



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

JULY 2014

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 about specific programs or projects please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

**REX ISOM**

**Executive Director**

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### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, September 17, 2014** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, September 18, 2014**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or [kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

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### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for:
  - Submitting the FY2014 online Performance Reports. The report is available online on the SWCD Resources Page of the TSSWCB Website. FY2015 payments cannot be made until this report is submitted.
  - FY2014 regular and supplemental Matching Fund claims.
- September 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submitting the FY2014 Financial Statement / Audit Notification Form.

For more budget and accounting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 ext. 236 or [kzajicek@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kzajicek@tsswcb.texas.gov)

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 2 positions available at this time.

- Engineering Technician-Hale Center Regional Office
- Natural Resource Specialist III–Hale Center Regional Office

For additional information or to download an application, visit <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/employment>.

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as publishing the agency's Semi-Annual Report and coordinating rule-making functions.

Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors  
Mark your calendars for October 27-29, 2014 and plan on attending the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual State Meeting held in Galveston.

Reservations opened May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hotels being used for the meeting this year are the Hilton (877-425-4753); the San Luis (800-455-0090); and the Holiday Inn (800-Holiday).

Please ask for the Texas Soil and Water reservation block. The room rate for each hotel is \$91.00 single/\$125.00 double

Please check our website for a map of Galveston and the hotels.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we plan on having an outstanding meeting.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

State Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest

Breanthy Baker of Mount Pleasant, a graduated senior and a member of the Chapel Hill FFA Chapter earned first place honors in the 2014 Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest which was held in conjunction with the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas FFA State Convention July 14-18, in Fort Worth.

Second place honors went to Stephanie Wlascinski of Richmond, TX. Also a recently graduated Senior, Ms. Wlascinski is a member of the Travis High School FFA Chapter.

Earning third place in the contest was James Hughes Hayden of Perryton, TX. Hayden, a Junior, is a member of the Perryton FFA Chapter.

The first place winner in the contest earned a \$3,000 scholarship. The second place winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship and the third place winner will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarships are provided by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District's Public Information and Education Committee.

Other top ten finalists competing in the contest in order of ranking included:

- 4<sup>th</sup>—Kara Harris of Idalou, TX
- 5<sup>th</sup>—Miranda Orsak of Van Vleck, TX
- 6<sup>th</sup>—Tori Abner of Howe, TX
- 7<sup>th</sup>—Mackenzie Smith of Stephenville, TX
- 8<sup>th</sup>—McCalley Cunningham of Goliad, TX
- 9<sup>th</sup>—Alexis De La Garza of Eagle Pass, TX
- 10<sup>th</sup>—Lexi Burnett of Jacksboro, TX

The theme of the 2014 contest is, *"Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil"*

## Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to [conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov). Conservation News is also available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/news>.

## Conservation Video Library

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2011 catalog can be downloaded at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/infoed/videolibrary>. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow videos from the library.

## Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Loren Warrick at [lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov) to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs 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.

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the enactment of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature designated the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) the lead agency in the state for the abatement, management, and prevention of nonpoint source pollution from agricultural or silvicultural sources. Additionally, the Legislature authorized the agency to administer a certified water quality management plan (WQMP) program, complete with a cost-share program to incentivize participation and offset the cost of implementing soil and water land improvement measures, for lands within the state. While the TSSWCB makes the program available on a statewide basis, the State Board approves priorities based on activity and geography to target the cost-share incentive funding to the areas of the state that exhibit the most need for nonpoint source pollution abatement.

The purpose of cost-share funding is to provide an incentive to landowners or operators to install soil and water conservation land improvement measures consistent with the purpose of controlling erosion, conserving water, and/or protecting water quality. Rule requires this be done in accordance with a water quality management plan certified by the State Board. For the current biennium, the staff of the State Board conducted a stakeholder process through a survey submitted to each of the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). Each survey contained information regarding the known agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water quality concerns that pertained to the local SWCD and the State District (Area) of the SWCD. Input was requested and received on these known concerns. Additionally, the staff of the State Board solicited SWCDs for any local concern not known to the state. All 216 completed and returned their surveys.

