

PART III

For Water Producers





Outline

- **PART I: An Introduction to Groundwater Conservation Districts**
 - History of conservation districts in Texas
 - Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- **PART II: Managing our Groundwater**
 - Trinity aquifer
 - Brazos River Alluvium aquifer
 - Permitting
 - 2011-2012 update
- **PART III: For Water Producers**
 - Permits
 - Types of flow meters
 - Reporting & responsibilities



District permitting

- Districts are mandated to require certain permits and may choose to require others as part of their management of groundwater.
- GCDs require permits **“for the drilling, equipping, operating, or completing of wells or for substantially altering the size of wells or well pumps.”**
- GCDs are also authorized more broadly to regulate to protect water quality as well.

Permit Types

- **Groundwater production permits** allow for the withdrawal of groundwater for beneficial use:
 - Historic Use Production Permits (HUPPs)
 - Non-Historic Use Production Permits (NHUPPs)
 - Applications: <http://southerntrinitygcd.org/permits.html>
- **Groundwater exportation permits** are for exporting groundwater produced from a District well to a place of use outside of the District's boundaries
- **Well drilling permits** are required for the drilling, equipping or completing of any non-exempt well, or for substantially altering the size of a non-exempt well or well pump



Exempt wells

- Chapter 36 of the Water Code provides that a permit to drill or operate a well **may not be required for certain types of wells**, thereby establishing categories of “**exempt wells**”.
- GCDs may also provide by rule for the exemption of other activities from their permitting requirements.
- Exempt wells may, however, be **required to be registered with the district** as well as to comply with other limited district requirements.



Criteria for granting permits

- When determining whether to grant a permit or a permit amendment to change the withdrawal or use of groundwater, districts are required to consider, among other things, whether a proposed use :
 - “unreasonably affects existing groundwater and surface water resources or existing permit holders” and
 - is consistent with the district’s approved water management plan.
- GCDs may also impose additional requirements upon permitted wells in order to “achieve water conservation, minimize as far as practicable the drawdown of the water table or the reduction of artesian pressure, lessen interference between wells” and so on.



Processing permit applications

- Districts are required to act promptly upon administratively-complete applications for a permit or permit amendment or to set a hearing to consider the application.
- GCDs must determine by rule whether a hearing is required for permit or permit amendment applications.
- Where a hearing is not required, a district's board shall act on the application at an open meeting unless the board has delegated to the general manager the authority to act on the application.

Permit conditions

- Districts may require permittees to submit reports, pay annual fees, and comply with drought restrictions or conservation requirements, among other things.
- Additional permit conditions may include the requirement that a permittee prepare and implement a groundwater conservation plan and accompanying best management practices to conserve groundwater.



Enforcement

- Districts have authority under the Water Code to enforce their rules by filing a civil suit for injunctive relief and/or civil penalties and attorney's fees and costs
- Talk to the District to ensure you are in compliance with District rules and settle any outstanding violations of the District's rules

Access



- Districts are authorized by the Water Code to enter a property within the district to determine whether any violations of the District's rules have occurred

For Water Producers

Flow Meters

Meter requirements

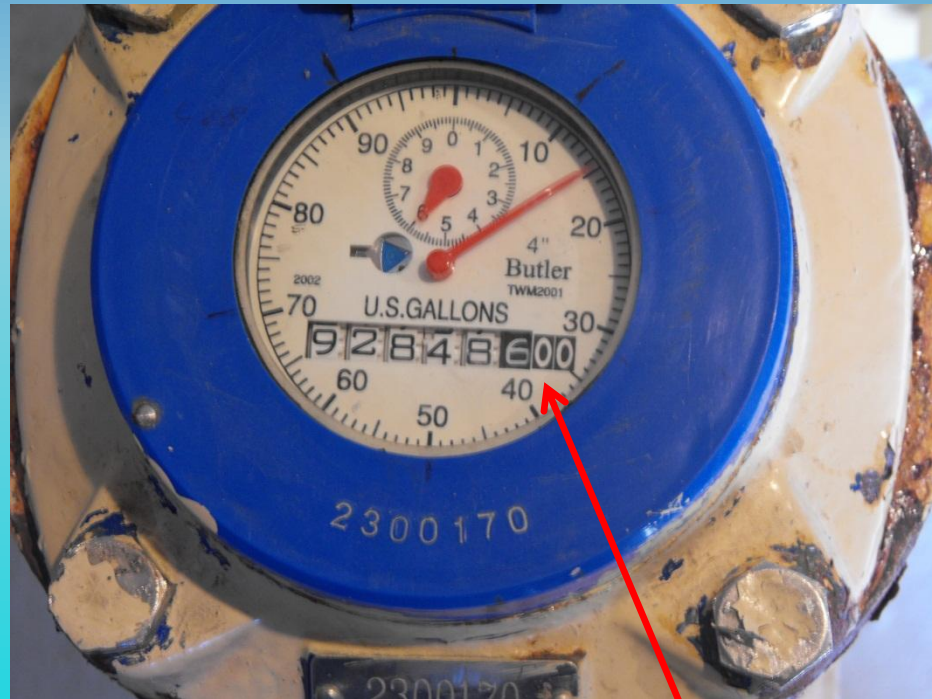
- Any non-exempt well must be equipped with an approved meter
- Approved meters must be mechanically-driven, digital, totalizing water meters
- Digital totalizers:
 - Must not be resettable by user
 - Must be capable of a maximum reading greater than the maximum expected pumpage during a permit term
- Battery-operated registers:
 - Must have at least a 5-year life expectancy (with expiration date visible)
 - Must be sealed

