



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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April 2010

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local soil and water conservation district directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local Field Representative or our State Headquarters.

REX ISOM, Executive Director

Budgeting and Accounting

- The 2012 -2013 Biennial District Budget Request was distributed on March 30th. Information on how to complete and submit the request can be found through the following web address <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/swcdfs/resources>. The deadline for submitting the request is June 1st.

Please see the Budget and Accounting Section for more information.

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Board Work Session for 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 12, 2010** at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Austin. A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, May 13, 2010** at the Capitol in Austin.

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

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Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 18, 2010, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting scheduled for May 13, 2010. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes>

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The 2012 -2013 Biennial District Budget Request was distributed on March 30th. Information on how to complete and submit the request can be found through the following web address <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/swcds/resources>. The deadline for submitting the request is June 1st.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently hiring for the following:

- Natural Resource Specialist III- Temple

For more information on TSSWCB employment please visit the link below:

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/employment>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

Sunset Advisory Commission Review Update

Staff from the Sunset Advisory Commission has completed their assessment of TSSWCB and released their report. It is available on their website and on our website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/sunset2009> for review. The Sunset Commission held a hearing on the agency April 6, 2010 in Austin and will vote on their recommendations for the agency May 24-26th. Additional information may be found on our web page.

70th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The 70th Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 25-27, 2010 in Lubbock. Please make plans to attend.

Reservations for the meeting may be made at:

- Radisson Downtown Lubbock by calling 806-747-0171.
- Overton Hotel by calling 806-776-7000.

Proposed Amendment of Chapter 523, Agricultural And Silvicultural Water Quality Management, (Section 523.3, Water Quality Management Plan [WQMP] Certification Program)

The State Board proposed an amendment to Section 523.3, Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Certification Program and the proposed rule has been published in the April 23, 2010 issue of the *Texas Register* for review and comment.

The amendment adds new language that will allow for the "conditional" certification of a WQMP in certain situations for demonstrating experimental conservation technologies, and to modify the requirements associated with documenting neighbor consent relating to odor control plans for a proposed poultry facility.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Wildlife Conservation Camp Scheduled -

The Welder Wildlife Foundation Refuge located near Sinton, Texas will host the 16th Annual Wildlife Conservation Camp on July 11-17. The camp, which is sponsored by the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, is open to any high school student who has completed his or her freshman year.

The program provides hands-on activities with presentations led by wildlife professionals from across Texas. Topics will include wildlife and plant identification, wetland and coastal habitats, hunting as a management tool, species diversity, conservation ethics, wildlife capture and census techniques, wildlife tracking predator-prey dynamics, whit-tailed deer management, fishing, hunter safety, shooting skills and much more.

Pedernales SWCD to Host Annual Teacher's Conservation Workshop -

The 2010 Teachers' Workshop: Studies in Conservation of Natural Resources is planned for June 15-17. The workshop will be held at the Franklin Family Ranch just outside of Blanco. The cost is still only \$200.00 per teacher and includes lodging, meals, and all materials. This is a fantastic opportunity for teachers in your area to learn about conservation and take it back with them and into their classrooms.

Please talk to your board of directors and encourage them to send as many teachers from your district as possible. There is only enough space for 45 teachers and it always fills up quickly. You can download the brochure and registration form from the TSSWCB website at:

www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/infoed/summerworkshop

Program Development Workshop

Scheduled for June 29-30 - The workshop is open to any SWCD director or district employee and the TSSWCB is also particularly encouraging new directors to register and participate in the

training. The workshop will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. Letters with registration information will be sent out in May.

Regional Wildlife Contests Held in April

Region I - Paxton Hettler, a student at Idalou High School and a member of the Idalou FFA chapter was high point individual in the FFA division at the Region I Wildlife Contest held April 13, at the Caprock Canyons State Park and Trailway (CCSPT). Hettler earned a total score of 107 out of a possible mean score of 135-150 points.

Emmett Webb of the Hemphill County 4-H chapter was high point individual with a top score of 96 in the 4-H division.

The top scoring FFA chapter in the event was the Idalou Chapter from Idalou. The team earned a collective score of 301 points. The Hemphill County 4-H chapter earned a collective team score of 243 points in its division.

In respective order, the second place high scoring individual in the FFA division was John Haley, a member of the Canadian FFA chapter. Haley scored a total of 104 points. Third ranking high scoring individual was Zachary Odom, a member of the Wellington FFA chapter from Wellington High School. His total score was 100 points.

The second place top scoring team in the event was the Friendship FFA chapter with an overall score of 284. The Canadian FFA chapter placed third with a collective score of 278 points.

In the 4-H division, Hayden Harris, a member of the Idalou 4-H team, earned second place honors. Third place honors were claimed by Kale Johnson who is also a member of the Idalou 4-H team.

Region II - Garrett Deike, a student at LBJ High School and a member of the Johnson City FFA chapter was high point individual in the FFA division at the Region II Wildlife Contest held April 13, at the Angelo State University MIR Center located at San Angelo.

Deike earned a total score of 136 out of a possible mean score of 135-150 points.

Daniel Haverlah of the Kerr 4-H chapter was high point individual with a top score of 125 in the 4-H division.

