



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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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 SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, November 16, 2011** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, November 17, 2011** in Temple. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for Fiscal Year 2011 Regular and Supplemental Technical Assistance claims is September 30th.
- The deadline for Fiscal Year 2011 Director Mileage and Per Diem claims is September 30th.
- The deadline for return of unused Director Mileage and Per Diem advance payment for Fiscal Year 2011 is September 30th.
- Advance payments for Fiscal Year 2012 Director Mileage and Per Diem will be made October 1st.

- Supplemental Director Mileage and Per Diem, Matching Fund, and Technical Assistance claims for Fiscal Year 2011 will be paid in mid October.

For more accounting and budgeting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 or zajicek@tsswcb.texas.gov.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Natural Resource Specialist- Nacogdoches

For additional information on posted vacancies or to download an application, visit

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/employment>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

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 Texas SWCD Directors

The 71st Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 24-26, 2011, in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Hotel and Resort. For reservations call (210) 647-1234 or (800) 233-1234. Additional reservations may be made with:

- Hilton San Antonio/Hill Country Hotel and Spa by calling 1 (800) Hiltons, or by calling them directly at (210) 767-5900. Please use the group code: TSSWCB

- Holiday Inn Northwest/Sea World Area by calling 1 (800) Holiday or (210) 520-2508, or by going to their website, www.holidayinn.com/sanantonionw. Please use the group code of TSS
- For registration information, please visit our website at: <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/swcde/annualmeeting>

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

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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>.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program

The United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency proposes to implement a new program authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) in the State of Texas. The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) provides grants to State and tribal governments to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make that land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and other compatible recreation and to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their land. The VPA-HIP is administered by the State or tribal government that receives the grant funds.

The State of Texas, through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), proposes to use VPA-HIP grant funds to expand its existing public access programs to provide the public with more opportunities to hunt, fish, watch wildlife, enjoy other recreation, and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. TPWD works closely with landowners who voluntarily participate in three existing private-land access programs: Walk-In Hunts (WIH), Private Lands Drawn Hunts (PLDH) and Waterway Access Easement (WAE). These programs provide private landowners with habitat improvements, financial incentives and technical assistance in exchange for public access to their lands and adjoining public waters. To date these programs have opened more than 80,000 acres of private land to the public in Texas. These successful programs also increase awareness about the importance of private lands for individuals who hunt, fish, and enjoy wildlife-related recreation and help motivate landowners to conserve wildlife species.

Seminar to Assist Producers with Drought Management

Five Oklahoma and Texas organizations will collaborate on an event to help farmers and ranchers effectively manage their resources through the ongoing drought.

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Fannin County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Fannin County SWCD, Fannin County and Grayson County AgriLife Extension Service and Bois d' Arc Cowboy Church will host the Agricultural Management During Drought Seminar from 12 to 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011, at the Bois d' Arc Cowboy Church, located at 3375 South Highway 121, Bonham, Texas.

“This drought is shaping up to be a once-in-a-lifetime event,” said Hugh Aljoe, consultation program manager. “We want our producers to have quality information on as many topics as possible so they can make informed decisions and successfully make it through this drought.”

The seminar will begin with a free lunch (provided by Fannin County SWCD), followed by

presentations by the Fannin County NRCS district conservationist and Noble Foundation agricultural consultants. The presenters are as follows:

- Dan Childs, Noble Foundation economic consultant, will review the tax consequences of livestock sales during drought.
- Chuck Coffey, Noble Foundation pasture and range consultant, will discuss fall management options for stressed pastures, specifically looking at the current drought cycle, reserve herd days, over-seeding and pasture recovery.
- Randy Moore, NRCS district conservationist, will review the potential of renovating ponds during this drought period.
- Steven Smith, Noble Foundation wildlife and fisheries consultant, will discuss how drought will affect wildlife food supply, especially the impact on white-tailed deer.
- Job Springer, Noble Foundation economic consultant, will preview the upcoming market outlook, including a look at producers' inevitable decision to either winter cows or sell their herd, as well as the potential for repurchasing cattle in the spring.
- Clay Wright, Noble Foundation livestock consultant, will describe drought management steps for cow-calf producers, including tips for culling, feeding alternatives and maintaining body condition scores and water considerations.

