



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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

August 2008

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 30th Deadlines:

- * 4th Quarter Director Mileage and Per Diem claims
- * Technical Assistance reimbursements
- * Supplemental Technical Assistance reimbursements
- * Return of Director Mileage and Per Diem 75% advance payment not used
- * Technical Service Provider reimbursements

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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 2:30 p.m. in Temple, Texas on **Wednesday, September 17, 2008**. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas on **Thursday, September 18, 2008**. 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 July 17, 2008, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2008. 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

September 30th Deadlines:

- * 4th Quarter Director Mileage and Per Diem claims
- * Technical Assistance reimbursements
- * Supplemental Technical Assistance reimbursements
- * Return of Director Mileage and Per Diem 75% advance payment not used
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HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for a **Natural Resource Specialist IV position in the Gonzales Poultry Program Office** location. 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.

The State Board proposes amendments to its Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management rules in Chapter 523.

The proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register, Friday, August 22, 2008 and are

open for review and comment. Comments on the proposed rules may be submitted in writing to Rex Isom, Executive Director, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, P.O. Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503. To view this document please visit:

http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/33_TexReg_6742_August_22-2.pdf

Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The State Meeting for this year is scheduled for September 29-30 and October 1, 2008 in Galveston. The meeting will be in the Galveston Island Convention Center.

Their contact information is as follows:

Galveston Island Hilton: 409-744-5000

Holiday Inn: 409-740-3581

San Luis Resort: 800-392-5937

Best Western: 409-740-1261

Quality Inn & Suites: 409-740-1088.

Please mark this date and make plans to attend. Everyone's support is needed and welcomed. View the link below for registration and related information.

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Former TSSWCB Executive Director Dies—Harvey D. Davis, of Temple, died August 8 in a local hospital after a brief illness. During his long time affiliation with the Texas Soil and Water conservation district program, he served as executive director of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as well as a board member of the agency. Davis was 80.

In addition to his long time association with the TSSWCB, Davis also served as Executive Director of the Texas Department of Water Resources. He was a graduate of Blinn College and the University

of Houston. Davis served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1947-49.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church Organ Fund, 102 N. 2nd Street, Temple, TX 76501 or to the charity of one's choice.

Program Status

Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest—

Kylie Bradley of Lometa, Texas was first place winner in the 2008 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest. She is currently a sophomore at Lometa High School. As the first place winner in the annual contest, Ms. Bradley earned a \$1,000 scholarship through the Association of Texas SWCDs Public Information/Education program. In addition she earned a \$500 scholarship through the PI program as an area winner in the contest. Ms. Bradley is scheduled to present her speech to soil and water conservation district directors at their annual meeting in Galveston. Ms. Bradley is sponsored by the Hill Country SWCD #534 which is headquartered in Burnet.

Both first and second place area winners competed for the first place state award at the annual FFA convention which was held in Lubbock in July. TSSWCB staff assisted in judging the final round of the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest. The State Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest ten area winners and state winner were introduced during the state FFA convention on "Stars Night" on Wednesday July 16th. All first place area winners receive a \$500.00 scholarship. For more information on 2008 contest winners please contact Clyde Gottschalk, 254. 773. 2250.

The theme for the 2008 contest is "Water is Life" which correlates with the annual NACD Soil Stewardship program.

SWCD Director Training Resource Project— All training resources used in director/employee workshops can now be downloaded from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board website.

The direct link to the resources is <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds/resources/training/directortraining>. Another way of accessing the material is to go the TSSWCB website and clicking on "SWCDS" to "SWCD Resources to "SWCD Director and Employee Training Resources" to "Access the Training Materials Provided during Training Workshops".

All materials used in current district director training workshops have been formatted into a uniform look. The purpose of organizing this material into a Training Resources link is to enable field staff to conduct director training on a localized basis as well as provide SWCDs with easy access to materials of specific interest on an as need basis following workshop training.

Priority Education Funding Program— SWCDs who have not yet claimed their approved project funding under the Priority Education Funding Program are encouraged to submit the After Project Report form immediately following the completion of the project. The form is required to be on file in the Association's office before a grant claim can be processed.

The program is offered to districts through the Association of Texas SWCDS public information/education program.