The top scoring FFA chapter in the event was the Florence team from Florence. The team earned a collective score of 376 points. The Kerr 4-H chapter earned a collective team score of 365 points in its division.

In respective order, the second place high scoring individual in the FFA division was Ethan Powell who is a member of the Florence FFA chapter from Florence High School. Third place high scoring individual was Zack Ter Haar, also a member of the Florence FFA chapter.

Second and third place high scoring teams in the FFA division were the Ingram FFA chapter from Ingram and the Johnson City FFA chapter from Johnson City.

In the 4-H division, David Vargas, a member of the Kerr 4-H team, earned second place honors. Third place honors were claimed by Nathan Bird who is also a member of the Kerr 4-H team.

Second place high point scoring team honors went to the Stonewall County 4-H team from Aspermont while the Marble Falls 4-H team from Burnet County earned third place honors.

Region III - Travis Loslin, a student at Tomball High School and a member of the Tomball FFA chapter was high point individual in the FFA division at the Region III Wildlife Contest held April 13, at the 7,800 acre Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and Refuge located near Sinton. Loslin earned a total score of 114 out of a possible mean score of 135-150 points.

Logan Carroll of the Harris County 4-H chapter was high point individual with a top score of 93 in the 4-H division.

The top scoring FFA chapter in the event was the Tomball team from Tomball. The team earned a collective score of 336 points. The Harris County

4-H chapter earned a combined team score of 261 points in its division.

In respective order, the second place high scoring individual in the FFA division was Toby Tyler who is a member of the Angleton FFA chapter from Angleton High School. Third place high scoring individual was Cody Garrett, a member of the Tomball FFA chapter.

Second and third place high scoring teams in the FFA division was the Angleton FFA chapter from Angleton with a collective score of 291 points and the Schulenburg FFA chapter from Schulenburg who earned a combined score of 286 points.

In the 4-H division, Garrett Barnett, a member of the Brazoria County 4-H team, earned second place honors. Third place honors were claimed by Justin Tyler who is also a member of the Brazoria County 4-H team.

Second place high point scoring team honors went to the Brazoria County 4-H team.

Region V - Laura Procter, a student at Lingleville High School and a member of the Lingleville FFA chapter was high point individual in the FFA division at the Region V Wildlife Contest held April 13, at the Rocosa Ridge Ranch located near Meridian, TX. Procter earned a total score of 133 out of a possible mean score of 135-150 points.

Ronald Fedro of the McLennan County 4-H chapter was high point individual with a top score of 104 in the 4-H division.

The top scoring FFA chapter in the event was the Cleburne team from Cleburne. The team earned a collective score of 340 points. The McLennan County 4-H chapter earned a combined team score of 288 points in its division.

In respective order, the second place high scoring individual in the FFA division was Clint Moore who is a member of the Cleburne FFA chapter from Cleburne High School. Third place high scoring individual was Brandon Bordovsky, a member of the Axtell FFA chapter from Axtell High School.

Second and third place high scoring teams in the FFA division was the Jacksboro FFA chapter from Jacksboro with a collective score of 330 points and the Axtell FFA chapter from Axtell who earned a combined score of 321 points.

In the 4-H division, Kris Brooks, a member of the McLennan County 4-H team, earned second place honors. Third place honors were claimed by Craig Roth who is a member of the Montague County 4-H team.

Second place high point scoring team honors went to the Montague County 4-H team from Montague while the Hill County 4-H team earned third place honors.

- 100 youth representing 46 FFA teams and 17 youth representing four 4-H teams participated in the regional event.
- The top five teams from each of the 10 FFA areas in Texas as well as the top two 4-H teams from each of the five state regions will be eligible to participate in the state contest which will be held at the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest located near Nacogdoches, Texas. The state contest will be held on May 11.
- The Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY) consists of a consortium of local, state, federal, and private organizations working together to provide support and technical assistance to agricultural science teachers and 4-H leaders who train youth in various aspects of wildlife conservation and habitat management.
- Competitive events in the program focus on plant identification, wildlife plant food preferences, wildlife biological facts, wildlife habitat evaluation, habitat management, fish and game laws, safety, the outdoors, wildlife identification techniques and navigation in the field.
- Approximately 700 teams with nearly 2,000 FFA and 4-H youth in Texas participated in the program last year.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2009 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/2009VideoLibraryCatalogue.pdf> . The 2009 Catalog

includes 30 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage.

Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local SWCD or by contacting the Public

Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public

Information/Education Committee 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.

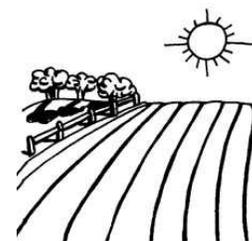
Ordering a Video

Select a video from the TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Meredith Whitley at mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs



since the mid 1990s and has completed over 14,000 plans in the State of Texas.

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

A total of 753 WQMPs were certified by the State Board in FY2009. This is 21.5% greater than the yearly goal.

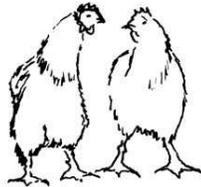
District cost-share fund allocations for FY2010 have been approved by the State Board. The period for obligating FY2010 cost-share funds goes from September 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

Lapsed cost-share funds have been reduced by 69% in the last five years. Approximately 8.3% of total cost-share funds are being lapsed statewide at the present time. The lapsed fund report for FY-07 was completed in September, 2009.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry>.



