



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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August 2010

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

REX ISOM, Executive Director

Budgeting and Accounting

- September 1st is the deadline for submitting Financial Statement / Audit notification forms for Fiscal Year 2010.
- September 15th is the date allocation amounts for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage and Per Diem will be mailed and 75 percent advances for Fiscal Year 2011 District Director Mileage and Per Diem will be paid for Fiscal Year 2011.

For more information on Budgeting and Accounting see page 2.

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session for 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 15, 2010** at TSSWCB Headquarters in Temple. A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple.

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

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 22, 2010, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting scheduled for September 16, 2010. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes>

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

September 1st is the deadline for submitting Financial Statement / Audit notification forms for Fiscal Year 2010.

September 15th is the date allocation amounts for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage and Per Diem will be mailed and 75 percent advances for Fiscal Year 2011 District Director Mileage and Per Diem will be paid for Fiscal Year 2011.

September 30th is the deadline for submitting 4th Quarter District Director Mileage and Per Diem claims, Technical Assistance and Supplemental Technical Assistance claims, and unused 75 percent advances for District Director Mileage and Per Diem for Fiscal Year 2010.

For more accounting and budgeting information contact Kenny Zajicek at (254)773-2250 or kzajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following:

- Program Specialist IV-Area III
- Natural Resource Specialist III – Temple

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

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

Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

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

Reservations for the meeting may be made at:

- Radisson Downtown Lubbock by calling 806-747-0171.
- Overton Hotel by calling 806-776-7000.
- Holiday Inn Hotel-Towers by calling 806-763-1200

Please check our website for meeting details and use our online registration.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

PI Committee to Hold Teleconference

Meeting- The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District's Public Information/Education Committee is planning a teleconference in late September to review the 2010 program status and to draft a budget for the 2011 Fiscal Year. The committee will meet again at the State Meeting of SWCD directors in Lubbock to finalize a FY 2011 budget and program year.

Area Associations of SWCD's Hold Meetings

West Texas Association of SWCD's- 11th District Congressman Mike Conaway of Midland was the featured speaker at the West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (WTASWCD) meeting in Stanton on August 17.

Congressman Conaway, who is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, talked about congressional activities currently affecting agriculture.

The meeting program also included a tour of the Martin County Convent which is a historical site and the Martin County Historical Museum.

Panhandle Association of SWCD's- David Ahlem, Site Manager of the Hilmar Cheese Company located in Dalhart was the featured speaker at the Panhandle Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts (PASWCD) meeting on August 17, in Dalhart.

Ahlem spoke to the conservation district directors attending the meeting on how the company reduces, reuses and recycles water. "Recycled water accounts for more than 60 percent of the water used at our facility. The Dalhart facility uses a modern pond and digester system to produce clean irrigation water on a daily basis." Ahlem said.

Hilmar Cheese Company specializes in the production of cheddar and American cheese utilized by private labels and national brands as well as retail and foodservice companies across America. The state-of-the-art cheese and whey protein plant in Dalhart processes more than 500,000 gallons of milk each day.

South Plains Association of SWCD's- The South Plains Association of SWCD's capitalized on the opportunity to hold a business meeting concomitantly with NACD's South Central Regional conference which was held August 16-18 in Lubbock.

From feral hogs to the Gulf oil spill to irrigation practices, members of the South Central region of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) recently covered a wide array of topics at their annual three-day meeting. The focus of the meeting was to update participants on NACD news, legislative outlooks and various conservation issues facing the region. The meeting brought together soil and water conservation district representation from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2009 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/2009VideoLibraryCatalogue.pdf>. The 2009 Catalog includes 30 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage. Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local SWCD or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public Information/Education Committee will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the

requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

Ordering a Video

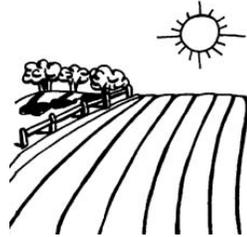
Select a video from the TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Meredith Whitley at mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 14,000 plans in the State of Texas.

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



A total of 528 water quality management plans have been certified by the State Board as of May 31, 2010 or the end of the 3rd quarter of FY-2010. The yearly goal is 620 plans.

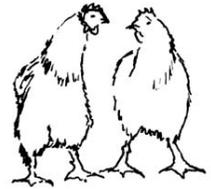
The period for obligating FY-10 cost-share funds ended on April 30, 2010. All funds not obligated through supplemental requests were transferred to the Statewide Fund. Additional allocations were approved at the July 22, 2010 State Board meeting.

