



Technicians'
Corner

April 30 2013

Much has been going on around the office. Texas legislators are in session and laws are being submitted that are trying to change how we regulate the use of ground water. That is a very touchy subject. It is one that will be with us for many

years as our state tries to manage growth in people and businesses wanting and needing the same water. Eventually the cities and towns will win because they have the votes. Rural Texans and agriculture will resist and win some of the battles, but they will lose the war in the end. We already see the majority of Texans living along or east of IH 35. Prolonged drought and water shortages over much of west Texas will limit growth west of IH 35 no matter how good the economic conditions are.

District wide water levels are dropping. There has been no significant rainfall that would help recharge our aquifers. Trees and bushes have leafed out and are pulling out the shallow moisture and hurting the shallow aquifers. Winter wheat irrigation is now overlapping with irrigation for corn, milo and prewatering for cotton. Water levels have dropped all over. Many water levels in and around irrigated farms have fallen 10 or more feet in the last month. Most of the springs on the creeks have dried up or have their flow reduced to a trickle .

Concho county around Eola and eastward was down from levels we saw the last couple of years. Doole was the same with a steady decline for the last few years. Millersview water levels

were up from the last two years for this time of year.

Runnels county saw its first upswing in water levels after the big rain last fall. Most of the gains we saw from that event have now gone away and we are back in a pattern of slowly dropping water levels county wide. Miles area is down about 10 feet from the last two years for this month.

Tom Green has a mix of levels, but everywhere in all three counties water levels are way down from just 5 years ago. They are in many cases 30 or more feet from the high levels we saw back then. Tom Green around Vancourt is holding pretty steady while Mereta is seeing a drop of a couple of feet. Wall and Veribest were seeing larger drops especially around the drip irrigation areas.

We need some big rains and a long wet season to help build up the aquifers and lakes. Water levels may not mean much to you till your well starts sucking air or quits and then it becomes very important.

Sincerely,
Finis Allen
Technician