Types of flow meters

****Remember to notify the District prior to removing or disabling a meter****



Meter that reads in **thousands**



Meter that reads in **hundreds**

Reading flow meters

No matter if your meter reads in thousands or hundreds, pumping amounts are reported to the district in thousands of gallons.



Reading: 122,207,020 gallons
Reported as: 122,207 thousand gallons



Reading: 92,848,615 gallons
Reported as 92,849 thousand gallons

For Water Producers

Reporting Pumping Amounts



Reporting pumping amounts

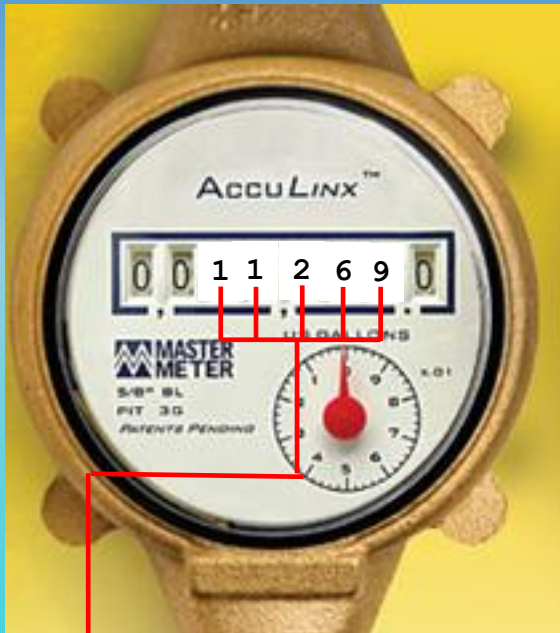
- Report your meter reading to the **nearest 1,000 gallons**
- Read the meter for each well in your system
- Report the AMOUNT DUE in the “How to Calculate Your Bill” section of the monthly pumping report mailed out by the STGCD office

See next slide for an example.....

Reporting pumping amounts – an example (step 1)



1. Let's say your current meter reads like this:



Back-side of the monthly reporting form:



(.000) -
Current Meter Reading
CMR

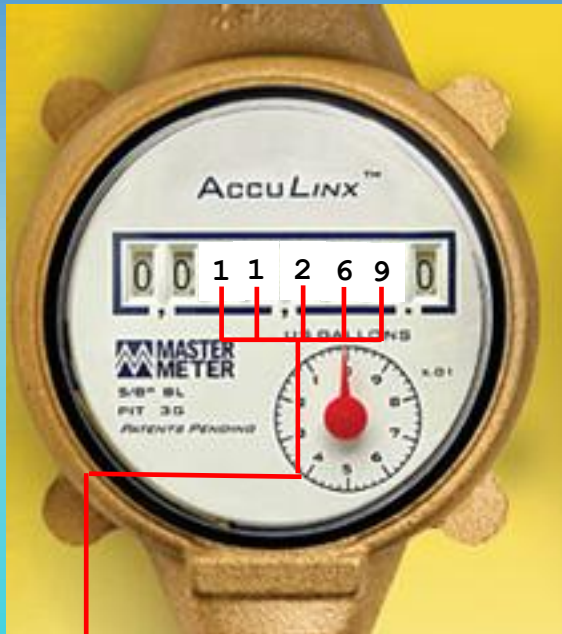
(.000) =
Previous Meter Reading
PMR

X \$0.04 = \$ _____
Enter total 1,000 gallons pumped
Usage **AMOUNT DUE**

Reporting pumping amounts – an example (step 2)