Lapsed cost-share funds have been reduced by 68.9% in the last five years. Approximately 8.3% of total cost-share funds are being lapsed statewide at the present time. The next lapsed fund report for the FY-08 funding cycle will be completed in September, 2010.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

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



Program Activities

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

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

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the state's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The

program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

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

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, state and federal agencies play an integral part in managing NPS pollution especially at the watershed level. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the kind of pollution controls 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, Texas can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

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

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively

represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

Watershed Approach

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

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

For groundwater management, the geographic focus is on aquifers rather than watersheds. Otherwise, the approach is the same. Wherever interactions between surface and ground water are identified, management activities will support the quality of both resources.

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

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the process of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staff personnel from both agencies are currently reviewing the revised draft

chapters of the 2010 program publication. The revised program publication must be submitted to EPA to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

After discussions among TCEQ, TSSWCB, and EPA staff about the current timeline for updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document by December 2010, it was decided that an extension would be necessary to incorporate the new Watershed Action Planning initiative. A letter was sent by TCEQ to EPA requesting to extend the applicability of the current *Texas NPS Management Program* document until May 2012 to allow the new initiative to be incorporated in the revision. All other matters related to the *Texas NPS Management Program* document including goals and objectives, priorities, programs and BMPs would remain unchanged during this extended period. Staff personnel are currently waiting on EPA's response to this request for an extension.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

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

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

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant

Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background

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

FY2004 – FY2009 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 49 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 49 ongoing projects total approximately \$14 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; support various NPS outreach/education programs; develop and implement WPPs and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background

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

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

FY2009 – FY2010 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 17 ongoing general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 14 ongoing projects total approximately two million dollars and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAs); provide technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazinglands and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

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

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 TMDL for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to

restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

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

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

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

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background

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

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

TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by the EPA in 2003. These guidelines describe nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies

other than TSSWCB or TCEQ. These third-party WPPs may or may not adequately satisfy EPA's nine elements. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

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

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

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

The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each state with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly

administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*.

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

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control 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 CCC again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully approved program.

On May 29, 2009, GLO received e-mail comments from NOAA and EPA which stated, in part, that:

“NOAA and EPA find that enough progress has been made to lift only the hydro modification condition. For several urban management measures, Texas identifies planned activities to meet the conditions. While those activities may result in the measures being met in the future, NOAA and EPA must evaluate the actual activities, rather than a plan for future actions, in order to lift the conditions.”

TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the state’s approach to addressing the

conditional approval findings. TSSWCB, TCEQ and GLO plan to meet with NOAA and EPA staff in the near future to discuss requirements for Texas to fully meet all conditions.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

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

Sunset Review of CCC

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

Key Recommendations include:

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

The Sunset Commission met on May 26, 2010 to make its decision regarding the recommendations of the Sunset staff on the CCC. Rather than continue the Council in its current form, the Sunset Commission recommended that an advisory committee would be formed by rule and the Council’s function and authority would be transferred to the GLO. The committee would be made up of representatives from the current agencies on the Council, and four public members appointed by the Commissioner.

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

Section 309 Assessment and Strategies Review

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

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

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

The CCC 309 working group met on June 2, 2010 to discuss the draft report. The final report should be available in several months.

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

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

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

Background

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

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

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

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

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

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

Water Quality Coordination Activities

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

On Sept 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa>.

New Watershed Action Planning Process

TCEQ staff have been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the state's water quality management programs. This document is expected to be finalized and published within the next several months.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired water bodies on the 303(d) List. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

The process emphasizes coordination by partners and stakeholders at both the watershed and state levels.

- Local Watershed Prioritization – Meetings held in each basin would be used to discuss issues associated with the impairments, concerns and special interest waters in the basin.

- Program Integration – A workgroup of TCEQ and TSSWCB staff will update the Watershed Action Plan based upon input received from the basin meetings.
- Statewide Interagency Coordination – At the statewide level, input will be sought from state and federal agencies and state level special interest non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the watershed strategies stated in the draft State Watershed Action Plan. The result of this process will be to finalize the State Watershed Action Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. This plan will be the basis that each program area, partner agency, and stakeholder will use for planning, budgeting and implementation of program activities as they relate to addressing impaired waters and other waters of interest in Texas.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information in the State Watershed Action Plan, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the 303(d) List, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the state's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Establishing the State Watershed Action Plan is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texans.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

In the Jan. 29, 2010 *Texas Register*, the TCEQ proposed for public comment revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the

Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194 (IPs).

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

The public comment period closed March 17, 2010. TCEQ staff developed a response to comments received and made appropriate changes to the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the Standards and the IPs to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Association of Texas SWCDs and 74 individual SWCDs from across the state also submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions.

