



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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December 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

Deadlines:

Audits for Fiscal Year 2008 are due December 31.

State Mileage Reimbursement Rate to decrease to 55 cents per mile on Jan. 1, 2009

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, January 14, 2009**, at 2:30 p.m. in Temple, Texas at TSSWCB Headquarters. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas at the Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>.

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November 20, 2008, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2009. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the

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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

Deadlines:
Audits for Fiscal Year 2008 are due December 31.

State Mileage Reimbursement Rate to Decrease Jan. 1, 2009

The maximum state mileage reimbursement rate for travel will decrease to **55 cents** per mile on **Jan. 1, 2009**. The new rate, a decrease of 3.5 cents per mile, is consistent with the rate recently amended by the Internal Revenue Service.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following position:

Administrative Assistant II in San Angelo

For more information on TSSWCB employment please visit the link below:
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/employment>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory

agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

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

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

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

Proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register, Friday, August 22, 2008 and were open for review and comment. Comments received on the proposed rule amendments were reviewed and considered by the State Board in their November 20, 2008 meeting before adopting the final rule. The notice of adoption without changes was published in the December 19, 2008 issue of the *Texas Register*. The new rule is effective December 23, 2008..

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest

The 2009 packet of materials and instructions for FFA students who wish to participate in the 14th annual Soil and Water Stewardship Leadership Development Public Speaking Contest has been completed. The packet of materials will be sent to SWCDs in early February and then distributed to Texas Ag teachers in late February.

NACD is using the 2009 theme, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and Soil Science Society of America. NACD's stewardship and education material developed through this collaboration complements the Smithsonian "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," exhibition, which will run July 19, 2008

through January 3, 2010 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and travel to museums across the United States, May 2010 to September 2013.

SWCD Director and Employee Program Development Conference

Planning is currently underway to conduct a district director/employee program development workshop on January 28-29th. Promotional flyers in October and November have been sent to all SWCDs announcing the workshop. Registration details and a final reminder flyer was sent to all SWCDs in December.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Around the State

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will initiate an information/education sharing concept with SWCDs beginning in January. All SWCDs will receive a form titled, "***Around the State usually around the first of each month***". Districts will be asked to submit on the form a brief summary of planned information/education activities for that month. This information will then be shared in the TSSWCB's monthly Program Update for the purpose of showing a broad spectrum of information/education activities that districts are doing to promote soil and water conservation in the state.

News Article Templates

SWCDs will receive a news article template in January via e-mail that can be localized to promote the 2009 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest. Districts will also receive in January an electronic copy of a news template that they can localize if they have a director or employee planning to attend the program development workshop.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

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

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

Catalog includes 18 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage.

Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local soil and water conservation district or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public

Information/Education Committee will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

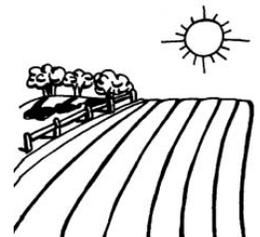
Ordering a Video

Select a video from the [TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog](#), then contact Meredith McArthur at mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and



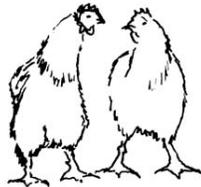
approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.

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

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

In 2001, the 77th Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit



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

Program Activities

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

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

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* (Texas NPS Program) is the

State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The Texas NPS Program is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

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

Implementation of the Texas NPS Program involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, state, and federal agencies play an integral part in managing NPS pollution, especially at the watershed level. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the kind of pollution controls that are necessary to prevent and reduce NPS pollution. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution. By establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, the State can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

For more information on the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, visit our website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram>.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs administered by and/or coordinated

through TSSWCB that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Program.

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of updating the program publication. Efforts to move forward with revisions to the program publication have been temporarily suspended while TCEQ completes a staff reorganization.

FY2008 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status

TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff have compiled a draft of the annual report and have submitted it to publications for review and graphic design layout. The report will highlight the State's efforts during FY2008 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent NPS pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans. This report must be submitted to EPA in January 2009 to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

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

Background

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

Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality

issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

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

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

The TSSWCB and TCEQ apply the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by supporting the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs). WPPs are locally-driven projects that serve as a mechanism for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed.

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

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and WPP development and implementation and are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

FY2002 – FY2008 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Status

There are currently 64 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Federal funds totaling approximately \$13 million are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement BMPs, support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement WPPs, and implement the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans. Details on some of these projects are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

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

The FY2009 Request for Proposals was published in the *Texas Register* on October 3, 2008, posted on the TSSWCB website, and e-mailed to all SWCDs and cooperating entities on our contact list. The deadline for proposal submission was November 21, 2008. The TSSWCB received 22 proposals during the RFP. TSSWCB staff are currently reviewing and ranking the proposals.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM

Background

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

The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL

defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

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

With authority as the lead agency in Texas for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution, TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs. TSSWCB is committed to funding and collaborating with TCEQ on TMDL projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation.

