



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Program News and Activities

SEPTEMBER 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

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UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, November 14, 2012** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, November 15, 2012**. More information is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for submitting a final AWEPC claim was August 31st.
- The deadline for submitting a fiscal year 2012 matching fund claim was August 31st.
- The deadline for submitting a fiscal year 2012 technical assistance performance report was August 31st.
- The deadline for submitting a fiscal year 2012 financial statement/audit notification form was September 1st.
- The deadline for submitting a 4th quarter mileage and per diem claim and return of unused advance funds for fiscal year 2012 is September 30th. Advance payments for fiscal year 2013 will not be made if unused advance funds for fiscal year 2012 are not returned by the deadline.
- The deadline for submitting a fiscal year 2012 technical assistance claim is September 30th.



- The last day work can be completed for EQIP is September 30th. The deadline for submitting a final EQIP claim is October 31st.
- Important dates and deadlines through December 31, 2012 may also be found on the SWCD resources page of the TSSWCB website.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following State position at this time:

Database Administrator – Temple

Independent Contractor Opportunities (Non-State Employee Positions)

TSSWCB does intend to engage the services of **contracted** conservation planners to provide services including recruitment of landowners and/or agricultural land operators and the development of conservation plans, in the specified sub-watersheds inside Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties. This initiative is a component of the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (USDA-NRCS) overall San Antonio River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Conservation Initiative. Interested individuals should visit http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid=98000 for more information. **These positions will be independent contractors and will not be state employees.**

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 SWCD Directors
Mark your calendars for October 29 - 31, 2012 and plan on attending the 72nd Annual State Meeting held at Bastrop. Lodging reservations for the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort are currently sold out, and a waiting list will be started August 1st. Online meeting registration is open and forms can be accessed at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/%252Fswcds/annualmeeting>

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Water Enhancement Program Educational Booklet

Assistance is being given to the TSSWCB Water Enhancement Office and local SWCDs regarding the development of a general education document that presents an overview of the research efforts to increase available water supplies through scientific based research projects.

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<http://twitter.com/TSSWCB>

<http://www.facebook.com/tsswcb>

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/968674>



Conservation News

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

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

Conservation Video Library

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

Ordering a Video

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

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the 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 10,143 plans on 3,939,318 acres as of August 31, 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, 2011 through August 31, 2012 there have been 285 new WQMPs certified

on 117,178 acres. There have also been 242 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>.

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recognizing the importance of water conservation in meeting our future demand, the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007 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 a resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation. The TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the WCAC.

Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture
The Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council is accepting nominations for the Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture. If you know of an individual farmer or rancher or operation that has made significant contributions to water conservation, this would be an outstanding way to showcase their efforts. The Blue Legacy Awards are open to agricultural producers (individuals, families, or operations) who want to showcase their water conservation success. The operation must be located in Texas and achievement must have been made or worked towards in the past 5 yrs to be eligible. Nominations are open until October 26, 2012. Further information on the award and nomination process is on the Save Texas Water website:
<http://www.savetexaswater.org/awards/AG/2012/AgBLAhome.htm>

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>.

Coordination with TCEQ

On September 12, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Jana Lloyd, Wesley Gibson] met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss and coordinate the many on-going activities between the two agencies. Many topics were discussed including the Clean Rivers Program, Watershed Action Planning process, and priorities for statewide education programs. An update on the progress of resolving the conditional approval status of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* was discussed as well. Other updates included the current status of both agencies' WPPs, TMDLs, and recreational use attainability analyses (RUAA) projects, the 2012 Integrated Report, the upcoming FY2013 CWA §319(h) NPS grant Request for Proposals, and waterbody restoration success stories.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

FY2007 – FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 39 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 39 on-going projects total approximately \$11.3 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 is October 12, 2012.

FY2011 – FY2012 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 11 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 11 on-going projects total approximately \$1.88 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.

