



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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July 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

- On July 17 the state board approved district grant allocations for Fiscal Year 2009 for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage & Per Diem
- The approved allocation amounts for 2009 along with Financial Statement / Audit instructions for 2008 were mailed to each district on July 30
- The maximum mileage reimbursement rate for 2009 will be \$0.585 per mile.

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STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Board Work Session for 2:30 p.m. in Temple, Texas on **Wednesday, September 17, 2008**. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas on **Thursday, September 18, 2008**. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at

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

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 17, 2008, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for September 18, 2008. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at

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

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- On July 17 the state board approved district grant allocations for Fiscal Year 2009 for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage & Per Diem
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- The maximum mileage reimbursement rate for 2009 will be \$0.585 per mile.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has no positions available. 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.

Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The State Meeting for this year is scheduled for September 29-30 and October 1, 2008 in Galveston.

The meeting will be in the Galveston Island Convention Center.

Rooms have been blocked at the Galveston Island Hilton, the Holiday Inn Resort on the Beach and the Best Western Beachfront.

The Hilton may be contacted at 409-744-5000, the Holiday Inn may be contacted at 409-740-3581 and the Best Western may be contacted at 409-740-1261.

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

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

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

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

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

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

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public

Information/Education Committee will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be

the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

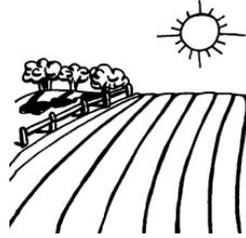
Ordering a Video

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

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.



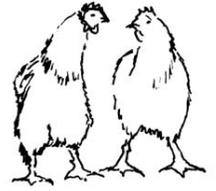
Program News

At their meeting on July 17, 2008, the State Board took action on the following items: (1) raised the maximum amount of cost-share assistance per operating unit to \$15,000, (2) designated additional districts for participation in the water quality management program, (3) approved rule amendments for 31 TAC 523.1-523.4 and 523.6 to be published in the Texas Register for public comment, and (4) approved district cost-share allocations for FY-09 which begins on September 1, 2008. For more information about this program, please visit the link below:
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

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



Program Activities

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

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

Staffs from TSSWCB, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Sanderson Farms, Inc. plan to hold meetings in August for poultry growers in Limestone, Leon, and Robertson Counties to address reduction of odor complaints in the area.

All TSSWCB staff working with poultry issues met in Belton on July 2, 2008 to discuss overall coordination and implementation of the Poultry Program. Also, odor investigation training was conducted for our staff by TCEQ.

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

CLEAN WATER ACT, §319(h) GRANTS

Background

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

FY2002 – FY2007 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

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

FY2008 CWA §319(h) Grant Application

The TSSWCB's Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 §319(h) program allocation is \$4,578,700. The TSSWCB received a total of 18 proposals requesting a total of \$7,549,471 in federal funds. Of the 18 proposals, 6 were selected for funding. TSSWCB submitted the FY2008 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 9, 2008.

Envirocast Houston Launch Event

On June 17, 2008 Aaron Wendt, Loren Henley, and Brian Koch attended the launch event for the Houston Envirocast project. The event was hosted by KPRC Channel 2 News, a NBC affiliate; KPRC will be reporting and airing environmental news during the weather segment. State Board member Larry Jacobs attended the launch event and spoke about TSSWCB's decision to fund the project and the anticipated benefits that environmental news will have on citizens and landowners in the greater Galveston Bay watershed. This project will be a tool for awareness and education about nonpoint source pollution in the Houston urban communities and the surrounding rural areas. The environmental segments include information about watersheds, local efforts for better water stewardship, and what those can do in their home to help water quality in their community, and many more informative segments. For more information view the links below

<http://www.click2houston.com/green-pages/index.html>

<http://kprc.envirocast.net/>

Texas Watershed Steward Workshop in Hickory Creek a Success

Over 120 citizens, which included farmers, ranchers, city planners, homeowners, teachers, agency representatives, etc., attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop on July 23rd in Denton to learn about local water quality issues, sources of water pollution, and ways to get involved in local watershed management efforts. The workshop was sponsored by the TSSWCB, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the City of Denton in support of ongoing watershed management efforts in the Hickory Creek Watershed. Workshop participants learned about watershed systems, water quality regulation and monitoring, methods to improve water quality, and community-driven watershed protection and management. For more information about the Texas Watershed Steward Program and ways to get involved in protecting your watershed, please visit <http://tw.s.tamu.edu>.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Watershed Planning

Total Maximum Daily Load Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for review and approval every two years. The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. Based on the environmental target of the TMDL, an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody and remove it from the *303(d) List*. Responsibility to develop and implement TMDLs is shared between the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). More information on the TSSWCB TMDL Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>.

Watershed Protection Plan Program Overview

A Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) is a coordinated framework for voluntarily implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated

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

State Appropriations for TMDL Program Grants

On May 24, 2007, the Board approved a *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs* which provides guidance to staff on directing state appropriations for the TMDL Program. On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. These monies have been fully obligated and directed to projects that support increased analytical infrastructure at public Bacterial Source Tracking laboratories, implementation of agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source components of TMDL I-Plans, and development of TMDLs through the collection and analysis of water quality and land use data. On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. Staff are beginning to work with entities to develop workplans and budgets for various projects to begin work this fall.

Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List

On July 9, EPA partially approved, and partially disapproved, the *2008 Texas 303(d) List*. This report describes the status of the state's waters, as required by the federal CWA. It 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 *List* identifies those waterbodies not attaining water quality standards as impaired. Specifically, EPA approved Texas' listing

of 836 waterbody-pollutant combinations but did not agree with the State's decision to not list one waterbody-pollutant combination. EPA has identified Corpus Christi Bay as impaired for recreation use due to excessive levels of bacteria and placed this waterbody-pollutant combination on the final 2008 Texas 303(d) List. More information on EPA's decision is available at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-WATER/2008/July/Day-17/w16387.htm>. More information on the 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>.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins in Texas. Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions. The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On July 17, Max Berry attended the Sulphur River Basin Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Texarkana. The group discussed several issues associated with Lake Wright Patman and the current water quality monitoring regime for the Basin. The group also reviewed the *2008 Basin Highlights Report* which details water quality conditions and projects in the Basin. More information is available at <http://www.sulphurr.org/>.

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.

On July 16, Brian Koch attended the Galveston Bay Council meeting in Pasadena. Reports from the chairman and staff of the Galveston Bay Estuary Program focused on the State of the Bay Symposium scheduled for January 12-14, 2009 in Galveston. Presentations focused on PCBs and dioxins and their impact on seafood consumption from Galveston Bay, and the recent advisories issued by Texas Department of State Health Services and seafood safety outreach being conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Currently, there are fish consumption advisories for spotted seatrout and gaftop catfish, stemming from recent sampling that took place in Galveston Bay. Fish tissue samples were taken at or near popular fishing areas in the bay. These two species show higher concentrations of PCBs because these compounds attach better to fats and lipids and these two species have higher percentages of fat compared to other species. TPWD has been posting signs at public boat ramps that warn anglers of fish consumption advisories for adjacent waters. Currently, they intend to post 1,600 signs, evenly split between coastal and inland fisheries resources. In addition to posting these

signs at public boat ramps, TPWD is trying to place them at private ramps with large volumes of traffic. There are 46 public ramps in Galveston County and 15 in Chambers County.

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.

TMDL and WPP Program Coordination with other Agencies

On July 22, John Foster, TJ Helton, Donna Long, Mitch Conine and Aaron Wendt met with staff from the River Systems Institute (RSI) at Texas State University in San Marcos. The group discussed several projects of mutual interest including the Cypress Creek WPP and a Red River data analysis schema. Additionally, the group discussed strategies for RSI's involvement in the *Texas NPS Management Program* and RSI's new Initiative for Watershed Excellence. More information on RSI is available at <http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/>.

On July 24, TJ Helton and Aaron Wendt met with staff from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Austin. The group discussed several projects of mutual interest including estimating flows in ungaged waterbodies for use in developing Load Duration Curves, collection of sediment cores from Lake O' the Pines to better understand phosphorus cycling in the lake, progress on finalizing the Watershed Boundary Dataset for Texas (HUC-12 delineations), studies on brush control effectiveness in Honey Creek and the Canadian River, and studies of aquifer recharge in Cypress Creek and Jacob's Well. More information on USGS water programs in Texas is available at <http://tx.usgs.gov/>.

Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

On July 15, Aaron Wendt participated in a meeting of the planning team for the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course in College Station. 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 inaugural offering of this Short Course was in June 2008 in Bandera. The planning team reviewed evaluations received from participants and instructors and discussed modifications to the agenda for the next course, which is scheduled for January 2009. More information is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>.

Cedar Creek Reservoir

On July 24, Lee Munz attended a Cedar Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Kaufman. Texas AgriLife Research reviewed the status of the work with the economic cost data to determine the cost-effectiveness of each BMP to be implemented in the watershed. Draft text for the WPP was reviewed and stakeholders were asked to provide comments. 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.

Concho River

On July 1, Ben Wilde, Loren Henley and Aaron Wendt attended a Concho River WPP public meeting in San Angelo. The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment on the draft WPP. The majority of discussion was focused on the effect of brush control on enhancing water supplies and the associated impacts on water quality. In the coming weeks, the Upper Colorado River Authority will finalize the WPP based on oral and written comments received and submit the WPP to the

TSSWCB and EPA for consistency review. 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

On July 23, Mitch Conine and Aaron Wendt attended a Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers TMDL agricultural workgroup meeting at the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton. The formation of a formal stakeholder group vs. a general public meeting format was discussed. The consensus among the group was to form a formal stakeholder group with individual workgroups, such as agricultural, outreach and education, and wastewater and municipalities. TCEQ is taking a new approach to data analysis and modeling and this approach was presented. The tidal prism model, which is a mass balance approach, is being used for understanding loadings to the bay and the tidal portions of the rivers. TSSWCB has several on-going projects funded with CWA §319(h) grants to address many of the concerns of stakeholders. TSSWCB has provided grants to 1) the Nueces River Authority to collect additional, targeted water quality data during high flows at stream sites across the watershed and from WWTFs, 2) Texas AgriLife Extension Service to develop and implement an education program for livestock producers about BMPs to improve water quality, and 3) the Texas Water Resources Institute to collect edge-of-field data on the effectiveness of BMPs, such as alternative water sources and prescribed grazing, on reducing bacteria runoff from grazing livestock. Additionally, through these projects realistic estimates of cattle, deer and feral hogs will be provided to TCEQ. There was significant discussion about draft population numbers and distribution of these animals across the watershed. 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.

