TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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December 2011

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

CONTENTS

STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, January 18, 2011** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, January 19, 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

- Annual Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2011 were due on October 31st. Districts that have not submitted an Annual Financial Statement are on hold.
- Audits and Reviews for Fiscal Year 2011 are due on December 31st. Districts that will be submitting Audits or Reviews but have not by December 31st will be on Hold.
- IRS W2 and 1099 forms are to be mailed to recipients by January 31st.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Engineering Technician- Hale Center

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

Mark your calendars for October 29 - 31, 2012 and plan now to attend the 72nd Annual State Meeting planned for Bastrop.

In their November meeting, the State Board authorized publishing Chapter 520, Subchapter A, Election Procedures in the *Texas Register* for rule review as to determine if the rule needs readopting, revision or repeal. We believe the need for the rule still exist and is necessary to have procedures that direct fair and consistent elections. The rule may be reviewed at: http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/agencyrules/31TAC17#RULE520A.

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.

Program Development Workshop

A Program Development Workshop is scheduled for January 31 - February 1, 2012, for district directors, employees and new NRCS district conservationists. The training workshop will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple, TX. Letters of invitation with registration material were sent November 29, 2011 to all new directors, both elected and appointed this past year. An invitation letter with registration material was also mailed December 6, 2011 to all directors and employees who have an interest in attending the training.

As a reminder to directors and employees planning to attend the workshop, January 15, 2011 is the deadline to have your reservations in to the Hilton Garden Inn in order to receive the special rate. After this date, the rooms will be available on a first come first serve basis. Also note that the Hilton Garden Inn has limited rooms available for the conference, so they have made arrangements with the Candlewood Suites Hotel which is located directly across the street for additional lodging accommodations if necessary. Those wishing to attend the conference will receive hotel information from our office when we send a letter of confirmation upon receipt of the registration form.

Texas to Receive Award for Director/Employee Training Program

For a second year, Texas is among 16 states that the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) will recognize for having a District Official Training Program. "Training district officials on their roles and responsibilities are crucial to the success of the individuals as well as the local Conservation District, State Associations, and the National Association of Conservation Districts," said Gene Schmidt, NACD President.

An award will be presented on Monday, January 30, 2011 at the Leadership Luncheon at the NACD Annual Meeting that will be held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 29 - February 1, 2012.

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.

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.

Through the first quarter of FY2012, the TSSWCB has certified 135 water quality management plans and processed 76 water quality treatment grants.

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 Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council) publically announced the 2011 winners of the Save Texas Water Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture. A presentation of the awards took place at the 2011 Texas Irrigation Expo (www.texasirrigationexpo.org) in McAllen, TX on December 9, 2011 where Council member, Dr. Robert Mace, presented the winners with their awards. The Council recognized the **North Plains Groundwater Conservation District ~ Agriculture Committee** for their Excellence in Collaborative Partnership. The Council also recognized three families and their farming operations for successfully promoting and incorporating water conservation through efforts in their operations.

· **D & D Farms and the Ford Family of Dumas, TX.** For the Fords, dryland farming in the Panhandle is unpredictable with moisture being the limiting factor. The Fords utilize strip-tillage as a method to help keep the moisture in the soil and cut irrigation costs.

· **Gertson Farms and the Gertson Family of Lissie, TX .** Throughout the years the family has implemented a number of new strategies for achieving water conservation and has overseen numerous transformations in their farming operations in order to use water more efficiently.

· **Schur Farms and the Schur Family of Plainview, TX.** Today most of the Schur's land that is irrigated utilizes the most efficient LEPA irrigation technology in conjunction with crop rotation, residue management, and irrigation scheduling and monitoring.More information on the Blue Legacy Award in agriculture winners is available online at: http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/.

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.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 the 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 42 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 42 on-going projects total approximately $12.5 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 submitted the FY2011 CWA §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 1, 2011 requesting $4,578,700 for 10 projects. On October 6, 2011, TSSWCB received notification that EPA approved 9 projects for $4,091,740.

FY2012 Request for Proposals
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 was October 14, 2011. TSSWCB received 28 proposals requesting a total of $11,040,653 in federal funds. Received proposals have been reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and are being 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 – FY2012 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 10 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 10 on-going projects total approximately $3 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAs); 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.

TSSWCB SRM staff are in the process of finalizing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate remaining FY2012 allocated funds.

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 took effect September 1, 2011.

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 was October 12, 2011.