Area Association Events

West Texas Association of SWCDs— met on August 26, in Ballinger for their business meeting and tour of the Mueller Supply Company. The company manufactures a line of metal building products as well as recently established a new rollup door manufacturing plant. In addition, Bill Hunter with Buddy's Plants Plus presented a program on the company's new fertilizer enterprises targeting the farm and ranch market. The directors also heard reports from respective State Board, Association and NRCS officials.

Panhandle Association of SWCDs—met August 19, in Pampa for their semi-annual meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Gray County SWCD.

South Plains Association of SWCDs—met August 20 in Lubbock at PYCO Industries. Jim Conkwright of the High Plains Underground Water District presented a program titled, “New Directions I Groundwater Management”.

South Central Texas Association of SWCDs—will meet September 9, in Giddings. Jonathan Socha, a manufacturer and distributor of biodiesel presented is the program speaker. State Board, State Association and NRCS officials will also present respective organization reports at the meeting.

Gulf Coast Association of SWCDs—will meet in Columbus September 17 for its annual meeting. Prior to the business meeting attendees will tour a local facility that features a shop, classroom and greenhouses operating on alternative energy. During the business meeting TSSWCB, ATSWCD and NRCS officials will present reports on activities of each organization.

Deep East Texas Association of SWCDs—will meet September 24 at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to observe the fisheries state of the art programs. A business meeting will follow the fisheries tour with reports to be given by state TSSWCB, ATSWCD and NRCS leaders.

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 mmcarthur@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.

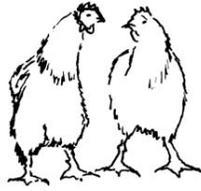
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.



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

The TSSWCB Poultry Office recently sent out a letter and checklist to poultry producers to remind them TSSWCB will soon be conducting inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, existing WQMPs are being reviewed and updated and plans are being developed for newly constructed farms.

Complaints against poultry farms have been significantly higher this fiscal year than past years. Due to increasing number of farms and increasing overall population and increased awareness and availability of the complaint processes to the public, this trend will probably continue. TSSWCB is actively working with producers, the industry, and other agencies to minimize negative effects to neighbors from poultry farms.

Staffs from TSSWCB, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Sanderson Farms, Inc. held four meetings in August for poultry growers in Limestone, Leon, and Robertson Counties to address reduction of odor complaints in the area. BMPs were offered to growers that may reduce odors from their farms., these meetings were well attended.

TCEQ and TSSWCB conducted a joint investigation in mid-August of three poultry farms on which numerous odor complaints had been

received. The investigations went well and were also attended by an aide from Senator Ogden's office and an animal waste specialist from Texas AgriLife Extension. No nuisance odors were documented.

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

CLEAN WATER ACT, §319(h) GRANTS

Background

Congress enacted §319(h) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources (NPS) of water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to states for the development and implementation of each state's nonpoint source management program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided evenly between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB). The following report provides an overview of TSSWCB's §319(h) program status and major ongoing activities.

FY2002 – FY2007 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 63 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Federal funds totaling \$16 million are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement best management practices, support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs), and implement the nonpoint source portion of TMDL Implementation Plans.

FY2008 CWA §319(h) Grant Application

The TSSWCB's Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 §319(h) program allocation is \$4,578,700. Of the 18 proposals submitted to TSSWCB, 6 were selected for funding. TSSWCB submitted the FY2008 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 9, 2008 and staff are currently waiting for final approval.

FY2008 Nonpoint Source Annual Report

In order to receive §319(h) funds, the State of Texas must submit a report on the activities of the Texas NPS Program annually. TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stage of report development. Staff from both agencies met on August 25th to begin discussing the structure and content of the report, as well as a timeline for completion. The report will highlight the State's efforts during 2008 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans. This report must be submitted to EPA in January 2009 to ensure continued funding.

Plum Creek Texas Watershed Steward Workshop a Success

Approximately 90 farmers, ranchers, city planners, homeowners, teachers, agency representatives, etc., attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop on August 6th in Luling to learn about local water quality issues, sources of water pollution, and ways to get involved in local watershed management efforts. The workshop was sponsored by the TSSWCB and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in support of ongoing watershed management efforts in the Plum Creek Watershed. Workshop participants learned about watershed systems, water quality regulation and monitoring, methods to improve water quality, and community-driven watershed protection and management.

