



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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April 2009

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 Deadlines for May

- FY 2009 administration payments will be paid for obligated Water Quality Management Plans on May 1st:
- The deadline for claiming 2/3 of district Matching Fund allocations for FY 2009 is May 15th:

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Board Work Session for 1:00 p.m., in Temple, Texas at TSSWCB headquarters on **Wednesday, May 20, 2009**. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas at the Texas AgriLife Research at Blackland Research and Extension Center on **Thursday, May 21, 2009**. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>.

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 12, 2009, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2009. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes>

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 Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- **May 1st** is the deadline for FY 2009 administration payments will be paid for obligated Water Quality Management Plans.
- **May 15th** is the deadline for claiming 2/3 of a district's Matching Fund allocation for 2009.
- **July 1st** is the deadline for claiming 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter district director mileage and per diem.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Engineering Technician IV-Hale Center

Natural Resources Specialist IV-Center

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.

69th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The state meeting this year is scheduled for October 19-21, 2009 in Arlington. Please save the date and plan to attend.

State Board Member Elections

State Board Member elections will occur in State Districts I; III; and V this year on May 5, 2009.

State District I will have their election at 6:00p.m. in Room 205 of the Pete & Nelda Laney Activities Center, corner of Vernon & 8th Street at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas.

State District III will have their election at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Victoria Community Annex, 2905 North Street in Victoria, Texas.

State District V will have their election at 6:00 p.m. in Room 219 of the Student Development Center at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

NACD Stewardship Week

April 26 – May 3

Wildlife Alliance for Youth

Regional wildlife contests have recently been held to qualify FFA and 4-H teams to participate in the State contest which will be held May 12, at the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton. Results of the contests held in Regions I, II, III and V are as follows.

Region I: The contest was held April 7 on the Matador Wildlife Management Area located near Paducah.

High Point Individual FFA Chapter
High Point FFA Team

1 st : Paxton Hettler	Idalou	Idalou
2 nd : Zachary Odom	Wellington	Wellington
3 rd : Keid Williams	Idalou	Idalou

10 FFA teams comprised of 31 individuals competed in the event.

Region II: The contest was held April 14 at the Angelo State University MIR Center located at San Angelo.

High Point Individual FFA Chapter
High Point FFA Team

1 st : Nathan Bird	Ingram	Ingram
2 nd : Derek Rennspies	Marion	Johnson City
3 rd : D.C. Bundy	Johnson City	Anson

High Point Individual 4-H Chapter
High Point 4-H Team

1 st : Cody Weir	McCulloch County	McCulloch County
2 nd : Errett Edmiston	McCulloch County	Stonewall County
3 rd : Kaitlyn High	Sweetwater	Nolan County

100 youth representing 37 FFA teams and 10 youth representing three 4-H teams competed in the event.

Region III: The contest was held April 14 at Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus.

High Point Individual FFA Chapter
High Point FFA Team

1 st : Patrick Davis	Klein Oak	Flatonia
2 nd : Chase Anders	Weimar	Tomball
3 rd : Toby Tyler	Angleton	Weimar

High Point Individual 4-H Chapter
High Point 4-H Team

1 st : Cody Garrett	Harris County	Harris County
2 nd : Kelsey Morris	Harris County	Brazoria County
3 rd : Patrick Thompson	Brazoria County	

67 youth representing 19 FFA teams and seven youth representing two 4-H teams participated in the event.

Region V: The contest was held April 14 at the Arthur Litteken Ranch located near Windthorst.

High Point Individual FFA Chapter
High Point FFA Team

1 st : Brandon Bordovsky	Axtell	Stephenville
2 nd : Case Shawver	Stephenville	Axtell
3 rd : Laura Procter	Lingleville	Grandview

High Point Individual 4-H Chapter
High Point 4-H Team

1 st : Kris Brooks	McLennan County	McLennan County
2 nd : Whit Gray	Montague County	Montague County
3 rd : Evan Fedro	McLennan County	Shackelford County

100 youth representing 35 FFA teams and 21 youth representing 6 4-H teams participated in the 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 on the 7,800-acre Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation and Refuge located near Sinton, Texas. The State Contest will be held May 12.

