



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Program News and Activities

APRIL 2015

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

REX ISOM
Executive Director

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UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, May 20, 2015** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, May 21, 2015 in Temple**. 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.

FISCAL OPERATIONS

May 15th is deadline for claiming two thirds of FY 2015 allocation for Matching Funds.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

2015 Annual Meeting of District Directors

Mark your calendars for October 26-28, 2015 and plan on attending the 75th Annual State Meeting held in Corpus Christi.

Reservations for the 75th Annual State Meeting at the Omni Bayfront Tower please call 1-800-The OMNI.

2015 Stewardship Week

NACD has set stewardship week for April 26, 2015 through May 3, 2015. The Soil and Water Stewardship Committee will continue to work with other agricultural and conservation organizations to expand the message of Stewardship Week to a larger audience in our state. As we feel that the message is still relevant, we will be re-releasing our publication entitled "Land Stewardship: Providing Water For Texans."

This one page document discusses and promotes voluntary conservation and the benefits that it supplies our great state with. Please feel free to

share this publication on your district's website, through social media, or with your local newspapers. If you need this document again please contact Loren Warrick at lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov

The Soil and Water Stewardship Committee would love to hear what your district will be doing for Stewardship Week. We are also here to assist your district with outreach ideas and opportunities. Please contact Tony Franklin, our staff advisor, at tfranklin@tsswcb.texas.gov with any questions or comments, and he will get in touch with us.

Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee

On April 20, 2015 TSSWCB Special Projects Staff [Loren Warrick, Mel Davis] hosted the TISCC Meeting in College Station. The meeting consisted of the committee discussing future funding opportunities. An update was given on different invasive issues in the state as well as the budget for dealing with Invasives in Texas.

Gulf Coast Conservation Planning Project

On April 21, 2015 Special Projects Staff [Loren Warrick, Mel Davis] WSEP Staff [Aaron Wendt], SRM Staff [John Foster], Field Staff [Joel Clark, Trey Watson, Adrian Perez, Tony Franklin] participated in a conference call with the USDA-NRCS. The Gulf Coast Conservation Planning Project is to aid in the overall health of the Gulf of Mexico by making this a priority area for conservation planning. TSSWCB, NRCS, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have joined together in a gulf restoration agreement that the TSSWCB will implement in 30 coastal counties. This agreement as well as having help with the local SWCDs will make a huge difference in this region. Meetings with coastal districts will be at the end of May.

TSSWCB Historical Marker Unveiling

On May 21, 2015 the TSSWCB will hold an open house from 10:30 am until 12:00 noon, with the marker unveiling beginning at 11:00 am. The event will take place at our Temple office, located

at 4311 South 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, TX 76502.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

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

The purpose of cost-share funding is to provide an incentive to landowners or operators to install soil and water conservation land improvement measures consistent with the purpose of controlling erosion, conserving water, and/or protecting water quality. Rule requires this be done in accordance with a water quality management plan certified by the State Board.

At the beginning of each month the regional offices conduct a ranking exercise to rank all Requests for Cost-Share Incentive Funding. Regional office staff are working with those producers who ranked out, to develop a certified WQMP. Once the WQMP is certified an application for Cost-Share Incentive funding is completed. This application obligates funding to that producer to be used to implement Best Management Practices.

More information on the *Water Quality Management Plan Program* is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/wqmp>

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

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

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

FY2010 – FY2014 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 34 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 34 on-going projects total approximately \$9.8 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and

implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPP); and implement the NPS portion of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans (I-Plan).

FY2013 – FY2015 State Grant Status

There are currently 25 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 25 on-going projects total approximately \$2.7 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAA); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

Texas Clean Rivers Program

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

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

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

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

assessment conducted for the Texas Integrated Report.

On March 24, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] attended a CRP Basin Advisory Committee Meeting hosted by the Red River Authority in Wichita Falls. This meeting was held to present the draft 2015 Basin Highlight Report for the Canadian and Red River Basins. CRP stakeholders were updated on the many ongoing activities in the Red & Canadian River basins including: the Lake Wichita Study, RUAs, and proposed monitoring for FY2016. More information is available at <http://www.rra.texas.gov/>.

On April 14, 2015, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (CMM) hosted by the San Antonio River Authority in San Antonio. This meeting was held to coordinate surface water quality monitoring (SWQM) in the San Antonio River Basin for the upcoming year. Adjustments to the monitoring plan will be made due to budgets and increasing efficiency. More information can be found at <https://www.sara-tx.org/>.

On April 24, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] attended a CRP CMM hosted by the Red River Authority in Wichita Falls. This meeting was held to coordinate SWQM in the Red River Basin for the upcoming year. Attendees were also updated by Texas Institute of Applied Environmental Research staff about ongoing RUAs in the basin. More information is available at <http://www.rra.texas.gov/>.