1. Let's say your current meter reads like this:



2. Enter last month's meter reading here:

(,000) -
Current Meter Reading
CMR

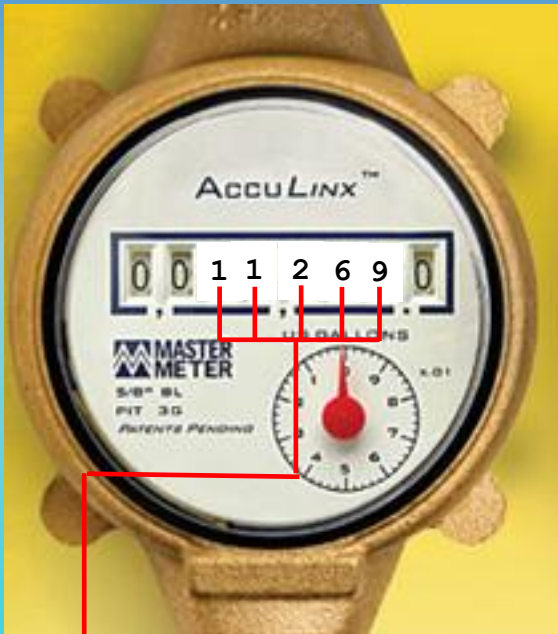
(,000) =
Previous Meter Reading
PMR

X \$0.04 = \$ _____
Enter total 1,000 gallons pumped
Usage **AMOUNT DUE**

Reporting pumping amounts – an example (step 3)



1. Let's say your current meter reads like this:



2. Enter last month's meter reading here:

3. Subtract the two numbers and enter here. This is the **Usage** amount:

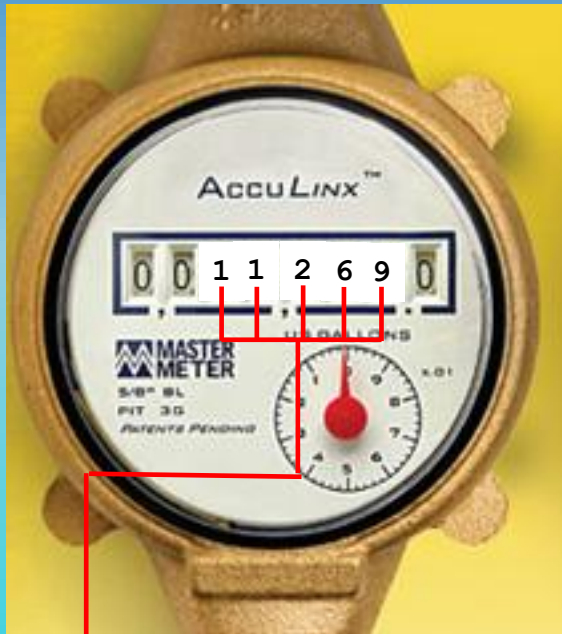
(,000) -
Current Meter Reading
CMR

(,000) =
Previous Meter Reading
PMR

X \$0.04 = \$ _____
Enter total 1,000 gallons pumped
Usage **AMOUNT DUE**

Reporting pumping amounts – an example (step 4)

1. Let's say your current meter reads like this:



2. Enter last month's meter reading here:

3. Subtract the two numbers and enter here. This is the **Usage** amount:

4. Multiply the Usage amount by \$0.04 to get your **AMOUNT DUE**:

7 7 2 6 9 (.000) -
Current Meter Reading
CMR

7 0 7 3 5 (.000) =
Previous Meter Reading
PMR

5 3 4 X \$0.04 = \$ **21.36**
Enter total 1,000 gallons pumped
Usage **AMOUNT DUE**

Reporting pumping amounts – additional examples



Meter that reads in thousands:

- Current meter reading: 122,207 thousand gallons pumped
- Ex. If the previous month's reading was 120,153 thousand gallons then:
 - Current usage = 2,054 thousand gallons
 - **Amount due = \$82.16**



Meter that reads in hundreds:

- Current meter reading: 92,849 thousand gallons pumped
- Ex. If the previous month's reading was 92,015 thousand gallons then:
 - Current usage = 834 thousand gallons
 - **Amount due = \$33.36**

For Water Producers

Water producer responsibilities

District well management requirements



- **Maintain your contact information**
- **Pay all fees in a timely fashion**
 - Production fees must be **paid by the 15th of each month**
 - Considered delinquent after the 30th of each month
- **Report pumping amounts**
 - Production reporting (using the form provided by STGCD) needs to be completed **by the 15th of each month**
- Any modifications to or change of meters need to be reported to STGCD
- Any modifications to your well need to be reported to STGCD
- **Do not over-pump your permit!**

Questions?

(End of Part III)





Need more information?

Please don't hesitate to visit our website
or contact our office:

<http://southerntrinitygcd.org/>

stgcd@att.net