SWCD Director & Employee Program Development Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for June 23-24 and will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. A special letter of invitation from the executive director and chairman of the board was sent to all directors elected in the last regular election as well as to all newly appointed directors who have assumed their duties of office since October 1, 2008 encouraging their attendance. Registration information will be sent to all SWCDs the first week in May.

Soil and Water Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contests

The following FFA areas will be holding their soil and water soil stewardship public speaking events on the following dates:

Date	Area
May 4,	9
May 7	3
May 9	5 & 6
May 14	10
May 15	2 & 1
May 20	7

The first and second place contestants in these area contests will be eligible to compete at the state level which will be held in conjunction with the FFA annual convention in the summer. A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the first place contestant in each of the respective areas. The winner in the state contest receives a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarships are granted through the Association of

Texas SWCDs public information and education program.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2008 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at

http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2008_Video_Library_Catalogue.pdf . The 2008

Catalog includes 18 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 soil and water conservation district 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 McArthur 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



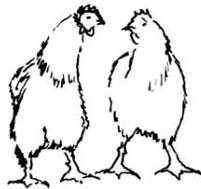
Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.

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

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

In 2001, the 77th 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. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit



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

Program Activities

TSSWCB has begun conducting 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* (Texas NPS 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 Program is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Texas NPS 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 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.

For more information on the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, visit our website 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 Program.

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staffs from both agencies are currently working on updating and revising the content of the program publication.

FY2008 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff have completed development of the annual report and are awaiting a final document from Publications. The report will highlight the State's efforts during FY2008 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 for current and future generations of Texans.

CLEAN WATER ACT §319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

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.

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 and TCEQ apply the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by supporting the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs). WPPs are locally-driven projects that serve as a mechanism 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. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

The development of WPPs is supported by §319(h) funding to varying extents; however, a WPP that meets EPA's criteria is required to be completed in order to utilize §319(h) funding to implement portions of WPPs.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and WPP development and implementation and are summarized in the *Water*

Quality Planning and Implementation section of this report.

FY2003 – FY2008 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Status

There are currently 55 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 55 on-going projects total approximately \$16 million 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 Implementation Plans. Details on some of these projects are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

FY2009 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program Request for Proposals Status

The FY2009 Request for Proposals was published in the *Texas Register* on October 3, 2008. The deadline for proposal submission was November 21, 2008. The TSSWCB received 22 proposals for FY2009 funds. TSSWCB SRM staff are currently working with applicants to revise proposal workplans and budgets that were selected for funding and have notified the applicants that were denied funding.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency End of Year Review of CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program

On April 7-8, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff and EPA staff met for their annual end of year review of TSSWCB's CWA §319(h) NPS grant program. Discussion focused on the current status of the program's grants and projects, FY2008 NPS Annual Report, grant reporting and tracking system, NPS Management Program 2010 revision, and FY2009 request for proposals. The meeting also highlighted

the program's accomplishments, goals, and plans for the coming year.

STATE FUNDED NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million dollars in general revenue funds, for the 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. TSSWCB is committed to funding projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation. On May 24, 2007, the Board approved a *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs* which provides guidance to staff on directing state appropriations for the State Funded NPS Grant Program. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this grant program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report

FY2008 Grant Status

On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to NPS Program grants. There are currently 4 on-going projects that support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. Three projects have been completed.

FY2009 Grant Status

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to NPS Program grants. TSSWCB SRM staff have obligated \$560,957 through six projects that support implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs

on agricultural lands, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. TSSWCB SRM staff are in the process of finalizing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining funds (\$639,537).

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.

TEXAS COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE 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 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 and subdivisions 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 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217, requires each State with an approved coastal zone management program (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 coastal NPS program's development and implementation.

