



# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Monthly Program News and Activities

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July 2009

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

**REX ISOM, Executive Director**

### **Budgeting and Accounting**

- **July 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for claiming 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter district director mileage and per diem.
- **August 31<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Supplemental Matching Fund claims and Technical Assistance Program Performance Reports.

Please see the Budget and Accounting section for more deadlines.

Program	
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee	9
Upcoming Meetings	11
Water Quality Planning & Implementation	12
Water Supply Enhancement Program	18
Flood Control Dams	19

### **CONTENTS**

State Board Work Sessions and Meetings	1
Budget and Accounting	2
Human Resources	2
Special Projects	2
Public Information and Education	3
Water Quality Management Plan Program	4
Poultry Water Quality Management Plans	4
Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program	5
Clean Water Act, §319(h) NPS Grant Program	6
State Funded NPS Grant Program	7
Total Maximum Daily Load Program	7
Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control	8

### **STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS**

#### **Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings**

The State Board has scheduled a Board Work Session for 1:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 16, 2009** tentatively in Temple at the AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center. A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, September 17, 2009** tentatively in Temple at the AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center. 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 16, 2009, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2009. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes>

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

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## BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- **July 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for claiming 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter district director mileage and per diem.
- **August 31<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Supplemental Matching Fund claims and Technical Assistance Program Performance Reports.
- **September 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for 2009 Financial Statement/Audit Notification Forms.
- **September 1<sup>st</sup>** is the deadline for submitting Financial Statement / Audit Notification Forms
- On **September 15<sup>th</sup>** District Director Mileage and Per Diem advances will be made for 2010 and 2010 Fiscal Year allocation amounts will be mailed for District Director Mileage & Per Diem, Matching Funds, and Technical Assistance.
- **September 30<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter District Director Mileage & Per Diem claims for 2009, Technical Assistance claims for 2009, and the return of any unused District Director Mileage and Per Diem advances for 2009.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following position:

- Natural Resources Specialist IV- Nacogdoches
- Data Base Administrator II – Temple
- Engineer III – Wharton
- Accountant I – Temple
- Accountant I - Temple

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

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

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

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

- The state meeting this year is scheduled for October 19-21, 2009 in Arlington. Please save the date and plan to attend.
- Those planning on attending this year may make your reservations at the Sheraton Arlington or the Holiday Inn Arlington. Their numbers for reservations respectively are: 1-800-442-7275 and 1-817-460-2500.

Please mention that you are with the soil and water conservation group to get the group rate for the meeting.

## **Proposed Rule Amendment (31 TAC §517.10)**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in their May 21, 2009 meeting has recommended a rule amendment for publication in the *Texas Register* for review and comment.

The rule amendment pertains to 31 TAC, Chapter 517, Subchapter A, Conservation Assistance, §517.10 to extend the deadline from August 1 to August 31 for the deadline of when soil and water conservation districts must have claims for Conservation Assistance funds (Matching Funds) in the state office. This amendment will provide districts more consistency with end of year reporting requirements and more time to earn/raise matching funds.

The proposed rule amendment was adopted as published in the *Texas Register*.

## **Proposed New Rule (31 TAC §529) - Flood Control O&M Grant Program**

At its July 16, 2009 board meeting, the State Board approved publishing new rule 31 TAC §529 in the *Texas Register* for a thirty-day public comment period. Upon closure of the public comment period, TSSWCB staff will review all comments received and determine whether changes should be made prior to a final recommendation being made to the State board for adoption of the rules.

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## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

### **Soil and Water Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contests**

Janie Foreman of the Bridgeport FFA Chapter earned first place in the FFA State Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest conducted at the state FFA Convention in Dallas in July. Ms. Foreman, who was a runner up in the Area V Contest, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for her efforts. The scholarship is granted through the Association of Texas SWCDS public information and education program.

Ms. Foreman is expected to present her state winning speech to soil and water conservation district directors at their annual meeting in October.

