



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

APRIL 2013

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

**REX ISOM**  
Executive Director

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### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday May 15, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, May 16, 2013 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](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

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### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- May 15th is the submission deadline for claiming two - thirds of Fiscal Year 2013 Matching Fund allocations. Claims must be submitted with original signature and post-marked by the submission deadline to be accepted for payment.

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

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APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, was voted favorably out of the Senate Committee on Finance on March 13, and voted favorably by the Senate and received by the House on March 20. The House Committee on Appropriations voted a substitute out of committee on March 21 and the House voted to place the substitute on the House Calendar for April 4. A comparison of bills with the current budget follows:

Program Area	Current 2012-2013 (Biennial) Budget	Passed by Senate and Sent to the House	House Substitute of Bill Received from Senate (Pending House Vote)
SWCD Technical Assistance & Matching Fund Grants	\$7,845,325	\$8,104,524 [+\$259,199 in either TA or Matching Funds]	\$11,245,324 [+1,000,000 in Matching Funds and +\$2,400,000 in TA]
Flood Control Grants	\$4,000,000	\$14,800,000 [+\$10,800,000]	\$14,800,000 [+\$10,800,000]
SB 503 WQMP Program and 319 Program Grants	\$22,730,634	\$22,730,634	\$22,730,634
Water Supply Enhancement Program	\$4,270,826	\$4,270,826	\$4,270,826
Indirect Administration	\$1,238,908	\$1,239,470	\$1,239,470
TOTAL	\$40,085,693	\$51,145,454 [+\$11,059,761]	\$54,286,254 [+\$14,200,561]

All Budget Figures are Biennial; information is current as of March 27.

If the bills are not identical when passed by the House, a conference committee will be appointed to reconcile differences and the result will be considered by both chambers.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 1 position available at this time.

- Natural Resource Specialist III – Dublin

For additional information or to download an application, visit

<https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/employment>.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

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

- **Reservations at the Omni Hotel will open May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### State Board Member Elections

State Board Member Elections will be conducted in State Districts I; III and V on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

- State District I will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the College Heights Baptist Church in Plainview.
- State District III will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Spring Creek Place Event Center in Victoria.
- State District V will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Room 219 of the Tarleton Student Center, Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The summer session for a Program Development Workshop is scheduled for June 25-26. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Temple, Texas. Information about the workshop will be sent to newly elected and appointed directors on May 2. A letter of general invitation with registration forms will be sent to all districts and district employees on May 9.

Cash awards were presented to the top three teams in FFA and 4-H divisions at the State Wildlife Contest held April 15, at the Texas Tech campus, Junction, TX.

Receiving a \$500 cash award for top team honors in the FFA division was the Florence FFA Chapter. In the 4-H division the Harris County 4-H club received a \$500 cash award.

Receiving \$300 cash awards for earning second place high scoring teams was the Avery FFA Chapter and the Hill County 4-H club.

Third place cash awards in the amount of \$200 were awarded to the Stephenville FFA Chapter and the Rusk County 4-H club.

Wildlife Alliance for Youth is a consortium of state, federal, and private organizations working

together to provide support and technical assistance to agricultural teachers and 4-H leaders who train youth in various aspects of wildlife conservation and habitat management. Intensive instruction is also given to youth on Texas hunting, angling, and boating safety to include laws which govern hunting and fishing in the state.

### Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to [conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov). Conservation News is also available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/news>.

### Conservation Video Library

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

### Ordering a Video

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

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993.

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

During the first seven months of FY2013, 146,200 acres have been certified through the WQMP Program. There have also been 149 applications approved for financial incentives to assist producers with the implementation of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement practices. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

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

## Nonpoint Source Grant Program

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

There are currently 44 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 44 on-going projects total approximately \$12 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).

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

There are currently 11 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 11 on-going projects total approximately \$3 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (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. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate remaining FY2013 allocated funds.

## Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management

of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Land Commissioner are responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC), established by the Texas Legislature, advises the Land Commissioner on matters related to implementation of the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCAC.

The GLO is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The GLO reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the GLO oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each State with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program.