The Agricultural Management During Drought Seminar is offered at no cost, but advanced registration is requested. To register, please call Fannin County NRCS at (903) 583-9513 ext. 3.

Area Associations of SWCD Meetings

The Panhandle Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (PASWCDs) met Tuesday, August 16, 2011, in Wellington at the historic, renovated Ritz Theatre.

During the business session speakers from the TSSWCB, Association of Texas SWCDs, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) provided an update to SWCD Directors on state and national soil and water conservation programs and issues.

The South Plains Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts (SPASWCDs) met August 17, 2011, in Lubbock. The featured program speaker was Mark Schwartz, President and General Manager of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative. Schwartz talked about the Cooperative as well as its operation of a wind to energy generation farm.

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative provides wholesale electric service to 16 electric distribution cooperatives who serve 260,000 member-consumers in 24 percent of Texas which includes the Panhandle, South Plains and Edwards Plateau regions as well as the Oklahoma Panhandle and Southwestern Kansas.

The West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (WTASWCDs) met August 25, 2011, at the Heritage Museum of Big Spring. Before hearing updates on congressional and state legislation, SWCD Directors attending the meeting toured the historic "Settles Hotel" which was opened in 1930. Located in downtown Big Spring, the hotel is being restored with restoration expected to be completed in January 2012.

During the organization's business meeting, SWCD Directors heard dignitaries from the TSSWCB, Association of Texas SWCDs and the USDA-NRCS talk about current state and national conservation issues.

Miscellaneous

San Angelo, TX will host the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Texas Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM). The Texas Section of SRM is a professional society and conservation organization whose members are concerned with studying conserving managing and sustaining the varied resources of the rangelands in Texas.

The theme for the annual meeting is, "Rangeland Stewardship: A History of Heritage, A Future of Change." The meeting will be held at the McNease Convention Center in San Angelo on October 12-14, 2011. Sessions will include technical papers, young professional presentations, agriculture updates, Farm Bill programs, wind energy, media uses, etc.

Conservation Video Library

About the 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 Mary Jo Schooler at mschooler@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

Program Overview

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993 and has certified over 14,000 plans. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution and allocates funding to those areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

The TSWCB certified 542 WQMPs and processed 287 water quality treatment grants during the 2011 fiscal year.

FY2012 allocations of financial incentive funding for priority SWCDs was approved by the State Board in July 2011. The FY2012 fiscal year began

on September 1, 2011 and the deadline for obligating FY2012 funds is April 30, 2012.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Program Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a WQMP certified by the TSSWCB.

In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the existing and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage.

Program Activities

TSSWCB continues to conduct inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, staff continues to review and update existing WQMPs and develop plans for newly constructed farms.

For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/poultry> or contact the Poultry Program Office at (936) 462-7020.

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Program Overview

Recognizing the importance of water conservation in meeting our future demand, the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, via the passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4, directed the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to appoint the members of the newly created Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC). The WCAC was

created to provide the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature, TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation.

According to the legislation, the WCAC is composed of 23 members appointed by the TWDB. At their August 27, 2007 meeting, the TWDB appointed one member to represent each of the 23 entities or interest groups. The TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the WCAC.

Duties of the WCAC include:

- Monitoring trends in water conservation implementation and new technologies for possible inclusion as BMPs
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and developing and implementing a state water management resource library
- Developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation
- Monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the TWDB and TCEQ
- Evaluating the desirability of requiring certification of water conservation training facilities, entities, and programs that provide assistance to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans

Recent Activities

The WCAC met in Austin on September 1, 2011. The WCAC has developed water conservation awards in three categories: agricultural, municipal, and industrial. The Blue Legacy Award for agricultural water conservation award is available to farmers and ranchers. If you know of someone who has effectively integrated water conservation into his or her operation, consider nominating him or her for this award. You may also nominate yourself. The nomination packet for the Blue Legacy Award in agriculture is available online at: <http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/>. The

deadline for nominations is November 2, 2011.