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* (Coastal NPS Program) to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the Coastal NPS Program. The agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July, 2008, the Coastal Coordination Council's response to the conditional approval findings for the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (Coastal NPS Program) was submitted to NOAA and EPA. Texas is currently awaiting full approval of its program.

More information on the CMP and Coastal NPS Program is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal.html>.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

The next CCC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2009 at 12:00 n. in

Matagorda. Meeting information will be posted at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ccc.html>.

Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant Cycle 15

The CMP Grant Guidance and Application Package for Grant Cycle 15 is now available.

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle15.html>

The pre-proposal deadline is June 24, 2009, and the final application deadline is October 14, 2009, with a proposed project start date of October, 2010.

Five grant workshops will be on the coast to help potential applicants through the guidance document and application package. All potential applicants were strongly encouraged to attend the workshops. The workshops usually take two to three hours.

The schedule for the Grant Cycle #15 Workshops is as follows:

- April 30, 2009**, 10:30 a.m., Port Lavaca, City Hall, 202 N. Virginia.
- May 7, 2009**, 9:30 a.m., Galveston, County Courthouse, 722 Moody, Workshop Room.
- May 14, 2009**, 9:00 a.m., Port Arthur, City Hall, 444 Fourth Street, 5th Floor.
- May 20, 2009**, 9:30 a.m., Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University - Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Room 1003.
- May 28, 2009**, 9:30 a.m., Port Isabel, Port Isabel Housing Authority - Community Center, 100 Hockaday.

Caring for the Coast Conference

The Texas Coastal Conference 2009: Caring for the Coast is scheduled for June 4-5, 2009. The conference will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center.

More information on the conference is available at: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/tcc/hottopics.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 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC meeting in Austin.

On April 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee meeting in Austin.

On April 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Groundwater Research Subcommittee meeting in Austin.

Texas Agrilife Extension Service, in conjunction with the TGPC, has scheduled several Water Well Screening outreach events within the next few months:

- May 11-13, 2009 – For Real, Kimble, Kinney, and Edwards Counties. Please contact Joel Pigg at jpigg@tamu.edu or (830) 232-6673 for further information.
- May 20-21, 2009 – For Jack County, in the city of Jacksboro. Please contact Heath Lusty at rhlusty@tamu.edu or (940) 567-2132 for further information.

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 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>.

Specifically, on April 13, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff hosted a meeting in Temple with TCEQ NPS Team staff. Discussion revolved around the status of current grants and projects, proposed FY2009 projects, strengthening technical assistance for local watershed coordinators, review of completed WPPs, and generally, better integration and coordination of the NPS program between the two agencies.

Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Major revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are being drafted by TCEQ, including the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria.

TCEQ staff are working to incorporate comments received after the January 2009 Advisory Work Group meeting. The draft rule (Standards) will be proposed in the *Texas Register* for public comment. TCEQ adoption of any changes to the Standards is not expected until the end of 2009 or early 2010. EPA must also approve any changes.

On April 27, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended a meeting of the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group in Austin. Discussion was limited to review of the methodology to be used for calculating numeric nutrient criteria for major reservoirs.

More information on this Standards review process is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html.

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. 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, 2009, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission hosted a Coordinated Monitoring meeting in Midland. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2010 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Pecos River watershed. TSSWCB is considering funding a monitoring project in this area that supports the implementation of the Pecos River WPP. More information is available at <http://www.ibwc.state.gov/home.html>.

On March 31, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Red River Authority CRP Red River Basin Steering Committee meeting in Wichita Falls. More information is available at <http://www.rra.dst.tx.us/>.

On April 1, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Red River Authority Coordinated Monitoring meeting in Wichita Falls. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2010 among various entities collecting data in order to

avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Canadian River Basin and the Red River Basin. TSSWCB is funding a monitoring project in these areas that supports the development of the Buck Creek WPP. More information is available at <http://www.rra.dst.tx.us/>.