The State Board may allocate funds appropriated from general revenue fund and other sources for cost-share incentive funding among particular soil and water conservation land improvement measures, specific SWCDs, among areas of the state through cost-share incentive priorities, or a combination thereof, and may adjust such allocations throughout the year as available funds and SWCD needs and priorities change in order to achieve the most efficient use of state funds. Additionally, the State Board may designate a portion of the funds allocated to a SWCD or to cost-share incentive priorities to reimburse SWCDs for obligations incurred in administering cost-share incentive activities.

On July 24, 2014, agency staff recommended that the program's \$1,950,000 for cost-share incentive funding for the Fiscal Year 2015 be allocated in the following manner:

Set aside 5% of the total budget (\$97,500) for reimbursing SWCDs for their administrative costs in administering the program at the local level. Administrative payments will be calculated on cost-share payments made to applicants rather than on amounts obligated by SWCDs.

Divide the remaining funds for cost-share into six separate allocations:

(1) A statewide allocation in the amount of \$100,000 for providing cost-share funds to applicants to address complaints and other unforeseen situations.

(2) An Area I Allocation in the amount of \$350,500.

(3) An Area II Allocation in the amount of \$350,500.

(4) An Area III Allocation in the amount of \$350,500.

(5) An Area IV Allocation in the amount of \$350,500.

(6) An Area V Allocation in the amount of \$350,500.

Staff of the State Board recommended approval of the same Cost-Share Incentive Priorities for Fiscal Year 2015 as were approved for Fiscal year 2014 (no changes). These priorities are geographically defined by either watersheds or aquifer recharge zones and known to the staff of the State Board.

Staff also recommended the State Board approve the same criteria and point values for ranking cost-share requests for Fiscal Year 2015 as was used in Fiscal Year 2014. One exception is the awarding of 5 points to applicants that were ranked during Fiscal Year 2014, but did not rank highly enough to receive funds (Item 12 below):

1. NPS Priority Area Watershed where a WPP or TMDL exists or is in development

OR - NPS Priority Area Watershed with an RUAA (but no WPP or TMDL)

2. NPS Priority Area Major Aquifer (Ogallala & Seymour)

3. NPS Priority Area Coastal Zone District

4. Impaired Watershed with agricultural sources cited on Texas 303(d) List but no TMDL or WPP exists or is in development

5. Major Aquifer with Nitrate Concerns

6. Confined animal feeding operation is present

7. Unconfined livestock will graze 25% or more of the operating unit

8. Cultivation will occur on 25% or more of the operating unit

9. Nutrients will be applied to 25% or more of the operating unit

10. Animal waste will be utilized for nutrients on 25% or more of the operating unit

11. Irrigation will occur on 25% or more of the operating unit

12. Unfunded applicant from previous fiscal year

Staff recommended that request forms be ranked one week after the first month of the new fiscal year, and that remaining funds be obligated in the same manner month after month until such time all funds are obligated. Additionally, staff recommends that when two or more requests for cost-share are tied in point values the date on which the applicant signed the request for cost-share should be used to break the tie.

Based on recommendations from the district survey, staff recommended that a non-geographic priority area be approved in Area 4 for all poultry operations regardless of their location within the Area.

The State Board voted to approve all items as presented.

For more information on the WQMP Program, please visit our website at: <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted by the Governor in June 2012 and thusly approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

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

### Nonpoint Source Grant Program

#### **FY2009 – FY2013 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 34 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 34 on-going projects total approximately \$9.5 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various

targeted educational programs; develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPP); and implement the NPS portion of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans (I-Plan).

#### **FY2014 CWA §319(h) Grant Application**

TSSWCB received 30 proposals requesting a total of \$10,311,095 in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Through the spring, TSSWCB and EPA worked on negotiating scopes of work and budgets for selected proposals.

TSSWCB's FY2014 CWA §319(h) allocation from EPA is \$3,603,000. TSSWCB selected 10 proposals to be included in the FY2014 CWA §319(h) grant application, which was submitted to EPA on June 6, 2014.

#### **FY2015 Request for Proposals**

On July 4, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2015 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program. The RFP was published in the Texas Register, posted on the TSSWCB website, and all SWCDs and cooperating entities were notified of this funding opportunity. TSSWCB SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the Texas NPS Management Program and the 2012 Integrated Report. The deadline for proposal submission is August 22, 2014.