Upcoming Activities

The agricultural workgroup, over the next biennium, will be reviewing the state's agricultural water conservation BMPs that were developed by the Water Conservation Task Force (2003-2005). The workgroup will determine if each BMP is still appropriate as is, or if it needs updating or removal. The agricultural workgroup will also review current methods of reporting irrigation water use (e.g., gal/ac, gal/ton) to evaluate if current methods are appropriate, or if more efficient methods should be developed and used.

The workgroups do not make any decisions, but make recommendations to the WCAC for any required decisions. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to participate as members of the various workgroups. If anyone is interested in becoming a workgroup member, please contact Richard Egg at (254) 773-2250 ext. 246 or regg@tsswcb.texas.gov.

The next WCAC meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2011, at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Field Office in Austin.

More information on the WCAC is available at <http://www.savetexaswater.org/>.

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

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 official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The *Texas NPS Management Program* utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, voluntary, financial, and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced program. NPS pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation, and education. The TCEQ and TSSWCB have established goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of NPS management in Texas. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the *Annual Report on Managing NPS Water Pollution in Texas*, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with the CWA.

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*, including the *2010 Annual Report*, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram>.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs and functions administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

Watershed Approach

Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;

- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs) and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in those watersheds where agricultural and/or silvicultural NPS pollution is contributing to a water quality impairment or concern to an extent which TSSWCB believes is sufficient to justify expenditure of agency resources. A list of these watersheds, including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds, is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/watersheds>.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are provided in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The NPS Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the *Texas NPS Management Program* through the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background

Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS

water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided annually through the EPA to States for the implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately \$9 million.

FY2006 – FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 43 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 43 on-going projects total approximately \$12.7 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 WPPs; and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status

TSSWCB received 26 proposals requesting a total of \$10,877,077 in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Of those 26 proposals, 8 were selected for funding.

TSSWCB submitted the FY2011 grant application to EPA on July 1, 2011. SRM staff worked to address comments regarding individual workplans received from EPA in June prior to submission of the grant application. On July 15, 2011, SRM staff was informed that EPA was not going to approve funding one of the workplans submitted and that EPA would withhold \$486,960 of the TSSWCB's FY2011 grant allocation. SRM staff received a second round of written comments regarding individual workplans from EPA staff on August 25, 2011. TSSWCB staff developed responses to these comments and submitted them to EPA on September 7, 2011. TSSWCB SRM staff is working with EPA to complete the grant and award process.

FY2012 Request for Proposals

On September 2, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2012 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program. The RFP was published in the Texas Register, posted on the TSSWCB website, and all SWCDs and cooperating entities were notified of this funding opportunity. SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the *Texas NPS Management Program* and the *2010 Integrated Report*. The deadline for proposal submission is October 14, 2011. Proposals will be reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and selected for funding. Projects receiving federal funding must be submitted to EPA in spring 2012 for review and approval.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated general revenue funds to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds; the 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation.

The State Board has approved operating budgets for FY2010, FY2011 and FY2012 that allocated a total of \$3.77 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. On September 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning, Assessment, and Implementation Activities* which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. This *Policy* is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram#StateGR>.

FY2010 – FY2011 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 8 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 8 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 (RUAs); 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.

FY2012 State General Revenue Grant Status

On July 21, 2011, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2012 that allocated \$1.26 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities for various projects.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Background

The 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 EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a TMDL for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 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. The TMDL allocates pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the

pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody, and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval. TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs.

More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/tmdl>. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the watershed planning process, TSSWCB 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.

WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation, and create a coordinated public education program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process that incorporates new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. EPA requires certain expenditures through CWA §319(h) grants to be in accordance with a WPP. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water

quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ.

More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wpp>. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Land Commissioner are responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC), established by the Texas Legislature, advises the Land Commissioner on matters related to implementation of the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCAC.

The GLO is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The GLO reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the GLO oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each State with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program.

More information on the CMP is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program

Texas submitted the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program. NOAA identified five areas the State must strengthen or correct; the agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July 2008, the State again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully-approved program. However, in May 2009, GLO received comments from NOAA and EPA which concluded that enough progress had been made to lift only one of the conditions. TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the State's approach to address the remaining conditional approval findings.

Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee

The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC) was reviewed by the Sunset Advisory Commission this biennium. Sunset legislation (SB656) has been signed by the Governor. The act

abolishes the CCC and transfers its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation also requires establishment of a Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. This Advisory Committee includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board. The act takes effect September 1, 2011.

On August 10, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Richard Egg] met with GLO staff to discuss the new administration of the CMP. The general structure of the CCAC will be work groups from the agencies and Governor Appointees to focus on specific projects, modeled on the grants work group of the former CCC. The main function of the CCAC will be to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions, and to provide support to the work groups. The GLO will be sending a letter to member agencies requesting appointment of a CCAC member in the near future.

TSSWCB staff met with GLO staff on August 10, 2011 to discuss the new administration of the coastal program. The general structure will be work groups from the agencies and governor appointees to focus on specific projects, modeled on the grants workgroup. The main function of the Advisory Committee will be to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions, and to provide support to the work groups.

More information on the CCAC is available for a limited time at

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/index.html>.

CMP Grant Program

Application information for Grant Cycle 17 was distributed in April 2011. The GLO expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects during Grant Cycle 17. The deadline for applications is October 12, 2011.

The CCAC will accept applications for both construction and non-construction projects that

address any of the following funding categories:

- Coastal Natural Hazards Response
- Critical Areas Enhancements
- Shoreline Access
- Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development
- Permit Streamlining/Assistance, Governmental Coordination, and Local Government Planning Assistance
- Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvements

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Background

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies, and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC.

The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater is kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

- Requires that pollution discharges, waste disposal and other regulated activities not harm public health or impair current or potential groundwater use;
- Recognizes the variability between aquifers;
- Acknowledges the importance of water quality;
- Balances the protection of the environment and the long-term economic health of the state; and,
- Recognizes the use of the best professional judgment of the responsible state agencies to implement the policy.

Activities of the TGPC and Subcommittees

On September 9, 2011 TSSWCB SRM staff [Richard Egg] attended the TGPC NPS Task Force meeting in Austin. The Task Force reviewed the groundwater sections of the *Texas NPS Management Program* document currently under development.

On September 20, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Baker] and TSSWCB Special Projects Coordinator [Mel Davis] attended a TGPC Public Outreach & Education subcommittee meeting in Austin. Eighty agencies and organizations were represented. The latest draft of "FAQ's" over Regional Water Planning Groups, Oil and Gas Waste Disposal, Wells and Water Quality were reviewed by the Subcommittee. Recent and upcoming outreach events were discussed as well.

More information on the TGPC is available at <http://www.tgpc.texas.gov/>.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

Coordination with TCEQ

On September 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/tmdl#moa>.

On August 29, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Brian Koch, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker, Rusty Ray] attended a training session in Austin for the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Information System (SWQMIS). The TCEQ monitors the quality of surface water to evaluate physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of aquatic systems. This web-based system allows data providers, like the TSSWCB, to submit monitoring data, which becomes a basis for effective policies that promote the protection, restoration, and wise use of surface water in Texas. Participants learned how to upload

data, search various water parameters and retrieve specific data reports for their projects. TSSWCB project managers can now organize, query and keep track of monitoring projects funded by the agency.

On September 8, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick, Aaron Wendt, David Reeves, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch, Jana Baker, Rusty Ray] met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss and coordinate the many on-going activities between the two agencies. Many topics were discussed including updates on the Watershed Action Planning process and progress on revising the *Texas NPS Management Program*. An update on the progress of resolving the conditional approval status of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* was discussed as well. Other updates included the current status of both agencies' WPPs, TMDLs, and RUAA projects, the upcoming 2012 Assessment and *303(d) List of Impaired Waters*, action by EPA on the water quality standards revision, EPA CWA performance measures, and the FY2012 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program Request-for-Proposals.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

On June 30, 2010, the TCEQ adopted major revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs). These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and significant modifications to contact recreation use and associated bacteria criteria. The adopted Standards became effective as a State rule on July 22, 2010. TCEQ submitted the revised Standards and IPs to EPA on August 4, 2010. EPA must now take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

On June 29, 2011, EPA notified TCEQ of action taken on the water quality standards revisions. EPA approved the changes to recreation use and bacteria criteria. However, the high flow exemption was disapproved.

