



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

DECEMBER 2012

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions about specific programs or projects please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

**REX ISOM**  
Executive Director

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Upcoming State Board Work Session and Meeting
- 1 Budget and Accounting
- 1 Human Resources
- 2 Special Projects
- 2 Public Information and Education
- 2 Water Quality Management Plan Program
- 3 Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program
  - 3 Nonpoint Source Grant Program
- 4 Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program
- 5 Water Quality Coordination Activities
- 6 Water Quality Planning and Implementation
- 8 Upcoming Public Meetings
- 8 Water Supply Enhancement Program
- 8 Flood Control Dam Programs

### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Monday, January 28, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Tuesday, January 29, 2013** in **San Antonio**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or [kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- December 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submitting reviews and audits.
- Important dates and deadlines for Calendar Year 2013 are now available on the SWCD resources page off the TSSWCB website.

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

### HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has no positions available at this time.

For additional information or to download an application, visit <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/employment>.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors  
Mark your calendars for October 28 – 30, 2013 and plan on attending the 73rd Annual State Meeting held in Fort Worth.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### SWCD Director and Employee Program Development Workshop

The next Program Development Workshop is scheduled for February 12-13, 2013. More information will be available in January.

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

### Conservation Video Library

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

#### Ordering a Video

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

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

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 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 10,173 plans on 3,991,871 acres as of December 18, 2012.

All agriculture and silviculture producers in the state are eligible to have a water quality management plan developed. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution and allocates funding to those priority areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. SWCDs with lakes, rivers or stream segments listed on the 303(d) list as impaired due to agriculture are eligible to be included as priority areas. All animal feeding operations are considered to be high priority and are eligible to receive financial incentives to install needed practices in their WQMP through their priority area or statewide assistance program.

From September 1, 2012 through December 18, 2012 there have been 49 new WQMPs certified

on 60,235 acres. There have also been 63 applications approved for financial incentives to assist producers with the implementation of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement practices. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program*, including the *2011 Annual Report*, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram>.

### Nonpoint Source Grant Program

#### **FY2008 – FY2012 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 46 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 46 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.

#### **FY2013 Request for Proposals**

On August 31, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2013 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. TSSWCB 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 12, 2012. TSSWCB received 21 proposals requesting a total of \$8,621,145 in federal funds. Received proposals are being reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and will be selected for funding. Projects receiving federal funding must be submitted to EPA in spring 2013 for review and approval.

#### **FY2011 – FY2013 State General Revenue Grant Status**

There are currently 9 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 9 on-going projects total approximately \$3 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct 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. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate remaining FY2013 allocated funds.

## Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

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.

On January 26, 2012, GLO submitted the State's approach to resolving one of the remaining conditions (associated with on-site sewage facilities) to NOAA and EPA for review and approval.

### **Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee**

The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC) was created sunset legislation (SB656) in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislature. The act abolished the Coastal Coordination Council and transferred its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation established the 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.

The general structure of the coastal program is 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 is 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**

Through the CMP, GLO awards approximately \$1.8 million of the federal §306/§306A coastal management grant funds received from NOAA to local governments and other entities along the coast for planning and implementation of projects that address environmental problems affecting the coastal area and that promote sustainable economic development.

### **306 Grants**

The 306 grants coastal issue team met in December to go over scoring for cycle 18 projects. 54 projects were reviewed, scored, and discussed by the team. The final list of recommended projects for funding was sent to the Land Commissioner for final approval.

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>.

### **309 Grant**

The coastal program is dedicating Section 309 funds to the creation of a long-term plan utilizing coastal and marine spatial planning. The first year of this 5-year initiative is to create a report to provide a “snapshot” into the current priorities of the Texas coast. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of coastal experts was formed to review and evaluate the project list and the issues of concern for the four coastal regions. TAC regional meetings were held throughout September in Corpus Christi, South Padre Island, Galveston, and Victoria to identify the critical areas and needs of the Texas coast. The information collected at the TAC meetings is being used to develop a “snapshot” report to inform the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature of the coastal priorities for each of the four regions, and to serve as a baseline for the long-term planning process. This information will be presented to local officials in a series of meetings in early spring. Year 2 of this effort will begin thereafter and will commence the creation of a broader planning effort. This long-term plan

will better enable an integrated, adaptive management approach to plan for and balance competing natural and human uses along our coast.