More information on the CMP is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

### **Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee**

The CCAC was created during sunset legislation (SB656) in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislature. SB656, which was enacted in 2011, abolished the Coastal Coordination Council and transferred its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation established the CCAC to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the

CMP. The CCAC includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board.

The general structure of the coastal program consists of workgroups from the agencies and governor appointees which focus on specific projects. The main function of the CCAC is to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions and to provide support to the workgroups.

More information is available for a limited time at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/index.html>.

### **CMP Grant Program**

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

Grant Cycle 19 is now open. The pre-proposal deadline is June 19, 2013 and the **final application deadline is September 25, 2013**, with a proposed project start date of October 2014. Submission of the pre-proposal is only required if you would like written comments on your pre-proposal.

Three grant workshops will be held along the coast in May: Port Isabel—May 8, Corpus Christi—May 15, and Galveston—May 22.

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>

### **Annual Report**

The 2012 annual report of the coastal program can be viewed here:

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/publications/2012-cmp-annual-report.pdf>

### **Texas Groundwater Protection Committee**

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC. The TGPC and the Research and Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittees met in Austin on April 17. Dr. Susan Stuver, Texas Water Resources Institute gave a presentation, "Environmental Issues Associated with Natural Gas Operations—Hype or Health Hazard." The committee also approved the annual pesticide monitoring plan for 2013.

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

### Water Quality Coordination Activities

#### **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 21, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Brian Koch] attended a CRP Coordinated Monitoring meeting hosted by Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in Seguin. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities for FY2014 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Guadalupe River Basin and the Lavaca-Guadalupe Coastal Basin. More information is available at <http://www.gbra.org/>.

On March 28, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Wesley Gibson] attended a CRP Coordinated Monitoring meeting hosted by the Red River Authority in Wichita Falls. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2014 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Red River Basin. More information is available at <http://www.rra.dst.tx.us>.

On March 28, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a CRP Steering Committee meeting hosted by the Brazos River Authority in Waco. This meeting was held to update CRP stakeholders on the many ongoing activities in the Brazos River basin including: the Brazos River System Operation Permit and Water Management Plan, RUAAs, endangered species, drought effects, proposed monitoring for FY14, Senate Bill 3 and development of statewide nutrient standards. More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/>.

On April 9, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a CRP Coordinated Monitoring meeting hosted by the Nueces River Authority in Corpus Christi. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2014 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Nueces River Basin. More information is available at <http://www.nueces-ra.org/>.

#### **Coastal Bend, Bays and Estuaries Program**

The 75 miles of estuarine environment along the Texas Coastal Bend, including Aransas Bay,

Corpus Christi Bay, Baffin Bay and the Upper Laguna Madre, are of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, are included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Bays Council is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the implementation of the *Coastal Bend Bays 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 Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team.

On March 20, 2013, SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the CBBEP Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team meeting in Corpus Christi. This meeting was held to finalize project proposals for estuary program funding. The projects must meet implementation goals of the CBBEP Bays Plan for water and sediment quality. Ranking of the projects will be done by team members and will be submitted for Bays Council approval.

More information is available at <http://www.cbbep.org/>. The implementation of the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan* affects agricultural operations in watersheds that drain to these estuaries in Refugio, Bee, McMullen, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Duval, Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, and Aransas Counties.

### **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 4, 2013, SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Budget and Priorities subcommittee meeting for the Galveston Bay Council in Houston. This meeting was held to approve the workplan and subsequent funding for the Galveston Bay Estuary Program for the upcoming year, review council membership, and provide updates on Galveston Bay related items. Matching funds

were chosen to be delegated to three ongoing TSSWCB projects, Cedar Bayou WPP, Double Bayou WPP and the Sheldon Lake Wetland Restoration, for FY14.