Program Activities

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

Contact the poultry office at (936) 462-7020 if you have questions about the poultry program.

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

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

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, state,

and federal agencies play an integral part in managing NPS pollution, especially at the watershed level. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the kind of pollution controls that are necessary to prevent and reduce NPS pollution. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution. By establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, the State can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

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

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

Watershed Approach

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

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;
- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

For groundwater management, the geographic focus is on aquifers rather than watersheds. Otherwise, the approach is the same. Wherever interactions between surface and ground water are identified,

management activities will support the quality of both resources.

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

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the process of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staffs from both agencies are currently reviewing the revised, draft chapters of the 2010 program publication. A completed draft is expected by the middle of April 2010. After which, staff intend to circulate the draft document to affected entities for preliminary review and comments. The revised program publication must be submitted to EPA by December 2010 to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

FY2009 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status

The 2009 Annual Report on Managing NPS Water Pollution in Texas has been printed and is ready for distribution to SWCDs and other entities. In order to continue receiving CWA §319(h) funds, the State must annually report on success in achieving the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Management Program. The report highlights the State's efforts during FY2009 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent NPS pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources. This report must be submitted to EPA to ensure continued funding. The FY 2009 Annual Report is available for download at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/reports#nps>

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

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

Agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution prevention and abatement activities that can be funded through the NPS Grant Program include: implementation of WPPs and the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans (I-Plans), surface water quality monitoring, demonstration of innovative BMPs, technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs, public outreach and education, development of WPPs, and monitoring activities to determine the effectiveness of specific pollution prevention methods.

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

FY2010 Request for Proposals

SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the *Texas NPS Management Program* and the *2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. Twenty-two proposals requesting nearly \$8.5 million in federal funding were received through the public Request-for-Proposals. Proposals are currently being reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and selected for funding. Projects receiving federal funding must be submitted to EPA in early summer 2010 for review and approval.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background

Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided through the EPA to States for the development and implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately \$9 million.

FY2003 – FY2009 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 58 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 58 ongoing projects total approximately \$16 million and are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement BMPs, support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement WPPs, and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through these grants are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million dollars in general revenue funds, for the FY2008-FY2009 biennium, to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds. The 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation for the FY2010-FY2011 biennium. TSSWCB is committed to funding projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. On September 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning*,

Assessment, and Implementation Activities which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. The Policy is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#StateGR>.

FY2008 Grant Status

On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to the NPS Grant Program. There are currently two ongoing projects associated with the Little Brazos River Tributaries Bacteria Assessment Project. Five projects have been completed.

FY2009 Grant Status

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,296,426 in state appropriations to the NPS Grant Program. There are currently twelve ongoing projects that support implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands, demonstration of innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. One project has been completed.

FY2010 Grant Status

On July 16, 2009, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2010 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to the NPS Grant Program. SRM staff are in the process of finalizing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities for various projects.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

Background

The CWA requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL, an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval.

With authority as the lead agency in Texas for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution, TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs. TSSWCB is committed to funding and collaborating with TCEQ on TMDL projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation. More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through TMDL and WPP development and implementation. Impaired waters may be addressed through either mechanism depending on

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

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed.

WPPs serve as tools to better leverage the resources of local governments, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation, and create a coordinated public communication and education program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process involving monitoring and evaluating strategies and incorporating new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by the EPA in 2003. These guidelines describe nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS

pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ. These third-party WPPs may or may not adequately satisfy EPA's nine elements. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through WPP and TMDL development and implementation. Impaired waters may be addressed through either mechanism depending on the specific situation. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local, and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program 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) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

The CCC 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 CCC reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the CCC 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.state.tx.us/coastal.html>.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

CCC meeting information is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cc.html>.

Sunset Review of CCC

The CCC is currently undergoing Sunset Review. The Sunset Advisory Commission has released the Staff Report on the CCC.

Key Recommendations include:

1. Continue the Coastal Coordination Council for 12 years.
2. Require the Coastal Coordination Council to create a comprehensive, five-year Texas Coastal Plan, and provide annual updates to the Legislature on progress toward meeting goals established in the Plan.
3. Require the Council to use goals developed through the Texas Coastal Plan to target its grant funding and evaluate the success of grant funds spent toward meeting the Plan's goals.
4. Require the Council to evaluate the need for the Permitting Assistance Group in its current form, and statutorily authorize the Council to assign it additional duties and add members if needed.
5. The Council should establish standard types of data networked agencies must include in their quarterly reports.

The Sunset Advisory Commission met on April 6, 2010 to hear public testimony on the CCC and the Staff Report. Based on public input and the Staff

Report, the Commission will adopt recommendations for the 82nd Legislature to consider when it convenes in January 2011. The Sunset Advisory Commission has tentatively scheduled a May 25-26, 2010 meeting to deliberate and decide on its recommendations for the CCC.

More information, including the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report on the CCC and a schedule of public meetings, is available at <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/>.

Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 16

Application information for Grant Cycle 16 was distributed in April 2010. As in the previous grant cycles, the CCC expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 16.