### **Texas Groundwater Protection Committee**

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.

### **Activities of the TGPC and Subcommittees**

On December 4, 2012, TSSWCB SRM [Jana Lloyd] and TSSWCB Special Projects staff [Mel Davis] attended a TGPC Public Outreach & Education (PO&E) Subcommittee meeting in Austin. Six agencies and organizations were represented. The meeting focused on the Texas Well Owner Network (TWON) training activities and the new handbook that was recently published. An overview of recent and upcoming outreach events were discussed as well as a presentation on Evapotranspiration Networks in Texas. Also, review and discussion was had on the approval of FAQs.

More information on the TGPC is available at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/>.

### **Water Quality Coordination Activities**

### **State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee**

On November 15, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wes Gibson] participated in the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee Meeting entitled, “Finding Solutions and Moving Forward” in College Station. The main topic of the meeting was the fire in Bastrop, while the subtopics were broken into three main areas: Current Solutions, Innovation for the Future, and Program Introductions and Updates. Solutions for timber salvage, habitat restoration, recovery effects, and drought assessment were addressed. New mapping technologies, TX FIP and TX WRAP, were introduced to the committee demonstrating how the forestry industry is utilizing these tools to

improve conservation practices. Finally, a Stewardship Program and Forest Legacy project update were provided. The Forest Legacy project, when complete, will protect over 7,000 acres of forested land in Anderson County. Two State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee standing subcommittees were voted on and formed.

### **Load Duration Curve and Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool Training**

On November 6-7, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wes Gibson, Ashley Alexander, Jana Lloyd] participated in a watershed modeling training using the Load Duration Curve (LDC) and Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT) models. The two-day training focused on introducing each model, highlighting the limitations of each, and then providing a hands-on demonstration for how to run each model. LDCs and SELECT are used widely across the state when developing WPPs and TMDLs to help characterize the watershed and potential pollutant sources and associated loadings. Further, discussion also included where to find data to provide necessary inputs to each model, as well as how to use the results from each model appropriately in stakeholder communication. More information on further training opportunities is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu>.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

## **STATE DISTRICT III**

### **Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (UAA)  
Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Aransas Creek", Nueces River Authority; GR \$125,402

On November 29, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended meetings for the Copano Bay TMDL in Refugio. The first meeting attended was the Agriculture and Wildlife workgroup where discussion focused on livestock and feral hogs BMPs. The stakeholder meeting followed where

updates on the project and guidance from the previously held workgroups were provided. The wastewater workgroup reported their options for wastewater treatment facilities and on-site sewage facilities in the watershed.

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

### **Geronimo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Geronimo Creek", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$472,398/ External 320,115  
Project: "Water Quality Monitoring in the Geronimo Creek Watershed and Facilitation of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$292,421/ External \$191,435

On November 13, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Brian Koch] attended the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership meeting in Seguin. The meeting focused on EPA acceptance of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan as well as feral hog biology and control.

More information is available at <http://geronimocreek.org/>. This WPP affects ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

### **Plum Creek**

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

- Project: “Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$216,000/ External \$144,000
- Project: “Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Additional Data Collection Activities to Support the Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$485,545/ External \$257,165
- Project: “Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices in Support of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304; Federal \$49,360

On November 8, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Brian Koch] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting in Lockhart. The meeting centered on feral hog education and the County Hog Out activities. Other updates were given on the Hillside Terrace proposal submission, Plum Creek clean up and community collection events as well as implementation of agriculture BMPs.

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

## STATE DISTRICT IV

### Lake O’ the Pines

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

On November 13, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran] attended the Lake O’ the Pines TMDL I-Plan Stakeholder meeting in Jefferson. An update of the implementation status was discussed with stakeholders. Further, a coordination committee and work groups were established to facilitate the implementation strategies identified in the I-Plan.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/19-lakeopines.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect poultry, dairy and forestry operations in the Lake O’ the Pines watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison and Marion Counties.

