



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas (254) 773-2250

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>

August 2007

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local soil and water conservation district directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local Field Representative or our State Headquarters.

REX ISOM, Executive Director

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Board Work Session for 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 19, 2007, in the Hearings Room in the agency's

state headquarters in Temple. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2007, at the same location. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>.

Adopted Minutes

Minutes from the May 24, 2007, State Board Meeting were approved on July 19, 2007, and are available on the agency website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes/2000-2007#2007>. Minutes from the July 19, 2007 State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2007.

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

Notable Actions

At their July 19, 2007 meeting, the State Board approved the agency's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2008. Included in this action were allocations to SWCDs for cost-sharing the implementation of

certain best management practices contained within a certified water quality management plan. Other allocations made included budgets for Technical Assistance Grants and Matching Fund Grants.

Rule Proposals

At their July 19, 2007, meeting, the State Board proposed the following amendment to Rule 31TAC517. The rule amendment was published for public comment in the August 17, 2007, edition of the [Texas Register, 32 TexReg 5155](#).

TITLE 31. NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
Part 17. TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Chapter 517. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Subchapter B. COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR BRUSH CONTROL

31 TAC §517.30

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (State Board) proposes an amendment to Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 17, Chapter 517, Subchapter B, Cost-Share Assistance for Brush Control, §517.30(h), concerning the agency's ability to individually consider alternate resource treatment plans as an acceptable brush control plan. Specifically, this proposed amendment provides the agency some flexibility in accepting an alternative brush control plan that may better suit landowner management plans.

Mr. Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer, State Board has determined that, for the first five-year period, there will be no fiscal implications for state or local government as a result of administering this proposed amendment.

Mr. Zajicek has also determined that, for the first five-year period this proposed amendment is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of administering this amended rule will be the possibility of increased participation in the brush control program and potential water enhancement as a result of that participation.

There are no anticipated costs to small businesses or individuals resulting from this proposed amendment.

Comments on the proposed amendment may be submitted in writing to Rex Isom, Executive Director, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, P.O. Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503, (254) 773-2250, ext. 231.

The amendment is proposed under the Agriculture Code of Texas, Title 7, Chapter 201, §201.020, which authorizes the State Board to

adopt rules that are necessary for the performance of its functions under the Agriculture Code and under §203.012, which authorizes the board to adopt reasonable rules necessary to carry out the chapter.

No other statutes, articles, or codes are affected by this proposed amendment.

§517.30. Eligibility for Cost-share Assistance.

(a) - (g) (No change.)

(h) Requirement to develop a brush control plan. In order to qualify for cost-share assistance, an eligible person, including political subdivisions, shall develop a brush control plan. Brush control plans shall meet resource management system requirements on acres planned, as set forth in the FOTG. The State Board may grant an exception to the RMS requirement if it finds an alternate plan adequate.

(i) (No change.)

This agency hereby certifies that the proposal has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be within the agency's legal authority to adopt.

Filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on August 6, 2007.

TRD-200703393

Mel Davis
Special Projects Coordinator
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Earliest possible date of adoption: September 16, 2007
For further information, please call: (254) 773-2250, x252

Rule Adoptions

The State Board has adopted a new rule to address handling public funds. The new rule states that in order for a soil and water conservation district to be designated to administer State Board programs or to receive funds or cost share funds, they must show that they are conducting regularly scheduled meetings to properly handle financial and contractual obligations and are implementing internal controls for handling public funds.

The rule was published in the June 15, 2007, edition of the Texas Register and was adopted by the State Board in their July 19, 2007 meeting. The new rule became effective August 23, 2007.

Notice of the final adopted rule was published in August 17, 2007, edition of the [Texas Register, 32 TexReg 5184](#), as follows:

TITLE 31. NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

PART 17. TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

CHAPTER 520. DISTRICT OPERATIONS

SUBCHAPTER B. REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDS OR ADMINISTER STATE PROGRAMS

31 TAC §§520.11 - 520.13

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (State Board) adopts new §§520.11 - 520.13, concerning agency administration of fiscal responsibilities without changes to the proposed text as published in the June 15, 2007, issue of the Texas Register (32 TexReg 3533) and will not be republished. Specifically, the new rules provide the agency greater oversight for the funds that are granted or provided to soil and water conservation districts and to have increased oversight for the programs that are administered by soil and water conservation districts for this agency.

No comments were received regarding adoption of the new rules.

The new rules are adopted under the Agriculture Code of Texas, Title 7, Chapter 201, §201.020, which authorizes the State Board to adopt rules that are necessary for the performance of its functions under the Agriculture Code.

This agency hereby certifies that the adoption has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency's legal authority.

Filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on August 3, 2007.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

Technical Assistance Grants

Since 1984, the Texas Legislature has appropriated funds annually to the TSSWCB for the purpose of assisting SWCDs in their efforts to provide technical assistance to agricultural producers. This grant may be used to pay technical employees for performing the duties of an SWCD soil conservation technician. An SWCD soil conservation technician for an SWCD works with owners and operators of agricultural or other lands

on the installation and maintenance of various conservation practices.

Matching Funds Grants

In 1969, the 61st session of the Texas Legislature initiated a program through which funds are appropriated to the TSSWCB for allocation to SWCDs on a matching basis. To receive money under this program, a district must raise funds from sources other than State funds or earnings from State funds.

Technical Service Provider Grants

The USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) annually provides grants through contribution agreements (50:50 match requirement) to entities and individuals that serve as Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for assistance in implementing Farm Bill conservation programs. For the past two years, Texas SWCDs have been awarded TSP grants through the TSSWCB for assisting NRCS.