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.

FY2008 TMDL Grant Status

On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. There are currently 6 on-going projects that support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories, implementation of agricultural and silvicultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, and the collection and analysis of water quality and land use data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. A 7th project, leveraged with funding from a CWA §319(h) NPS Grant, has already been completed.

FY2009 TMDL Grant Status

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. Staff have obligated \$480,111 through five projects that support implementation of agricultural and silvicultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. Staff are in the process of developing workplans, budgets and contracts with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining funds (\$720,383).

TEXAS COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Background

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

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

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

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 Program. The agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

The CCC met in Austin on December 18, 2008. Meeting information can be found at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ccc.html>.

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

The State of Texas will receive \$48,591,202 for FY2007 and for FY2008. Of that amount, \$31,584,281 will be allocated to the State and \$17,006,921 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 Minerals Management Service (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>

The MMS is currently reviewing the Plan. Grant applications for individual projects will be submitted to MMS after the Plan has been approved. It is anticipated that state projects will be approved for funding by early 2009.

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.

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Background

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 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.

On December 2, 2008, Donna Long attended a meeting of the TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee in Austin.

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

WATER QUALITY COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

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

ESF-14 Community Recovery Interagency Group (Hurricane Ike Recovery)

During October and November 2008 various staff from the TSSWCB have participated in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinating group targeting community recovery. The ESF-14 Community Recovery Interagency Group has developed numerous focus groups including Housing, Health & Human Services, Economic Development, Jobs & Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Transportation & Infrastructure, Wetlands & Coastal Restoration,

Education & Outreach, Codes, Green Building, and Resiliency. TSSWCB staff are participating in the Agricultural & Forestry focus group, which is being coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Bacteria TMDL Task Force

On June 29, 2007, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved the recommendations from the joint Task Force on Bacteria TMDLs. The Board directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to 1) incorporate the principles of the recommendations into an updated joint-agency TMDL guidance document, 2) move diligently to expedite the development of bacteria TMDLs that were paused during the work of the Task Force, and 3) establish a multi-agency bacteria work group to continue examining the scientific research and development needs identified in the Task Force Report. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#taskforce>. TSSWCB staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement these directives.

Specifically, staff have completed a full draft of the revised TMDL Program Guidance that incorporates the Task Force recommendations on bacteria TMDLs. Progress on finalizing the guidance document has been suspended while TCEQ completes an internal staff reorganization. TSSWCB staff have also worked with TCEQ staff to resume work on the development of TMDLs paused during the Task Force process, including holding public stakeholder meetings and collecting and analyzing data; although, progress on the development of several of these TMDLs has been further suspended by TCEQ as proposed revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards may affect the water quality target of the TMDL.

Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List

The *Texas Water Quality Inventory* 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. The *2008 Texas 303(d) List* identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards (i.e., impaired), as required by the federal CWA. Over 830 waterbody-pollutant combinations are described. Bacteria impairments (contact recreation and oyster waters) continue to dominate the list with 48% of waterbody-pollutant combinations. Excessive levels of pollutants in fish tissue constitute 16% and low dissolved oxygen impairments account for 15%. The remainder of impairments are for a variety of pollutants. The TCEQ approved the *2008 Texas 202(d) List* on March 19, 2008.

On July 9, 2008, EPA partially approved, and partially disapproved, the *2008 Texas 303(d) List*. Specifically, EPA approved Texas' listing of 836 waterbody-pollutant combinations but disapproved Texas' decision not to list Corpus Christi Bay as impaired for recreation use due to excessive levels of bacteria; EPA added this waterbody-pollutant combination to the final *2008 Texas 303(d) List*.

On December 2, 2008, EPA published in the *Federal Register* notice of their response to public comments received regarding their decision to add Corpus Christi Bay to the final *2008 Texas 303(d) List*. Based on review of public comments EPA decided to maintain the listing of Corpus Christi Bay but has amended the scope of the listing to geographically define the impairment as restricted to only two beachfront parks. More information on EPA's decision is available at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2008/December/Day-02/w28600.htm>.

More information on the *2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/08twqi/twqi08.html>.

Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Major revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are being drafted by TCEQ, including the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria. TCEQ adoption of any changes to the Standards is not expected until mid-2009. EPA must also approve any changes.

