



## ABOUT US

### OUR PURPOSE

The LPGCD is the state's preferred method of groundwater management in the Bastrop and Lee Counties. Per Texas Water Code Section 36.0015, LPGCD is to manage groundwater by balancing all property interests and providing for the preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater.

Under Texas Water Code Section 36.1071, LPGCD must develop a groundwater management plan providing management goals to help the district meet that purpose.

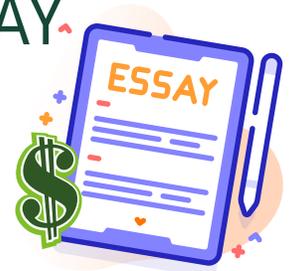
We are mandated by the state, per Texas Water Code Section 35.012, to provide educational programs to the public relating to the problems and issues concerning water management..

### WE' RE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/lostpinesgcd](http://www.facebook.com/lostpinesgcd)
- Instagram:  
[www.instagram.com/lostpinesgcd](http://www.instagram.com/lostpinesgcd)
- YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/@LostPinesGCCD](http://www.youtube.com/@LostPinesGCCD)



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST: WATER IS LIFE



Attention high school seniors in Bastrop and Lee Counties! The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District invites you to participate in our fall essay contest. This year's prompt, "Water is Life: Exploring the Importance of Water Conservation, Groundwater Sustainability, and Drought Management," asks you to write an essay choosing from one of three topics:

- The importance of water conservation in your community.
- The role and sustainability of groundwater in local water supplies amidst climate change.
- Effective strategies for managing droughts in the face of climate change.

Essays should be 500-1,000 words, typed, and double-spaced. **Submissions are due by Friday, November 22nd, 2024.** First, second, and third place winners will receive \$500, \$300, and \$200 scholarships, respectively. Winners will be announced on December 11th, with a special recognition at the December 18th LPGCD Board Meeting.

For submission guidelines and more information, contact Claire Marks at [cmarks@lostpineswater.org](mailto:cmarks@lostpineswater.org) or visit [www.lostpineswater.org](http://www.lostpineswater.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2nd – Rambo permit preliminary hearing, LPGCD Office & Online, 10:00 a.m.

October 14th - Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day, office CLOSED

October 16th - LPGCD Public District Meeting, LPGCD Office, 6:00 p.m., public hearing on proposed changes to the District rules

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District is governed locally by ten citizens, (five from each county) who have been appointed by their respective County Commissioners Courts to serve as directors for a term of four years.

- Elvis Hernandez, President
- Kathryn Rogers, Vice President
- Michael Simmang, Secretary/Treasurer
- Sheril Smith
- Melissa Cole
- Tom Arsuffi
- Nick Textor
- Herbert Cook
- Nancci Phillips-Burgess
- Debra Phillips

# GETTING TO KNOW THE LOST PINES GCD

In the words of Rodgers & Hammerstein in the *King & I*, "Getting to know you. Getting to know all about you. Getting to like you. Getting to hope you like me." Our hope is that you can get to know us better. So, with that, let us begin a deeper look into the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (Lost Pines GCD).

After fierce local opposition to an Alcoa/San Antonio Water System (SAWS) project in 1998, which would have exported almost 18 billion gallons of the Simsboro Aquifer water per year, the Lost Pines GCD was established with the goal of protecting our local aquifers, our local water, from overuse and exploitation. So, in 2001, the Bastrop and Lee County voters approved the formation of the Lost Pines GCD to manage their region's groundwater.

The Lost Pines GCD aims to manage our groundwater sustainably. We work to maintain a reliable supply of groundwater for both current and future needs by providing tools, rules, permitting guidelines, well programs, groundwater research, and educational outreach initiatives. Through permitting and enforcement frameworks, we can and do protect existing groundwater users by establishing minimum spacing between wells and establish protective limits on water level changes in our aquifers.

Our aquifers—major ones like the Simsboro Aquifer and the Carrizo Aquifer, as well as minor ones—are the lifeblood of the Bastrop and Lee Counties. Even before Spanish explorers began settling this region, more than 2,000 years ago, the Tonkawa tribe lived and worked this land, rich with water. Now, nearly two millennia later, our region still thrives on water for mining, agriculture, livestock, and everyday household use. As the Bastrop and Lee Counties continue to grow and develop, our dependence on our groundwater resources will be crucial. Continued education, effective regulation, sustainable management, and community involvement is key to maintaining the health and availability of our groundwater resources, for today, and tomorrow.

This is where you come in. If you use water, which everyone does, please be active in conserving water. Conserve water by turning off faucets, running full loads of laundry, and watering your lawn in the morning or evening. Well owners can join our free Well Watch Program, where we monitor your well's water levels and quality. Attend our board meetings, held monthly, to stay involved, or follow us on social media @LostPinesGCD for updates. If you would like to stay up to date on board meeting agendas or even if you want to receive our monthly newsletter, you can subscribe for alerts at <https://www.lostpineswater.org/list.aspx>.

In the spirit of Rodgers & Hammerstein's, "Getting to Know You," I hope this column helps you get to know the Lost Pines GCD better. We're excited to have you join us in our efforts to manage and protect one of our most precious natural resources, our groundwater. Together, we can help Bastrop and Lee Counties continue to run on water for generations to come.