The deadline for pre-proposals is June 23, 2010 by 5:00 p.m. Submission of the pre-proposal is optional and is only necessary if written comments are desired. The full application is due October 13, 2010 by 5:00 p.m.

Four grant workshops will be held on the coast to help potential applicants through the guidance document and application package. All potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the workshops. The workshops usually take two to three hours. The schedule for the Grant Cycle #16 Workshops are as follows:

- May 6, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Port Isabel, Port Isabel Housing Authority - Community Center, 100 Hockaday.
- May 13, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi - Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Room 1003.
- May 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Port Arthur, City Hall, 444 Fourth Street, 5th Floor.
- May 27, 2010, 9:30 a.m., Galveston, County Courthouse, 722 Moody, Workshop Room.

Further information on the CMP grant program is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/index.html>.

Section 309 Assessment and Strategies Review

Section 309 of the CZMA allocates funds to encourage states with federally approved CMPs to develop projects that will effect program enhancements in one or more of the following nine enhancement areas: wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine debris, ocean resources, special area management plans, and aquaculture. As a condition of receiving grant funds under §309, Texas must submit a §309 Assessment and Strategies Report to NOAA every five years. The Report presents an analysis for each enhancement area, identifies needs, and outlines how the CMP plans to use §309 funds to address those needs over the next five years.

In 2006, the CCC drafted its third §309 Assessment and Strategies Report covering the time period of 2006-2010. In its 2006 Report, the Council identified four of the nine enhancement areas as being of high priority to the state. These included wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, and cumulative and secondary impacts. Energy and government facility siting and aquaculture were ranked as medium priorities and ocean resources, marine debris, and special area management plans were ranked as low priorities.

In November 2009, the CCC initiated its program review and assessment for the 2011-2015 report. The report and assessment is being developed by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

The Institute is currently seeking public comments for the assessment portion of the report. Online comments will be accepted until May 14, 2010 (see link below).

A public comment session will be held on May 5, 2010 in Galveston.

Information on the meeting times and locations, a copy of the draft report, and a link to provide online comments is available here:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cmp/309/309grants.html>

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Background

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

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

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

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

- Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.
- Publishes numerous reports.
- Advises the TCEQ on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

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

TGPC Activities

On April 7, 2010 TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a Texas Groundwater Protection Committee meeting. Reports were given on the status and developments within each of the subcommittees: Agricultural Chemicals, Data Management, Public Outreach and Education, and Groundwater Research. Updates were given on Groundwater Management Areas, Regional Water Planning, Groundwater Availability Modeling, National Groundwater Initiatives, the National Groundwater Monitoring Program Drought Status in Texas, and Groundwater Contamination Notice Coordination. A new Nonpoint Source Task Force subcommittee was enacted by the general committee with the TSSWCB and TCEQ NPS Team as co-chairs. The primary activities of this subcommittee will be to coordinate NPS activities; ensure consistency of activities with the NPS Management Program, the Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy and other appropriate requirements; in addition to facilitation of implementation measures to address NPS impairment of groundwater.

On April 7, 2010 SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee meeting. Discussion was on the Site Selection, Education, and Pesticide Management Plan Task Forces. Also, a presentation on Cotton-related pesticides was provided. The group also provided input for research topics in the upcoming legislative report revision.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

On September 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is

available at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa>.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs – Interim Charge on Managing Feral Hogs

On April 19, 2010, TSSWCB Executive Director [Rex Isom], SRM staff [John Foster], and other agency staff, participated in a Senate Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs (81st Texas Legislature) hearing on interim Committee charges in Austin. Specifically, the Committee met to review efforts across the state to manage feral hog populations and mitigate damage to agricultural and livestock operations. TSSWCB staff testified on the agency's role in coordinating the work of the newly established Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee and highlighted the agency's efforts to abate feral hog populations in the Plum Creek watershed.

Feral hogs have been identified as significant contributors of pollutants to waterbodies. As feral hogs congregate around water sources to drink and wallow, this concentration of high numbers in small riparian areas poses a threat to water quality. Fecal matter deposited directly in streams by feral hogs contributes bacteria and nutrients, polluting the State's waterbodies. In addition, extensive rooting activities of groups of feral hogs can cause extreme erosion and soil loss. The destructive habits of feral hogs cause an estimated \$52 million worth of agricultural crop and property damage each year in Texas alone. Stakeholders in watersheds across the state have recommended that efforts to control feral hogs be undertaken to reduce the population, limit the spread of these animals, and minimize their effects on water quality and the surrounding environment.

To support the implementation of the Plum Creek WPP, TSSWCB has provided CWA §319(h) grants to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to 1) provide technical assistance to landowners in managing feral hogs on their properties, 2) host feral hog management workshops across the watershed, 3) develop and publish resource materials, brochures, and publications on the

different control techniques landowners can utilize, and 4) develop and promote the use of an online reporting tool to track feral hog sightings and quantify damage caused by feral hogs in order to better target abatement activities. More information is available at

<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/FeralHogs/>.

An archived broadcast of the hearing is available at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/fx/av/committee81/00324a01.ram>.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

In the January 29, 2010 *Texas Register*, the TCEQ proposed for public comment revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs).