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

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Galveston Bay is an estuary of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, is included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Galveston Bay Council (GBC) is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan*, which is a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under the auspices of the National Estuary Program. The TSSWCB is a named member of the Galveston Bay Council.

On April 15, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly Galveston Bay Council meeting in Houston. At this meeting, the council approved the council's by-laws and the addition of new members to the council. Presentations on hurricane and storm surge resiliency along the coast, the state of the oyster fishery in Galveston Bay and recovery efforts after Hurricane Ike were presented. An announcement was made that there will be a State of the Bay Symposium held in January of 2016. The next council meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015.

More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>. The implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan* affects agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the Galveston Bay complex in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

Other State District I Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for One Segment in the Red River Basin and One Water Body in the Sabine River Basin", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$287,470*

On March 30, 31 and April 1, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] and Field Representative staff [Jack Foote] participated in a public meeting in Silverton, Memphis, and Childress, respectively, to discuss conducting an RUA on Lower Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. The purpose of the meeting was to inform local stakeholders on the intent of the project and define an RUA. The project will ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a water body, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. The meeting also described what the field survey consists of. Access to sites along the water body for field surveys was discussed with the landowners.

More information on this RUA is available at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/lower-prairie-dog-town.html>.

STATE DISTRICT III

Cypress Creek

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

On April 1, 2015, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a Cypress Creek WPP stakeholder meeting in Wimberley. This meeting was to inform stakeholders about the WPP, EPA 9-element consistency review and a path forward for implementation. A watershed coordinator has recently been hired by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University to lead implementation activities in the watershed.

More information is available at <http://www.cypresscreekproject.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Cypress Creek watershed in Hays County.

Lower Nueces River

Impairment: Total Dissolved Solids
Concern: Chlorophyll-a, Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Projects: "Development of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan", Nueces River Authority; Federal \$309,727/External \$248,968

On March 3, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Liza Marshall] attended the Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership Stakeholder meeting in Corpus Christi. The meeting focused on reviewing previously discussed draft chapters of the WPP. Discussion on developing a logo for the Partnership by the Education and Outreach workgroup was also held.

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

Mill Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Data Collection and Development of Essential Components for the Mill Creek Watershed Protection Plan" Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; State \$299,955
Project: "Phase 2: Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Mill Creek" Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; State \$208,542

On March 30, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Liza Marshall, Brian Koch] attended the Mill Creek Watershed Partnership meeting in Bleiberville. The meeting focused on approving previously discussed draft chapters of the WPP. Other presentations included Water Quality Data Collection in Mill Creek by Houston-Galveston Area Council staff and an overview of draft chapter six of the WPP by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service staff.

More information is available at <http://millcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Mill Creek watershed in Austin and Washington Counties.

STATE DISTRICT IV

Cedar Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Macro-benthic 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 March 26, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt, Brian Koch] attended a Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership meeting in Baytown. The meeting focused on reviewing the Tidal Modeling results which were presented by CDM Smith. Also, there was a decision to approve WPP draft chapters one through four.

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

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 March 31, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended an On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Workshop in Double Bayou. This workshop was to help inform stakeholders in the watershed on the operation and maintenance of OSSFs. OSSFs have been identified as a potential source of bacterial contamination in the watershed by stakeholders.

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.

Lake Houston

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing 72 bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On April 13, 2015, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended an I-plan meeting for the East and West Forks of the San Jacinto River in Conroe. This meeting was held to engage stakeholders in these watersheds and discuss the decision to join

the Bacteria Implementation Group, which is already addressing bacteria in neighboring watersheds.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

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: "Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan", Hamilton-Coryell SWCD; Federal \$159,498
Project: "Continued Coordinating Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$229,159/External \$152,774
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; Federal \$358,559/External \$84,512

A Texas Watershed Steward workshop took place on March 25, 2015, in Dublin. Over 35 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB. The training included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas as well as current efforts to help improve and protect the Leon River. Attendees also learned about community-driven watershed protection and management. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

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.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS (NOT WATERSHED SPECIFIC)

Project: "Statewide Delivery of Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program", Texas Water Resources Institute/Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Federal \$317,486/External \$207,973

On April 1, 2015, a Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop was held for the Upper San Antonio River watershed. Over 40 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas Water Resource Institute, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, San Antonio River Authority, Wilson County Extension Office, Wilson County SWCD, and the TSSWCB. The training focused on water quality issues including the key role riparian areas play in helping improve and protect water quality in the area. Topics covered included: the definition of a watershed and riparian area, riparian vegetation ratings, how to photo monitor, and local resources for landowners. The training also involved a field tour which provided a chance to see a recovering riparian area and evaluate the vegetation within it.