The adopted Standards rule (30 TAC Chapter 307) will be published in the *Texas Register* and become effective in August 2010. EPA must then take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

More information on the revisions to the Standards is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html.

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

The *Texas Integrated Report* (IR) summarizes the status of the state's surface waters, including concerns for public health, fitness for use by aquatic species and other wildlife and specific pollutants

and their possible sources, as required by CWA §305(b). The IR also identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards (i.e., impaired), as required by CWA §303(d).

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

The comment period ended March 8, 2010. TCEQ staff will develop a response to public comment received and revise the IR as appropriate. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the draft 2010 IR. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the IR and Assessment Guidance to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

TCEQ intends to take action on Aug. 25, 2010 and consider submitting the final 2010 IR to EPA.

More information on the *Texas Integrated Report*, including the 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) List, is available at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation one, secondary contact recreation two and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., PCR) to any of the other three tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA. TCEQ has developed procedures for conducting RUAs; previously there were no RUAA protocols in Texas. The May 2009 *TCEQ Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey* is available at

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg_handouts.html#proc.

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

TCEQ and their contractors are in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another dozen waterbodies. Before conducting the surveys, local stakeholders will be contacted to seek input on each project's monitoring plan. Specifically, citizens are being asked to provide input on potential sites near stream crossings to perform evaluations and landowners are being asked to provide access to evaluate those stretches of the river that are not readily accessible to the public. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. Some of these RUAAs have been conducted in summer 2009, some will be finished this summer 2010 and some will be completed in spring and summer 2011. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the surface water quality standards for each waterbody.

Because adopted changes to the surface water quality standards affecting recreation use tiers and bacteria criteria must be approved by EPA, any changes to specific waterbodies as a result of these RUAAs will not likely be reflected until the *2014 303(d) List* is published in April 2014.

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

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

Texas Clean Rivers Program

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

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

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. Basin steering committee meetings are being scheduled and will be held throughout the state between March-May 2010. SWCDs should look for notices of these meetings as they are scheduled and make plans to attend.

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

for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*.

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

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.

Galveston Bay Council

On July 28, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly meeting of the Galveston Bay Council in Houston. This meeting featured updates on the estuary program and presentations. The first presentation was focused on Oil Spill Response and Recovery in the Houston-Galveston Region. Reports were given by the Texas General Land Office (GLO), US Coast Guard (USCG) and BP, who are part of the coordination to combat any oil threatening the Texas Coast. GLO laid out their oil spill response in Texas, which covers all tidal waters in Texas to 10.3 miles (9 nautical miles) offshore. The GLO splits the Texas coast into 5 regions in order to better respond to spills, necessary equipment for response is available at each office location. Region 2, which covers from the Colorado River to Chambers County, including Galveston Bay, responded to over 300 spills in 2009. The USCG reported on their coordination efforts and reported that more oil has been recovered off of Texas than Florida. They mentioned the efforts are going smoothly because of the history of coordination working oil spills off of the Texas coast. The next presentation was on GBEP's Coastal Prairie Wetlands Study, done by Baylor University. The focus was to look at water

quality and water storage benefits of these wetland systems located in Brazoria and Chambers Counties. The wetland sites were rainfall dependent and displayed good water quality function by removing nitrogen from rainwater and assimilating excess water from heavy rains, which aids in flooding. Phosphorous removal was minimal due to the small amounts in rainwater.

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.

Opportunities for Rural Land Preservation Workshop for Landowners

On August 6, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended an Opportunities for Rural Land Preservation Workshop for Landowners in Wallisville. This workshop was held to inform landowners in Chambers, Jefferson and Liberty Counties on programs for land preservation, habitat improvement and creation, and habitat protection. The options are available through state programs, such as the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program through the GLO, federal programs and funding through the Farm Bill and US Fish and Wildlife Service and Conservation Easements and Land Trusts were discussed. This was aimed at maintaining the natural function of the rural landscape in the wake of the expected population boom in the area and working to implement the Chambers County Greenprint.

Texas Best Management Practice Evaluation Tool

On Aug. 18, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Loren Henley, David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, T.J. Helton and John Foster] attended an instructional demonstration of the Texas Best Management Practice Evaluation Tool (TBET) in Temple. TBET is a tool to evaluate load reductions for different BMPs utilized in WQMPs.