These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria. The IPs are an in-depth protocol that provides guidance and explanation of the general and technical procedures used by TCEQ in applying the Standards. This rulemaking provides for a periodic public review and revision of the State's Surface Water Quality Standards, as provided for in the Texas Water Code, §26.023, and as required by the federal CWA §303(c).

The public comment period closed March 17, 2010. TCEQ staff will respond to comments, make necessary changes to the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs, and bring each before the Commissioners for adoption and approval.

TCEQ adoption of the proposed Standards changes and approval of the IPs is not expected until July 2010. If adopted, the final rule will then be published in the *Texas Register* and become effective in August 2010. EPA must then take action to approve any changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs.

TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the Standards and the IPs to how the agency implements its water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*. More information on the Standards, including copies of the proposed rule and guidance, is available at

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html.

Texas Integrated Report for CWA §§305(b) and 303(d)

The *Texas Integrated Report* (IR) summarizes the status of the State's surface waters, including concerns for public health, fitness for use by aquatic species and other wildlife, and specific pollutants and their possible sources, as required by CWA §305(b). The IR also identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards (i.e., impaired), as required by CWA §303(d).

On February 5, 2010, TCEQ staff released the draft *2010 Texas Integrated Report*, which constitutes the State's CWA §305(b) Assessment and §303(d) List of Impaired Waters, for public comment. The IR was published in 2008 as the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*.

The comment period ended March 8, 2010.

TCEQ will develop a response to public comment received and revise the IR as appropriate. TCEQ intends to submit the final 2010 IR to EPA in June 2010.

TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the draft 2010 IR. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the IR and Assessment Guidance to how the agency implements its water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

More information on the *Texas Integrated Report*, including the 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) List, is available at

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

In light of the pending revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards, TCEQ has developed procedures for conducting Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAs); previously there were no RUA protocols in Texas. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody and the associated bacteria criterion, an RUA would need to be completed and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA. The May 2009 TCEQ *Procedures for a Comprehensive RUA and a Basic RUA Survey* is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg_handouts.html#proc.

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

TCEQ, and their contractors, are in the process of conducting RUAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state. Prior to conducting the surveys, TCEQ contractors contacted local stakeholders seeking input on each project's monitoring plan. Specifically, contractors ask for input on potential sites near stream crossings to perform evaluations, and ask landowners to provide access to evaluate those stretches of the river that are not readily accessible to the public. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB. Some of these RUAs will be conducted in spring and summer 2010. After the RUAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders

regarding potential site-specific revisions to the surface water quality standards for each waterbody.

Because proposed changes to the surface water quality standards affecting recreation use and bacteria criteria must first be approved by TCEQ, and this is not expected until July 2010, and subsequently EPA, any changes to specific waterbodies as a result of these RUAs will not likely be reflected until the *2014 303(d) List* is published.

Summaries of other RUA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/94-neneasttexrua.html>. These RUAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins 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. Basin steering committee meetings are being scheduled and will be held throughout the state between March-May 2010. SWCDs should

look for notices of these meetings as they are scheduled and make plans to attend.

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 Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On March 31, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Henley, Pamela Casebolt, David Reeves] attended the Brazos River Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Waco. TCEQ presented information on contact recreation uses and recreational use attainability analyses and provided a list of waterbodies with proposed RUAAs. Brief updates were given on the proposed saltwater barrier in the Lower Brazos basin, the Texas Instream Flow Program, and on WPPs that are currently being developed across the Brazos River basin. More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/>.

On March 25, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority CRP Basin Steering Committee meeting in Seguin. GBRA gave an overview of CRP activities in the basin for the past year, and included information from the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) and the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association on monitoring activities and water quality concerns. Information was provided on the status of water quality projects across the basin. UGRA reported on progress in implementing the Upper Guadalupe River bacteria TMDL, including monitoring data collected and projects that they applied for implementation funding. The River Systems Institute at Texas State University-San Marcos updated the group on the progress of developing the Cypress Creek WPP. Texas AgriLife

Extension Service provided updates on the Plum Creek WPP implementation and progress in the development of the Geronimo Creek WPP. USGS provided information on a gain/loss study being conducted on Coletto Creek. TCEQ provided information on the 2010 Water Quality Assessments in the Guadalupe Basin, and status of the TMDLs in the basin (Upper Guadalupe River, Elm and Sandies Creeks, and Peach Creek). TCEQ also spoke about the proposed revisions to the water quality standards. More information is available at <http://www.gbra.org/>.

On March 23, 2010, the Red River Authority hosted a CRP Canadian River Basin Steering Committee meeting in Amarillo. More information is available at <http://www.rra.dst.tx.us/>.

On March 30, 2010, the Red River Authority hosted a CRP Red River Basin Steering Committee meeting in Wichita Falls. The status of developing the Buck Creek WPP was discussed along with bacterial source tracking results from the Buck Creek watershed. More information is available at <http://www.rra.dst.tx.us/>.

On April 6, 2010 Trinity River Authority hosted a CRP Trinity River Basin Steering Committee Meeting in Dallas. More information is available at <http://www.trinityra.org>

On April 7, 2010 North East Texas Municipal Water District hosted a CRP Cypress Creek Basin Steering Committee Meeting in Jefferson. More information is available <http://www.netmwd.com>

On April 12, 2010 Sabine River Authority hosted a CRP Sabine River Basin Steering Committee Meeting in Orange. More information is available <http://www.sra.dst.tx.us/>

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 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.