On April 7, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the San Antonio River Authority Coordinated Monitoring meeting in San Antonio. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2010 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the San Antonio River Basin. There are several areas in the basin that have ongoing water quality improvement projects and a good portion of the monitoring is designed to gather data to quantify the success of these projects. More information is available at <http://www.sara-tx.org/>.

On April 17, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Nueces River Authority Coordinated Monitoring meeting in Corpus Christi. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2010 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Nueces River Basin, the San Antonio-Nueces Coastal Basin, and the Nueces-Rio Grande Coastal Basin. TSSWCB is funding several monitoring projects that support the development and implementation of TMDLs and WPPs in these areas including Copano Bay, Oso Bay and Creek, and Arroyo Colorado. More information is available at <http://www.nueces-ra.org/>.

On April 20, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Sabine River Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Orange. This was the first of three scheduled meetings across the basin; meetings were also held on April 21, 2009 in Longview and on April 22, 2009 in Greenville. This meeting covered the condition of surface water quality in the Sabine River Basin. Specific discussion covered the Adams and Cow Bayous TMDLs; the I-Plan is currently being developed

with major implementation activities to include regionalization of wastewater and removal of failing septic systems. Also, updates on the drought contingency plan and environmental flows were given. More information is available at <http://www.sra.dst.tx.us/>.

On April 23, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Brazos River Authority Coordinated Monitoring meeting in Waco. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2010 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Brazos River Basin. TSSWCB is funding several monitoring projects that support the development and implementation of TMDLs and WPPs in these areas including North Bosque River, Leon River, Middle/South Bosque River, Little Brazos River tributaries, and Lake Granger. More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/>.

On April 28, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Aaron Wendt] attended the Angelina and Neches River Authority CRP Steering Committee in Nacogdoches. More information is available at <http://www.anra.org/>.

On April 29, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Lower Colorado River Authority CRP Lower Basin Steering Committee in Matagorda. The meeting started with an update from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) on toxic algal blooms. Currently, the bulk of the golden algae blooms are confined to north central and western Texas; however, TPWD has confirmed a fish kill near Kingsville caused by golden algae in south Texas. The remainder of the meeting took place on the *Karma*, a 57-foot teaching and research vessel, used by Texas Sea Grant as a floating classroom for marine education. While aboard the *Karma*, many topics were covered including microscopic plant and animal life, the importance of nutrients, the importance of estuaries as nurseries for marine life such as fish, crabs, and shrimp, all of which are important to the coastal

economy. More information is available at <http://www.lcra.org/>.

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.

On April 22, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly Galveston Bay Council meeting in Houston. At this meeting the Council approved the list of proposed projects for the FY2010 workplan. A presentation and discussion was held on the proposed projects, including WPP development, land acquisition for restoring and conserving habitat, and implementation of BMPs for stormwater. There was a presentation given on the "Ike Dike", which is a proposed extension of the existing Galveston Seawall down to San Luis Pass, and a Bolivar Peninsula Seawall extending to High Island. This wall would be supported by floodgates at Bolivar Roads Ship Channel, San Luis Pass, and the Intracoastal Waterway. The idea is to "armor" the Galveston Bay complex and the greater Houston area from storm surges associated with large hurricanes, like Hurricane Ike (2009), which have potential to hit the area and cause extensive damage to infrastructure and habitat. The calculated costs for this armoring (<\$8 billion) would be less than the total of damages from Hurricane Ike itself (\$32 billion). The floodgates would be similar to the existing gates in Holland that are used for protection from storms and flooding from the North Sea. The seawall extensions would be a granite reinforced dune raised to 17 feet, which is 2 feet higher than the storm surge recorded at Galveston during Ike.

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.

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

On April 20, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] participated in a meeting of the planning team for the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course. At this meeting, the planning team finalized modifications to the agenda for the next course, which is scheduled for August 2009.