#### **FY2012 – FY2014 State Grant Status**

There are currently 15 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 18 on-going projects total approximately \$2.5 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAA); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

### Water Quality Coordination Activities

#### **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 (GBC) 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 June 26, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Galveston Bay Council Budget and Priorities subcommittee meeting in Houston. This meeting focused on the Galveston Bay Plan review and path forward with the emphasis that this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of implementation of the plan. Also, discussion on the next state of the bay symposium was held.

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 the Galveston Bay complex in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

### STATE DISTRICT III

#### Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment  
Mechanism: WPP, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ  
Project: “Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution”, Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$202,443/ External \$135,191  
Project: “Implementing Best Management Practices to Reduce Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution in Support of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan”, TSSWCB-Harlingen Regional Office; Federal \$183,741

Project: “Bacterial Source Tracking to Support Adaptive Management of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan”, Texas Water Resources Institute/Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Federal \$465,555/ External \$178,333

On July 17, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt] and Harlingen Regional Office staff [Ronnie Ramirez] attended several Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership meetings in Weslaco. First, the Agricultural Issues Workgroup met to discuss the WPP update as well as gather information about recommended best management practices and the number of cattle in the watershed. An update on current implementation projects and exploration for future funding was also discussed. Lastly, the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting was held. Workgroup updates were provided during this meeting which included statuses of current implementation projects.

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.

#### Plum Creek

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

Project: “Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$216,000/ External \$144,000  
Project: “Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Additional Data Collection Activities to Support the Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$485,545/ External \$257,165  
Project: “Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of

the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304; Federal \$150,788

On June 24, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd and Liza Marshall] attended a Smart Growth Workshop that took place in Lockhart. Topics covered Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan, low impact development design and maintenance, overview of the TCEQ Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant program, followed by a rainfall simulator demonstration. The workshop concluded with a tour of the Caldwell County Judicial and Service Center, which is currently under construction to include Low Impact Development BMPs.

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.

## STATE DISTRICT IV

### Double Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: “Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou”, Houston Advanced Research Center; Federal \$1,023,614/  
External \$388,149

On June 27, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Feral Hog Management

Workshop in Hankamer. Over 40 individuals attended this workshop that was put on by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service with a CWA §319(h) NPS grant from EPA and the TSSWCB. Presenters at the workshop were from state and federal agencies including AgriLife Extension, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Game Warden, Texas Animal Health Commission, USDA Wildlife Services. Topics covered feral hog basic biology in the Double Bayou Watershed in Chambers and Liberty Counties, laws and regulations, current research, and control methods for this invasive exotic species including hunting and trapping. Additional information on feral hog management is available at [http://www.extension.org/feral\\_hogs](http://www.extension.org/feral_hogs).

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/watersheds#doublebayou>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Double Bayou watershed in Chambers and Liberty Counties.

### Other State District IV Projects

Project: “Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Ten Creeks in the Red River and Neches Basins”, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University: State \$406,298\*

On July 10, 2014, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] participated in a public meeting in Paris to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Smith Creek. The meeting was to inform local stakeholders of the findings of the first field survey. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://tiaer.tarleton.edu/ruaa/index.html>

### Upcoming Public Meetings

- August 2, 2014 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Lower San Bernard (Brazoria)
- August 7, 2014 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Baytown)
- August 14, 2014 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting (Kyle)
- August 19, 2014 – Living Water Conference (Junction)
- August 19, 2014 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Lower Nueces River (Robstown)
- August 26, 2014 – San Antonio River Authority Clean Rivers Program Meeting (Berclair)
- September 4, 2014 – Regional Watershed Coordinator Steering Committee (Columbus)