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.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

### **STATE DISTRICT I**

#### **Buck Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Water Quality Monitoring in the Buck Creek Watershed and Facilitation of Buck Creek Watershed Partnership", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$115,566/ External \$77,114

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Wellington on March 28, 2013. Over 22 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Buck Creek Watershed Partnership. The training focused on water quality issues in the Buck Creek Watershed, as well as helping private well owners to understand and care for their wells. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

More information is available at <http://buckcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

### Other State District I Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Five Creeks in the Canadian River and Red River Basins", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$683,683\*

On April 15, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Mitch Conine] participated in a public meeting in Wheeler to discuss conducting an RUAA on Sweetwater Creek. The meeting was held to inform local stakeholders on the purpose of the project including describing the RUAA process and ascertaining the use of the waterbody. Potentially gaining access to sites along the creek for field surveys was discussed with the landowners as well. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/RUAASWEETWATER>.

On April 16, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Mitch Conine] and Field staff [Bob Gruner] participated in a public meeting in Borger to discuss conducting an RUAA on Dixon Creek. The meeting was held to inform local stakeholders on the purpose of the project including describing the RUAA process and ascertaining the use of the waterbody. Potentially gaining access to sites along the creek for field surveys was discussed with the landowners as well. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/RUAADIXON>.

### STATE DISTRICT III

#### Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

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

On April 11, 2013, SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended meetings for the Copano Bay TMDL and I-plan in Refugio. The first meeting was the agriculture workgroup meeting where updates on

the plan were provided and comments on management measures for agriculture practices were taken. The second meeting, at-large stakeholder meeting, provided an update on the TMDL and I-plan which are expected to be completed in late 2013.

On April 17, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] and Field Staff [Adrian Perez] attended the Bee SWCD #344 meeting in Beeville. Findings from the Aransas Creek RUAA project were provided as well as an update on the upcoming meeting and RUAA public comment period.

More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/42-copano.html> and on the RUAA at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransaruaa>. 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.

### STATE DISTRICT IV

#### Cedar Bayou

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

On April 16, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch] attended the Growing Green: Financial and Technical Resources for Agricultural Producers and Landowners meeting as a part of the Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership outreach efforts in Crosby. The Cedar Bayou Watershed Coordinator opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the Cedar Bayou Watershed Protection Plan project. Three presentations then followed. First, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] presented on the Water Quality Management Plan Program. Secondly, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension presented on feral hogs, focusing on the multitude of resources that are available to landowners. Lastly, USDA-NRCS

staff presented on the various programs that NRCS has available to producers including technical and financial assistance.

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.

#### **Other State District IV Projects**

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

On March 27, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin Workshop, the third in a series of workshops for the Middle Trinity River Basin, in Huntsville. The goal of the series of workshops is to bring landowners and other stakeholders together to discuss solutions to challenges faced in the Middle Trinity region of the Basin. These workshops are designed to raise awareness of water quality issues, discuss land management techniques that could improve the water resources of the Trinity River Basin and make decisions to protect natural resources for future generations. Presentations at the workshop included the following topics: Managing Cattle During Drought, Techniques Cattle Producers can Employ to Improve Water Quality, and Feral Hog Control Techniques and Regulations. Presenters on these various topics included Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M University - Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.

More information is available at <http://trinitywaters.org/>.

Project: "Coastal Prairie Wetland Restoration at Sheldon Lake State Park", Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Sea Grant Program; Federal \$390,538/ External \$267,457

On April 11, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a Wetland Field Day at Sheldon Lake State Park in Houston. The field

day, which was presented as *A Case Study in Freshwater Coastal Prairie Wetland Restoration*, provided attendees the opportunity to learn about the unique methods used at this site for wetland restoration. Presentations were given by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Sea Grant, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Ducks Unlimited on Prairie Wetland Restoration and specifically, the restoration methodology used at Sheldon Lake State Park. A new focus on monitoring methodology was also presented. A field tour followed in the afternoon, which included a walk-through of the wetland restoration areas and concluded with a view from the new observation tower.

More information is available at <http://tcwp.tamu.edu/wetland-restoration/sheldon-lake-prairie-wetland-restoration-project/> and <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/wetland>.