More information on the revisions to the Standards is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html.

Watershed Action Planning Process

TCEQ staff has been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the State's water quality management programs.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders, and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired waterbodies on the *303(d) List*. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information gathered during the Watershed Action Planning process, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the *303(d) List*, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency, and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the State's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Watershed Action Planning is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texas.

On September 8, 2011 and September 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Brian Koch, Rusty Ray, Aaron Wendt, Pamela Casebolt] met with staff from TCEQ and the Lower Colorado

River Authority to discuss and select Watershed Action Planning strategies for impaired waterbodies and other waterbodies of special interest in the Colorado River Basin.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., primary contact) to any of the other 3 tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA.

The purpose of an RUAA is to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a waterbody, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. During an RUAA information is collected on water recreation activities, stream flow type, and stream depth; additionally, interviews from users who are present during surveys and those familiar with the waterbody are conducted and a review of historical information is completed. If the results of the RUAA indicate that a different, more appropriate use is warranted, the resulting change in the associated bacteria criterion may result in the waterbody no longer being identified on the *303(d) List* as impaired, thus negating the need to adopt a TMDL.

The TCEQ is in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 90 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another 12 waterbodies. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards for each waterbody.

Summaries of RUAA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are

available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information on RUAAs is available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/index. These RUAAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

On August 24, 2011, TSSWCB field staff [Joel Clark] attended a public meeting regarding the Upper Sabine River Basin RUAA project in Jasper. At this meeting, TCEQ and their contractors presented preliminary finding from the field surveys. This RUAA focuses on Caney Creek (segment 0502B) and Nichols Creek (segment 0502A). More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/multisabine05>. This RUAA project affects livestock operations and other landowners in watersheds in Jasper and Newton Counties.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/multisabine05>. This RUAA project affects livestock operations and other landowners in watersheds in Gregg, Hopkins, Hunt, and Rains Counties.

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 assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins, plus 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*.

More information on CRP is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On August 30, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff, [Brian Koch] attended a Clean Rivers Program meeting for the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) in Falls City. This meeting was held to update basin stakeholders on activities in the San Antonio River Basin. SARA staff gave an overview of CRP and updated attendees on basin activities, including water quality information, watershed planning projects, and environmental flows for Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission and Aransas Rivers, and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays. TCEQ staff presented information on the recent changes made to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS), including the EPA action letter. Brian Koch and staff from Karnes County SWCD #343 presented information on Water Quality Management Plans and how they are being used with USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding to implement agricultural BMPs in the Lower San Antonio River Watershed. More information is available at <http://www.sara-tx.org>.

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program

On September 22, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff, [Brian Koch] attended a San Antonio Bay Partnership stakeholder meeting in Victoria. This meeting was held to update stakeholders on the progress of the SABP and have discussion on a path forward for developing a Comprehensive Management Plan for San Antonio Bay. Presentations focused on drought effects on the bay, an update to the SB3 environmental flows process,

San Antonio Bay Habitat and Wetland inventory, and an update on the happenings of the partnership, including funding, data gaps, and meetings that pertain to the bay.

More information is available at <http://www.sabaypartnership.org/>. The development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Antonio Bay has the potential to affect agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the San Antonio Bay complex in Aransas, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

On September 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker, Rusty Ray, Brian Koch] attended a quarterly meeting for the Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) in Columbus. Texas A&M Corpus Christi staff presented information on the San Antonio Bay Wetland Inventory, which is a project designed to identify critical areas threatened by man-made activities in the San Antonio Bay complex for restoration, protection, and preservation. This project is part of the San Antonio Bay Partnership. Texas A&M Sea Grant staff presented information on Coastal Prairie Pothole Wetlands and their link to Galveston Bay and other coastal waterbodies. TCEQ Staff provided an update on the Recreational Use Attainability Analysis process, including updates to the recreation standard recently approved by USEPA. Brian Koch discussed the upcoming CWA §319 funding FY12 RFP by TSSWCB, and priority areas including watersheds prioritized by the WCSC.