### **SWCD Events**

**The Hamilton-Coryell Soil and Water Conservation District #506 is in the process of developing an educational outreach program targeting landowners with small acreage. The district's concern is relative to a large number of persons buying and building homes on small acreages.**

### **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](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2008_Video_Library_Catalogue.pdf) . The 2009

Catalog includes 30 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage.

Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local 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 Whitley at [mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto: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.

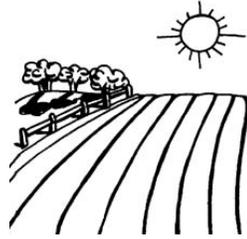
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

A total of 642 water quality management plans have been certified by the State Board through the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY-2009. This is 3.5% greater than the yearly goal.

District cost-share fund allocations for FY-10 have been approved by the State Board. The period for obligating FY-10 cost-share funds goes from September 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

For FY-09, the Hall-Childress #109, Salt Fork #133, Atascosa #307, Hill Country #534 and Mills County #554 were designated as priority districts because of impaired water bodies within their boundaries. These districts are now eligible to receive cost-share allocations.

Lapsed cost-share funds have been reduced by 53% in the last four years. Approximately 12.5% of total cost-share funds are being lapsed statewide at the present time.



# 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

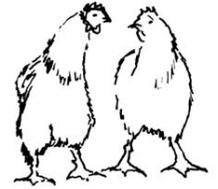
Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Beginning in September 2009, the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature has amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit:

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

## Program Activities

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

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



# TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* (Texas NPS Program) is the State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The Texas NPS Program is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

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

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

establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, the State can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

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

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Program.

## Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

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

## FY2008 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of coordinating the drafting of the *2009 Annual Report on Managing Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Texas*. Staff have been discussing the content of the report and a timeline for completion. In order to continue receiving CWA §319(h) funds, the State must annually report on success in achieving the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Program. The report will highlight the State's efforts during FY2009 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 2010 to ensure continued 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. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

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

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

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

There are currently 54 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 54 ongoing projects total approximately \$14 million and 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 (I-Plans). Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through these grants are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

## FY2009 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Application Status

The FY2009 Request for Proposals was published in the *Texas Register* on October 3, 2008. The

deadline for proposal submission was November 21, 2008. The TSSWCB received 22 proposals for FY2009 funds. TSSWCB SRM staff have notified the applicants that were denied funding are currently working with applicants to revise workplans and budgets that were selected for funding.

## **STATE FUNDED NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Background**

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

### **FY2008 Grant Status**

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

### **FY2009 Grant Status**

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to NPS Program grants. TSSWCB SRM staff have obligated \$1,114,479 through nine projects that support implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL IPlans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. TSSWCB SRM staff are in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining funds (\$86,015).

## **TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM**

### **Background**

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

The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

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

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

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

## **TEXAS COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local, and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to

implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

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

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

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

In July, 2008, the Coastal Coordination Council's response to the conditional approval findings for the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (Coastal NPS Program) was submitted to NOAA

and EPA. Texas is currently awaiting full approval of its program.

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

### **Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)**

Several bills were passed by the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature that will impact the coastal program. SB 803 reduces the number of required meetings of the CCC from 4 to 2 annually and allows other meetings at the call of the chair or three members of the council. HJR 102 makes the Open Beaches Act part of the Texas Constitution. There will be a statewide election 11/3/2009.

### **Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant Cycle 15**

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

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

The final application deadline is October 14, 2009, with a proposed project start date of October, 2010.

## **TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

### **Background**

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

The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater be kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with

its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

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

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

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

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

### **TGPC Activities**

On July 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC meeting in Austin.

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

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

A future meeting will be held October 26, 2009.

## **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>.

### **Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review**

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

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

More information on this Standards review process is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html](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.

On July 22, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly meeting for the Galveston Bay Council in Houston. Houston Advanced Research Center presented information of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the State of the Bay, which is currently out for review. The update will feature an overview of the Galveston Bay Plan, current issues facing Galveston Bay, success stories such as the formation of The Galveston Bay Council and various marsh and habitat restoration projects, various data ranging from water and sediment quality to fish and shellfish populations and trends to oil spills and colonial nesting bird information.