More information can be found at the project website:
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/managementprogram/bmptool>

Upcoming Public Meetings

- Sept. 2, 2010 – TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- Sept. 9, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Attoyac Bayou (Nacogdoches)
- Sept. 14-17, 2010- E.P.A. Quality Assurance Training (Austin)
- Sept. 17, 2010 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee NPS Task Force (Austin)
- Sept. 21, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Sabinal River (Uvalde)
- Sept. 21, 2010 – Bacteria Implementation Group Steering Committee (Houston)
- Oct. 1, 2010- San Antonio Bay Partnership (Victoria)
- Oct. 4, 2010 – Riparian Workshop for Geronimo and Plum Creek (Lockhart)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

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

Adams and Cow Bayous

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

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

Aquilla Reservoir

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

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

Arroyo Colorado

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

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

Atascosa River

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

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

Attoyac Bayou

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

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

Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Big Cypress Creek

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Brady Creek

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth and Childress Counties.

Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous

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

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

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

Caddo Lake

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

On Aug. 19, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and Regional Office Staff [Carl Steffey and Max Berry] attended the Caddo Lake WPP water quality workgroup meeting in Jefferson. Discussion centered on the results of the watershed model scenarios and appropriate basin-specific management measures to achieve load reductions. Some issues with model assumptions were raised from the poultry industry and those issues were going to be incorporated into the model. The results will be presented at a future Caddo Lake WPP stakeholder group.

More information is available at http://www.netmwd.com/Caddo%20Lake%20Protection%20Plan/Caddo_index.html. This WPP has the

potential to affect poultry, forestry and other agricultural operations in the Caddo Lake watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Wood, Gregg, Franklin and Hopkins Counties.

Carters and Burton Creeks

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL
Lead: TCEQ

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

Cedar Creek Reservoir

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

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

Clear Creek

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Clear Creek. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

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

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

This WPP affects farming and livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green and Upton Counties.

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

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

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/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, UAA
Lead: Third party

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

Elm and Sandies Creeks

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

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Lake Granger

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

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

Hickory Creek

Concern: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

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

Lake Houston

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

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

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

On Aug. 16, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Agriculture and Wildlife Work Group meeting in Lampasas. Updated results from the SELECT model were presented. Discussion primarily focused on best management practices for bacteria reduction. Steve Jones, Dublin Regional Manager for TSSWCB, explained the Water Quality Management Plan Program. Rick Cantu, with the NRCS, discussed various Farm Bill programs such as EQIP, WHIP, and CRP. Both the TSSWCB and NRCS have cost-share available to qualifying producers. Derrick Wolters, of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, discussed Managed Lands Deer permits, wildlife management plans and their availability for technical assistance. Shane Herrington, with the Texas Forest Service, gave an agency overview and discussed their various programs including the Emerging Communities Program and Woodlands Conservation Group.

On Aug. 20, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Urban NPS Work Group meeting in Killeen. Discussion centered on best management practices for bacteria reduction. Arthur Talley from TCEQ presented on various urban best management practices but mainly focused on low impact development. Site design, bio-retention, bio-swales, rain water harvesting, porous pavements, source controls are a few best management practices stakeholders can consider to include in the Lampasas WPP. Kristina Ramirez from the City of Killeen discussed their Phase II permit and implementation.

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

Leon River

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

On August 11, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Hamilton-Coryell SWCD meeting in Gatesville. The purpose of the visit was to update the SWCD on the progress of the Leon River WPP and upcoming public comment period..

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

Little Brazos River Tributaries

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Lower San Antonio River

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

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

North Bosque River

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

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

Onion Creek

Impairment: None
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

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

Oso Bay and Oso Creek

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

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

Peach Creek

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

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

Pecos River

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

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

Plum Creek

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

On Aug. 4, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Hays County SWCD meeting in San Marcos. The purpose of the visit was to update the SWCD on the implementation of the Plum Creek WPP. The SWCD is a project partner with the Caldwell-Travis SWCD on a CWA §319(h) nonpoint source grant that provides technical and financial assistance to local producers in the watershed.

On Aug. 12, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Brian Koch, Pamela Casebolt] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart. Discussion focused on, filling vacant Steering Committee seats, long-term sustainability, Plum Creek 4b classification, riparian areas, current and future implementation and water quality monitoring data. The Partnership reviewed vacant Steering Committee seats and discussed solutions to fill them. AgriLife Extension has been visiting with city councils and county commissioner's courts to discuss the long-term sustainability of the Partnership and future funding of a watershed coordinator. These entities, along with PCCD, GBRA and others, will meet on August 31st to further discuss the sustainability of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership. Plum Creek's 4b rationale

was submitted to EPA in June and the state is currently working to address their comments. Melissa Parker, with TPWD, presented material on riparian areas in anticipation of an October 4th riparian workshop in the watershed. Updates were given on current implementation projects as well as future implementation and outreach and education opportunities. A presentation on water quality data in the Plum Creek watershed was also given.