The CCAC accepted applications for both construction and non-construction projects that addressed 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

On December 14, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Richard Egg, Brian Koch] attended a Coastal Management Program meeting to finalize scoring for the Cycle 17 grants. A total of 48 proposals were submitted in October 2011.

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 December 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] and TSSWCB Special Projects Coordinator [Mel Davis] attended a TGPC Public Outreach & Education subcommittee meeting in Austin. Eight agencies and organizations were represented. Several press articles were reviewed by the Subcommittee to approve and pass onto the Committee for approval. Recent and upcoming outreach events were discussed as well.

The next Public Outreach & Education meeting is set for March 1, 2012.
The next TGPC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012.

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 including meeting regularly to discuss the status of the NPS Management Program and its related projects. The MOA is available at http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/tmdl#moa.

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 November 29, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick, Aaron Wendt, Pam Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch] met with staff from TCEQ and the Brazos River Authority to discuss and select Watershed Action Planning strategies for impaired waterbodies and other waterbodies of special interest in the Brazos River Basin.

On November 30, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine] met with staff from TCEQ and the Houston-Galveston Area Council to discuss and select Watershed Action Planning strategies for impaired waterbodies and other waterbodies of special interest in the Trinity-San Jacinto and San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basins, San Jacinto River Basin, and part of the Brazos-Colorado Coastal Basin.

On December 2, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Pam Casebolt] met with staff from TCEQ and the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section to discuss and select Watershed Action Planning strategies for impaired waterbodies and other waterbodies of special interest in the Rio Grande 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.

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.

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program
On December 13, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended meetings for the San Antonio Bay Partnership in Victoria. The meetings consisted of the finance committee, board of directors, and steering committee. All of the meetings were focused on budget management and current happenings with the partnership, including the status of the Coastal Management Program grant. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2011 in Victoria.

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 Watershed Coordination Steering Committee
On December 1, 2011 TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch, Ashley Alexander], attended a quarterly Southeast and South Central Texas Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus. This meeting featured three presentations. The first presentation focused on intensive *E. coli* monitoring on the Lower San Antonio River to help identify sources of bacteria by using a very rigorous monitoring strategy. The second presentation centered on native fish conservation using a watershed approach by identifying BMPs in order to lessen impacts to water quality and fish communities. Lastly, there was a presentation on SWQM procedures during extended drought periods.

Bayou Preservation Association Watershed Planning Mini Workshop
On December 7, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Mini Workshop, focused on Watershed Planning, for the Bayou Preservation Association in Houston. This workshop featured presentations on several aspects of watershed planning, including WPPs, TMDLs, and outreach and education opportunities tied to these projects. TSSWCB SRM staff presented information concerning all of these aspects, including the role of TSSWCB in water quality and programs such as Texas Watershed Steward.

TCEQ 25th Annual Surface Water Quality Monitoring Workshop
From December 12-15, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [David Reeves] attended the 25th Annual Surface Water Quality Monitoring (SWQM) Workshop held by the TCEQ in Bandera. The TCEQ monitors the quality of surface water to evaluate physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of aquatic systems. SWQM data provide a basis for effective policies that promote the protection, restoration, and wise use of surface water in Texas. The workshop focused on how to continue water monitoring during a drought that leaves many streams and rivers dry. Attendees were updated on current research topics, such as reporting biological data, as

well as changes to various guidance documents. New tools incorporating gaming devices, iPhone apps, GIS and panoramic photos were introduced that will be helpful to the TSSWCB in characterizing watersheds and assessing stream banks for habitats and recreational uses.

USDA Revises National Nutrient Management Standard

On December 13, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] participated in a USDA-NRCS conference call to discuss the release of the revised national Nutrient Management conservation practice standard. USDA has revised its national conservation practice standard on nutrient management to help producers better manage the application of nutrients on agricultural land. Nutrient Management is defined as managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), and timing of commercial fertilizers, manure, soil amendments, and organic by-products. NRCS worked with universities, nongovernmental organizations, agricultural industry and others to revise the standard to ensure it is scientifically sound. Extensive public comments were received on the revised standard. Key changes in the standard include expanding the use of technology to streamline the nutrient management process and allowing states more flexibility in providing site-specific nutrient management planning using local information. The new standard requires the utilization of nutrient risk assessment tools for both nitrogen and phosphorus. State NRCS offices will have until the beginning of 2013 to comply with the new national criteria and implement revised state nutrient management standards. More information about the revised national standard is available at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/npm.