The next presentation was an update of the TMDL I-plan for Galveston Bay Oyster Waters by TCEQ staff, the TMDL was approved in 2008, and there will be upcoming public meetings to discuss implementation. Texas Department of State Health Services gave a report on the current fish consumption advisory for Clear Creek, and discussed data collection methods and explanation of the process involved with advisories of this nature. This was followed by subcommittee reports from Monitoring and Research, Public Participation and Education, Water and Sediment Quality, and Budget and Priorities.

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 provides participants with guidance on stakeholder coordination, education, and outreach; meeting the EPA's nine key elements of a WPP; data collection and analysis; and the tools available for plan development. The Texas Water Resources Institute, with CWA §319(h) funding from the TCEQ, developed this course.

The next offering of this course is August 17-21, 2009 in Bandera. Individuals interested in or responsible for watershed protection and restoration including employees and volunteers with federal, state, county, and local agencies; SWCDs; universities; consulting firms; non-governmental organizations; and watershed groups will benefit from this course. More information is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>.

### **Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable**

On July 8, 2009, TSSWCB, in collaboration with TCEQ and TWRI, hosted the second Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Temple. The topic was *Sustainable Organizational Structure for Long-Term WPP Implementation*. Nearly 80 people attended, including TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, TJ Helton, Pamela Casebolt, Loren Henley, Mitch Conine, Brian Koch, Donna Long, Lee Munz], representing almost all of the on-going watershed planning efforts across the state. The primary purpose of the Roundtable was to provide a forum for continuing dialogue between watershed coordinators in order to facilitate interactive solutions to common issues being faced statewide. Presentations covered topics including watershed group organization, sustainable financing, legal framework for nonprofit organizations, and approaches to working with nonprofit conservation partners. The Roundtable was well received by participants and fundamentally served to demonstrate Texas' growing institutional capacity in watershed management and planning. More information is available at <http://watereducation.tamu.edu/twcr.php>.

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

- July 27, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- July 27, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Agricultural Issues Workgroup (Weslaco)
- July 28, 2009 – Lavaca Navidad River Authority CRP (Edna)
- July 29, 2009 – Bastrop WPP (Angleton)
- July 30, 2009 - Bastrop WPP (Lake Jackson)
- July 31, 2009 – Cypress Creek WPP (Wimberley)
- August 10-13, 2009 Efficient Irrigation for Water Conservation in the Rio Grande Basin Conference (McAllen)
- August 11, 2009-Houston-Galveston Area Council Clean Waters Initiative Workshop on Stormwater Education for the Public (Houston)

- August 13, 2009 – Plum Creek WPP (Lockhart)
- August 17-21, 2009-Texas Watershed Planning Short Course (Bandera)
- August 20, 2009-Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee (TBA)
- August 25, 2009-Texas Watershed Steward Workshop focused on Cedar Creek Reservoir (Kaufman)
- August 31, 2009- Dickinson Bayou WPP (Dickinson)
- September 1, 2009-Armand Bayou Watershed Partnership (Pasadena)
- September 3, 2009 – Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering (Columbus)
- September 22, 2009 – Getting in Step Workshop on Watershed Outreach Campaigns (Houston)
- September 23, 2009 – Getting in Step Workshop on Watershed Outreach Campaigns (Austin)
- September 24, 2009 – Getting in Step Workshop on Watershed Outreach Campaigns (Dallas)
- September 26, 2009- National Estuaries Day
- September 30, 2009 – TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Austin)

## WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Adams and Cow Bayous

#### Adams and Cow Bayous

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs have limited affect on livestock and forestry operations in

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

### Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment

Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

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

### Atascosa River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

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

### Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria

Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

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

On July 21, 2009, TSSWCB field staff [Jack Foote], regional office staff [Judy Albus, Jared Groves] and SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Buck Creek WPP public meeting in Wellington. Updates were given on water quality sampling progress and the status of the WPP document. Texas AgriLife Research discussed the current status of bacterial source tracking (BST) and gave a list of the known source samples that are still needed. The preliminary results of the load duration curves (LDC) for each sampling site was presented to the stakeholders as well as LDC's for the whole watershed and the assessment units. The next stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> in Wellington.