FY2013 State General Revenue Grant Status

On July 26, 2012, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2013 that allocated \$1.29

million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities for various projects.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program

On August 21, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a series of meetings for the San Antonio Bay Partnership in Victoria. The first two meetings were the Finance Committee and Board of Directors meetings, where the main topic was the upcoming San Antonio Bay Day on September 29, 2012, which is also National Estuaries Day. Further discussion included volunteers, donations, and activities for the event. The third meeting was the general stakeholder meeting that included a broader range of topics involving San Antonio Bay. The Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) presented information on their Balancing Freshwater Needs in a Changing Environment project, which is looking at freshwater inflows into the San Antonio/Guadalupe Estuary and ecology of the Mission-Aransas Estuaries. The project is a collaboration of the NERR, Texas A&M University and University of Texas. The final presentation was an update on the development of the status and trends reports for the San Antonio Bay/Guadalupe Estuary System.

Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

On September 6, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Wesley Gibson, Brian Koch] attended the Southeast and South Central Texas Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus. The meeting featured presentations on the Double Bayou Watershed Characterization Project and Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), as well as TSSWCB FY2013 RFP. Currently, TSSWCB is funding the Double Bayou WPP with Houston Advanced Research Center and Shead Conservation Solutions. Shead Conservation Solutions presented information on their characterization of the Double Bayou watershed, which is located in Chambers County, including the impairments and a detailed plan for stakeholder outreach and implementation of further monitoring to track the progress of Double Bayou. TSSWCB SRM staff,

presented information on the FY2013 CWA §319 RFP from the TSSWCB. Information detailed in the presentation included priorities for project areas, implementation of WPPs and I-plans, and WAP.

The Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and improvement partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB SRM staff on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas. More information, including meeting materials, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

STATE DISTRICT II

South and North Llano Rivers

Impairment: None
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Development of the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$ 666,167/ External \$447,239

A Texas Watershed Steward Program workshop took place in Junction on August 30, 2012. Over 34 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with South Llano Watershed Alliance, Texas Tech University-Llano River Field Station, Texas Water Resources Institute and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The training focused on water quality issues relating to the North and South Llano Rivers in Sutton, Kimble and Edwards counties, including current efforts to help improve and protect water in the area. Topics covered included: what it means to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. The training also involved interactive displays

such as a rainfall simulator. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>.

More information is available at <http://southllano.org/>. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the South Llano River watershed in Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Menard, Real and Sutton Counties

STATE DISTRICT III

Atascosa River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 30, 2012, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) meeting for the Atascosa River in Pleasanton. This meeting covered the Aquatic Life Use and RUAA that were performed on the river. Results were given from the monitoring data collected that will then go to TCEQ for analysis. The results of the UAA could change the designated uses, aquatic life and contact recreation, for the river.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/31-atascosa.html>. This project affects livestock operations in the Atascosa River watershed in Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Dickinson Bayou

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

On September 4, 2012, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended an Agriculture and Animals Workgroup meeting for the Dickinson Bayou I-plan in Webster. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Agriculture and Animals section of the I-plan for the TMDL and to define a strategy to fund implementation of the measures described in the plan.

A WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the bacteria TMDL and the RUAA

is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html> and more information on the dissolved oxygen TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs will affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

STATE DISTRICT IV

Adams and Cow Bayous

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

On August 23, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the development of the I-plan for 17 TMDLs for pH, DO, and bacteria for Adams and Cow Bayous in Orange. This meeting was held to update the group on the status of the I-plan and to address TCEQ's comments on the draft plan. The stakeholders agreed to the changes and are waiting for the plan to be sent out for public comment.

More information on the Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL and I-Plan is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs affect livestock and forestry operations in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Carters and Burton Creeks

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

On August 22, 2012, the TCEQ adopted *Three TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in the Carters Creek Watershed* (Segments 1209C, 1209D, and 1209L) and the *I-Plan for Three TMDLs for Indicator Bacteria in the Carters Creek Watershed* (Segments 1209C, 1209D, and 1209L). The TMDLs have been submitted to the EPA for concurrence.

On August 28, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Carters and Burton

Creek I-Plan meeting in College Station. Discussion centered upon the completion and approval of the TMDL and I-Plan, review of the I-Plan management measures, review of updates made to the webpage, and looking forward to the next annual public meeting. A presentation from the Texas Water Resources Institute was also given discussing more detail of the Watershed Monitoring and Assessment of Carters Creek project that is being funded by the TCEQ with CWA §319(h) monies.