## STATE DISTRICT V

### Leon River

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

Project: “Implementation of the Leon River WPP through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair or Replace On-Site Sewage Facilities in Hamilton County”, Hamilton County, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Federal \$365,976/ External \$66,536

Project: “Coordinating Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan”, Central Texas Council of Governments; Federal \$205,305/External \$162,913

On November 14, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Pamela Casebolt, Wesley Gibson] attended the Hamilton-Coryell SWCD #506 meeting in Gatesville. TSSWCB SRM staff, along with project staff from the Central Texas Council of Governments, introduced a new FY12 project, “*Coordinating Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan*”. District board members discussed their involvement in the project and plan to continue to be active partners in the implementation of the Leon River WPP. They also voted to provide an office space and support to the Watershed Coordinator that will be hired with funding from the project.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>. More information on the RUAA is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/ruaasbrazos>. The WPP, the TMDL, and the RUAA affect livestock operations in the Leon

River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

### Upcoming Public Meetings

- January 3, 2013 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Steering Committee Meeting (Baytown)
- January 15, 2013 – Lampasas River WPP Public Comment Meeting (Lampasas)
- January 16, 2013 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Meeting (Austin)
- January 17, 2013 – Lampasas River WPP Public Comment Meeting (Killeen)
- January 17, 2013 – National Estuarine Research Reserve Collaborative Meeting (Port Aransas)
- January 22, 2013 – Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable (Temple)
- January 23, 2013 – Introduction to Modeling Workshop (Temple)
- January 24, 2013 – Leona River Public Meeting (Uvalde)
- January 24, 2013 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop (Navasota)
- January 31, 2013 – Texas Well Owner Network Training (Seguin)

was a non-statutory Sunset recommendation that was recently reviewed by the State Auditor's office. Also, Dr. Rainwater and his staff are currently digitizing the sub-basins to determine eligible acres for treatment.

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### FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

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 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

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### WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2012. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

#### Staff Activities

- Dr. Ken Rainwater and his staff are analyzing WSEP applications to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Providing a portion of our funds for evaluating the effectiveness of the WSEP

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

In response to this appropriation, TSSWCB assembled a representative stakeholder group and began the process of developing programs to deliver the funds to the sponsors of flood control dams during the Summer of 2009. It was determined that the most efficient and effective way to proceed was to develop two separate grant programs, one to address O&M, and the other to address structural repairs, due to their difference in complexity.

#### O&M Grant Program Update

In FY2010, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. All FY2010 funds have been utilized.

In FY2011, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. Currently, there is a balance of \$72,533 to be utilized by June 28, 2013.

#### Structural Repair Grant Program Update

In FY2010, \$4,055,471 in program funds were obligated to conduct structural repairs on 18 flood control dams. The TSSWCB and local SWCDs partnered and leveraged resources through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery and provided funding for structural repair activities on five of these dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on all 18 flood control dams.

In FY2011, \$2,823,166 in program funds was obligated to conduct structural repairs on six flood control dams. The TSSWCB and local SWCDs continued to partner and leveraged resources through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery and provided funding for structural repair activities on one of these dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on five of the six flood control dams the remaining dam is under construction.

In FY2012 the TSSWCB's budget was reduced from \$7.5 million per fiscal year to \$2 million per

fiscal year. Due to this reduction in funding the TSSWCB is currently only able to fund two flood control dam repair projects. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on one of the two flood control dams and the remaining dam is under construction. \$1,364,836 of FY12 program funds have been obligated.

On October 26, 2012, districts and sponsors were notified that the TSSWCB is seeking applications for structural repair projects on flood control dams in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Subchapter B. Applications for FY2013 grant funds are due no later than 8:00 am on November 30, 2012. The TSSWCB received ten applications on 21 dams for structural repair projects. TSSWCB staff will be conducting a ranking exercise to rank the application to determine which projects may receive possible funding.

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

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

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



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Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by

1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.