#### **STATE DISTRICT V**

##### **Lampasas River**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas AgriLife Research; Federal \$205,305/External \$162,913

On March 28, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Pamela Casebolt] attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Lampasas. Over 30 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership. The training, which focused on the Lampasas River watershed, discussed what it means to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

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

### Other State District V Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Five Creeks in the Canadian River and Red River Basins", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$683,683\*

On April 17, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Mitch Conine] and Chairman of the Board and Area 5 State Board Member [Barry Mahler] participated in a public meeting in Iowa Park to discuss conducting an RUAA on Buffalo Creek. The meeting was held to inform local stakeholders on the purpose of the project including describing the RUAA process and ascertaining the use of the waterbody. Potentially gaining access to sites along the creek for field surveys was discussed with the landowners as well. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/node/1781>.

### STATEWIDE PROJECTS (NOT WATERSHED-SPECIFIC)

Project: "Preventing Water Quality Contamination Through the Texas Well Owner Network", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$474,627/ External \$312,296

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Lubbock on April 9, 2013. Over 20 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training focused on water quality issues in the Southern High Plains region, as well as helping private well owners to understand and care for their wells. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Haskell on April 10, 2013. Over 30 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training focused on water quality issues in the Seymour Aquifer, as well as helping private well owners to understand and care for their wells. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

### Upcoming Public Meetings

- May 2, 2013 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting (Lockhart)
- May 7, 2013 – Carters and Burton Creek I-Plan Meeting (College Station)
- May 7 - 8, 2013 – Watershed Modeling Using LDC and SELECT Training (College Station)
- May 9, 2013 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Plum Creek (Lockhart)
- May 14, 2013 – BIG Annual Meeting (Houston)
- May 16, 2013 – Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan Meeting (Nacogdoches)
- May 21, 2013 – Double Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Anahuac)
- May 21, Copano Bay Ag Workgroup Meeting (Refugio)
- May 22, 2013 – Texas Watershed Stewards Training, Pedernales River (Fredericksburg)
- May 28 - 30, 2013 – Southwestern Stream Restoration Conference (San Antonio)
- May 31, 2013 – Feral Hog Workshop (Floresville)
- June 1, 2013 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Upper Llano (Junction)

### WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2013. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

## Staff Activities

- WSEP staff consulted with Dr. Ken Rainwater and his staff to evaluate the Water Supply Enhancement Program project proposals that were re-submitted for analysis.
- The primary and secondary sub-basins are being evaluated to determine the highest yielding areas in those sub-basins.
- The Board approved and adopted “The Policy on Allocation of FY 2013 Grant Funds for the Water Supply Enhancement Program”
- The Board also approved the following 2013 WSEP Project Allocations:

Lake Brownwood-\$210,000.00  
Arrowhead/Archer County-\$168,000.00  
Arrowhead/Clay County-\$150,000.00  
Lake Travis/Pedernales River-\$250,000.00  
Lake Canyon-\$250,000.00

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

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

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required

to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCIDs).

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

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

### O&M Grant Program Update

In FY2011, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. Currently, there is a balance of \$64,190 to be utilized by June 28, 2013.

### Structural Repair Grant Program Update

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

flood control dams the remaining dam is under construction.

In FY12, \$1,364,836 in program funds was obligated to conduct structural repairs on two flood control dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on one of the two flood control dams and the remaining dam is under construction.

On October 26, 2012, districts and sponsors were notified that the TSSWCB is seeking applications for structural repair projects on flood control dams in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Subchapter B. The TSSWCB received ten applications on 21 dams for structural repair projects. Applications that were submitted for FY2010 and FY2011 repair projects that did not receive funding will also be considered for FY2013. TSSWCB staff is finalizing decisions on applications submitted for FY2013 grant funding and will be contacting potential grantees in the near future.

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

**Dam Safety Workshops**  
TCEQ has announced its Dam Safety Workshop schedule for 2013. These workshops are for all owners and operators of dams. The workshops will be held on June 27 at the Holiday Inn Express in Tyler, July 18 at the New Braunfels Civic Convention Center in New Braunfels, and August 1 at the 4-H Conference Center in Brownwood.

For more information and to register, go to  
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/dam-safety.html>

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4311 SOUTH 31<sup>ST</sup> STREET, SUITE 125  
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502  
(254) 773-2250  
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>

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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