For more information on the Riparian and Stream ecosystem educational program, please visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/>.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- April 27, 2015 – Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting (Bleiberville)
- April 28, 2015 – OSSF Workshop (Hamilton)
- April 28, 2015 – Gilleland Creek TMDL Meeting (Pflugerville)
- May 12, 2015 – Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership Meeting (Corpus Christi)
- May 7, 2015 – Texas Watershed Stewards, Navasota River (Kosse)
- May 19, – 23, 2015 – 17th Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Quality Management & Planning Conference (South Padre Island)
- May 21, 2015 – Riparian and Stream Restoration and Education Workshop, Hickory Creek (Denton)
- May 25, 2015 – Mill Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting (Bleiberville)
- May 28, 2015 – Texas Well Owner Network Training (Double Bayou)
- May 28, 2015 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Baytown)

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

In order to help meet the State's critical water conservation needs and ensure availability of water supplies, the TSSWCB administers the WSEP to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation (e.g., juniper, mesquite, saltcedar). The 83rd Texas Legislature continued funding for the WSEP by providing \$2,135,413 in general revenue funds for FY2015.

WSEP staff activities (from March 26, 2015 to April 29, 2015):

- WSEP staff assisted SWCD Directors with WSEP issues at board meetings for the

Pedernales SWCD #218, Gillespie County SWCD #220, Bandera SWCD #229, and Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD #238.

- WSEP staff assisted Conservation Planners in the Upper Guadalupe River, Pedernales River, Frio River, Upper Nueces River, and Edwards Aquifer projects and worked with landowners in several project watersheds to develop cost-share contracts.
- WSEP staff worked with project applicants to assess unobligated funds from the FY2015 project cost-share allocations in order to consider reallocation of FY2015 grant funding to maximize expenditure of WSEP funds during the fiscal year.
- WSEP staff attended the following Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meetings to discuss WSEP issues: Region G (April 1, 2015; Waco), Region J (April 8, 2015; Leakey), Region K (April 8, 2015 and April 22, 2015; Austin), Region O (April 15, 2015; Lubbock), Region F (April 16, 2015; Big Spring), and Region B (April 28, 2015; Wichita Falls). A presentation on the WSEP was given by TSSWCB staff at the Region B meeting. Additional information on the regional water planning process is available at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/wp/>.
- On March 13, 2015, Senator Carlos Uresti introduced legislation (SB 1734) in Austin that would require the TSSWCB to develop and implement a program to eradicate Carrizo cane (*Arundo donax*) along the Rio Grande. This bill would implement the Governor's legislative priority for border security. Carrizo cane is an invasive, non-native species that impedes and conceals the detection of criminal actors and restricts law enforcement officers' access to riverbanks. While this bill supports border security, Carrizo cane is also a noxious brush species that consumes water to a degree that is detrimental to water

conservation. As such, Carrizo cane is a species of interest to the WSEP and is eligible for inclusion in the program.

- On April 20, 2015, WSEP staff attended the Texas State Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs hearing in Austin. The Committee heard testimony relating to SB 1734. An archived video of the hearing is available at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/avarc/hive/>.
- On April 28, 2015, the Texas State Senate passed SB 1734. The bill now moves to the Texas House of Representatives for consideration.
- On March 27-29, 2015, WSEP staff attended the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Annual Convention in Fort Worth.
- On April 7, 2015, WSEP staff participated in a meeting in Johnson City with staff from the USDA NRCS, the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the Pedernales SWCD #218 to discuss the effects of brush control on water supply enhancement and water quality. A field tour and media day is being planned for June 2015 to highlight land stewardship efforts by private landowners in Blanco County.

WSEP upcoming activities:

- On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, TSSWCB will host a WSEP Field Tour at the Stowers Ranch near Hunt in Kerr County. The purpose of this public outreach event is to continue discussions with the public and those interested in improving the *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan*. This public outreach event will focus on aspects of the WSEP related to conservation plans for landowners and soil erosion potential from brush control. Additional details on this event will be released on the agency's website.

More information on the WSEP is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/brushcontrol>.

Lower Running Water Draw Site 4 in Hale County.

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

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

For FY2013, \$2,050,997 was allocated to 69 dam sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams through June 30, 2015. To date there is a balance of \$265,650 that still needs to be spent before the June 2015 deadline.

For FY2015, \$1,000,000 was allocated to 69 dam sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams through June 30, 2017. To date there is a balance of \$868,809 that still needs to be spent before the June 2017 deadline.

The TSSWCB has contracted with the Dalworth SWCD to conduct a major repair on Mountain Creek, Site 10, in Ellis County using \$5,600,000 of FY2014 funds.

The TSSWCB has also contracted with the McCulloch SWCD to conduct repairs on Deep Creek, Site 8, in McCulloch County using \$362,000 of FY2015 funds.

TSSWCB has signed ten Project Agreements with NRCS for \$13 million in federal rehabilitation funding for planning, design, and construction on 15 dams. TSSWCB has contracted for engineering services on these dams.

The TSSWCB has contracted with M&E Consultants to develop a rehabilitation plan for

The TSSWCB has contracted with the City of McKinney and the San Antonio River Authority to provide state funds to assist sponsors with the local share of rehabilitation costs on 5 dams.

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

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



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

of 2,000 flood control dams; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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