Additional workshops are available on September 25th at the Lampasas County Farm Bureau on 1793 N. US Hwy 281 in Lampasas and October 30th at the Comanche Community Center on 100 Indian Creek Drive in Comanche. Both workshops are 8 am to 4 pm and continuing education credits are available. To register or for more information about the Texas Watershed Steward Program and ways to get involved in protecting your watershed, please visit <http://tw.s.tamu.edu>.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Watershed Planning

Total Maximum Daily Load Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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 *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. 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. 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*. Responsibility to develop and implement TMDLs is shared between the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). More information on the TSSWCB TMDL Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>.

Watershed Protection Plan Program Overview

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is a coordinated framework for voluntarily 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. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of a watershed with strategies for protecting unimpaired waters and restoring impaired waters. WPPs have a variety of ingredients and can take many forms. TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by EPA that describe nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. More information on the TSSWCB WPP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

Bacteria TMDL Task Force

On June 29, 2007, at a joint TSSWCB/TCEQ meeting, the Board and Commission approved the recommendations from the joint Bacteria TMDL Task Force. Among other directives, the Board directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to establish a multi-agency bacteria work group to continue examining the scientific research and development needs identified in the Task Force Report.

On July 28, 2008, Aaron Wendt, TJ Helton and Mitch Conine met with TCEQ staff to discuss 1) the status of Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) projects across the state, 2) current BST methodologies in use in Texas, 3) the current “state-of-the-science” of BST, and 4) needed improvements in quality assurance and control for BST methods. These discussions will aid TSSWCB and TCEQ staff in establishing a multi-agency workgroup to examine issues identified in the Task Force Report, including BST.

State Appropriations for TMDL Program Grants

On May 24, 2007, the Board approved a *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs* which provides guidance to staff on directing state appropriations for the TMDL Program. There are currently 7 on-going projects, totaling \$1.2 million in FY2008 state appropriations, that support increased analytical infrastructure at public Bacterial Source Tracking laboratories, implementation of agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source (NPS) components of TMDL I-Plans, and development of TMDLs through the collection and analysis of water quality and land use data. On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1.2 million in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. Staff are currently in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities for various projects to begin work this fall.

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 July 28, 2008, Brian Koch attended the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Ganado. An overview of CRP was given with a short video describing the history of the program and a summary of statewide activities. Also, an overview of the *2008 Basin Highlights Report* was given detailing water quality conditions and projects in the Basin. Several presentations were given and the first was on Federal Buffer Programs for Agriculture, where different types of buffers were described and methods for funding them were included. There are two major programs that fund buffers; one is the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), administered by USDA FSA; this program is designed for use bordering pastureland and protects riparian areas from grazing impacts. The other major funding source is EQIP, administered by USDA NRCS, and this funding can be used to implement filter strips and grassed waterways on cropland. Another presentation was on the Wharton County Flood Control Study. The entire county is being examined and the watershed with the highest priority due to flooding will see channel modifications designed to mitigate flooding impacts. The final results and recommendations for the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) on dissolved oxygen (DO) in the Lavaca River were given by TCEQ. Most of the areas displaying low DO in the Lavaca River were in intermittent portions of the stream with pools and little flow, and recommendations were to change the water quality standards due to these conditions. Brian Koch presented information on WPPs and included examples of plans and steps in the planning process. The Texas Department of Agriculture presented updates on activities the agency is undertaking to help with water quality, including funds for research on and abatement of feral hogs in Texas. More information is available at <http://www.lnra.org/>.

On August 27, 2008, Brian Koch attended the San Antonio River Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Karnes City. An overview of CRP was given, followed by highlights during the past year. Some of these highlights included targeted bacteria monitoring on Alazan and Martinez Creeks to compare dry and wet weather flows. Work by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to repair sewer lines in areas where additional monitoring has shown sewer lines to be a contributing problem to water quality was highlighted. The Upper San Antonio River WPP was discussed, including implementation in the River Loop area. The Lower San Antonio River TMDL has been adopted by TCEQ, and is awaiting EPA approval, which is expected in October. Meetings and discussion to develop the I-Plan are scheduled to begin in early 2009. More information is available at <http://www.sara-tx.org/>.