Texas Prescribed Burning Board

On December 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Rusty Ray] participated in the regular meeting of the Texas Prescribed Burn Board in Austin. The meeting included the discussion and passing of an improved Continuing Fire Training Form that will allow for a more efficient method of submitting required prescribed burn manager license training hours to the Texas Department of Agriculture. An update was provided on the recent formation of the Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations and their new website, which will include training videos in the future. A Coryell County attorney presented information regarding County's ability to prohibit outdoor burning, including prescribed burns. Finally, discussion and action took place on the creation of a third classification for prescribed burn managers entitled Non-Profit Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager, which will be available for comment in the Texas Register within the next few months.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- January 9, 2011 – Mid Pecan RUAA Meeting (Brownwood)
- January 11, 2011 – Coastal Bays Bends and Estuaries Program WSQ Meeting (Corpus Christi)
- January 19, 2011 – San Antonio Bay Partnership Meetings (Victoria)
- January 20, 2011 – MOA Meeting with TCEQ (Austin)
- January 24, 2011 – Stakeholder Facilitation Workshop (Waco)
- January 25, 2011 – Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable (Waco)

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 December 8, 2011, TSSWCB Board Member [Jerry Nichols], TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt], Field Staff [Trey Watson], and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran, Jeremy Welch] attended an Attoyac Bayou Watershed Partnership stakeholder meeting in Nacogdoches. Angelina and Neches River Authority staff presented information on water quality data that has been collected thus far. Analysis of trends in the data reveals impacts due to the extended drought, most notably in nutrient concentrations at some of the sites. Texas Water Resources Institute staff solicited stakeholder decisions on animal population densities and fecal loading rates for use in the pollutant source model being developed. The group discussed cattle, deer, dogs, feral hogs, horses, and poultry. Additionally, methods used in the watershed to dispose of human waste were discussed, including septic systems, hunting camps, and wastewater treatment facilities. There is a continuing need from landowners and others to assist in the collection of known source fecal samples from across the Attoyac Bayou watershed for use in building the statewide bacterial source tracking library.

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

Cedar Bayou
Impairment: Bacteria, Macrobenthic Community
Concern: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On December 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch] attended the Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership meeting in Baytown. The meeting was opened by a Harris County SWCD Director. Presentations from the Houston-Galveston Area Council followed with topics ranging from Partnership business to water quality goal setting. To begin the meeting, action was taken by the Steering Committee to approve an official Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership logo. Other presentations included: Resolving Gaps in the Steering Committee Membership, Formalizing Workgroups, Discussion of Cedar Bayou Water Quality by Monitoring Station, as well as Water Quality Goal Setting. The meeting closed with everyone surrounding maps of the watershed in order to locate pollutant sources.

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.

Upper Oyster Creek
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ
On December 13, 2011, an Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan meeting was held in Sugarland.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html. These TMDLs will have limited affect on farming and livestock operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:
The 81st Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing $4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY11. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board. Since the beginning of the Water Supply Enhancement program in 1999 there has been over 741,000 acres of brush treated in various watersheds throughout the State.

Changes in the Water Supply Enhancement Program

SB 1808
The purpose of the Water Supply Enhancement Program is to increase available surface water and groundwater through:

(1) selective control, removal, or reduction of noxious brush species that are detrimental to water conservation; and
(2) revegetation of land on which noxious brush has
been controlled, removed, or reduced.

Program Criteria for FY 2012 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.

Contacted the following individuals to serve on the stakeholders committee:

Dr. Ken Rainwater, Civil Engineer
Clyde Bohlmfalk, 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

The Water Supply Enhancement Program also formed a working committee made up John Foster, Mel Davis, Johnny Oswald, Tuffy Wood, Melissa Grote, Kendria Ray, Ben Wilde, Charlie Upchurch and Tony Franklin to help establish new rules for the Water Supply Enhancement Project. A meeting was held in San Antonio to discuss a draft copy of the new rules which should be ready for final TSSWCB approval at the January 2012 meeting.

Feasibility Study

The Science Advisory group has come up with a preliminary list of requirements for computer modeling for Water Yield Predictions. This

memorandum is the first step in generation of detailed guidance for application of appropriate computer models for feasibility studies that predict water yield resulting from proposed brush control projects. Effective applications must demonstrate significant increases in post-treatment water yield as compared to the pretreatment conditions. This memorandum provides preliminary description of the watershed characterization, hydrologic data collection, and simulation steps to accomplish this goal. A more detailed guidance manual will be compiled over the next few months to insure consistent procedures are applied for each proposed project.