Agricultural Water Conservation Grants

In 1985, the Texas Legislature amended Chapter 201 of the Agriculture Code to create the SubChapter H, Technical Assistance Program for Soil and Water Conservation Land Improvement Measures. Sub-Chapter H Technical Assistance provided additional funds to qualified SWCDs to assist in their efforts to provide technical assistance to agricultural producers. Subchapter H funds were appropriated to the TSSWCB from the Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Account No. 563. Senate Bill 1053 enacted by the 78th Legislature moved the money that funded Account No. 563 to the TWDB. Account No. 563 no longer exists and funding for what was Subchapter H grants now comes from the TWDB in the form of competitive agricultural water conservation grants. The TSSWCB, on behalf of local soil and water conservation districts, now applies to the TWDB for grant funding to continue the water conservation program previously supported by the Subchapter H Program. Soil and water conservation districts provide technical and planning assistance to agricultural producers for implementing

conservation best management practices on their farms and ranches.

For more information on these soil and water conservation district grant programs, visit the TSSWCB's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/programs/swcdassistance>.

Upcoming Fiscal Deadlines for SWCDs

- **Fiscal Year 2007 Financial Statement and Audit Requirements** – The FY 2007 District Financial Statement/Audit requirements and Notification Forms were distributed August 10th. The deadline for submission of the Notification Form is September 30th.
- **Reminder:** September 30th is the deadline for FY 2007 Supplemental Technical Assistance claims, 4th Qtr Director Mileage & Per Diem claims, and return of any unused Director Mileage & Per Diem advance payments.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Current Job Openings

- **Information Specialist I**
 - Class No. 1830/B06
 - Starting Annual Salary: \$30,202
 - Required Travel: As Needed
 - Location: Temple, Texas
- **Natural Resource Specialist IV**
 - Class No. 2684/B11
 - Starting Annual Salary: \$40,790
 - Required Travel: As needed, Statewide to Poultry Operations
 - Location: Nacogdoches, Texas

New Hires

- **Kirk House** will start September 1, 2007 as the Engineering Technician in Wharton.
- **Janet Ritter** will start September 1, 2007 as the Natural Resource Specialist IV in Center.
- **Teresa Reese** will start September 1, 2007 as the Natural Resource Specialist IV in Centerville.
- **Shari Johnson** will start October 15, 2007 as the Natural Resource Specialist IV in Gonzales.

Resignations

- **Cynthia Geers**, Clerk I in Temple resigned on August 31, 2007.

Promotions

- **Jeff Cerny** was promoted to the Natural Resource Specialist IV in Wharton on August 1, 2007.
- **Loren Henley** has been promoted to the Natural Resource Specialist III position with our Nonpoint Source Team in Temple and will start September 1, 2007.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The Annual State Meeting for 2007 is scheduled for October 22 – 24, 2007 in Waco. Please mark this date and make plans to attend. Everyone's support is needed and welcomed. Pre-registration information

and program highlights are available online at:
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/annualmeeting>.

ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Scheduled Meetings

The State Association will conduct a board meeting on September 4, 2007, at the State Board's Headquarters in Temple. For more information on the State Association, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds/atswcd>.



AREA ASSOCIATIONS OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Deep East Texas Association

The Deep East Texas Association has scheduled a meeting for September 27, 2007, in Orange.

Gulf Coast Association

The Gulf Coast Association has scheduled a meeting for September 13, 2007, in Port Lavaca.

Panhandle Association

The Panhandle Association met on August 23, 2007, in Memphis.

Rolling Planes Association

The Rolling Planes Association has scheduled a meeting for September 11, 2007, in Mineral Wells.

South Central Texas Association

The South Central Texas Association has scheduled a meeting for September 6, 2007, in Snook.

South Plains Association

The South Plains Association met on August 15th, 2007, in Lubbock.

South Texas Association

The South Texas Association will meet September 25, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Harlingen Irrigation District Pump House Annex.

West Texas Association

The West Texas Association met on August 28, 2007, in Bronte.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Teacher Workshops

The TSSWCB provided educational materials to the Menard SWCD for a teacher's workshop on agriculture and conservation held in Menard on August 25, 2007.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

There are over 190 conservation-related videos available; the catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB's website at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/vi_dcat05-06.pdf. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local soil and water conservation district or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

This resource is available at no charge to the borrower. The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public Information/Education Committee will pay first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning will be the

responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

Ordering a Video

Select a video from the [TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog](#). Request a video, contact Loren Henley at lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

Recent Video Usage

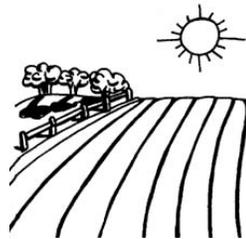
The following conservation videos were checked out from the TSSWCB for educational use during August 2007:

- *Soil Conservation*
- *America's Soil: The Eroding Foundation*
- *Conservation on Your Own*
- *America's Wetlands (revised)*
- *Estuary*
- *Rice: A Better Way*
- *Fundamentals of Forestry*
- *Best Management Practices*
- *Programs of Conservation: Soil*
- *Celebrate the Land and the People Who Take Care of It*

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.



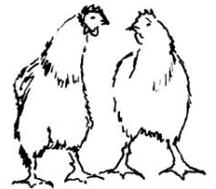
Program News

Allocations of cost share funding through the Water Quality Management Plan Program (WQMP) were approved at the July 20, 2007, State Board Meeting. These cost share funds are provided to SWCDs to use as incentives for landowners to fully implement certain best management practices within a certified WQMP. For more information on the WQMP Program, please visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Program Overview

In 2001, the 77th Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry>.



