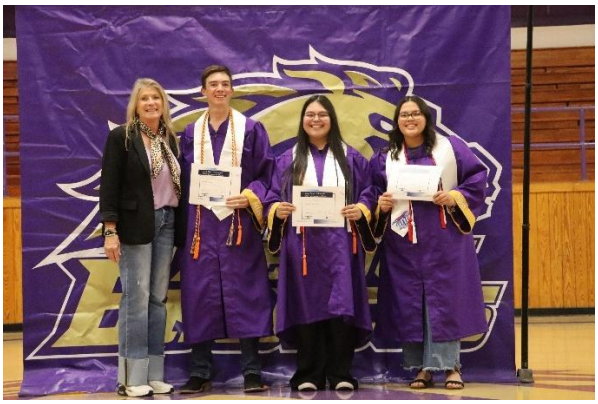
Brownfield High School: 1st Place – Kaden McPherson




Wellman-Union High School: 1st Place – Kaitlynn Ramirez

2nd Place –Kloe Guenter

3rd Place – Ethan Griffiths



Meadow High School: 1st Place – Ryder Day

2nd Place – Alissa Simental

3rd Place – Ebony Franco

## 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, as well as the Facebook and Twitter/X 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, Ag-related programs, etc. They also provide a method to share resources 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:

- Presentations at Kendrick Memorial Library Story Hour and summer reading programs
- Presentations to Oak Grove ACES Summer Enrichment Program
- Texas 4H Water Ambassadors Program sponsor and service on Advisory Board for the State of Texas
- SOCOP Education Trailer was taken to numerous events: Kids, Kows & More; Farm Tour for Kids, Summer ACES Program at Oak Grove, Rainwater Harvesting Week, etc. This mobile classroom continues to travel throughout the District to both student and adult events
- SOCOP participates in the statewide Groundwater Education Collaborative and mentors other groundwater educators new to the field. The collaborative is a network of groundwater educators from across the state of Texas.
- SOCOP serves on the Education & Information committee for TAGD (Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts)

## 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, scholarship, and job opportunities available in the agricultural industry. Local colleges, equipment companies, vendors, and local producers are represented at the ACE event. The District has participated in and helped organize each ACE Day since its inception.

Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 were both cancelled due to Covid. Spring 2022 and Spring 2023 were not held due to limited availability of vendors, producers, and volunteers, as the West Texas Young Farmers group was dissolved. Due to lack of interest and local support, this event has yet to be reinstated.

In 2024, the Terry County ACE Committee reconvened to revamp the Ag Career Expo program. After much discussion and input from local educators and Ag professionals, it was decided the event would target 8th grade youth who will make choices for high school vocational/CTE/career paths as incoming freshmen. The goal of ACE is to provide exposure to Ag related careers and opportunities within the county. The event was reinstated in September 2024 with students from all three school districts participating in local tours, vendor booths, guest speakers, and a meal, all provided by generous community leaders.

## 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

This is a joint project with Terry County Soil & Water Conservation District. 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.

The event has grown yearly and, in 2024, had participation from both local and national Women in Agriculture members, in addition to recognition by Texas Congressmen and Legislators. The theme for the 7th annual Women in Ag conference and Luncheon was "Women Grounded in Ag – Telling Our Stories from the Roots Up!" and was held at The Armory, a local wine storage facility and special event venue. There were approximately 100 participants with nine guest speakers related to multiple facets of Agriculture.

## 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. Additionally, attention is paid to changes in procedures and practices and the requisite updates and upgrades are reflected in operations at SPWUCD.