Texas Instream Flow Program

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 2 which directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the TCEQ, and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, to jointly establish and continuously maintain an instream flow data collection and evaluation program. In addition, the agencies were directed to conduct studies and analyses to determine appropriate methodologies for determining flow conditions in state rivers and streams necessary to support a sound ecological environment, including riparian and floodplain features, considering hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality, and connectivity. The *Programmatic Work Plan for Texas Instream Flow Studies* identifies priority studies, outlines the roles of the state agencies, and presents the scope of the studies and the general methods used to conduct the studies. First-tier priority instream flow studies are on-going in the lower San Antonio River Basin, the lower and middle Brazos River Basin, and the lower Sabine River Basin. For more information on the Texas Instream Flow Program is available at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/instreamflows>.

On August 21, 2008, Brian Koch attended a study design workgroup meeting in College Station for the Instream Flow Study on the middle and lower Brazos River Basin. The purpose of this meeting was for participants to gain a greater understanding of the river, for the agencies to garner local perspectives on the river, and for participants to understand their role as workgroup

members and to develop a goal statement for the river to guide the next stage of the study design process.

A similar study design workgroup meeting was held August 19, 2008 in Orange focused on the Instream Flow Study on the lower Sabine River Basin.

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

On August 11, 2008, Aaron Wendt participated in a conference call of the planning team for the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course. 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, 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 inaugural offering of this Short Course was in June 2008 in Bandera. During this conference call, the planning team finalized modifications to the agenda for the next course, which is scheduled for January 2009. More information is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>.

Arroyo Colorado

On August 20, 2008, Andy Garza, Ricardo Chapa, Ronnie Ramirez, and Pamela Casebolt attended the Arroyo Colorado Agricultural Issues Workgroup meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on project updates, best management practices available for cost-share or incentives, and future funding needs and opportunities. TSSWCB has obligated significant CWA §319(h) NPS Grant monies to implement agricultural components of the Arroyo Colorado WPP. Through current, on-going projects, technical and financial assistance has resulted in certification of 121 WQMPs on 6,273 acres and continued education/outreach efforts have reached over 5,000 people through field days and trainings. A nutrient management field day, a TCEQ waste pesticide collection event, and a soil testing campaign are scheduled for this fall. The water quality monitoring project began in April 2008 and the in-stream drainage ditch sampling component continues to move forward while setbacks in the edge-of-field study have delayed tasks until next year. The draft updated land use/land cover map was available for review and comment. The workgroup agreed to seek additional

CWA §319(h) NPS Grant funding from TSSWCB to continue technical assistance in the watershed.

On August 21, 2008, Andy Garza and Pamela Casebolt attended the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on workgroup updates and the long-term sustainability of the Partnership. The Valley Land Fund is proposing to spearhead the activities of the Habitat Restoration Workgroup. The Partnership will initiate steps to become a 501(c)(3) organization but will wait to take action until a new watershed coordinator is hired. The Partnership is continually seeking grant funds to benefit the Arroyo Colorado watershed and implement components of the WPP.

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.

Bastrop Bayou

On July 29, 2008, Brian Koch attended a meeting for the Bastrop Bayou WPP in Clute. This was the first of two public meetings held in July to update stakeholders on the WPP planning process. The other meeting was held July 31, 2008 in Lake Jackson. An overview of the project was provided including the risk assessment conducted in 2004 which led to this WPP development project. A review of water quality parameters and data was given, including Load Duration Curves and flow and precipitation data. There was an attempt to run the SELECT model to help calculate loading, but the bayou being a tidal stream prevented the model to run effectively; as a result the STEPL model will be run to quantify the loading. Stakeholder concerns included moving livestock from the top of the priority of sources, and placing failing septic systems there, as data from the County suggests septic systems are a bigger issue than livestock.

On August 26, 2008, Brian Koch attended a meeting for the Bastrop Bayou WPP in Lake Jackson. This was the first of two public meetings held in August to update stakeholders on the WPP planning process. The other meeting was held August 27, 2008 in Freeport. The main objective of the meeting was to give an update on the modeling to be done to help quantify loadings into the bayou. This has been a challenge since Bastrop Bayou is a tidal stream. One option is to use flow data from a neighboring stream with similar characteristics, and

another was to use data in the watershed from the flood control district in combination with the HEC-HMS model. This data is necessary to run Load Duration Curves for the different data points, and to get the load reductions necessary to help complete the WPP. Also, the group discussed prioritization of pollutant sources based on comments and surveys from the watershed, including livestock, failing septic systems, wastewater treatment facilities, and urban runoff.