Proper training of watershed coordinators and water resource professionals is needed to ensure that WPPs are adequately planned, coordinated and implemented and the results properly assessed and reported. To provide the needed training and promote sustainable proactive approaches to managing water quality throughout the state, this Short Course provides participants with guidance on stakeholder coordination, education, and outreach; meeting the EPA's nine key elements of a WPP; data collection and analysis; and the tools available for plan development. The Texas Water Resources Institute, with CWA §319(h) funding from the TCEQ, developed this course.

The next offering of this course is August 17-21, 2009 in Bandera. Individuals interested in or responsible for watershed protection and restoration including employees and volunteers with federal, state, county, and local agencies; SWCDs; universities; consulting firms; non-governmental organizations; and watershed groups will benefit from this course. Early registration is open through July 17, 2009.

More information is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>.

Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators

Founded in 1961, the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators

(ASIWPCA) is a national nonpartisan organization composed of State, Interstate and Territorial members who are responsible for the implementation of surface water protection programs throughout the nation. ASIWPCA's mission is to:

- Articulate shared perspectives of State and Interstate water quality agencies at the national level.
- Facilitate interaction of State and Interstate water quality agencies with federal agencies, Congress, and the Administration.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of technical and managerial information and innovations among State and Interstate water quality agencies.
- Assist the nation's governors in developing water-related policies by providing technical assistance and information.

More information on ASIWPCA is available at <http://www.asiwPCA.org/>.

On April 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] participated in an ASIWPCA TMDL Innovations Work Group conference call. The topic was EPA's recently released draft Handbook for Developing Watershed TMDLs. The draft document is available at http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/pdf/draft_handbook.pdf.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- May 5-7, 2009 – *Four State Forest Water Quality Conference* (Longview)
- May 7, 2009 – Lower Colorado River Authority Clean Rivers Program Middle Basin Steering Committee (Austin)
- May 7, 2009 – Plum Creek Watershed Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- May 7, 2009 – Lampasas River Watershed Stakeholder Meeting (Killeen)
- May 7, 2009 – Coastal Coordination Council Executive Committee (Austin)

- May 8, 2009 – *Workshop on Implementing Water Quality Strategies in Central Texas* (San Antonio)
- May 8, 2009 – AgriLife Extension Southwest Dairy Day (Dublin)
- May 9, 2009 – Texas Stream Team Certified Water Quality Monitoring Training (Kyle)
- May 12, 2009 – Lampasas River Watershed Stakeholder meeting (Lampasas)
- May 12, 2009 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop focused on Lake Granbury (Granbury)
- May 14, 2009 – Feral Hog Management Seminar (Adamsville)
- May 14-15, 2009 – *Stormwater Wetlands: More than Theory* (Houston)
- May 15, 2009 – *Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations* (NLPELC Webcast)
- May 19, 2009 – Bacteria Implementation Group Steering Committee (Houston)
- May 20-22, 2009 – *National Water Quality Conference* (San Antonio)
- May 21, 2009 – Concho River Watershed Stakeholder Meeting (San Angelo)
- May 21, 2009 – Lower Neches Valley Authority Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee (Beaumont)
- May 21, 2009 – Upper Colorado River Authority Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee (San Angelo)
- May 26, 2009 – Bastrop Bayou WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Angleton)
- May 27, 2009 – Texas Hydrologic Information System (TxHIS) Workshop (Austin)
- May 27, 2009 – Workshop on Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units (San Marcos)
- May 28, 2009 – Bastrop Bayou WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Lake Jackson)
- May 28, 2009 – *Reconnecting Children with Nature Through Wetlands Exploration Activities* (EPA Webcast)

- June 4, 2009 – Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- June 17, 2009 – Poultry Seminar (Riesel)
- June 23, 2009 – Workshop on Homeowner Maintenance of Septic Systems (San Marcos)
- June 24, 2009 – Workshop on Homeowner Maintenance of Aerobic Treatment Units (Lockhart)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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/tmdl/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.

