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**For immediate Release**

### **Many Enjoyed the 2018 PBUWCD Rainwater Harvesting Workshop**

Stanton (May 29, 2018) – The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District recently hosted their yearly Rainwater Harvesting Workshop on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There were many in attendance who came to learn about water saving techniques with Terri Johansen, co-owner of Johansen Landscape & Nursery.

Terri introduced many new products that can be used on lawns and gardens to help retain water or decrease the amount of watering. One product Terri discussed is used to manage soil moisture, creating a barrier in the dirt of hydroscopic molecules that attract moisture. “If it is really dry like it is right now in our region then the soil gets hydrophobic and won’t retain water”, says Johansen. “As water tries to leave as a vapor this product turns it in to a droplet.” The next product Terri talked about helps flush salt and minerals out of the soil and helps water work more efficiently. The last product that Terri focused on allows water to last 3 times longer. The product looks like sand, but turns in to a gel when water is added. Once added to the soil, it helps every grain of sand to hydrate the soil and it then will release as needed.

In addition to these products Mrs. Johansen recommended compost and mulch to help soils and water retention. Compost feeds the soil and allows the soil to work more efficiently. It adds beneficial microbes and microorganisms in to the soil. Compost breaks down and loosens soil, feeds soil and holds moisture in the soil. Cedar mulch is the most expensive of mulches but Terri recommended this mulch as it doesn’t blow away. Mrs. Johansen made a statement comparing mulch to an insurance policy. Mulch will keep the ground cooler, keep it moist, keep weeds from coming up (which are just water thieves), and in the winter time it provides insulation.

Mrs. Johansen then mentioned a few pointers for hanging baskets, pots and trees. She recommends moist mats to put in hanging baskets, pots, etc. This will cut down watering from 1-2 times on really hot days to only watering every other day or sometimes even just 2 days a week. She also recommended using tree watering donuts. These are like a donut that you put around a tree, you then fill it with water and it will slowly release water around the tree, taking 5-8 hours for the water to completely soak in to the soil. This is a good product for using “slow”

watering practices which are recommended but for the busy person who doesn't have time to leave water to slowly water trees and shrubs.

The PBUWCD encourages you to look in to water saving practices of your own. Whether it's using products to help with water retention and efficiency or setting out rain barrels to collect rainwater off of roofs to use in your garden. Utilizing every drop of water will help to save the limited supply of one of the earth's most precious resources.