The Southeast and South Central Texas Regional WCSC is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and improvement partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB SRM staff on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas. More

information, including meeting materials, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>.

Development and Implementation of an Environmental Training Program for Manure and Compost Haulers and Applicators in the Texas High Plains

On September 14, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and regional office staff [Mark Cuba, Ryan Robertson] attended a Manure Management and Demonstration Field Day in Deaf Smith County. Funded through a CWA §319(h) NPS grant from the TSSWCB to the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, the purpose of this project is to facilitate the development and implementation of an education, training and demonstration program to improve the understanding of environmental protection principles by manure/compost haulers, equipment operators, certified crop advisors and crop producers across the Texas Panhandle. Topics discussed during the field day were preliminary results of the edge of field runoff events, soil samples, and calibration kits. Following the presentations there was a demonstration of the calibration kit and application of manure. Also a few different types of application equipment were used to apply manure and compost to show the usefulness of the calibration kit. More information is available at <http://manurespreading.tamu.edu/>. The project affects animal feeding operations and agricultural operations that utilize manure/compost from AFOs in watersheds across the entire Texas panhandle.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- September 26, 2011 – Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan Work Group (Pflugerville)
- September 27, 2011 – USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (Mercedes)
- September 28, 2011 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Leona River (Uvalde)
- September 28, 2011 – 2012 Texas NPS Management Program Public Meeting (Austin)
- September 29, 2011 – Dickinson Bayou TMDL Public Comment Meeting (Dickinson)
- September 29-October 1, 2011 – Texas Stream Team Meeting of the Monitors (Clear Lake)

- October 5, 2011 – San Antonio River Authority Riparian Workshop (San Antonio)
- October 6, 2011 – Nueces River Authority Riparian Summit (San Antonio)
- October 6, 2011 – USIBWC Clean Rivers Program Upper Basin Steering Committee (El Paso)
- October 12, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (Austin)
- October 12, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Research Subcommittee (Austin)
- October 12, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee (Austin)
- October 17-21, 2011 – EPA Quality Assurance Conference (Dallas)
- October 19, 2011 – Arroyo Colorado Agricultural Workgroup (Harlingen)
- October 20, 2011 – Arroyo Colorado Habitat Workgroup (Harlingen)
- October 20, 2011 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Harlingen)
- October 21, 2011 – Pecos River Restoration Conference (Austin)
- October 24, 2011 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Adams and Cow Bayous (Orange)
- October 26, 2011 – Galveston Bay Council (Houston)
- October 27, 2011 – Sheldon Lake Wetland Restoration Field Day (Houston)
- October 31-November 3, 2011 – 14th World lake Conference (Austin)

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/watersheds>; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

Attoyac Bayou

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

On September 22, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Aaron Wendt], Field staff [Trey Watson], and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran, Jeremy Welch] attended an Attoyac Bayou stakeholder meeting in Nacogdoches. Angelina-Neches River Authority staff presented results to date on the water quality data that has been collected thus far. The updated land use land cover map was given out at the meeting. Castilaw Environmental is going to make some edits to the map based on comments received during the stakeholder meeting. AgriLife Extension staff presented information on bacterial source tracking. This is the approach that will be used to help identify sources of bacteria loading to the bayou. The next stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2011.

More information is available at <http://attoyac.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect livestock, farming and silvicultural operations in the Attoyac Bayou watershed in Nacogdoches, Rusk, San Augustine and Shelby Counties

Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On August 25, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and field staff [Jack Foote] attended the Buck Creek WPP stakeholder meeting in Wellington. Specific content from the draft WPP was discussed with the stakeholders. An update was given on the routine water quality monitoring that is being conducted in the creek. This will help monitor water quality during implementation of the WPP.

More information is available at <http://buckcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

Cedar Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Macroenthic Community
Concern: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On August 30, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Baytown. Sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the training discussed what it is to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. Over 90 participants from across Chambers, Liberty and Harris Counties attended this workshop. The training also involved interactive displays such as a rainfall simulator. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas and focused on water quality issues relating to the Cedar Bayou Watershed. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>.