Program News

The TSSWCB posted four Poultry Program positions (Natural Resource Specialist IVs) on July 30, 2007. These positions were appropriated to the TSSWCB during the 80th Regular Texas Legislative Session in 2007. As of August 31, 2007, the agency has filled three positions headquartered in Center, Centerville, and Gonzales. The remaining position, headquartered in the agency's Poultry Office in Nacogdoches, Texas, will remain posted until filled. These positions will continue the TSSWCB's duty to assist poultry producers in meeting state water quality standards through the successful implementation of a Water Quality Management Plan certified by the TSSWCB under §201.026, Agriculture Code.

Program Activities

In addition to the hiring of new TSSWCB Poultry Program employees, the agency has executed contracts with the Nacogdoches SWCD and the Shelby SWCD to employ district employees to assist with the development, implementation, and maintenance of Water Quality Management Plans. Nacogdoches and Shelby Counties produce more poultry than any other counties in Texas.

CLEAN WATER ACT, §319(h) GRANTS

Program Overview

The availability of Section 319(h) grant funding presents a major opportunity for the TSSWCB to implement a NPS management program that addresses the potential of NPS pollution affecting the state's water quality. The TSSWCB is the lead agency for the state's agricultural and silvicultural program and administers the Section 319(h) funds under the State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program. The EPA's and the TSSWCB's goal is to ensure that Section 319(h) funds are directed toward effective, high-quality NPS projects that will achieve the best possible results in reducing or abating NPS pollution. A listing of current Section 319(h) Grant Projects is available on the TSSWCB's website at: <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/browseactive>.

Program News

FY2001 - FY2006 CWA §319(h) Grant Status:

There are currently 77 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Federal funds totaling \$15 million are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement best management practices, support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs), and implement the

nonpoint source portion of TMDL Implementation Plans.

Fiscal Year 2007 CWA §319(h) Grant Application:

As a result of past exemplary grant management, the EPA has awarded the TSSWCB an additional \$856,769 federal §319(h) funds for Fiscal Year 2007. This additional allocation increases the TSSWCB's Fiscal Year 2007 §319(h) program allocation to \$5,544,292. TSSWCB staff submitted the revised FY2007 §319(h) grant application to EPA on August 8th and is currently awaiting final approval and award.

15th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Conference

The National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Conference was held August 26 - 30 in Austin. This workshop provided participants the opportunity to discuss innovative monitoring and management strategies used to address nonpoint source pollution from agriculture and urban landscapes. The TSSWCB was represented by Aaron Wendt.

Program Activities

FY2007 Nonpoint Source Annual Report:

In order to receive §319(h) funds, the State of Texas must submit a report on the activities of the Texas NPS Program annually. TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of report development. Staff from both agencies met on August 2nd to discuss the structure and content of the report. The report will highlight the State's efforts during 2007 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans. This report must be submitted to EPA in January 2008 to ensure continued funding. Past editions of the annual report, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/reports> under the heading *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS & WATERSHED PLANNING

TMDL Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the Texas 303(d) List and must be submitted to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review and approval every two years. The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for waterbodies identified on the 303(d) List. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. Responsibility to develop and implement TMDLs is shared between two State agencies: the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). More information on the TSSWCB TMDL Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>.

Watershed Protection Plan Program Overview

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is a coordinated framework for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, the State of Texas encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with strategies for protecting unimpaired waters and restoring impaired waters. WPPs have a variety of ingredients and can take many forms. TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). More information on the TSSWCB WPP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

Program News

Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List

On June 27, TCEQ approved the 2006 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List. The CWA requires Texas to develop and publish every two years a list of impaired waterbodies. The 2006 List adds 153 impairments to the 2004 List. This 39% increase in total impairments is dwarfed by a 58% increase in new bacteria impairments only. EPA must approve the 303(d) List. More information on the Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List is available at

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html.

TMDL Adoptions

On June 13, the TCEQ adopted Seventeen TMDLs for Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, and pH in Adams Bayou, Cow Bayou, and Their Tributaries. These TMDLs must be approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs will have limited impacts on livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

On July 25, the TCEQ adopted Three TMDLs for Bacteria in the San Antonio Area, Segments 1910, 1910A, and 1911. These TMDLs must be approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-uppersanantonibac.html>. These TMDLs will have no impact on livestock operations in the Upper San Antonio River watershed in Bexar and Wilson Counties.

On July 25, the TCEQ adopted One TMDL for Bacteria in the Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake, Segment 1806. This TMDL must be

approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/65-guadalupeabovecanyon.html>. This TMDL may have limited impacts on livestock operations in the Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr and Kendall Counties.

On July 25, the TCEQ remanded One TMDL for Dissolved Oxygen in Mid Cibolo Creek, Segment 1913 to staff for additional changes in response to public comment. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/31-midcibolo.html>. This TMDL will have no impact on agricultural operations in the Mid Cibolo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

On August 8, the TCEQ adopted One TMDL for Bacteria in Upper Oyster Creek, Segment 1245. This TMDL must be approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/25-oystercreek.html>. This TMDL will have limited impacts on livestock operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

On August 8, the TCEQ adopted One TMDL for Bacteria in Gilleland Creek, Segment 1428C. This TMDL must be approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL will have limited impacts on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

On August 22, the TCEQ adopted One TMDL for Bacteria in Oso Bay, Segment 2485. This TMDL must be approved by the EPA. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/67-osobaybacteria.html>. By itself, this TMDL will have no impact on agricultural operations. However, a complementary TMDL is being developed for Oso Creek. In combination, the TMDLs for Oso Bay and Creek, may impact

livestock and farming operations in the Oso Bay/Creek watershed in Nueces County.