TCEQ staff have posted on the website an agenda and numerous handouts for the next meeting of the Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group scheduled for January 6-7, 2009 in Austin. At this meeting, there will be significant discussion of proposed rule changes and how those changes would be implemented if approved by the Commission and EPA. This could be the last public meeting before proposed rule changes are published in the *Texas Register*.

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

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins in Texas. Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions. The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. The data

generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Galveston Bay is an estuary of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, is included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Galveston Bay Council is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan*, which is a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under the auspices of the National Estuary Program. The TSSWCB is a named member of the Galveston Bay Council.

More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>. The implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan* affects agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to Galveston Bay in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

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 and promote sustainable proactive approaches to managing water quality throughout the state, this Short Course (WPSC) provides participants with guidance on stakeholder coordination, education, and outreach; meeting the EPA's nine key elements of a WPP; data collection and analysis; and the tools available for plan development. The Texas

Water Resources Institute, with CWA §319(h) funding from the TCEQ, developed this course. The planning team includes TSSWCB staff.

The next course is scheduled for January 12-16, 2009 in Bandera.

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

Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

On December 11, 2008, Brian Koch and Mitch Conine attended the Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus.

At this meeting, updates were given on several WPP and TMDL projects from across the region. Texas AgriLife Extension Service presented an update on the progress of implementing the Plum Creek WPP. The Houston-Galveston Area Council provided an update on the development of the Bastrop Bayou WPP and on the Houston Area Bacteria Implementation Group, which focuses on several bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program presented information the West Bay Conservation Initiative. GBEP partnered with the River Systems Institute at Texas State University and have conducted watershed habitat assessments, identifying key areas for conservation as a tool for stakeholder-led planning. Also, a technical advisory group has been established, and relationships with key local leaders and landowners have been cultivated. Work will continue to further capitalize on current opportunities for on-the-ground conservation work and to expand relationships with landowners, as well as reaching out to corporate and industrial stakeholders.

Texas Water Resources Institute presented information on Lone Star Healthy Streams which is

a program focused on reducing the levels of bacterial contamination of waterbodies from grazing livestock. Funded with CWA §319(h) NPS Grants from the TSSWCB, this will be accomplished by evaluating and demonstrating BMP effectiveness, developing an educational curriculum, and promoting statewide BMP implementation. Currently, research is being conducted using different grazing BMPs including alternative water sources and artificial shade to reduce livestock loafing in and close to streams. These BMPs have shown a 75% reduction in time spent in those critical areas. Also, runoff from rangeland and pastureland under different grazing scenarios is being monitored. The scenarios include rangeland not grazed to heavily utilized pasture, and bacteria numbers from each of these situations differ. More information on Lone Star Healthy Streams is available at <http://grazinglands-wq.tamu.edu/>.

The WCSC is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and improvement partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/cwp>.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- January 6-7, 2009 – TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- January 6, 2009 – Houston Area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Animal and Agricultural Sources Workgroups (Houston)
- January 12-16, 2009 – Texas Watershed Planning Short Course (Bandera)
- January 12-14, 2009 – 9th Biennial State of Galveston Bay Symposium (Galveston)
- January 12, 2009 – Galveston Bay Council (Galveston)

- January 13, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado WPP Outreach and Education Workgroup (Weslaco)
- January 16, 2009 – Barton and Onion Creeks Watershed Stakeholder Meeting (Austin)
- January 20, 2009 – TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- January 20, 2009 – South Texas Irrigation Conference (Hondo)
- January 20, 2009 – Houston Area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Steering Committee (Houston)
- January 21, 2009 – Eagle Mountain Lake WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Decatur)
- January 21, 2009 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (Austin)
- January 21, 2009 – TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee (Austin)
- January 21, 2009 – TGPC Groundwater Research Subcommittee (Austin)
- January 26, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado WPP Agricultural Issues Workgroup (Weslaco)
- January 26, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- January 26-27, 2009 – 2nd Annual Wind Energy Conference (Austin)
- January 31, 2009 – South Llano River Watershed Stakeholder Meeting (Junction)
- February 5, 2009 – Cedar Creek WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Kaufman)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Adams and Cow Bayous

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH
 Mechanism: TMDL, 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 impacts on livestock and forestry operations

in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Arroyo Colorado

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

On November 20, 2008, a Texas Watershed Steward workshop was held in Monte Alto. Sponsored by TSSWCB and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed what it is to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. The training also involved interactive demonstration projects such as a NPS watershed model, rainfall simulator, and rainwater harvester. The workshop was held in support of ongoing watershed planning efforts in the Arroyo Colorado watershed.

