



Aaron Wendt

**State Watershed Coordinator
Nonpoint Source Team**

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Temple, Texas**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), established in 1939 by the Texas Legislature, works in partnership with the State's 217 local soil and water conservation districts to encourage the wise and productive use of the State's soil and water resources in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment and strong economic growth. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB is governed by a seven-member board composed of five locally-elected members and two Governor-appointed members, all of whom must be landowners actively engaged in farming or ranching.

The TSSWCB is the lead agency in Texas responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution (Texas Agriculture Code §201.026). The TSSWCB fulfills this mandate through its joint administration of the Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program and is committed to funding – through federal Clean Water Act §319(h) grants and State appropriations – projects encompassing water quality monitoring, bacterial source tracking, computer modeling, watershed planning, education and best management practice demonstration and implementation.

Aaron Wendt currently serves as the State Watershed Coordinator for the TSSWCB, providing a watershed perspective to the agency's Agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program.

- As point for the agency's **Total Maximum Daily Load Program**, he works closely with stakeholders across the state and staff from other agencies in the development and implementation of TMDLs which seek to attain water quality standards through load allocation of agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The TSSWCB is actively engaged in mitigating bacteria, atrazine, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus and salinity impairments through TMDLs for nearly four dozen priority waterbodies.
- Through leadership of the agency's **Watershed Protection Plan Program**, he provides technical guidance to local watershed coordinators and stakeholders across the state in the development and implementation of integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies that holistically address sources of impairments and threats to water resources within a watershed. The TSSWCB is currently supporting the development and implementation of WPPs in over a dozen prominent watersheds.
- Additionally, he administers the agency's **Environmental Data Quality Management Program** to ensure data generated and processed through TSSWCB-funded activities is accomplished through the application of sound science and appropriate quality assurance standards and quality control mechanisms. TSSWCB water quality data is used to understand the fate and transport of environmental pollutants, to evaluate effectiveness of best management practices, and to assess the State's water resources for the federal Clean Water Act §305(b) Water Quality Inventory and §303(d) List of Impaired Waters.

Aaron previously served the TSSWCB as the Regional Watershed Coordinator in the agency's Wharton Field Office where he implemented a regional coordinated watershed protection strategy in southeast and south central Texas and facilitated the Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee.

Aaron is a graduate of Texas A&M University in College Station, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resources Management in December 1999. Before joining the TSSWCB staff in November 2004, he served with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Tech University, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.