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 Galveston Bay in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- May 3, 2010 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Junction)
- May 4, 2010 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Cotulla)
- May 5, 2010 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Vance)
- May 6, 2010 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- May 6, 2010 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Brackettville)
- May 7, 2010 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Tarpley)
- May 10-14, 2010 – Watershed Planning Short Course (Bandera)
- May 10, 2010 – Geronimo and Alligator Creeks WPP Wastewater Infrastructure Work Group (Seguin)
- May 11, 2010 – Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership (Seguin)
- May 12, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward workshop focused on Cedar Creek Reservoir (Seven Points)
- May 14, 2010 – *Composting Animal Mortalities* (NLPELC webcast)
- May 18, 2010 – Bacteria Implementation Group (Houston)
- May 19, 2010 – TGPC Legislative Report Subcommittee (Austin)

- May 20, 2010 – Luling Foundation 83rd Annual Field Day (Luling)
- May 20, 2010 – San Bernard River WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Wharton)
- May 20, 2010 – Horse Owner Workshop (Sinton)
- May 21, 2010 – Lower Neches Valley Authority CRP (Beaumont)
- May 26, 2010 – *Coastal Resilience Symposium* (Rice University, Houston)
- June 3, 2010 – Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- June 17, 2010 - Webinar “Feral Hogs – The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
- July 14, 2010 – TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee (Austin)
- July 14, 2010 – TGPC Meeting (Austin)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds>; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

Adams and Cow Bayous

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs have limited affect on livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Aquilla Reservoir

Impairment: Atrazine
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#aquillareservoir>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect farming operations in the Aquilla Reservoir watershed in Hill and Johnson Counties.

Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

On April 22, 2010 the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership held a meeting in Weslaco. Among other topics the group received information on a RUAA being conducted by TCEQ on the Arroyo Colorado.

More information is available at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>. This WPP affects farming operations in the Arroyo Colorado watershed in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Atascosa River

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/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.

Attoyac Bayou

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

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

Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.bastropbayou.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Bastrop Bayou watershed in Brazoria County.

Big Cypress Creek

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#bigcypresscreek>. This project will affect poultry and livestock operations in the Big Cypress Creek watershed (including tributaries Hart and Tankersley Creeks) in Titus, Camp, Upshur and Morris Counties.

Brady Creek

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html>. This project has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Brady Creek watershed in McCulloch, Concho, San Saba and Menard Counties.

Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP will affect livestock and farming operations in the Buck

Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous. 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. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html>. This TMDL will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous watershed in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties.

Caddo Lake

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen, pH
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.netmwd.com/Caddo%20Lake%20Protection%20Plan/Caddo_index.html. This WPP has the potential to affect poultry, forestry and other agricultural operations in the Caddo Lake watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Wood, Gregg, Franklin, and Hopkins Counties.

Carters and Burton Creeks

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL
Lead: TCEQ

On April 19, 2010 SRM Staff [Aaron Wendt and Loren Henley] Field Representative [Joel Clark]

TCEQ TMDL Staff [Russell Kotera and Roger Miranda], and Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) [Lucas Gregory] attended a Brazos County SWCD meeting in Bryan. SRM staff discussed the Little Brazos River Tributaries Bacteria Assessment project, and the many ongoing activities in the watershed. TCEQ TMDL staff and TWRI discussed the Carters and Burton Creeks TMDL. The Carter's and Burton Creeks TMDL are in its initial steps of laying out an implementation plan, with input from stakeholders.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/85-carterscreek.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Carters Creek watershed in Brazos County.

Cedar Creek Reservoir

Impairment: pH
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect agricultural operations in the Cedar Creek watershed in Henderson, Kaufman, Rockwall and Van Zandt Counties.

Clear Creek

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Clear Creek. 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. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/85-clearcreek.html>.

mdl/68-clearcreekbacteria.html. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Clear Creek watershed in Galveston, Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties.

Concho River

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

More information is available at http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html. This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, and Upton Counties.

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/42-copano.html>. 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.

Cypress Creek

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

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.

Dickinson Bayou

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/17-dickinson.html>.

More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Eagle Mountain Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: Third party

More information on the WPP is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Eagle Mountain Reservoir watershed in Clay, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

Elm and Sandies Creeks

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/31-elmsandies.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Elm and Sandies Creeks watershed in Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson and Guadalupe Counties.

Galveston Bay

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/74-uppercoastoyster.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations around the Galveston Bay complex in Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Geronimo Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On April 12, 2010 TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch and Loren Henley] attended a Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Wastewater Workgroup Meeting at the Navarro High School Library in Seguin. Presentations were given on the watershed data, land use types, NPS pollutant sources in the watershed, and estimating populations in the watershed. The Spatially Explicit Load Estimation Calculation Tool (SELECT) was explained to the group, and how the numbers that the group decides on effects the outputs for which the tool provides. Discussion at the Wastewater Work Group focused on the number of on-site sewage facilities and a wastewater treatment.