Program Activities

Water Quality Standards Update

On June 26, TCEQ hosted the third meeting of the Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group in Austin. This meeting focused on whole effluent testing, a topic not germane to TSSWCB programs. TCEQ staff will develop draft language for changes to the standards based on comments from this meeting, the March 7 meeting focused on nutrient criteria development and the May 16 meeting focused on bacteria and contact recreation. TCEQ adoption of any changes to the standards is not expected until mid-2009. EPA must also approve any changes. More information on this standards review process is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html.

Wharton Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

On June 7, Brian Koch hosted the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus. A presentation on TCEQ Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) funding was provided. SEPs can be described as environmental enhancement projects that are used to offset fines in enforcement matters. Through an SEP, a respondent in an enforcement matter can choose to invest penalty dollars in improving the environment, rather than paying into the General Revenue fund. Key criteria for an SEP include being environmentally beneficial, done as a result of a settlement in an enforcement action, and going beyond compliance requirements of a violator. SEPs must be completed in the same media as the violation (air, water, solid waste) and should be in or near the community in which the violation occurred. SEPs may not bring the violator in compliance or correct the violation, remediate any environmental harm caused by the respondent, or benefit respondent financially or economically. Some SEP ideas include plugging abandoned water

wells, wastewater treatment assistance, abandoned tire clean-up, clean-up of unauthorized trash dumps, and Household Hazardous Waste Cleanups. A list of pre-approved SEPs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/legal/sep/index.html>. An overview of the Adams and Cow Bayou TMDLs for bacteria, DO, and pH was provided. TCEQ recently adopted these 17 TMDLs which must now be submitted to EPA for approval. Work by the Stakeholder Advisory Group now shifts now developing the Implementation Plan which will address the major identified pollution sources for the various impairments including failing OSSFs, permitted dischargers, and NPS from urban areas and pastureland. Additionally the WCSC reviewed criteria used to select Plum Creek as a priority watershed for WPP development. An evaluation of watersheds in southeast and south central Texas will be updated with current information to be assessed against these criteria. Another watershed will then be identified as a prime candidate for WPP development. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/cwp>.

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

On July 10, John Foster, TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt, Donna Long, Pam Casebolt and Brian Koch met with TCEQ staff for a Texas NPS-TMDL Program Coordination meeting in Austin. This meeting supports implementation of the MOA on TMDLs, I-Plans and WPPs between TSSWCB and TCEQ. Significant discussion focused on implementing the June 29 directives from the Board and Commission related to the Bacteria TMDL Task Force. Staff discussed steps needed to update the current TMDL guidance document and to reinstate stakeholder meetings for the paused TMDL projects. The TSSWCB priority status of various TMDL projects was updated and is attached. The group discussed preliminary feedback from EPA on the Arroyo Colorado and Upper San Antonio River WPPs. The group discussed selecting several priority watersheds that are anticipated to achieve water quality improvement over the next few years. Also, progress on the USDA NRCS EQIP State Resource Concern for Water Quality in South Central Texas was discussed. This pool of EQIP has been targeted

to several TMDL watersheds for the past two years to assist cattlemen in voluntarily abating bacteria runoff. A formal report on collaborative efforts to implement provisions of the MOA discussed at this meeting will be jointly prepared with TCEQ staff and then submitted to the Board and Commission.

Bacteria TMDL Task Force

On June 29, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ conducted a joint meeting in Austin and approved the recommendations from the joint Bacteria TMDL Task. The Task Force recommended the use of a Three-Tier Approach for bacteria TMDL and I-Plan development that is designed to be cost-effective, time-efficient, scientifically credible and accountable to watershed stakeholders. The Tiers move through increasingly aggressive levels of data collection and analysis in order to achieve stakeholder consensus on needed load reductions and strategies to achieve those reductions. The Three-Tier Approach included specific recommendations on the use of computer modeling and bacterial source tracking (BST). Specifically, the Board adopted the principles and general process recommended by the Bacteria TMDL Task Force, directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to incorporate the principles of the recommendations into an updated joint-agency TMDL guidance document, directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to move diligently to expedite the development of bacteria TMDLs that were paused during the work of the task force, and directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to establish a multi-agency bacteria work group to continue examining the scientific research and development needs identified in the Task Force Report. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/media/20070710> and <http://twri.tamu.edu/bacteriatmdl/>.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

On July 12, Aaron Wendt attended the combined Upper Colorado River Authority and Colorado River Municipal Water District Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee meeting in San Angelo. Implications from new laboratory

accreditation procedures will likely result in no laboratories within the area meeting the standards to assess bacteria. As a result, no bacteria samples will be analyzed by accredited laboratories in the Upper Colorado River and Concho River watersheds for the foreseeable future. This will limit the ability of the State to assess contact recreation use in these waterbodies. Additional discussion centered on a salinity threat to Lake J.B. Thomas and water quality complaint investigations in the Concho River watershed. Lake J.B. Thomas has the lowest chloride concentrations of all lakes in the Upper Colorado River watershed. Brine evaporation pits pose a serious threat and have the potential to discharge water with more than 100,000 ppm chlorides just a few miles above the lake. CRMWD is exploring options to abate this source of salinity. UCRA has responded to numerous water quality complaints across the Concho River watershed, including WWTFs and dairies, and continues to work with the individuals to put in place abatement mechanisms to reduce pollutants. More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/>.