Arroyo Colorado

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

On April 27, 2009, TSSWCB staff [Ronnie Ramirez, Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt] participated in an Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on work group updates and the long-term sustainability of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership.

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: TMDL, I-Plan
 Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-atascosa.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Atascosa River watershed in Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria
 Mechanism: WPP
 Lead: TCEQ

On April 28, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Bastrop Bayou stakeholder meeting in Angleton. Another meeting with the same agenda was held in Lake Jackson on April 30, 2009. This meeting focused on strategies for implementation including prioritization of implementation funding. One area of concern is to either upgrade failing septic systems or connect them to wastewater treatment facilities to decrease pollutant loadings. Demi-John Island is one area that has many septic systems on small lots and the community there is working on getting a wastewater treatment facility built and eliminating failing septic systems. A list of projects and the budget available for implementation was distributed and stakeholders were asked to comment and prioritize items on the list.

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.

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 has the potential to 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

On April 8, 2009, the TCEQ adopted, as final, *Eighteen TMDLs for Bacteria in Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous and Tributaries (Segments 1013, 1013A, 1013C, 1014, 1014A, 1014B, 1014E, 1014H, 1014K, 1014L, 1014M, 1014N, 1014O, 1017, 1017A, 1017B, 1017D, and 1017E)*. These TMDLs must be approved by the EPA.

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.

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/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, Macroenthic Community
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html.

This WPP will affect 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/tmdl/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
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/tmdl/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
Lead: Third party

More information 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/tmdl/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/tmdl/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

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

On April 21, 2009, the EPA approved *One TMDL for Bacteria in Gilleland Creek*. Significant work has already been conducted on developing an I-Plan to achieve the load reductions called for in this TMDL.

More information on the Creekside Conservation Program is available at <http://www.lcra.org/community/conservation/creekside.html>. More information on the TMDL 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

On April 9, 2009, AgriLife Extension hosted a Feral Hog Management Seminar in Glen Rose. Feral hogs are one potential source of bacteria contributing to the water quality issues in Lake Granbury.

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp>. 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/managementprogram/granger>. 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 8, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] participated in the BIG Agriculture and Animal Sources Workgroup meeting. This meeting was held to prioritize and finalize the most significant animal and agricultural sources of *E. coli* bacteria in the Houston area. The largest concern was feral hog management; other solutions discussed were how to reduce erosion and educate citizens about pet waste and horse management.

On April 21, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the BIG Steering Committee meeting in Houston. This meeting focused on prioritization of implementation activities and public engagement. During the last meeting, a prioritization exercise on what activities should be targeted during implementation was conducted with the top 3 being a) wastewater treatment facility inspections/upgrades, b) sanitary sewer maintenance, and c) stormwater management. The group felt they could get the greatest load reductions by focusing on these activities. Next, the public engagement strategy was discussed; this focused on how to engage the public in implementation and how to build interest and increase public knowledge and participation. Six of the workgroups reported what they discussed in their individual meetings, including Construction, Watershed Outreach, Residential Sources, Coordination and Policy, Illicit Discharges, and

Agriculture and Animal Sources. TCEQ asked the group for appropriate areas to conduct possible contact recreation use attainability analyses (UAAs) in order to relax criteria for achieving the bacteria standard, especially in areas where contact recreation is not possible due to various hazards or accessibility issues.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>.

More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.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>. 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

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

Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (WPP)

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

On April 23, 2009, TSSWCB staff [Joel Clark, Mark Cochran, Teresa Reese, Jeremy Welch, Loren Henley, Aaron Wendt] attended the Little Brazos River tributaries bacteria assessment meeting in Franklin. The meeting opened with Robertson County SWCD Chairman John Sanders welcoming the attendees. The Brazos River Authority provided an update to stakeholders about the progress that has been made since the last meeting in October 2008; a complete stream survey has been done on Campbells Creek. The stakeholders were able to view pictures of the creek which showed many tire dumping sites, wildlife, and feral hog tracks. The stakeholders were updated on the land use analysis and were shown maps of the area by Texas AgriLife Research. An update was provided by Texas AgriLife Research on bacterial source tracking, and the role that it will play in this project. A meeting will be scheduled in early fall; for the next few months stream surveys will be conducted on Pin Oak, Mud, Walnut, and Spring Creeks.