On April 13, 2010 TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Henley, Brian Koch] attended the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Agricultural Work Group meeting held at the Geronimo Volunteer Fire Department in Seguin. Also, on April 13, 2010 TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Henley, Brian Koch] attended the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Urban Work Group meeting held at Continental Industries in Seguin. Presentations were given to both work groups about the initial findings of SELECT and what the group thought about the numbers, were they a realistic depiction of their watershed.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek>. This WPP has the potential to affect ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

Gilleland Creek

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL

has limited affect on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp> or <http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

Lake Granger

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

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#lakegranger>. This WPP will affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Granger watershed in Williamson and Burnet Counties.

Hickory Creek

Concern: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.cityofdenton.com/pages/mygovenvironmentalwater319grant.cfm>. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Hickory Creek watershed in Denton County.

Lake Houston

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating

communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On April 20, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a monthly meeting of the BIG in Houston. HGAC staff updated the group on the draft implementation plan, including the portions of the plan that have been re-sent to the group after the first set of comments. Those sections are the Sanitary Sewer Systems, Construction, and Residential sections. Also, the draft copies of the maps, upcoming schedule, a discussion of the load reduction values, and what incentives are available to complete and implement the plan. The load reduction discussion focused on expected reductions from each section according to plan recommendations. The expected reductions included: WWTFs 10-20%, SSOs 75%, OSSFs 75%, Stormwater/Land Development 10%, Construction 50%, Illicit Discharges and Dumping 5%, Agriculture and Animals 10%, and Residential 2%. TCEQ staff updated the group on new listings in the Lake Houston watershed and how TMDLs will be developed on these stream segments to be included in the I-Plan.

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

Lake O' the Pines

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/19-lakeopines.html>.

[mdl/19-lakeopines.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/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.

Lampasas River

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

On April 12, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Habitat and Wildlife Workgroup meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on stakeholder concerns, land use/ land cover, and potential sources and contribution of pollutants. Stakeholders identified bank failure, proper education for recreationist waste disposal, and water rights in addition to wildlife and habitat as issues the WPP should address. The land use/land cover was presented with two scenarios – rangeland and pasture combined and rangeland and pasture separated. Stakeholders agreed to move forward with rangeland and pasture combined as it was more representative of the watershed. Additionally, the workgroup estimated the number of feral hogs in the watershed and selected the percentage in each land use. To estimate deer numbers, the workgroup will need more information from the wildlife management areas in the lower portion of the watershed to properly estimate the whitetail deer population for the whole watershed.

On April 19, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Wastewater Infrastructure Workgroup meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on stakeholder concerns, land use/ land cover, and potential sources and contribution of pollutants. Stakeholders identified improper maintenance of on-site sewage facilities, animal waste management, the need for water quality monitoring, identification of old clay lines, and city drainage programs as issues the WPP should address and incorporate. The Cities of Harker Heights and Killeen provided data and information on their respective city programs and ordinances. The Wastewater Workgroup requested to be combined with the Urban/Suburban

Issues Workgroup as there was some informational overlap between the two groups.

On April 19, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on stakeholder concerns, land use/ land cover, and potential sources and contribution of pollutants. Stakeholders identified trash in and around the river, cattle access, saltcedar and feral hogs as issues the WPP should address. The land use/land cover was presented with two scenarios – rangeland and pasture combined and rangeland and pasture separated. Stakeholders agreed to move forward with rangeland and pasture combined as it was more representative of the watershed. Additionally, the workgroup agreed on stocking rates for cattle and livestock but requested more information before they could select the appropriate percentage of landuse to apply the rates. The Agricultural Issues Workgroup requested to be combined with the Habitat and Wildlife Workgroup as there was some informational overlap between the two groups.

On April 20, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Outreach and Education Workgroup meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on workgroup tasks that included a partnership logo, existing watershed events, and future activities. Workgroup members discussed existing educational materials, identified target audiences, and opportunities to engage them.

On April 21, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Urban/Suburban Issues Workgroup meeting in Killeen. Discussion focused on stakeholder concerns, land use/ land cover, and potential sources and contribution of pollutants. Workgroup members identified water rights, invasive species, landowner education on drainage ways, and septic systems as issues the WPP should address and incorporate. AgriLife Research was provided information and direction on domestic animal numbers, locations of on-site sewage facilities, as well as municipal data.

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

Leon River

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

On April 8, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt, Pamela Casebolt] attended a international conference in Austin. The conference highlighted efforts in the Leon River Watershed to develop a WPP. Several stakeholders were featured in video interviews on their perspectives on watershed issues. These local stakeholders and SRM staff provided the international audience Texas perspectives on restoring water quality.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>. Both the WPP and the TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

Little Brazos River Tributaries

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#littlebrazosriver>. This project will affect livestock and poultry operations in the Walnut, Pin Oak, Campbells, Mud and Spring Creek watersheds in Robertson County.

Lower San Antonio River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

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

North Bosque River

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/06-bosque.html>. This TMDL affects dairy operations in the North Bosque River watershed in Bosque, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Coryell and McLennan Counties.

Onion Creek

Impairment: None
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.waterqualityplan.org/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Onion Creek watershed in Hays and Travis Counties.

Oso Bay and Oso Creek

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/67-osobaybacteria.html>. This TMDL may affect livestock and farming operations in the Oso Bay/Creek watershed in Nueces County.