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

Cedar Bayou

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

On September 12, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] and field staff [Joel Clark] attended the Trinity Bay SWCD #434 meeting in Winnie. An update on the Cedar Bayou WPP was provided to the SWCD. Highlights included providing a water quality status update, recapping the last Cedar Bayou Agriculture, Wildlife and Habitat workgroup meeting, and discussing potential solutions to the watershed's issues and the steps ahead.

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.

Double Bayou

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

Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou", Houston Advanced Research Center; Federal \$1,023,614/ External \$388,149

On August 30, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a Dredging Workshop for Chambers County in Anahuac. This workshop was set to address both the short-term and longer-term solutions to channel dredging issues for Chambers County navigation channels, which includes two watersheds, Cedar Bayou and Double Bayou, where TSSWCB is involved with developing WPPs. The day began with a panel of local officials and vested stakeholders for Chambers County discussing current issues on the navigation channels. This roundtable discussion was then followed by several presentations from entities including the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, General Land Office, and consultant, Gahagan & Bryant. Presentations focused on examples of beneficial use projects, marine highway designation, and further design and permitting of beneficial use projects. Finally, the workshop concluded with open panel discussion of alternatives for Chambers County channels. In conclusion, a Steering Committee was formed to carry out the tasks proposed as alternatives.

Following the Dredging Workshop, a Chambers County Greenprint Project of Texas Coastal Partners meeting was held. Discussion centered upon the status of the Turtle Bayou project as well as other projects in Chambers County, follow up to the dredging workshop and future directions for the group.

On September 12, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] and field staff [Joel Clark] attended the Trinity Bay SWCD #434 meeting in Winnie. An introduction to the newly initiated Double Bayou WPP project was presented to the SWCD. Highlights included discussion of the watershed characterization study performed previously, water quality issues, and tasks that will be accomplished through this WPP project.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/watersheds#doublebayou>. This WPP has the potential to affect

agricultural operations in the Double Bayou watershed in Chambers and Liberty Counties.

Other State District IV Projects

Project: "Building Partnerships for Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$437,946/ External \$293,569*

On September 7, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin Workshop, the first in a series of workshops for the Middle Trinity River Basin, in Corsicana. The goal of the series of workshops is to bring landowners and other stakeholders together to discuss solutions to challenges faced in the Middle Trinity region of the Basin. These workshops are designed to raise awareness of water quality issues, discuss land management techniques that could improve the water resources of the Trinity River Basin and make decisions to protect natural resources for future generations. Presentations at the workshop included topics of what is a watershed, water quality basics and protection in Texas, and the benefits of watershed management to landowners and the public. Presenters on these various workshops included Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Trinity River Authority, and a local landowner from 77 Ranch. Two additional workshops are planned to be held in Corsicana in December and early 2013, all leading up to a Summit workshop for early Spring 2013.

STATE DISTRICT V

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria

Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

On August 23, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Lake Granbury WPP stakeholder meeting. Implementation activities that are currently ongoing were discussed. The sewer expansion for Port Ridglea East is entering its second phase. This phase will add 60 homes to the central collection system. Acton Municipal Utility District will continue to pursue additional grant funds to finish the additional phases. The results of the watershed awareness survey were also presented. The results of the survey are

available on the website. The watershed coordinator is pursuing a small grant to install wetland plants in a creek in Sky Harbor. These plants will help reduce bacteria from entering the canal system in Sky Harbor.

