



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Program News and Activities

AUGUST 2014

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 about specific programs or projects please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

REX ISOM

Executive Director

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UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, September 17, 2014** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, September 18, 2014**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- September 1st is the deadline for submitting the FY2014 Financial Statement / Audit Notification Form.
- September 30th is the deadline for submitting FY2014 4th Quarter claims and the return of unused advance funds.

For more budget and accounting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 ext. 236 or kzajicek@tsswcb.texas.gov

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as publishing the agency's Semi-Annual Report and coordinating rule-making functions.

Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors
Mark your calendars for October 27-29, 2014 and plan on attending the 74th Annual State Meeting held in Galveston.

Reservations opened May 1st. Hotels being used for the meeting this year are the Hilton (877-425-4753); the San Luis (800-455-0090); and the Holiday Inn (800-Holiday).

Please ask for the Texas Soil and Water reservation block. The room rate for each hotel is \$91.00 single/\$125.00 double

Please check our website for a map of Galveston and the hotels.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary and we plan on having an outstanding meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

2014-15 WAY Regional Contest Dates Set

Regional wildlife contest dates for the 2014-15 academic year were set at the annual meeting of the Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY) State Steering Committee. The committee met July 30th in Abilene in conjunction with the state agricultural science teachers conference.

Dates for the regional contests are:

Region 4 – November 5, 2014
Region 1 – April 14, 2015
Region 2 – April 21, 2015
Region 3 – April 16, 2015 (Welder Wildlife Refuge)
Region 5 – April 15, 2015

Locations for several of the contests are yet to be determined.

Area Association Meetings

Panhandle ATSWCDs held their meeting on August 19 in Dimmitt, TX. Featured speaker at the meeting was Darren Richardson, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS. Richardson spoke on Afghanistan agriculture and related USDA activities in Afghanistan.

West Texas ATSWCDs met August 21 in Andrews, TX. This year's meeting included a tour of the Waste Control Specialty (WCS) located at Andrews. The operation is a full service radioactive disposal storage and treatment processing facility.

Central Texas ATSWCDs will meet September 15 in Stephenville, TX. The meeting will feature Todd Kercheval and J. Pete Laney, consultants for the Texas Conservation Association for Water and Soil (TCAWS). The TCAWS consultants will review the past legislative session's impact on SWCD programs as well as what they perceive will be future issues and what their role will be in service to the state's SWCDs.

In addition, the program will feature Fred Aus, with the Texas Department of Rural Water who will speak on rain water harvesting. Gary Kafer, District Director for State Representative J. D. Sheffield, will also provide a report.

Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to

conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov.
Conservation News is also available at
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/news>.

Conservation Video Library

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2011 catalog can be downloaded at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/infoed/videolibrary>. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow videos from the library.

Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Loren Warrick at lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the enactment of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature designated the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) the lead agency in the state for the abatement, management, and prevention of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural or silvicultural sources. Additionally, the Legislature authorized the agency to administer a certified water quality management plan (WQMP) program, complete with a cost-share program to incentivize participation and offset the cost of implementing soil and water land improvement measures, for lands within the state. While the TSSWCB makes the program available on a statewide basis, the State Board approves priorities based on activity and geography to target the cost-share incentive funding to the areas of the state that exhibit the most need for nonpoint source pollution abatement.

The purpose of cost-share funding is to provide an incentive to landowners or operators to install soil and water conservation land improvement measures consistent with the purpose of controlling erosion, conserving water, and/or protecting water quality. Rule requires this be

done in accordance with a water quality management plan certified by the State Board.

At the July 28, 2014 State Board meeting the Board approved Area Allocations, Cost-Share Incentive Priorities, Criteria and Point Values for ranking cost-share requests. This information will be used by the Regional Office staff to rank cost-share request on September 9, 2014. Additional rankings will occur every month after that until all funds are obligated

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted by the Governor in June 2012 and thusly approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program* is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram>.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

FY2009 – FY2013 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 31 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 31 on-going projects total approximately \$9 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPP); and implement the NPS portion of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans (I-Plan).

FY2012 – FY2014 State Grant Status

There are currently 17 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 17 on-going projects total approximately \$2 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAA); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessment in the 23 river and coastal basins and associated bays and estuaries in Texas.

Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions.

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB.

The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Integrated Report*.

On July 27, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting for the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority in Edna. This meeting featured an update on water quality activities in the Lavaca River Basin. Also, the United States Geological Survey presented information on a study focused on water quantity and brush removal. The Texas Water Resources Institute updated the group on their activities relating to strategies to deal with water quality issues in local waterbodies.

More information on CRP is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/clean-rivers/index.html>.

Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable

On July 31, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Wesley Gibson, TJ Helton, Brian Koch, Jana Lloyd, and Liza Marshall] participated in the latest Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable workshop in Waco. Approximately 60 people attended representing many of the on-going watershed planning efforts across the state. Topics discussed included the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant Program, outcomes from past workshops, OSSF identification, bacterial source tracking in Texas, the 2014 Farm Bill, Texas Forest Information Portal, feral hog educational programs and the Arroyo Dashboard.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

STATE DISTRICT II

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Sonora on July 23, 2014. Over 32 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Upper Llano River Watershed. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

STATE DISTRICT III

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (UAA)

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Refugio on August 20, 2014. Over 25 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Copano Bay Watershed. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/42-copano.html> and on the RUAA at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransaruaa>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

Lower Nueces River

Impairment: Total Dissolved Solids
Concern: Chlorophyll-a, Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

Projects: "Development of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan", Nueces River Authority; Federal \$309,727/External \$248,968

On July 22, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended the Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership Stakeholder meeting in Corpus Christi. The meeting centered upon results from the large debris (side-scan sonar) survey that was conducted and appointing a committee for the large debris management plan development. Other updates included a review of the regression analysis of loadings, Don't Mess with Texas Waters Campaign, the water hyacinth survey and a brief introduction to the Texas Well Owner Network program were given.

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Robstown on August 19, 2014. Over 40 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Lower Nueces River Watershed. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

More information, including the draft *Source Water Protection Plan*, is available at <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Lower Nueces River watershed below Lake Corpus Christi in Jim Wells, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

Plum Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Guadalupe-

Project: Blanco River Authority; Federal \$216,000/ External \$144,000
"Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Additional Data Collection Activities to Support the Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$485,545/ External \$257,165
Project: "Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304; Federal \$150,788

On August 14, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Liza Marshall, Brian Koch] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Kyle. The meeting focused on implementation status and adaptive management measures in relation to the 2014 draft WPP update. Other topics included the Water Quality Management Plan Program and the steering committee organizational structure.

More information is available at <http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

Project: "Surface Water Quality Monitoring to Support Implementation of the San Bernard River Watershed Protection Plan", Houston-Galveston Area Council; Federal \$221,654/ External \$82,388

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Brazoria on August 2, 2014. Over 67 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Lower San Bernard River Watershed. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite

wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard>. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

STATE DISTRICT IV

Carters and Burton Creeks

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

On August 15, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt] attended an annual public meeting for the Carters Creek watershed TMDL/I-plan. The meeting focused on activities that were performed in the past year by various entities within the watershed such as the Cities of College Station and Bryan.

More information is available at <http://cartersandburton.tamu.edu/> and <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/85-carterscreek.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan will affect livestock operations in the Carters Creek watershed in Brazos County.

Double Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou", Houston Advanced Research Center; Federal \$1,023,614/ External \$388,149

On August 12 and 19, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended workgroup meetings for the Double Bayou Watershed Partnership in Anahuac. The meetings were for the Recreation and Hunting and Wastewater workgroups. Results from the initial run of the Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT) modeling were presented with opportunity for stakeholder input. The SELECT model estimates

total daily potential load from sources that are put into the model based on land use, densities, and populations.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/watersheds#doublebayou>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Double Bayou watershed in Chambers and Liberty Counties.

Other State District IV Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Ten Creeks in the Red River and Neches Basins", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$406,298*

On August 7, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] participated in a public meeting in DeKalb to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Mud Creek and inform local stakeholders on the findings of the first field survey. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/mud-creek.html>.

STATE DISTRICT V

Cedar Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Macroinvertebrate Community, Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Cedar Bayou", Houston-Galveston Area Council; Federal \$804,000/ External \$353,876

On July 22, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt] attended a Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Agriculture, Wildlife and Habitat Workgroup meeting in Mont Belvieu. The main focus of the meeting centered upon best management practice priorities. The recommendations of these priorities will be brought to the Steering Committee and used in directing ongoing modeling efforts.

On August 7, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt, Brian Koch] attended a Cedar Bayou

Watershed Partnership Meeting in Baytown. The central focus of the meeting was on discussing and approving recommendations on best management practice priorities from previous Workgroup meetings. Stakeholder comments about the population of dogs in the watershed were provided.

More information is available at <http://www.cedarbayouwatershed.com>. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the Cedar Bayou watershed in Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties.

Other State District V Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Five Creeks in the Canadian River and Red River Basins", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$683,683*

On July 14, 2014 TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] participated in a public meeting in Sherman to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Choctaw & Iron Ore Creeks and inform local stakeholders on the findings of the first field survey. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/index.html>.