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

On August 21, 2008, Loren Henley attended a Brady Creek WPP advisory committee meeting in Eden. Discussion began with an update on water quality monitoring sites along Brady Creek, and the levels of different water quality concerns found at the sites. A project status report was given by the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) to alert the stakeholders that the project will now be a watershed characterization, rather than the development of WPP. UCRA intends to submit a water quality assessment report to TCEQ at the end of August. TCEQ explained the intent to continue efforts for the WPP and discussed possible funding mechanisms to accomplish development of the WPP. More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html>. This project has the potential to impact agricultural operations in the Brady Creek watershed in McCulloch, Concho, San Saba and Menard Counties.

Buck Creek

On August 26, 2008, Mitch Conine and Aaron Wendt attended a Buck Creek WPP coordination meeting with project personnel in College Station. Updates on the progress of the project were given. The success of the June field day was discussed. The water quality sampling portion of the project is continuing on schedule and preliminary data from bacterial source tracking (BST) were discussed. An agricultural workgroup meeting is being scheduled in mid-September 2008 to discuss effective BMPs that might be included in the WPP. A stakeholder meeting is tentatively planned for the end of October 2008. More information is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP has the potential to impact livestock and farming operations in

the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

Clear Creek

At their September 10, 2008 meeting, the TCEQ intends to consider adopting *Nine TMDLs for Bacteria in Clear Creek and Tributaries (Segments 1101, 1101B, 1101D, 1102, 1102A, 1102B, 1102C, 1102D, and 1102E)*. The public comment period was June 6 through July 5. More information is available at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/6-8-clearcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Clear Creek watershed in Galveston, Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties.

Dickinson Bayou

On August 14, 2008, Brian Koch attended a Dickinson Bayou Watershed Advisory Committee meeting in Dickinson. At this meeting updates were given on the progress of the WPP. A brand (identity) for the partnership was approved by the committee. The Ordinance Comparison Analysis will focus on ordinances pertaining to smart growth and open space. New brochures for adults and youth have been developed and a public Planning Roundup and BBQ Bash is scheduled for August 23, 2008. All workgroups, except the Land Use Workgroup, are finished with their portions of the WPP and editing continues on the final draft of the WPP, which should be completed in September 2008. This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going Dickinson Bayou TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. 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.

Galveston Bay

On August 20, 2008, the TCEQ adopted *Six TMDLs for Bacteria in Waters of the Upper Gulf Coast (Segments 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2432, and 2439)*. These TMDLs focus on protecting oyster harvesting waters in the Galveston Bay system, including East Bay, West Bay, Chocolate Bay and Trinity Bay. These TMDLs must be approved by the EPA. More information is available at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/7-4-uppercoastoyster.html>. This TMDL will have limited

to no affect on livestock operations around the Galveston Bay complex in Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Gilleland Creek

On July 29, 2008, Pamela Casebolt and Loren Henley attended the Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan stakeholder meeting in Pflugerville. Discussion centered on progress in developing the I-Plan for the Gilleland Creek bacteria TMDL. After a brief history of the watershed and TMDL, the five technical workgroups (Natural Resource Management, Wastewater, Stormwater Management, Ordinances and Planning, and Education and Outreach) presented their recommendations to improve water quality in the Gilleland Creek watershed. Workgroups will continue to meet over the next six months and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and TCEQ will draft the I-Plan. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/6-9-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

Lake Granbury

On August 7, 2008, Mitch Conine attended the Lake Granbury WPP stakeholder meeting in Granbury. The stakeholders were presented modeling results from Espey Consultants, Inc. Model inputs that were included in the model were bacteria concentrations, circulation of canal water, and septic systems. The inputs were then modeled to determine potential loads in the watershed. The committee took action and voted to use the updated land use analysis. Duck populations were identified as a source of concern as well; Brazos River Authority conducted a population survey of ducks in the lake and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department indicated that waterfowl concentrations of 100 waterfowl per lake surface acre would be a concern. Results from the duck survey indicated 64 waterfowl per lake surface acre with the highest waterfowl populations occurring in fall and winter. Finally, BMPs that would help abate urban and agricultural NPS pollution were discussed. 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 Houston