More information is available at <http://lakegranburywatershed.org>. This WPP affects agricultural operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- October 1, 2012 – Cypress Creek WPP Public Meeting (Wimberley)
- October 1-3, 2012 – Leona River Riparian Workshops (Uvalde)
- October 3-4, 2012 – Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Monitoring Plan Workshop (Austin)
- October 9, 2012 – Upper Llano River Watershed Partnership Public Meeting (Junction)
- October 9, 2012 – San Antonio Bay Meetings (Victoria)
- October 13, 2012 – Cypress Creek WPP Community-Wide Meeting (Wimberley)
- October 14-17, 2012 – 20th Annual National NPS Monitoring Workshop (Tulsa, OK)
- October 15-19, 2012 – 22nd Annual Quality Assurance Conference (Dallas)
- October 15, 2012 – Cypress Basin Environmental Flows Project Meeting (Caddo Lake)
- October 16, 2012 – Bacterial Implementation Group (BIG) Mid-Year Meeting (Houston)
- October 17, 2012 – Upper San Marcos Coordinating Committee Meeting (San Marcos)
- October 18, 2012 – Arroyo Colorado WPP Steering Committee Meeting (Weslaco)
- October 18, 2012 – Sheldon Lake Wetland Field Day (Houston)
- October 18, 2012 – Southwest Dairy Day (Stephenville)
- October 18, 2012 – Lake O' the Pines TMDL/I-Plan Public Meeting (Hughes Spring)
- October 23, 2012 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop (San Marcos)
- October 29, 2012 – Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin Workshop (Athens)
- October 31, 2012 – San Antonio Bay Partnership Stakeholder Workshop (Victoria)
- October 31, 2012 – Galveston Bay Council Meeting (Pasadena)

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 81st 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

- Updated the TSSWCB website to include new forms, which are available for download
 - The new Water Supply Enhancement Program project application, "Proposal for Water Supply Enhancement Program"
 - Explanation page to assist in completing the project application correctly
 - FY 2013 Guidelines for WSEP Projects
- Completed FY 2012 Performance Measures
- Compiled data regarding Predicted Water Yield on all FY 2012 projects.
- WSEP staff attended EDYS modeling training provided by Dr. Ken Rainwater and Arcview training provided by Dr. Ernest Fish in order to gather new information and ideas regarding feasibility studies and updated mapping systems.
- WSEP staff has continued to consult with TWDB to gather information on the water need for Texas. Staff also attended meetings with TDA that focused on water yield enhancement.
- WSEP staff consulted with Representative Duncan and Representative Hilderbran in order to communicate and exchange ideas regarding WSEP. WSEP staff attended the Budget Hearing an Agriculture and Livestock Hearing.
- WSEP completed all 2012 project allocations in the following six project areas:
 - Edwards Aquifer
 - 23 Written Contracts

- 1,600 Acres Under Contract
- \$317,220 Obligated
- \$145,567 in Payments
- Guadalupe River
 - 9 Written Contracts
 - 1,259 Acres Under Contract
 - \$249,690 Obligated
 - \$60,660 in Payments
- Lake Brownwood
 - 12 Written Contracts
 - 1,190 Acres Under Contract
 - \$249,690 Obligated
 - \$60,660 in Payments
- Pedernales River
 - 20 Written Contracts
 - 1,879 Acres Under Contract
 - \$312,742 Obligated
 - \$41,335 in Payments
- Twin Buttes
 - 5 Written Contracts
 - 2,747 Acres under Contract
 - \$249,977 Obligated
 - \$48,756 in Payments
- Little Wichita River
 - 8 Written Contracts
 - 9,460.8 Acres Under Contract
 - \$198,676.80 Obligated
 - \$137,781 in Payments

Water Yield for Fiscal Year 2012

Project Area	Acres	Increase in Water Yield (gallons)
Twin Buttes	3174	90,199,060
Lake Brownwood	1408	127,971,407
Little Wichita	13,178.40	2,416,692,073.2
Bosque	400	41,384,000
Ft. Phantom Hill	572	59,179,120
Palo Pinto	725	145,600,843
Guadalupe	423	26,896,300
Pedernales	425	247,577,791
Edwards Aquifer	865	137,851,491

Grand Totals:

Acres Treated and Cleared: 21,170.4

Increase in Water Yield (gal): 3,293,352,085.2

Acre ft. Per Year: 10,106.90

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.

The Legislature appropriated \$15 million dollars to TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during 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 FY11, \$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 \$215,616 to be utilized by August 31, 2012.

Structural Repair Grant Program Update

In FY10, \$4,055,471 in program funds were obligated to conduct structural repairs on 18 flood control dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on 14 of the 18 flood control dams and the remaining four are under construction.

In FY11, \$2,823,166 in program funds was obligated to conduct structural repairs on six flood

control dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on one of the two flood control dams and the remaining dam is under construction.

In FY12 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. Currently, \$1,364,836 of FY12 program funds has been obligated.

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.