On July 26, Brian Koch attended a Lavaca-Navidad River Authority Clean Rivers Program meeting in Edna. An overview of the Clean Rivers Program was given, and the 2007 Basin Summary Report for the Lavaca River Basin was highlighted. The major water quality issue for the basin is nutrient concerns for ammonia and total phosphorous. An update on the Use Attainability Analysis for dissolved oxygen in the Upper Lavaca River was given. Flow dependent factors such as no flow and large pools in the summer months are contributing to the problem. As a result, a standards revision for the upper 29 miles of the Lavaca River will be recommended. Another presentation was on fish and oyster health in Lavaca Bay. This presentation focused on oyster harvest and elements of water quality, such as bacteria and red tide, which can affect the harvest of oysters. More information is available at <http://www.lnra.org/>.

On August 2, Brian Koch attended a Houston-Galveston Area Council Natural Resources

Advisory Council meeting in Houston. A presentation on environmental monitoring of endocrine disruptors was given. Impacts to humans will likely take many years because effects will take multiple generations to manifest. The HGAC Clean Rivers Program 2007 Basin Highlights Report is now available. The Bastrop Bayou WPP is progressing and a stakeholder meeting will be scheduled in the near future. More information is available at <http://www.hgac.com/NR/exeres/3B5EB43D-1B3B-4304-9F87-4CCEF60818BD.htm>.

On August 23, Brian Koch attended a San Antonio River Authority Clean Rivers Program meeting in San Antonio. An overview of the Clean Rivers Program was given and accomplishments in the basin since the program started were highlighted. The water quality priorities and objectives were reviewed. The area with greatest concern for potential impacts to agriculture is the Lower San Antonio River, which is impaired for bacteria. Current and proposed water quality monitoring efforts were discussed. More information is available at <http://www.sara-tx.org/>.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

On July 25, Brian Koch attended a Galveston Bay Estuary Program Galveston Bay Council meeting in Houston. Working through the Clean Texas Marinas Program, Texas Sea Grant, TCEQ and the Galveston Bay Estuary Program used grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Texas General Land Office to reduce pollution from boats in marinas. Since 2000, 61 marinas have been certified as Clean Marinas, and 41 have pledged to be Clean Marinas statewide. The Galveston Bay Foundation is directing the East Bay Restoration Project to restore shoreline and adjacent marsh along the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge shoreline. Brian Koch reported that the TCEQ and TSSWCB adopted the recommendations made by the joint Task Force on Bacteria TMDLs. More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>.

Lake Granbury

On May 22, the Brazos River Authority hosted a Lake Granbury WPP Steering Committee meeting in Granbury. The group discussed establishing water quality goals for the WPP for bacteria and nutrients. An update was provided on golden algae research being conducted in the lake. Results from analysis of historic data were presented. For the main body of lake, data indicate increasing nutrient and chlorophyll a concentrations, decreasing dissolved oxygen concentrations, and high salinity. Additionally, elevated bacteria levels were not regularly apparent. For the coves and canals, data indicate high levels of bacteria with spikes greater than 2,400 MPN/100 mL and nutrient levels consistent with the main body. A septic index based on age of OSSFs, soils suitability and other factors for each subdivision around lake was developed. Also, recommendations for modeling options for the various coves and canals were presented. Since the meeting, the recent flooding has delayed the scheduled work on Bacterial Source Tracking and an OSSF tracer study. More information on this WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp>. This WPP has the potential to impact livestock and farming operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

Oso Bay

On June 5, TCEQ held an Oso Bay TMDL public comment meeting in Corpus Christi. The 30-day public comment period on One TMDL for Bacteria in Oso Bay closed June 15. TCEQ is expected to consider adoption of this TMDL at their August 22 meeting. A response to public comment will be developed. Data and modeling indicate that loading capacity of the bay is greater than existing loadings. As such, this TMDL, by itself, will have limited impact on agricultural operations. However, a complementary TMDL is being developed for Oso Creek. Land use across the watershed includes cultivated croplands (62.7%), developed/urbanized (13.3%), rangeland/pastureland (13.1%) and other (10.9%). More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/t>

mdl/67-osobaybacteria.html. In combination with TMDLs for Oso Creek, this TMDL may impact livestock and farming operations in the Oso Bay/Creek watershed in Nueces County.

Plum Creek

On June 5, Brian Koch attended the Agricultural NPS Work Group meeting for the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership in Lockhart. The group continued discussion on various BMPs that are supported by TSSWCB and NRCS technical and financial assistance programs, noting what is and what is not covered through the various programs. Average cost lists and implementation schedules were provided from other projects to begin to craft the schedule of implementation for the Plum Creek WPP and to estimate the amount of financing needed to implement the WPP. More information on this WPP is available at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to impact livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

On July 12, Lawrence Brown, Jr. and Brian Koch attended a steering committee meeting for the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership in Lockhart. At this meeting, discussion was held on the draft 2006 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List. This was compared to the 2004 Inventory and List for Plum Creek and differences in the assessments were pointed out, including the nutrient screening criteria. Load duration curves for nutrients were reviewed and the associated load reductions to meet the nutrient screening criteria were discussed for specific nutrients at each of the critical monitoring stations in the watershed. For the Uhland site, needed reductions include a 27.1% reduction in total phosphorus at base flows, a 43.1% reduction in nitrate at base flows, and a 0.3% reduction in nitrate at moist flows. For the Lockhart site, needed reductions include a 48.7% reduction in orthophosphorus at base flows, a 5.4% reduction in total phosphorus at base flows, a 79.5% reduction in nitrate at base flows, a 66.4% reduction in nitrate at moist conditions, and a 17.6% reduction in nitrate during wet weather. For the Luling site, needed reductions include a 0.5% reduction in nitrate at

base flows. The draft management measures developed by the five workgroups were reviewed and stakeholders commented on the various portions of the plan. More information on this WPP is available at <http://pcwp.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to impact livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

