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For immediate Release

Gain Rainwater Harvesting Knowledge with the PBUWCD on May 30th

Stanton (May 14, 2019) – Did you know that in some states it is illegal to harvest rainwater? Luckily, Texas is not one of those states that condones this absurd idea. In fact, Texas has laws that encourage rainwater harvesting. Texas Tax Code 151.355 exempts rainwater harvesting equipment and supplies from state sales tax. And Texas Property Code 202.007 prevents a homeowner's association from prohibiting the use of rainwater harvesting systems.

Many people say that it doesn't rain enough in our area to harvest rainwater, but this simply isn't true. The average annual precipitation in our District of Martin and Howard County is 19 inches. A 2,000 square foot roof will yield approximately 1,200 gallons of water during a one inch rainfall event. To come up with this figure you multiply the catchment area size (square feet) by rainfall depth (inches) by 0.623 (amount of water in gallons it takes to cover one square foot of space in one inch of water). So if we saw 19 inches of rainfall in one year, that's over 23,000 gallons of rainwater that could be collected by a 2,000 sq. ft. roof.

Still, people don't understand why they should collect rainfall. What is the benefit of rainwater? Rainwater can offset your use of limited groundwater or municipal water supplies, it is valued for its purity and softness (near neutral pH, low in minerals and salts and chlorine, and can have added nitrogen), it also helps to manage stormwater runoff. It can be used for outdoor irrigation, livestock, farm use (cleaning equipment and mixing with fertilizers/pesticides), fire protection, and even indoor use if installed and treated properly.

If you plan to install a rainwater harvesting system you will need to start by figuring out how you plan to use the water, your budget allocation, and where the system will be located. For an active system you will have to have a catchment area (roof of a house, shed, barn, etc.), a conveyance system (gutters, downspouts), storage, and an outlet.

Come join the Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District (PBUWCD) on Thursday, May 30th, from 5:30-6:30 PM to see how simple it can be to install your own rainwater

harvesting system! The PBUWCD's field technician, Shain Howard, installed a system on the PBUWCD building in 2016 consisting of 2- 2,500 gallon tanks as well as rain barrels and rain chains. Come hear Shain speak about our system: how plans were developed, how the system was built, and what maintenance it requires.

The workshop will take place at the PBUWCD office at 708 W. Saint Peter St. in Stanton. If you have any questions please feel free to call the PBUWCD office at 432-756-2136.