More information is available at <http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

Red River above Lake Texoma

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: Third party

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

Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

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

Lake Somerville

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

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

South Llano River

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

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

E.V. Spence Reservoir

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/04-spence.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect agricultural operations in the E.V. Spence Reservoir watershed in Borden, Coke, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Sterling Counties.

Upper Cibolo Creek

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

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

Upper Guadalupe River

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

On Aug. 26, 2010, nearly 100 individuals attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Kerrville. Sponsored by TSSWCB, through a CWA §319(h) grant, and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed 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 was held in support of on-going watershed planning efforts being facilitated by the Upper Guadalupe River Authority in the Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake watershed. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>.

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

Upper Oyster Creek

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

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

Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Background:

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources through selective control of brush species. The 81st Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY10. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by

the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Since the beginning of the Water supply Enhancement program in 1999 there has been 766,529 acres of brush treated in various watersheds throughout the State.

Program Activities

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

Area 1 District

Donley County SWCD

Area 2 Districts

Middle Concho SWCD

Eldorado-Divide SWCD

Tom Green County SWCD

Pedernales SWCD

Gillespie County SWCD

Kerr County SWCD

Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts

McMullen County SWCD

LaSalle County SWCD

Caldwell/ Travis SWCD

Comal/Guadalupe SWCD

Webb County SWCD

Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts

Archer County SWCD

Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD

Pecan Bayou SWCD

Bosque SWCD

Little Wichita SWCD

Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 17 projects throughout the State. Listed below are the projects in their respective areas and the projects contact person.

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Greenbelt Reservoir- Completed
- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher reservoir Project- Tuffy Wood
- Lake Ivie (Main Concho)- Johnny Oswald

- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)-
Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Adrian Perez
- Frio River Watershed – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Kendria Ray
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer- Kendria Ray
- Palo Pinto- Cody York
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay
Counties)- Cody York
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assisted Gonzales County SWCD with Water Enhancement Project on the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer
- Assisted UCRA with the Twin Buttes lake basin project
- Assist Lower Guadalupe River project with contracts
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Assist the Texas Comptroller's office with economic analysis of the Water Supply Enhancement Projects
- Spoke at the GMA 7 Water Conference

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

WATER YIELDED FROM BRUSH CONTROL

Water yield expectations originate from brush control feasibility studies and academic research from a variety of sources.

**State Cost-Share Grants 2000 – 2009-----
---\$30,476,189**

**Landowner Contributions 2000 – 2009-----
In Excess of \$11,000,000**

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Background

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

O&M Grant Program Update

All funds allocated to dam sponsors for Fiscal Year 2010 (Sept. 1, 2009 through Aug. 31, 2010) have either been dispersed or contractually obligated for use prior to Aug. 31, 2011 (contractually obligating the remaining funding allows sponsors an additional year to reimburse O&M work).

At their July 22, 2010 meeting, the State Board approved the Fiscal Year 2011 O&M allocations. TSSWCB staff is currently preparing FY2011 grant allocation letters for 81 SWCDs and three non-SWCDs for a statewide total of \$2,472,008.85. These grant allocation letters, representing the same total program budget as FY2010, will be mailed directly to the dam sponsor during the first week of September 2010. Fiscal Year 2011 O&M allocations will be available immediately for reimbursement and will remain so through Aug. 31, 2011.

Specific O&M Program accomplishments for FY2010 will be forthcoming in a report to the State Board anticipated to be completed on Sept. 15, 2010. The report will be available for download from the TSSWCB's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/floodcontrol>.

Structural Repair Grant Program Update

After receiving applications for funding for Fiscal Year 2010 Structural Repair Grant Program funding, the TSSWCB staff conducted a ranking exercise and began contract negotiations with dam sponsors representing the highest ranking applications. A total of 18 flood control dams will receive state grant funding from FY2010. Of the 18 dams, five are also receiving funding through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery. The TSSWCB is providing 95 percent of the non-federal match requirement (25 percent) for these dams. The remaining 13 dams are receiving state grant funds providing representing 95 percent of the total cost of each project. In total, \$3,915,471 of FY 2010 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

The TSSWCB anticipates publishing a request for applications for Fiscal Year 2011 Structural Repair Grant funding during September 2010. All SWCDs will be notified as soon as the request is published.

Specific Structural Repair Grant Program activities that will be carried out with FY2010 funds will be detailed in a forthcoming report to the State Board anticipated to be completed on Sept. 15, 2010. The report will be available for download from the TSSWCB's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/floodcontrol>.

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

Monthly Program News and Activities is produced by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for use by Texas soil and water conservation district directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue please contact Nathan Smith (254) 773-2250 or nsmith@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 Texas to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



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