- On July 1, 2014, WSEP staff conducted a public hearing in Temple to receive oral comments on the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan.
  - At the hearing, one entity presented information and suggestions for changes to the proposed plan.
- On July 3, 2014, the Executive Director extended the public comment period on the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan until July 21, 2014.
- At the public hearing on July 1, 2014, the agency received a request to extend the deadline. As a result of the request, to ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to provide constructive input on the development of the plan, the comment period was extended for an additional two weeks. Notice of the extended deadline was published in the July 11, 2014 issue of the Texas Register. An agency news release was also published.
- On July 7, 2014, WSEP staff consulted with the U.S. Geological Survey to review and discuss the new project in Victoria County examining the effects of huisache control on water quantity (see also Agenda Item 26) and the continuing project at the Honey Creek State Natural Area evaluating the effects of juniper control.
- On July 9, 2014, WSEP staff attended the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee meeting in Austin. A presentation was provided by the Edwards Aquifer Authority on a report published on the evaluation of riparian water flux patterns in the Upper Nueces, Sabinal, Frio, and Dry Frio Rivers in relation to the control of *Arundo donax*; the report is available at <http://www.pullkillplant.org/S/>. A presentation was provided by the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research on the progress to conduct a

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## WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 83rd Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2014. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

In order to help meet the State's critical water conservation needs and ensure availability of water supplies, the TSSWCB administers the WSEP to increase available surface and ground water through the selective control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation (e.g., juniper, mesquite, saltcedar). The 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature continued funding for the WSEP by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2014. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

- On July 1, 2014, WSEP staff hosted a meeting in Temple with SWCD staff (from Pedernales 218, Bandera 229, Upper Nueces-Frio 238, and Pecan Bayou 553) to discuss the draft.

feasibility study assessing the control of saltcedar in the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Basin; this project is funded by the WSEP.

- On July 15, WSEP staff consulted with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department concerning the effects of the WSEP on fish and wildlife, in accordance with Agriculture Code §203.016(3).
- On July 16, 2014, WSEP staff conducted a joint meeting (via conference call) of the WSEP Stakeholder Committee and the WSEP Science Advisory Committee to discuss the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan and the proposed rule amendments.
- On July 29, 2014 the State Board approved FY2014 funding to Victoria SWCD.
- On July 29, 2014 the State Board approved the WSEP plan as well as updated rules and regulations.

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is appropriated general revenue by the Texas Legislature to provide grants to the sponsors of flood control dams for operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation. The TSSWCB administers an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Grant Program and a Structural Repair Grant Program, both of which are administered according to rules adopted by the State Board in 31TAC529. The rules for these programs specify which flood control dams are eligible for funding, the entities that are eligible to apply and receive funding, and the conditions under which a grant must be administered, matched, and reported.

For FY2013, \$2,050,997 was allocated to 69 dam sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams through June 30, 2015. To date there is a balance of \$1,096,752 that still needs to be spent before the June 2015 deadline.

The TSSWCB has contracted with the Dalworth SWCD to conduct a major repair on Mountain Creek, Site 10, in Ellis County using \$5,600,000 of FY2014 funds. The district has selected a contractor to perform the needed repairs and work is set to begin by the end of July.

NRCS received appropriations of \$262 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program for Fiscal Year 2014. This amount is about ten times the normal annual funding for this program. Texas NRCS received \$33.8 million of these funds. According to NRCS, all funds must be obligated by the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30, 2014.

NRCS will likely obligate at least half of these funds directly with watershed sponsors through project agreements for projects that will be ready for construction before the end of the fiscal year. However, for projects that are still in the planning and design stage and are not ready for construction, NRCS may need to contract with the TSSWCB in order to obligate the funds by September. The funds must be obligated in one agreement per dam. Therefore, if funding is provided to TSSWCB for 11 dams as expected, 11 separate agreements will be required. In addition, multiple contracts between TSSWCB and engineering firms for planning, design, and construction inspection will be required. Construction contracts will also be administered by TSSWCB and local sponsors (SWCDs) on at least 3 dams.

TSSWCB plans to assist watershed sponsors with the local share (35%) of rehabilitation project cost using state funds appropriated for the Flood Control Program. State funds can be used to match up to 33.25 % of total rehab project cost, with local sponsors providing the remaining 1.75%.

In the current biennium we anticipate that about \$7 million of state funds will be available for assistance to local sponsors for watershed rehabilitation and/or structural repair.

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

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*Monthly Program News and Activities* is published by the TSSWCB for use by Texas SWCD Directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please call (254) 773-2250.



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(254) 773-2250 <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>  
Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by 1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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