Gilleland Creek

On June 12, Donna Long attended a Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan meeting in Austin. The Lower Colorado River Authority is facilitating the work group discussing implementation strategies to achieve the significant nonpoint source load reductions in this draft TMDL. Based on analysis of 2003 data, dominant land use in the watershed includes agricultural (64%), urbanized (25%) and parks/open space (7%). The draft TMDL utilizes a single load duration curve to conclude that bacteria loading to Gilleland Creek is of a nonpoint source origin. The TMDL calls for a 93% reduction at high flows and an 82% reduction at moderate flows from sources of bacteria. The group broke out into smaller groups and had targeted discussion on specific BMPs. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL will have limited impacts on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

Buck Creek

On June 12, Bob Gruner and Aaron Wendt attended the Buck Creek watershed stakeholder meeting in Wellington. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss results from water quality monitoring over the past three years and discuss steps to begin developing a WPP for the Buck Creek watershed. Buck Creek was first listed as impaired for excessive bacteria on the 2000 303(d) List. The data used to list Buck Creek as impaired was limited to only 14 samples over a five year period from one location. As a result, TSSWCB initiated in fall 2003 a CWA §319(h) funded project to collect additional data to corroborate the bacteria impairment. Since starting the project over 500

samples have been collected at 16 locations on Buck Creek and its tributaries. This intensive monitoring regime has substantiated the bacteria impairment. Data indicates excessive bacteria at several sites throughout the watershed. An excerpt from the meeting presentation is attached that shows the data collected at each location. Stakeholders discussed implications of being an impaired waterbody and how developing and implementing a WPP would lead to water quality improvement. Through additional CWA §319(h) monies, TSSWCB will continue an intensive monitoring schedule and provide technical support to stakeholders in developing a WPP. More information on this WPP is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP has the potential to impact livestock operations in the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

Adams and Cow Bayous

On July 18, Brian Koch attended an Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL I-Plan meeting in West Orange. The main focus of the I-Plan will be to remove homes from OSSFs, and put them on regional wastewater treatment. Other focused items are outreach and education, funding for implementation, agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution, and urban NPS pollution. By November, TCEQ hopes to have a working draft of the I-Plan. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs will have limited impacts on livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Hickory Creek

On June 15, Aaron Wendt attended a Hickory Creek WPP stakeholder meeting in Denton. While portions of this watershed are rapidly urbanizing (24%), significant portions remain rangeland (37%) and cropland (31%). SWAT modeling indicates significant sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus loadings are coming from nonpoint sources on cropland and rangeland. Sediment loading sources

are 29% urban, 46% cropland and 24% rangeland. Nitrogen loading sources are 23% urban, 48% cropland and 28% rangeland. Phosphorus loading sources are 23% urban, 66% cropland and 9% rangeland. Permitted WWTFs appear to contribute >1% of sediment and nitrogen loadings and only 2% of phosphorus loadings. Next steps include developing a list of control strategies and evaluating relative costs and loading reductions from various suites of BMPs. Rather than establishing a water quality goal, this stakeholder group is considering setting goals based on financial investment levels. More information on this WPP is available at <http://www.cityofdenton.com/pages/mygovenvironmentalwater319grant.cfm>. This WPP has the potential to impact farming and livestock operations in the Hickory Creek watershed in Denton County.

Lake Granger

On June 20, Aaron Wendt, Lee Munz and Pam Casebolt attended a Lake Granger WPP stakeholder meeting in Taylor. Through CWA §319(h) funding from TSSWCB, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station recently completed a bathymetric survey of the lake. The survey will help assess the rate at which sediment is entering the lake and help stakeholders target BMPs to reduce sediment loadings. Results of this survey were presented. Based on the 1968 design of the lake (4,400 surface acres and 65,510 ac-ft storage), about 24% of storage capacity has been lost to sedimentation. The 2007 data indicate only 4,035 surface acres and 49,767 ac-ft of storage capacity. Combined with results from similar studies in 1995 and 2002, sedimentation continues to increase. This key group of stakeholders discussed the steps to initiate development of a WPP for Lake Granger, with technical support from TSSWCB. A larger, more diverse steering committee with rural and urban work groups will be assembled to begin discussion the key elements of a WPP. More information on this WPP is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/granger>. This WPP has the potential to impact farming and livestock operations in the Lake Granger watershed in Williamson and Burnet Counties.

Elm and Sandies Creeks

On August 23, Kendria Ray and Aaron Wendt attended an Elm and Sandies Creeks TMDL meeting in Cuero. Water quality monitoring data from 2002-2004 was reviewed and verified the bacteria and dissolved oxygen impairments. Additional data from storm events and baseflow was collected from July 2006 to February 2007 to support the development of load duration curves. The group also discussed technical and financial assistance for cattlemen implementing BMPs. Specifically, technical assistance is being provided through the DeWitt County SWCD by means of a CWA §319(h) grant from the TSSWCB. Financial assistance is being provided through the USDA NRCS EQIP State Resource Concern for Water Quality in South Central Texas. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-elmsandies.html>. These TMDLs will impact livestock operations in the Elm and Sandies Creeks watershed in DeWitt, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Karnes and Wilson Counties.