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

Atascosa River

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

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

Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On December 16, 2008, Brian Koch attended a Bastrop Bayou WPP meeting in Brazoria. At this meeting an overview of the project was given including completed tasks. SELECT model details were given on bacteria loading estimates. Also, Load Duration Curves for bacteria were discussed; these will be used as another tool to help assess bacteria loading. Also, new Texas Stream Team volunteer monitors were identified; data they collect will be used to help with the project.

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

Brady Creek

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html>. This TMDL will have limited to no 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 December 2-4, 2008, Max Berry attended a Caddo Lake WPP Hydrology Workgroup meeting in Jefferson.

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

Cedar Creek Reservoir

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

On November 20, 2008, Donna Long attended a Cedar Creek Reservoir WPP stakeholder meeting in Kaufman.

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, TMDL I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/68-clearcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Clear Creek watershed in Galveston, Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties.

Concho River

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

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

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Eagle Mountain Reservoir

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

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

Elm and Sandies Creeks

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, 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, 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

On December 19, 2008, Loren Henley, Brian Koch, and Aaron Wendt met with staff from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) to discuss preliminary steps to initiate watershed assessment and planning activities in the Geronimo Creek watershed. TSSWCB has provided a CWA §319(h) NPS Grant to GBRA to support the development of a WPP.

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, TMDL I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

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

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On December 3, 2008, Mitch Conine attended a Lake Granbury WPP stakeholder meeting in Granbury.

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

Lake Granger

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

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

Hickory Creek

Concern: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Lake Houston

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

On November 18, 2008, Brian Koch attended the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Steering Committee meeting in Houston. The BIG is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and

Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. At this meeting, the previous meeting minutes were approved and additional Steering Committee alternates were approved. The various workgroups reported on their activities and discussion from each meeting, including identifying sources and load reduction strategies. Also, a basic outline of the TMDL I-Plan was distributed and discussed, with consensus on including the nine elements fundamental for a WPP. TCEQ provided the Upper San Antonio River WPP was a good example of each element. The group expressed a desire to have EPA involved in the BIG.

On December 5, 2008 Brian Koch attended the Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) Animal Work Group meeting in Houston. At this meeting a discussion was held on additional animal sources of bacteria. Also, existing implementation activities were discussed, and additional activities were identified and prioritized to help achieve load reductions. Brian Koch discussed the TSSWCB WQMP Program and associated financial assistance available in Harris, Waller and Liberty Counties; he identified BMPs that were eligible for funding through the TSSWCB Program, and talked about the availability of NRCS EQIP in the affected watersheds.

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, TMDL I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/19-lakeopines.html>. This TMDL and I- Plan affect poultry, dairy and forestry operations in the Lake O' the Pines watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison and Marion Counties.

Lampasas River

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

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

Leon River

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

On December 2, 2008, Don Brandenberger, Charlie Upchurch, Pamela Casebolt, TJ Helton, and Aaron Wendt attended a Leon River WPP Town Hall meeting in Hamilton. The meeting opened with a discussion on the postponement of the Leon River bacteria TMDL and the need to capitalize on the opportunity to support and make decisions on the WPP. Watershed reconnaissance survey results were presented which noted the general conditions of the river and presence/absence of point and nonpoint sources of pollution. A summary of implementation strategies developed by the seven focus groups were also discussed. Other discussion included bacterial source tracking (BST), the inclusion of nutrients in the WPP, and how modeling will be used to evaluate BMPs.

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

For more information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds/littlebrazos>. This project will affect livestock operations in the Walnut, Pin Oak, Campbells, Mud and Spring Creeks watersheds in Robertson County.

Lower San Antonio River

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

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

North Bosque River

Impairment: Nutrients, Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, 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.

Oso Bay and Oso Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, 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, 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.

Plum Creek

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

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

Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

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

Lake Somerville

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

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

Upper Oyster Creek

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

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

Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

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

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

Area 2 Districts

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

Area 3

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

Area 4

Harris Co. SWCD

Area 5

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

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assisted Corp of Engineers with planning of water enhancement plan for O.C. Fisher and spraying of Salt Cedar
- 21 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Certifications
- 15 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Contracts
- Assist Canadian River Municipal Water Authority with Salt Cedar Certification
- Discuss proposal for project with the White River Municipal Water District for treating Salt Cedar
- Met with Rep. Swinford to discuss the upcoming Legislative session

- Conference call with National Invasive Species coordinator concern requirements for Texas Invasive Species Council
- Presented presentation about Water Enhancement Program to the City of San Angelo Water Advisory Board

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 that have watershed projects. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access

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

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

Dam Safety Rules Revision

The TCEQ is in the process of updating Texas' dam safety rules. The proposed rules may be viewed or downloaded from TCEQ's website:

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

The revised rules should become effective January, 2009.

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

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 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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