On September 22, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt] attended the kickoff meeting for the Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership in Baytown. The meeting was opened by a welcome from a District Director for the Lower Trinity SWCD #435. Following the welcome, a presentation from the Houston-Galveston Area Council began with an overview of the water quality issues in the Cedar Bayou Watershed. Other presentations then followed covering topics including: the watershed planning process, the Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership, getting involved, and proposed monitoring. There were over 30 attendees at the meeting. Next steps were also presented as discussion about local issues continued after the meeting adjourned.

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

Dickinson Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 31, 2011, the TCEQ approved publishing and soliciting public comment on *Eight TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in Dickinson Bayou and Three Tidal Tributaries (Segments 1103, 1103A, 1103B, 1103C, and 1104)*. The public comment period is through October 17, 2011. A public meeting to receive comments on the proposed TMDLs is scheduled for September 29, 2011 in Dickinson. Comments not submitted at the public meeting must be provided in writing and must be received by TCEQ no later than October 17, 2011. A response to comments received will be developed by TCEQ staff and, if appropriate, the draft TMDLs may be revised. These TMDLs must be adopted by TCEQ and approved by EPA before they are effective.

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the bacteria TMDL and the RUAA is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/implementation/water/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html> and more information on the dissolved oxygen TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs will affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Highland Bayou

Concern: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On August 30, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff, [Brian Koch] attended a public meeting for the Highland Bayou WPP in La Marque. This watershed planning effort is just getting underway. The WPP is an extension of a watershed characterization and is part of the Moses-Karankawa Bayous Alliance, which is

focused on watersheds in Galveston County that drain to Galveston Bay and West Bay. The WPP will also cover Marchand Bayou.

More information is available at <http://mokabayousalliance.org/>. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in Galveston County.

Lake Houston

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On June 29, 2011, EPA approved *Fifteen TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in Watersheds Upstream of Lake Houston (Segments 1004E, 1008, 1008H, 1009, 1009C, 1009D, 1009E, 1010, and 1011)*.

On September 12, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Brian Koch], attended a meeting with staff from Bayou Land Conservancy in Houston. This meeting was held to discuss potential watershed planning and watershed implementation projects in the Lake Houston watershed. Discussions focused on Lake Creek and Little Cypress Creek watersheds, both of which are located north of metropolitan Houston.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>.

More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs affect

livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

Lampasas River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On September 15, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick] and Dublin Regional Office staff [Steve Jones] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on workgroup recommendations for BMPs to address wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary sewer collection systems, on-site sewage facilities and dogs, as well as other proactive measures. The Steering Committee was asked to accept all recommendations for BMPs. Meeting participants heard from Texas A&M AgriLife on the many urban BMPs that have been implemented through the Plum Creek WPP. The district technician for Caldwell-Travis SWCD gave a presentation to the group about implementing the WQMP program portion of the Plum Creek WPP. Jim Cathey and Jared Timmons both of AgriLife Extension discussed the feral hog portion of the implementation of the Plum Creek WPP. They discussed trapping mechanisms and reporting tools.

More information is available at <http://www.lampasasriver.org/>. This WPP affects livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

Lower San Antonio River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL
Lead: TCEQ

On September 13, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Aaron Wendt, Rusty Ray, Brian Koch] attended a meeting with San Antonio River Authority and Karnes County SWCD staff in San Antonio to discuss implementation and watershed planning in the San Antonio River Basin. The main focus was on the Lower San Antonio River watershed and the

use of EPA CWA §319(h) grants and USDA Farm Bill funding for technical assistance and financial incentives for cattlemen in the watershed. This project supports implementation of the TMDL for bacteria that was approved by the TCEQ and EPA in 2008. Other watersheds in the basin that were discussed were Lower Cibolo Creek and Upper San Antonio River.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-lowersanantonioac.html>. This TMDL affects livestock operations in the Lower San Antonio River watershed in Karnes, Goliad, Refugio, DeWitt, Wilson, Victoria, and Guadalupe Counties.