Watershed Description

The following list summarizes the input information necessary to characterize the target property under consideration for brush control within its watershed. All digital maps must be georeferenced with sufficient metadata to allow overlays with other digital map layers.

• Watershed delineation. The contributing drainage area that includes the target treatment area can be identified using those delineated in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and confirmed by a digital elevation model (DEM).

• Topographic information. Ten-meter DEMs are available from the USGS National Elevation Dataset (NED) and will likely require mosaic assembly to contain the area of interest.

• Surface water bodies and stream and river channels. Appropriate data from the NHD and analysis of the DEM can confirm the locations of channels, impoundments, and reservoirs within the area of interests.

• Soils distribution. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database provides polygon-type maps that demonstrate the variations in soil type and other physical parameters that impact runoff and infiltration across the area of concern. These maps must also be joined in a mosaic form.

• Analysis of vegetation and land use. The USGS National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) 2006 provides up to 16 different land cover classifications at 30 m resolution. For more recent land use description as well as vegetation description, digital orthoquads can be obtained from the USDA website and assembled as a mosaic to envelop the area of interest. Images from 2008 are available, and more recent images from 2010 are coming online. Ground-truth site visits are necessary to confirm vegetation types and locations.

• Roads and highways map. The ESRI datasets include linear features such as streets, county roads, highways, and freeways that may affect local watershed behavior.

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque, Guadalupe River and Edwards Aquifer with Brush contracts and certifications
- Held Work Group meetings in Pedernales, Guadalupe, Wichita River, Lake Brownwood, Edwards Aquifer, and Twin Buttes
- Partnered with USGS and UGRA on model for Guadalupe
- Met with San Antonio River Authority to discuss possible modeling of Lower Guadalupe river
- Begin implementing SB1808

Provided the following SWCD with Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certification, and /or Contracts

Area 2 Districts
Middle Concho SWCD
Tom Green County SWCD
Gillespie County SWCD
Kendall SWCD
Eldorado-Divide SWCD

Pedernales SWCD
Kerr County SWCD
Bandera County SWCD

Area 3 Districts
McMullen County SWCD
Caldwell/ Travis SWCD
Webb County SWCD
LaSalle County SWCD
Comal/Guadalupe SWCD
Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts
Archer County SWCD
Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
Pecan Bayou SWCD
Bosque SWCD
Little Wichita SWCD

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Background
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
In fiscal year 2010, $2,472,008.79 was allocated to local SWCDs and certain co-sponsors to perform O&M on flood control dams. $2,354,294.09 was to reimburse sponsors for O&M work completed on dams and the remaining $117,714.70 could be used for administration. A total of $2,331,597.98 O&M and $115,047.95 administration has been reimbursed for work completed leaving $22,696.11 O&M and $2,666.75 administration to be spent by June 29, 2012.

In fiscal year 2011, the same amount of $2,472,008.79 was allocated to local SWCDs and certain co-sponsors to perform O&M on flood control dams. $2,354,294.09 was to reimburse sponsors for O&M work completed on dams and the remaining $117,714.70 could be used for administration. A total of $1,993,357.19 O&M and $98,965.51 has been reimbursed for work completed leaving $360,936.90 O&M and $18,749.19 to be spent by August 31, 2012.

Structural Repair Grant Program Update
A total of 18 flood control dams received state grant funding from FY2010. 5 of these dams received funding through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery; the TSSWCB provided 95% of the non-federal match requirement (25%) for these dams. All repairs needed on these dams are complete. Of the 13 remaining dams that received

state grant funds providing 95% of the total cost of each of these projects, 6 dams have had repairs completed and the remaining 7 are under construction. In total, $3,915,471 of FY 2010 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

In FY 2011 a total of 7 flood control dams received state grant funding. 1 of these dams received funding through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery; the TSSWCB provided 95% of the non-federal match requirement (25%) for this dam. All repairs needed on this dam are complete. Of the 6 remaining dams that received state grant funds providing 95% of the total costs of each of these projects, All 6 are under construction. In total, $2,463,166.47 of FY 2011 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

In FY 2012 the TSSWCB's budget was cut from $7.5 million a year to $2 million. Due to this cut in funding the TSSWCB was only able to fund one dam repair project. In total, $1,192,949 of FY 2012 state repair funds have been obligated.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at: http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/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.