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 Creeks 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/tmdl/34-lowersanantoniobac.html>. This TMDL will affect 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/tmdl/06-bosque.html>. This TMDL affects dairy operations in the North Bosque River watershed in Bosque, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Coryell and McLennan 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/tmdl/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/tmdl/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 will affect 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.

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
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>. This project 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

The South Llano Watershed Alliance held meetings on April 18, 2009 and April 25, 2009 in Junction. These meetings focused on issues related to the organizational establishment of the Alliance as an incorporated 501(c)(3) organization. Specifically, discussion centered on the temporary Board of Directors, the Bylaws, membership eligibility and dues.

More information is available at <http://www.texaswatermatters.org/southllanoriver.htm>. 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.

Upper Oyster Creek

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html>. This TMDL 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

The 80th Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$1,848,927.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY 2008. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- Provided the following SWCDs with Water Supply Enhancement Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Certification, and /or Contracts

Area 2 Districts

North Concho River SWCD Nolan County SWCD
Middle Concho SWCD
Eldorado-Divide SWCD
Tom Green County SWCD
Pedernales SWCD
Gillespie County SWCD

Area 3

McMullen County SWCD
LaSalle County SWCD
Caldwell/ Travis SWCD
Comal/Guadalupe SWCD
Webb County SWCD

Area 4

Harris Co. SWCD

Area 5

Archer County SWCD
Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
Pecan Bayou SWCD
Bosque SWCD
Clay County SWCD

Current Water Enhancement Projects throughout the State and Project Managers:

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood TSSWCB

- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties)- Cody York
- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)- Melissa Grote
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Tuffy Wood
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of America (Bandera)- Cody York
- Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of America (Wimberly)- 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 Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- 10 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Certifications
- 5 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Contracts
- Met with NRCS after the January Board Meeting to give an update on all the TSSWCB projects throughout the State
- Attended District Director workshop in Belton
- Attended the Senate Finance Hearing in Austin
- Attended the House Appropriation Committee Hearing in Austin

- Met with NRCS in Junction to discuss a Water Enhancement Project in the Edwards around Bandera
- Conducted a workgroup session in Bandera to discuss the areas the TSSWCB would considered for a Water Enhancement Project, also discussed average cost, type of treatment.

Assisted Pedernales SWCD with networking Water Enhancement Project computers

- Working with TWRI on the Water Enhancement Program to develop a Priority system using GIS
- Met with the Clay County SWCD to discuss expanding the Lake Arrowhead Water Enhancement Project into Clay County
- Assisted the Frio SWCD and the McMullen SWCD with new cooperative agreements for the Water Enhancement Program District employees

FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

Floodwater retarding dams built by local watershed sponsors under the NRCS watershed program successfully protect many Texas communities from catastrophic damage from flooding. Statewide, 148 watershed projects provide average annual benefits exceeding \$119 million. This very important infrastructure provides benefits by reducing flood damages to homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and agricultural lands, as well as protects many people's lives.

The NRCS has prepared Watershed fact sheets have for all U.S. Congressional Districts in Texas that have watershed projects. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds/index.htm>.

The fact sheets and other data from the watershed web may be used in working with your local watershed sponsors on O&M, repair, dam safety, and rehabilitation of watershed project dams.

Dam O&M Workshops

TCEQ will be conducting several dam O&M workshops in June for dam sponsors and owners. The dates of the upcoming workshops are:

June 10 in Lufkin
 June 11 in Conroe
 June 24 in Waxahachie
 June 25 in Brady

Full details will be coming soon.

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 Loren Henley (254) 773-2250 or lhenley@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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