On August 19, 2008, Brian Koch attended the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) meeting in Houston. The BIG is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. At this meeting, the group approved the groundrules and the alternate members for the BIG. The timeline for developing the TMDL I-Plan was given covering the formation of the group to delivering final recommendations. This process is expected to take place over the next 24 months. Workgroups were discussed, and the question of shifting livestock under agriculture took the bulk of the discussion time. Originally livestock was placed under the general source category "animals" and lumped with pets and wildlife. It was clarified that management strategies for each of these animal types differ greatly. More information on the 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.

Little Brazos River Tributaries

On August 19, 2008, Joel Clark, Teresa Reese, Loren Henley, Lee Munz and Aaron Wendt met with the Robertson County SWCD #451 to discuss progress on the Little Brazos River Tributaries Bacteria Assessment project. Specific project tasks were discussed including stakeholder facilitation, water quality monitoring and modeling, and bacterial source tracking. Input was solicited on proposed monitoring locations. Discussion turned towards stakeholder involvement and identifying appropriate stakeholders that should be involved in the process. Waterbodies of interest are all impaired for elevated bacteria and include Walnut Creek, Mud Creek, Pin Oak Creek, Spring Creek and Campbells Creek. This project has the potential to affect livestock operations in these five watersheds in Robertson County.

Lower San Antonio River

On August 20, 2008, the TCEQ adopted *One TMDL for Bacteria in the Lower San Antonio River (Segment 1901)*. This TMDL must be approved by the EPA. 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.

Plum Creek

On August 6, 2008, Brian Koch attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Luling. Over 85 participants, including city planners, teachers, landowners, farmers and ranchers, attended the workshop to learn about local water quality issues in Plum Creek and ways to get involved in local watershed management efforts. The Texas Watershed Steward Program was developed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service through CWA §319(h) NPS grants from the TSSWCB. More information about the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu>.

On August 14, 2008, Brian Koch and Pamela Casebolt attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart. Updates on the status of funding proposals submitted by the Caldwell-Travis SWCD and AgriLife Extension to TSSWCB and the City of Kyle to TCEQ for CWA §319(h) NPS Grants were provided. The Cities of Buda, Lockhart, and Kyle are currently voluntarily monitoring the quality of effluent from their wastewater treatment facilities while Luling is evaluating the opportunity to initiate monitoring. The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) has been conducting outreach and education activities with funding through a TCEQ grant, including producing roadway signage, an educational brochure, and an interactive wastewater treatment facility on-line model, as well as, conducting the second NEMO training in May and planning for two septic system trainings in late August. Surface water quality monitoring continues in the watershed and a website containing the water quality data collected will be available within the next month or two. It was proposed that the Steering Committee send a letter of support for the Hays County Development Regulations emphasizing the Partnership's support of water quality protection. The Steering Committee moved to delay voting on the letter until more information was presented to them. 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.

Upcoming Public Meetings – September and October 2008

- September 3 – Eagle Mountain Reservoir WPP public meeting (Decatur)
- September 3 – Eagle Mountain Reservoir WPP public meeting (Newark)
- September 6 – Friends of the San Bernard River meeting (Brazoria)
- September 8 – U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee meeting (El Paso)
- September 9 – San Antonio River Instream Flow Study Design Workgroup meeting (Floresville)
- September 9 – Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL I-Plan stakeholder meeting (Orange)
- September 10 – TCEQ Agenda Meeting regarding Clear Creek TMDL (Austin)
- September 11 – Cedar Creek WPP stakeholder meeting (Kaufman)
- September 11 – TSSWCB Wharton Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 11 – Community-Based Social Marketing Workshop (Grand Prairie)
- September 16 – Greater Houston Area Bacteria Implementation Group meeting (Houston)
- September 16 - Caddo Lake WPP Stakeholder meeting (Jefferson)
- September 17 – Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan Natural Resource Management Workgroup (Austin)
- September 17 – Lower Colorado River Authority Clean Rivers Program Steering committee (Matagorda)
- September 25 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on Lampasas River (Lampasas)
- September 25-27 – *Texas Coastal Conference* (Galveston)
- October 7 – *Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia* (EPA Webcast)
- October 7-9 – *Solutions to Instream Flows Conference* (San Antonio)
- October 20-21 – *Sustainable Water Resources Conference* (Houston)

COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL

Program Overview



The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a member of Texas' Coastal Coordination Council, which administers the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The TSSWCB manages the agricultural and silvicultural portions of this program. The Texas Coastal Management Program was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on January 10, 1997. The Texas Coastal Management Program is administered by the Texas Coastal Coordination Council and staff of the Texas General Land Office. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments requires each state with an approved Coastal Management Program to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The program must be submitted within 30 months of Coastal Management Program approval. As a result, the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program was submitted in December 1998 by the Coastal Coordination Council. The Coastal Management Program recognizes the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as holding primary responsibility over the development and implementation of the NPS program. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/coastalnps>.

Program Activities

The next CCC meeting will be September 18, 2008 on the coast. Meeting location has not yet been determined. Meeting information can be found at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cc.html>

CIAP Program

The State of Texas will receive \$48,591,202.09 for fiscal year 2007 and for fiscal year 2008. Of that amount, \$31,584,281.36 will be allocated to the state and \$17,006,920.73 will be allocated directly to the 18 coastal counties.

Before any funds can be disbursed to the state or the counties, a state CIAP plan must be approved by MMS. This plan will include the recommended projects that have been submitted for funding.

The plan can be found at:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/fy2007.html>

Additional information on the CIAP program can be found at:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/index.html>

Grant applications are no longer being accepted for 2008 state CIAP funding. Coastal Land Advisory Board staff are currently reviewing all submitted applications. Recommendations for funding will be submitted to the Coastal Land Advisory Board by the end of the year. All grant applicants will be notified at that time regarding projects recommended for funding.

CMP Grant Program

As in the previous grant cycles, the Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 14.

The full application is due October 15, 2008 by 5:00 p.m.

Information on this grant program is available online:

Erosion Response Rules Change Hearing

The Texas General Land Office will hold a public hearing in the Cameron County/South Padre Island area on September 4, 2008 to receive public comment on the proposed rule amendments and new rules concerning 31 TAC Chapter 15.

These rule amendments and new rules address Coastal Area Planning, Management of the Beach/Dune System, and Coastal Erosion Planning and Response that were originally published in the May 16, 2008, issue of the Texas Register at (33 TexReg 3885) and (33 TexReg 3894). The GLO proposed amendments to §15.2, relating to definitions; §15.3, relating to review periods for proposed construction, review periods for local

government beach and dune plans, and determination of the line of vegetation by the GLO; and §15.8 relating to beach user fees. The GLO also proposed new §15.16 and amended §15.41 in order to provide guidelines for local governments to establish erosion response plans that incorporate a building set-back line.

The hearing will be held in compliance with §2001.029 of the Texas Government Code to provide all interested persons a reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, verbally or in writing on the proposed rulemaking.

The hearing will be at 5:00 p.m. in the Town of South Padre Island Municipal Complex, Board of Aldermen Room, 2nd Floor (4601 Padre Blvd., 2.5 miles north of the Queen Isabella Causeway on South Padre Island). Persons with disabilities who wish to attend the hearing and require auxiliary aids or services should contact Gary Ainsworth at 956-761-6458, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Written comments regarding the proposed rule may be submitted in lieu of testimony at the hearing or may be sent by email or U.S. mail to Mr. Walter Talley, Texas Register Liaison, Texas General Land Office, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711, facsimile number (512) 463-6311, no later than September 15, 2008.

WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The 80th Legislature continued funding for the Water Enhancement Program by providing \$1,848,927.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY08. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of water enhancement projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- The TSSWCB staff and other professionals have reviewed current water enhancement projects throughout the State identifying the highest water yielding areas of each project with the assistance of Ken Rainwater PhD.,

P.E., BCEE Director, Water Resource Texas Tech University.