Dickinson Bayou

On August 21, Brian Koch attended a Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Dickinson. The working draft of the WPP was reviewed and is expected to be completed for review in September. Also, the Steering Committee changed its name to the Advisory Committee, and a new Chair and Co-Chair were named. This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going Dickinson Bayou TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on this WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both this WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to impact agricultural operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Atascosa River

On August 21, Adrian Perez and Aaron Wendt attended an Atascosa River TMDL meeting in Pleasanton. Water quality monitoring data from 2002-2004 was reviewed and verified the bacteria

impairment. However, analysis of data indicated that the established dissolved oxygen criteria may not be appropriate for the waterbody. Therefore, a TMDL for bacteria will continue and an adjustment of the dissolved oxygen standard will be pursued. Additional bacteria data from storm events and baseflow was collected from July 2006 to February 2007 to support the development of load duration curves. The group also discussed technical and financial assistance for cattlemen implementing BMPs. Specifically, technical assistance is being provided through the Atascosa County SWCD by means of a CWA §319(h) grant from the TSSWCB. Financial assistance is being provided through the USDA NRCS EQIP State Resource Concern for Water Quality in South Central Texas. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-atascosa.html>. This TMDL will impact livestock operations in the Atascosa River watershed in Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Upper Trinity River

On July 18, Donna Long and Pam Casebolt attended an Upper Trinity River TMDL meeting in Arlington. Background information was provided concerning the non-support of contact recreation use in segments 0806, 0841, 0822 and 0805 of the Trinity River, as well as a description of the process for bacteria culturing and how bacteria concentrations in water bodies are determined. Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) was generally explained, to include the description of a “known source” library, an ambient water sample collection program, and an overview of the “ribotyping” process, which was the particular BST method applied on this project. An introduction to the load duration curve method was presented, which was the tool selected for this project to determine load allocations. The steps involved in developing flow and load duration curves were explained, and examples from each of the four affected waterbody segments were presented. An explanation was offered for the reasoning behind partitioning of the load duration curve into three separate flow regimes (high, mid-range and low). The modified version of

the allocation process equation used for this project was presented, which includes a component that takes into account loadings allocated to upstream segments entering into impaired segments. A tentative timeline of two to three months was given for the completion of the TMDL technical support document at which time the document would be made available for public review. Upcoming TMDL work will be performed on the bacteria impairment of Grapevine Creek (Segment 0822A) and Cottonwood Branch (Segment 0822B) in the Irving and DFW Airport area. This new TMDL project will require some of the same project tasks as were performed for the previous study. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/66-trinitybacteria.html>. These TMDLs have the potential to impact livestock operations in the Upper Trinity River watershed in Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Kaufman, Navarro and Tarrant Counties.

Buffalo and White Oak Bayous

On August 7, Brian Koch attended a Houston-Galveston Area Council Bacteria and Contact Recreation Use Attainability Analysis Work Group meeting in Houston. The focus of this UAA and associated TMDLs is on urban streams in the Houston metropolitan area, including Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, and therefore will have limited to no impact on livestock operations in the watersheds. However, this is the first UAA being conducted in the State for bacteria and contact recreation and will establish a protocol for performing other recreation UAAs across the State. The final round on water quality monitoring on the reference stream, Mill Creek in Austin County, was highlighted along with surveys conducted on the use of bayous in the Houston area for swimming, fishing, boating, and other types of recreation. Out of 500 people surveyed, 8% have had some kind of contact with the water. None of the persons surveyed reported illness due to contact with the water. More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/NR/exeres/9EF2CF30-836F-4609-BC1D-7D147BCC448A.htm>.

On August 30, Brian Koch attended a Buffalo and White Oak Bayous TMDL meeting in Houston. The focus of this meeting was to discuss the differences between a TMDL I-Plan and a WPP in lieu of a TMDL. This continued discussion from the June meeting where ideas were presented to introduce a WPP to more holistically address water quality throughout the Houston area. Additionally, stakeholders commented that the load reductions would be unachievable through just an I-Plan, especially with limited resources. If the project continues down the TMDL path, there will be a recommendation for a phased approach to implementation. This TMDL project will have limited to no impact on livestock operations in the watersheds. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html>.

Concho River

On July 12, Aaron Wendt and Tuffy Wood attended the Concho River WPP stakeholder meeting in San Angelo. Draft text for sections of the WPP was distributed for review and comment by stakeholders. Water quality threats and impairments along with associated BMPs and anticipated loading reduction goals were presented. A table describing this information is attached. Stakeholders briefly reviewed this list of BMPs and discussed the need for additional meetings for in-depth discussion on the draft list. More information on this WPP is available at http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html. This WPP has the potential to impact farming and livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, and Upton Counties.

Upper Oyster Creek

On July 12, Kendra Ray attended an Upper Oyster Creek TMDL public stakeholder meeting in Sugar Land. The status of the dissolved oxygen TMDL included an overview of the relevant criteria and the results and findings of 24-hour dissolved oxygen

assessment monitoring performed during the Index Period of years 2003, 2004, and 2005. The assessment confirmed nonsupport of the intermediate aquatic life use for many portions of Upper Oyster Creek. The final computer validation results for allocation reaches were discussed. Some of the technical issues encountered in the model validation process were discussed. Some of the issues with determining critical flow and critical water temperature combinations for the allocation process were discussed. More information on this TMDL project is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html>. This TMDL project has the potential to impact livestock and farming operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

Upcoming Program Activities

Upcoming Public Meetings

- September 4 – Galveston Bay Freshwater Inflows Group (Houston)
- September 5 – TAMU IRNR Trinity River Information Management System Orientation (Dallas)
- September 6 – TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- September 6 – TCEQ Water Quality Partnerships Grant Workshop (Houston)
- September 6 – TSSWCB Wharton Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 11 – Buck Creek WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Memphis)
- September 12 – Clear Creek TMDL Public Meeting (Houston)
- September 13 – TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Guidance Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- September 13 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- September 21 – *Value of Manure in Energy Production* (NLPELC Webcast)
- September 18 – World Water Monitoring Day
- September 25 – HGAC Clean Rivers Program (Houston)