Upper Guadalupe River

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

On August 31, 2011, TCEQ approved an *I-Plan for One TMDL for Bacteria in Guadalupe River Above Canyon Lake (Segment 1806)*. The public comment period ended May 23, 2011. Based on the environmental target of the TMDL (adopted by TCEQ in July 2007 and approved by EPA in September 2007), this I-Plan prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of bacteria in order to restore the primary contact recreation use of this portion of the Guadalupe River. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/65-guadalupeabovecanyon.html>. This TMDL affects livestock operations in the Upper Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County.

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources in selected aquifers, streams, and reservoirs through the selective control of brush species. The 81st Texas Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY2012. Staff has begun implementing SB 1808 and the Sunset Commission. This is the progress staff has made on changes in the Water Supply Enhancement Program.

In September 2010, the Board approved an amendment to form Brush 002 to delete language in section (2) cost share of follow-up treatment is contingent on the availability of funds at the time that follow-up treatment is scheduled and was replaced with follow-up treatment is to be carried out as specified in an eligible person's Brush Control Plan and status reviews will be conducted.

The Board also approved form Brush 005 "Proposal for Water Supply Enhancement Project" this serves as the application for a project.

Staff has also developed:

Program Criteria for FY2012 Projects

1. Completed computer model or feasibility study
2. A need according to the Region Water Plans
3. Show brush removal as a strategy in the Region Water Plans
4. Meet the following TSSWCB WSEP Priority for FY 2012
 - domestic and municipal uses, including water for sustaining human life and the life of domestic animals
5. Completion of an implementation plan by local workgroup

Implementation Plan

Staff has developed criteria for an implementation plan that will be required by all approved project proposals.

A two year implementation plan must be submitted for each approved project. Funding will be allocated according to the budget and the efficiency of the implementation plan. Implementation plans must be for a two year period. Project allocations will be contingent on availability of funding at the time of request. After the two year period the project will resubmit a new implementation plan for future funding.

The implementation plan must include the following items:

1. The need for conservation of water resources within the territory of the project, based on the State Water Plan
2. Projected water yield of areas of the project based on slope, soil, land use, type and distribution of trees, brush and other vegetation matter and proximity of brush, trees and other vegetation matter to rivers, streams, and channels.
3. Any method the project may use to control brush
4. Cost sharing contract rates
5. Location and size of the project
6. The budget of the project
7. Implementation schedule of the project
8. The administrative capacity of the board
9. Consultation with Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Department of Agriculture, and Texas Water Development Board

Stakeholder Committee

Staff has contacted individuals to serve on the water supply enhancement stakeholder committee. Utilize a stakeholder process to identify general program goals such as agricultural irrigation, drinking water, recreation, environmental flow, etc. Adopt specific goals for water yield consistent with general program goals and develop a standard for determining projected water yield. The stakeholder committee will begin establishing a Scientific Advisory Group to provide technical expertise.

The following individuals were contacted in order to serve on the stakeholder committee:

- Dr. Ken Rainwater, Civil Engineer
- Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

- Jason Skaggs, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
- Jule Richmond, Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Johnny Oswald, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Robert Mace, Texas Water Development Board

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Program Overview

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within the State of Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCIDs).

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over amount of needed O&M and repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15 million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local

SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

O&M Grant Program Update

Below is a summary of the Flood Control O&M Program for FY 2010 and FY 2011 as of 9/26/2011.

FY 10 Contracted \$555,129.14		FY 11 Contracted \$1,070,997.71	
Original O&M	Original Admin	Contracted O&M	Contracted Admin
\$528,652.54	\$26,476.60	\$1,019,761.84	\$51,235.87
Spent O&M	Spent Admin	Spent O&M	Spent Admin
\$500,877.05	\$23,568.55	\$546,086.90	\$27,209.55
Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin	Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin
\$29,180.43	\$1,459.00	\$473,674.94	\$24,026.32
Total FY 10 Contract Remaining		Total FY11 Contracted Remaining	
\$30,639.43		\$497,701.26	

Structural Repair Grant Program

TSSWCB staff conducted a ranking exercise and began contract negotiations with dam sponsors representing the highest ranking applications. A total of 6 flood control dams will receive state grant funding from FY2011. These 6 dams are receiving state grant funds providing representing 95% of the total cost of each project. In total, \$2,463,166.47 of FY 2011 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at:

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/floodcontrol>

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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.