- Provided the following SWCDs with Water Enhancement Program Updates, Water Enhancement Program 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
Mitchell County SWCD
Gillispie County SWCD
Runnels SWCD
Middle Clear Fork SWCD

Area 3

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

Area 4

Harris Co. SWCD

Area 5

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

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Legislative update for Senator Duncan, Rep. Drew Darby
- Assist TCEQ with Brush rider concerning water yield in State Brush Projects
- Assist Upper Guadalupe River Authority in reviewing potential areas for Water Enhancement Project

- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assist Sen. Wentworth office in developing Guadalupe Watershed project
- Assisted Corp of Engineers with planning of water enhancement plan for O.C. Fisher
- Assisted Upper Colorado River Authority with Concho River Water Protection Plan
- Review all GR-06, GR-07, GR-08 funds in Water Enhancement Program
- Review Texas Invasive Species Council with Chairman of Appropriations and other Representatives and Senators at the Capital

FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

Floodwater retarding dams built by local watershed sponsors under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed program successfully protected many Texas communities from catastrophic damage during the spring and summer storms of 2007. Floodwaters from 24 storm events caused damages in 14 counties, with some counties being affected multiple times. Floodwater retarding dams in 19 watershed projects located within these counties reduced flood damages by \$25 million for these storm events.

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 and Texas Senate Districts that have watershed projects. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access the fact sheets from the Texas Watershed Web at:

<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.

O&M Initiative

NRCS has conducted an O&M initiative mandated by their national office. This included an O&M inspection, an estimate of needed O&M and associated costs, an estimated of needed major repairs and the repair cost, and a review of the hazard classification of all of the structures. These actions have been completed. A summary of the cost data compiled to date is:

| NRCS Assisted Watershed Program Dams as of August 28, 2008 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Designed Hazard Class | Current Hazard Class | # of Dams | O&M Costs | Repair Costs | Rehabilitation Costs | Sponsor's Share of Rehab Cost |
| Low | High | 233 | \$863,136 | \$13,336,800 | \$334,500,000 | \$117,075,000 |
| Significant | High | 15 | \$70,134 | \$0 | \$15,000,000 | \$5,250,000 |
| High | High | 95 | \$477,313 | \$277,000 | NA | NA |
| Low | Significant | 35 | \$106,263 | \$773,500 | NA | NA |
| Significant | Significant | 77 | \$258,519 | \$5,577,000 | NA | NA |
| Low | Low | 1,540 | \$9,303,377 | \$33,582,793 | NA | NA |
| Totals | - | 1,995 | \$11,078,741 | \$53,547,093 | \$349,500,000 | \$122,325,000 |

Notes:

Estimated cost to rehab dam from Low to High Hazard criteria = \$1.5 million per dam (based on recently completed projects).

233 L to H dams - 10 dams rehabbed to date = 223 dams need rehab; Cost = 1.5 X 223 = \$334.5 million

Estimated cost to rehab dam from Significant to High Hazard criteria = \$1.0 million per dam.

Repair costs are in addition to rehabilitation costs.

Rehabilitation costs are shared 65% federal and 35% local sponsor.

RC&D dams with evaluated life < 100 years not included.

O&M Costs are the costs needed to complete needed O&M. It does not include costs for annual O&M.

Rehabilitation is needed to bring dams up to high hazard safety standards because of downstream development.

O&M is routine maintenance: mowing, brush control on dam and spillway, maintaining fences,

Repair is major repair above normal maintenance: slope slides, inlet or spillway replacement,

If a dam needs both repair and rehabilitation, the repair will be performed as part of the rehabilitation.

Dam Safety Rules Revision

The TCEQ is in the process of updating Texas' dam safety rules. The proposed rules were posted in the Texas Register for public comment on July 25, 2008 for thirty days of public comment. The comment period has been closed. The proposed rules may be viewed or downloaded from TCEQ's web site:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/prop.html>

The revised rules should become effective January, 2009.

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Section 26.403 of the Texas Water Code established the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), and mandated that the Executive Director (or a designee) of the TSSWCB be a permanent member. The TGPC bridges the gap between state

groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource.

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

- Improves coordination between State and Federal agencies to protect groundwater.
- Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.
- Publishes numerous reports.
- Advises the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *State Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

Meeting information is available on the TGPC website at:

<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/meetings/Meetings.htm>.

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 lhenny@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 217 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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