On August 12, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] participated in a public meeting in Bonham to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Bois D'Arc Creek and inform local stakeholders on the findings of the first field survey. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/bois-d-arc-creek.html>.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS (NOT WATERSHED-SPECIFIC)

Project: "Statewide Delivery of the Texas Well Owner Network", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$478,135/External \$318,831

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Yoakum on August 7, 2014. Over 70 people attended the training that was sponsored by the

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Lavaca and Guadalupe River Watershed. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- September 4, 2014 – Regional Watershed Coordinator Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 9, 2014 – Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership Meeting (Seguin)
- September 11, 2014 – Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee Meeting (Houston)
- September 15, 2014 – Mud/West Mud RUAA Meeting (Rusk)
- September 16, 2014 – Neches/Prairie/Mud/West Mud/ RUAA Meeting (Tyler)
- September 24, 2014 – Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop, Double Bayou (Anahuac)
- September 29, 2014 – Getting In Step Workshop (Austin)
- September 30, 2014 – Stakeholder Facilitation Workshop (Austin)
- September 30, 2014 – Double Bayou Watershed Partnership Agriculture Workgroup Meeting (Anahuac)
- October 7, 2014 – Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership Meeting (Corpus Christi)

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

In order to help meet the State's critical water conservation needs and ensure availability of water supplies, the TSSWCB administers the

WSEP to increase available surface and ground water through the selective control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation (e.g., juniper, mesquite, saltcedar). The 83rd Legislature continued funding for the WSEP by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2014. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

- On July 28, 2014, the State Board adopted the *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan*, with changes to the draft version made based on public comments received. The *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan* serves as the State's comprehensive strategy for managing brush in all areas of the state where brush is contributing to a substantial water conservation problem, and serves as the programmatic guidance for the WSEP. The *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan*, formerly the *State Brush Control Plan*, was updated and revised in order to continue implementing provisions of HB1808 passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature.
- On July 28, 2014, the State Board adopted amendments to 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 517 Subchapter B Cost-Share Assistance for Water Supply Enhancement, concerning the agency's administration of the WSEP, with no changes to the version published for public review. These rules were amended in order to continue implementing provisions of HB1808. Further, these amendments were necessary to ensure consistency with the *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan* and other programmatic policies and documents.
- On July 28, 2014, the State Board allocated \$55,000 in FY2014 WSEP funds to the U.S. Geological Survey to contribute to the cooperative project *Effects of Huisache Removal on Evapotranspiration in South Central Texas*.

- WSEP staff worked with project applicants to assess unobligated funds from the FY2014 project cost-share allocations that would be rolled over into FY2015. Additionally, WSEP staff worked with project applicants to ascertain how much of their anticipated second year allocations (FY2015 cost-share) they would reasonably be able to obligate in the upcoming fiscal year.
- WSEP staff attended the following Texas Water Development Board Regional Water Planning Group meetings to discuss WSEP issues: Region G (August 6, 2014; Waco); Region L (August 7, 2014; San Antonio); Region N (August 14, 2014; Robstown); and Region F (August 21, 2014; Big Spring).
- On June 26, 2014, the Texas Water Development Board authorized publication of proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code relating to the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT). These rules are intended to implement provisions of HB 4 and SJR 1, passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature. The Legislature created the SWIFT to serve as a water infrastructure bank, to ensure financial assistance is available to help finance projects in the *State Water Plan*, and to provide an adequate water supply for the future of the state. **Written comments on the proposed rulemaking will be accepted until September 1, 2014**, and may be submitted by e-mail to rulescomments@twdb.texas.gov or via entering comments on the webpage <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/swift/involved/>.
- More information on the WSEP is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/brushcontrol>.

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is appropriated general revenue by the Texas Legislature to provide grants to the sponsors of flood control dams for operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation. The TSSWCB administers an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Grant Program and a Structural Repair Grant Program, both of which are administered according to rules adopted by the State Board in 31TAC529. The rules for these programs specify which flood control dams are eligible for funding, the entities that are eligible to apply and receive funding, and the conditions under which a grant must be administered, matched, and reported.

For FY2013, \$2,050,997 was allocated to 69 dam sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams through June 30, 2015. To date there is a balance of \$900,000 that still needs to be spent before the June 2015 deadline.

The TSSWCB has contracted with the Dalworth SWCD to conduct a major repair on Mountain Creek, Site 10, in Ellis County using \$5,600,000 of FY2014 funds. To date the contractor has started removing soil from the dam embankment. This material will be lime treated and reapplied at a later date.

TSSWCB has signed eight Project Agreements with NRCS for \$13.1 million in federal rehabilitation funding for planning, design, and construction on 15 dams. TSSWCB will be contracting for engineering services on these dams over the next three months. TSSWCB will also be providing financial assistance to sponsors for the local share of construction cost on 5 additional dams during the next three months.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at: <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/floodcontrol>.

Monthly Program News and Activities is published by the TSSWCB for use by Texas SWCD Directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please call (254) 773-2250.



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Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by 1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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