Peach Creek

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

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/34-peachcreek_group.html. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Peach Creek watershed in Gonzales, Bastrop, Fayette and Caldwell Counties.

Pecos River

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

Plum Creek

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

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.

Red River above Lake Texoma

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/projects/rivers/Red-River-.html>. This project affects livestock operations in portions of the Red River Basin in numerous counties.

Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

This project has the potential to affect livestock operations in Starr, Jim Hogg and Hidalgo Counties.

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard> and <http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

Lake Somerville

Impairment: pH, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TCEQ

This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Somerville watershed in Bastrop, Burleson, Lee, Milam, Washington, and Williamson Counties.

South Llano River

Impairment: None
Mechanism: Assessment and Planning
Lead: Third party

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, Real and Sutton Counties.

E.V. Spence Reservoir

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/04-spence.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect agricultural operations in the E.V. Spence Reservoir

watershed in Borden, Coke, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties.

Upper Cibolo Creek

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

More information is available at <http://www.ci.boerne.tx.us/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock operations in the Upper Cibolo Creek watershed in Kendall County.

Upper Guadalupe River

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

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

Upper Oyster Creek

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

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

Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Background:

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources through selective control of brush species.

The 81st Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY10. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Since the beginning of the Water supply Enhancement program in 1999 there has been 766,529 acres of brush treated in various watersheds throughout the State.

Program Activities

TSSWCB provided the following SWCDs with Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certification, and /or Contracts:

Area 1 District

Donley County SWCD

Area 2 Districts

Middle Concho SWCD

Eldorado-Divide SWCD

Tom Green SWCD

Pedernales SWCD

Gillespie County SWCD

Kerr County SWCD

Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts

McMullen County SWCD

LaSalle County SWCD

Caldwell-Travis SWCD

Comal-Guadalupe SWCD

Webb County SWCD

Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts

Archer County SWCD

Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD

Pecan Bayou SWCD

Bosque SWCD

Little Wichita SWCD

Current Water Supply Enhancement Projects throughout the State and Project Managers:

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- GreenBelt Reservoir- Bob Gruner

- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher reservoir Project- Tuffy Wood
- Lake Ivie (Main Concho)- Johnny Oswald
- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)-
Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Adrian Perez
- Frio River Watershed – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Kendria Ray
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer- Kendria Ray
- Palo Pinto- Cody York
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay
Counties)- Cody York
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York

Evaluating Watersheds are based on the following criteria as per Chapter 203.053:

In ranking areas under the plan, the board shall consider:

- (1) the location of various brush infestations;
- (2) the type and severity of brush infestations;
- (3) the various management methods that may be used to control brush;
- (4) the amount of water produced by a project and the severity of water shortage in the project area; and any other criteria that the board considers relevant to assure that the brush control program can be most effectively, efficiently, and economically implemented

Evaluating Limits on Cost Share Participation as per Chapter 203.154

- (a) Not more than 70 percent of the total cost of a single brush control project may be made available as the state's share in cost sharing.
- (b) A person is not eligible to participate in the state brush control program or to receive money from the state brush control program if the person is simultaneously receiving any cost-share money for brush control on the

same acreage from a federal government program.

- (c) The board may grant an exception to Subsection (b) if the board finds that joint participation of the state brush control program and any federal brush control program will:
- (1) enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of a project;
 - (2) lessen the state's financial commitment to the project; and
 - (3) not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project.
- (d) A political subdivision is eligible for cost sharing under the brush control program, provided that the state's share may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of a single project.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, 100 percent of the total cost of a single project on public lands may be made available as the state's share in cost sharing.

Staff Activities

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assisted Gonzales County SWCD with Water Enhancement Project on the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer
- Assist Texas Sunset Advisory Commission on Water Enhancement Program
- Assisted UCRA with the Twin Buttes lake basin project
- Exit conference with Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
- Prepare formal responses to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

For more information on the Water Supply Enhancement Program contact the Water Supply Enhancement office at (325) 481-0335.

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Background

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

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

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over amount of needed O&M and repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15 million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

Structural Repair Grant Program

Rules for the Structural Repair Grant Program were effective April 25, 2010. Around May 3 the TSSWCB will make the Application for Flood Control Structural Repair Grant Funds available; applications are anticipated being due by the end of May. All SWCDs will be directly notified of the "request for applications."

O&M Grant Program

Since the O&M Grant Program went into effect on October 14, 2009, the TSSWCB has processed reimbursement requests, in-kind match reports, and administrative transfers of SWCD allocations in the following amounts as of April 29, 2010:

- \$ 2,472,008.85 Total Allocated O&M Grant Funding (84 allocations)
- \$ 721,438.95 Total State Funded O&M Reimbursements (126 requests)
- \$ 36,062.15 Total Admin Fees Paid
- \$ 211,400.70 Total In-Kind Match Reported (47 match reports submitted)
- \$ 56,668.52 Total Allocation Transfers (11 transfers)
- \$ 1,714,507.75 Remaining Un-Liquidated Allocated Amount

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

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/floodcontrol>

Monthly Program News and Activities is produced by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for use by Texas soil and water conservation district directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please contact Meredith Whitley (254) 773-2250 or mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



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