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

## **Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous**

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

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

## **Caddo Lake**

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

More information is available at <http://www.netmwd.com/Caddo%20Lake%20Prote>

[ction%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 July 20, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Lee Munz] attended the Cedar Creek Reservoir Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Stakeholder meeting in Kaufman, TX. Ed Rister, an Agricultural Economics specialist presented the economic analysis for the BMPs that would be most cost effective and would achieve the 35% phosphorus reduction for the WPP. Clint Wolfe, Texas AgriLife, Urban Solutions discussed the results of the SWAT evaluations of sub-watershed to determine where funding should be targeted in the WPP. David Waidler, Cedar Creek Watershed Coordinator updated the group on the status of the WPP. A final draft of the plan is scheduled for next meeting September 2009 and the final WPP sent to EPA in October 2009.

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

## **Clear Creek**

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

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

### **Concho River**

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

More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest UCRA.html>.

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

### **Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/42-copano.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

### **Cypress Creek**

Concerns: Dissolved Oxygen, Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.cypresscreekproject.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Cypress Creek watershed in Hays County.

### **Dickinson Bayou**

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at

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

### **Eagle Mountain Reservoir**

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

On July 17, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Lee Munz] attended the Eagle Mountain Watershed Protection Plan Stakeholder meeting in Decatur, TX. Darrel Andrews with Tarrant Regional Water District updated the group on the water quality data that has been taken in the lake and informed the group of the potential water quality concerns. David Waidler, Watershed Coordinator went over the results of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) stakeholder survey. The survey ranked watershed BMPs on prioritization, effectiveness, and likelihood to implement. This survey will help the stakeholders to choose the BMPs that will help reduce loadings into the lake. Dean Dittus with Texas Agrilife Research discussed the current effort to do a recreational use attainment analysis in the Eagle Mountain watershed to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on the water body.

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

### **Elm and Sandies Creeks**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-elmsandies.html>. This TMDL will affect

livestock operations in the Elm and Sandies Creeks watershed in Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson and Guadalupe Counties.

### **Galveston Bay**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/74-uppercoastoyster.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations around the Galveston Bay complex in Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

### **Geronimo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek>. This WPP has the potential to affect ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

### **Gilleland Creek**

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

On July 14, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a Gilleland Creek TMDL Technical Stakeholder Meeting in Austin. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain input on management measures agreed upon by the technical workgroups. A proposed timeline for the public comment period, public meetings, and approval by the TCEQ Commissioner was presented, with a finalization date somewhere around December of 2009. Discussion included abandoned trash pick ups, illegal dumping into the creek, municipality responsibilities, and the possibility of scheduling community volunteer days.

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

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/mygovernormentalwater319grant.cfm>. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Hickory Creek watershed in Denton County.

### **Lake Houston**

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

On July 21, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Bacteria Implementation Group monthly meeting in Houston. Discussion continued on the public engagement portion of the plan, with letters being sent out to the cities and counties involved. Also, more GIS information was presented, and it focused on population proximity to streams, and risk of illness was assessed with the information, based on density. Texas Stream Team volunteer monitoring was overviewed for the group, and opportunities were discussed. Also, an overview of evaluating water samples for bacteria was overviewed, with the meeting attendees getting an opportunity to view samples. The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2009.