September 26 – Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan Public Meeting (Pflugerville)
 September 26 – *Wetlands Restoration* (EPA Webcast)
 September 26 – Freshwater Inflows Forum (Houston)
 September 27 – Concho River WPP Stakeholder Meeting (San Angelo)
 September 27 – Freshwater Inflows Forum (Beaumont)
 September 27-28 – TSCRA Field Day (McFaddin)
 October 1-5 – Texas GIS Forum (Austin)
 October 2 – Pecos River WPP Public Meeting (Mentone)
 October 2 – Pecos River WPP Public Meeting (Pecos)
 October 2 – Lake Granbury WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Granbury)
 October 2 – Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL I-Plan Public Meeting (West Orange)
 October 3 – Pecos River WPP Public Meeting (Imperial)
 October 4 – Pecos River WPP Public Meeting (Iraan)
 October 5 – Pecos River WPP Public Meeting (Del Rio)
 October 10 – Leon River TMDL Public Meeting (Hamilton)
 October 15-16 – *Bacteria in Our Bayous Symposium* (Houston)
 October 24 – Galveston Bay Estuary Program Galveston Bay Council (Houston)
 October 25 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Work Group (Weslaco)
 October 25 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
 October 25-26 – *4th Annual Symposium for Excellence in Ranch Management* (Kingsville)
 October 25-26 – *Wind and Wildlife Conference* (Abilene)

COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL

Program Overview

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a member of Texas' Coastal Coordination



Council, which administers the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The TSSWCB manages the agricultural and silvicultural portions of this program. The Texas Coastal Management Program was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on January 10, 1997. The Texas Coastal Management Program is administered by the Texas Coastal Coordination Council and staff of the Texas General Land Office. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments requires each state with an approved Coastal Management Program to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The program must be submitted within 30 months of Coastal Management Program approval. As a result, the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program was submitted in December 1998 by the Coastal Coordination Council. The Coastal Management Program recognizes the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as holding primary responsibility over the development and implementation of the NPS program. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/coastalnps>.

Program Activities

The Executive Committee of the Coastal Coordination Council met in Austin on August 2, 2007. The TSSWCB was represented by Mr. Richard Egg. Minutes of the meeting are available for viewing on the General Land Office website at: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cc/2007/080207e/c/agenda.html>.

TEXAS BRUSH CONTROL PROGRAM

Program Overview

In 1985, Senate Bill 1083, Acts of the 69th Legislature, Regular Session created the Texas Brush Control Program. The goal of this legislation is to enhance the State's water resources through selective control of brush species. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is designated as the agency responsible for administering the program and is given authority to delegate responsibility for administering certain portions of the program to local soil and water conservation districts. More information is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/brushcontrol>.

Program News

The 79th Legislature continued funding for the State Brush Control Program by providing \$1,874,176.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY07. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Program Activities

Watershed	2007 Allocated Funds	Unobligated Funds (\$)	Treated Acres
<i>North Concho</i>	\$50,000.00	\$20.00	328,802.14
<i>Pedernales</i>	\$218,168.95	\$25,355.55	73,594.08
<i>Twin Buttes</i>	\$527,528.60	\$0.20	277,845.57
<i>Lake Ballinger</i>	\$0	\$0	8314.7
<i>Dak Creek Lake</i>	\$12,831.00	\$0	16,404
<i>Pecos (Saltcedar)</i>	\$155,276.20	\$19,950.22	7,274.15
<i>Upper Colorado(Saltcedar)</i>	Combined w/Pecos	Combined w/Pecos	824.32
<i>Hubbard Creek(SaltCedar)</i>	\$78,195.25	\$ 65,617.88	0
<i>Lake Arrowhead</i>	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	0
<i>*Nueces River</i>	\$100,000.00	\$20,002.50	0

* The table above represents General Revenue 07 money in the unobligated funds column

* Total acres treated represents treated acres since the beginning of each project

TSSWCB Brush Program staff provided the following SWCDs with Brush Program Updates or Brush Program Assistance:

Area 1

- Dawson County SWCD
- Upper Colorado SWCD

Area 2

- North Concho River SWCD
- Nolan County SWCD
- Middle Concho SWCD
- Eldorado-Divide SWCD
- Tom Green County SWCD
- Pedernales SWCD
- Mitchell County SWCD
- Gillispie County SWCD
- Runnels SWCD
- Pecos County SWCD
- Middle Clear Fork SWCD
- Midland SWCD
- Trans Pecos SWCD
- Sandhills SWCD
- Howard County SWCD

Area 3

- McMullen County SWCD
- Caldwell/ Travis SWCD

Area 5

- Archer County SWCD
- Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD

FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

Program News

The National Watershed Coalition will conduct a workshop "Operation and Maintenance/Sponsor Responsibility 101" workshop in Decatur,

September 24 – 26, 2007. The workshop will be conducted in cooperation with Wise County, Wise County WCID #1, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the USDA-NRCS. The workshop costs \$160. Space is limited so interested attendees should register early.

Further information on the workshop may be found at

<http://www.watershedcoalition.org/events.html>.

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Section 26.403 of the Texas Water Code established the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), and mandated that the Executive Director (or a designee) of the TSSWCB be a permanent member. The TGPC bridges the gap between state groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource.

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

- Improves coordination between State and Federal agencies to protect groundwater.
- Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.
- Publishes numerous reports.
- Advises the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *State Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

The TGPC met on August 15, 2007, at the offices of the TCEQ. The TSSWCB was represented by Mr. Richard Egg. Minutes from the meeting will be available when posted on

the TGPC website at:

<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/meetings/Minutes.htm>.

The TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee will meet September 26, 2007, in Austin.

Monthly Program News and Activities is produced by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for use by Texas soil and water conservation district directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please contact Loren Henley (254) 773-2250 or lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 217 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



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