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

More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs have the potential to affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

### **Lake O' the Pines**

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

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

### **Lampasas River**

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

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

### **Leon River**

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

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

### **Little Brazos River Tributaries**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: Assessment  
Lead: TSSWCB

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

### **Lower San Antonio River**

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

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

### **North Bosque River**

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

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

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

### **Peach Creek**

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

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

### **Pecos River**

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

More information is available at <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan,

Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

### **Plum Creek**

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

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

### **Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

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

### **San Bernard River**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: Third party

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

### **Lake Somerville**

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

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

### **South Llano River**

Impairment: None

Mechanism: Assessment and Planning  
Lead: Third party

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

### **Upper Oyster Creek**

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

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

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## **Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report**

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY10. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

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

#### **Area 2**

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

- Gillespie County SWCD

#### **Area 3**

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

#### **Area 4**

- Harris Co. SWCD

#### **Area 5**

- Archer County SWCD
- Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
- Pecan Bayou SWCD
- Bosque SWCD
- Little Wichita SWCD

### **Current Water Enhancement Projects throughout the State and Project Managers:**

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin  
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood TSSWCB
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties)- Cody York
- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)-  
Melissa Grote
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Tuffy Wood
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of  
America (Bandera)- Cody York
- Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scout of  
America (Wimberley)- Cody York

### **Evaluating Watersheds are based on the following criteria as per Chapter 203.053:**

In ranking areas under the plan, the board shall consider:

- (1) the location of various brush infestations;
- (2) the type and severity of brush infestations;
- (3) the various management methods that may be used to control brush;

- (4) the amount of water produced by a project and the severity of water shortage in the project area; and

any other criteria that the board considers relevant to assure that the brush control program can be most effectively, efficiently, and economically implemented

### **Evaluating Limits on Cost Share Participation as per Chapter 203.154**

- (a) Not more than 70 percent of the total cost of a single brush control project may be made available as the state's share in cost sharing.
- (b) A person is not eligible to participate in the state brush control program or to receive money from the state brush control program if the person is simultaneously receiving any cost-share money for brush control on the same acreage from a federal government program.
- (c) The board may grant an exception to Subsection (b) if the board finds that joint participation of the state brush control program and any federal brush control program will:
  - (1) enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of a project;
  - (2) lessen the state's financial commitment to the project; and
  - (3) not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project.
- (d) A political subdivision is eligible for cost sharing under the brush control program, provided that the state's share may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of a single project.
- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, 100 percent of the total cost of a single project on public lands may be made available as the state's share in cost sharing.

### **Staff Activities**

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects

- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Supply Enhancement Project
- 15 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Certifications
- 1 Landowner assisted with a Water Supply Enhancement Contract
- Working with TWRI on the Water Supply Enhancement Program to develop a Priority system using GIS
- Met with field staff and discuss potential new projects in respective areas throughout the State
- Pedernales work group meeting held in Johnson City with the Pedernales SWCD and the Gillispie County SWCD
- Met with Rep. Heflin to review Water Supply Enhancement Program
- Attended Independent Cattlemen's Association convention in San Marcos
- Attended Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species

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## **FLOOD CONTROL DAMS**

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

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

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

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

## Dam O&M And Repair Appropriation

In 2008 the USDA-NRCS conducted a survey of all of the NRCS flood control structures in Texas in order to assess maintenance and structural repair needs and to estimate their costs.

Based on those cost estimates, the State Board requested funding from the Texas Legislature to assist local sponsors with bringing maintenance and repair up to standards. The budget recently passed by the 81st Legislature includes \$15,000,000 for the State Board for flood control dam maintenance and repair for the biennium beginning September 1, 2009. That is enough to address approximately 44% of the maintenance costs and 18% of the structural repair needs identified in the USDA-NRCS survey. The State Board is currently working, with input from an advisory group, on developing a program to administer these funds and on the required program rules.

At its July 16, 2009 board meeting, the State Board approved publishing new rule 31 TAC §529 in the *Texas Register* for a thirty-day public comment period. Upon closure of the public comment period, TSSWCB staff will review all comments received and determine whether changes should be made prior to a final recommendation being made to the State board for adoption of the rules.

## Guidelines for Developing Emergency Action Plans

The TCEQ dam safety program has a new publication: *Guidelines for Developing Emergency Action Plans for Dams in Texas*, GI-394, May 2009. The manual can be downloaded from the TCEQ web site:

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm\\_exec/forms\\_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-394.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-394.html)

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The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



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