Lake Houston

On July 8, Brian Koch attended a meeting of the Bacteria Implementation Group, which is focused on TMDLs in the greater Houston area. These TMDLs are in various stages of development and include Lake Houston, Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, Clear Creek, and others. Discussion focused on the purpose of the BIG, organizing the steering committee, laying out ground rules, organizing workgroups, and setting a timeline for the development of the I-Plan. The group will meet monthly for the next two years to discuss strategies for improving water quality in these watersheds. 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

On July 9, the TCEQ approved *An Implementation Plan for One TMDL for Dissolved Oxygen in Lake O' the Pines (Segment 0403)*. On July 17, the Board also approved this I-Plan. TSSWCB staff collaborated with TCEQ staff and Lake O' the Pines watershed stakeholders, including SWCD Directors, NRCS, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Forest Service, to draft this I-Plan. The goal of the I-Plan is to restore the high aquatic life use in Lake O' the Pines by increasing average concentrations of dissolved oxygen through reductions in phosphorus loadings. The TMDL, adopted and approved in mid-2006, prescribes a 56% reduction in total phosphorus from both point source WWTFs and anthropogenic nonpoint sources, including agricultural and silvicultural sources. Specifically, to reduce phosphorus loadings

from animal feeding operations, the I-Plan establishes goals for developing and implementing WQMPs on 100% of poultry operations and 85% of dairies in the watershed. TSSWCB and NRCS will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to achieve these goals. Additionally, TSSWCB will continue to work with the Texas Forest Service to administer a BMP program focused on minimizing impacts to water quality from forestry activities. TSSWCB will continue to support forestry implementation monitoring and BMP effectiveness studies in East Texas conducted by the Texas Forest Service. Finally, educational outreach activities will be used to promote the efficient and wise use of phosphorus within the watershed. Educational outreach programs will be coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and others, and targeted towards 1) commercial providers of fertilizers, 2) homeowners for lawn and garden practices, 3) agricultural producers, 4) homeowners with OSSFs, and 5) forestry operations. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/19-lakeopines.html>. This TMDL and Implementation 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

On July 17, Pamela Casebolt met with the Hill Country SWCD #534 and the Mills County SWCD #554 to discuss public involvement strategies and the modeling approach that are planned for use in developing the Lampasas River WPP. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/lampasas>. This WPP will affect livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

North Bosque River

On July 17, Loren Henley and Aaron Wendt attended a meeting with TCEQ staff in Austin regarding the North Bosque River TMDL Model

Refinement Project. Preliminary results from the model refinement were presented. A baseline of reference conditions was run prior to examining allocation scenarios. A replicate of the original TMDL model with some refinement based on current knowledge of existing BMPs was run. These BMPs include dairy diet, manure applications rates, manure haul-off, and WWTF controls. Additional modeling runs incorporated the updated NRCS Practice Standard for Nutrient Management (590), new recommendations for third-party field applications, recent restrictions to CAFO lagoon size, the possibility of additional floodwater-retarding structures (PL-566 reservoirs), and the inclusion of the new Microgy, Inc. biogas facility. Final results of these modeling scenarios will be presented at a public meeting to be scheduled in the near future. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/06-bosque.html>. This TMDL impacts dairy operations in the North Bosque River watershed in Bosque, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Coryell and McLennan Counties.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- July 28 – Lavaca-Navidad River Authority Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee (Ganado)
- July 29 – Gilleland Creek TMDL public meeting (Pflugerville)
- July 29 – Bastrop Bayou WPP public meeting (Clute)
- July 31 – Bastrop Bayou WPP public meeting (Lake Jackson)
- August 6 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on Plum Creek (Lockhart)
- August 7 – *Development and Evaluation of Environmental Flow Prescriptions for Big Cypress Bayou* (USGS Webcast)
- August 7 – Clean Water Initiative Workshop on Septic Systems (Houston)
- August 7 – Lake Granbury WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Granbury)
- August 7 – H-GAC Natural Resource Advisory Committee (Houston)

- August 14 – Plum Creek Watershed Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- August 15 – *Nutrient Management Plans* (NLPELC Webcast)
- August 19 – Houston Area Bacteria Implementation Group (Houston)
- August 20 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Agricultural Issues Work Group (Weslaco)
- August 21 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- August 26 – Upper Trinity River TMDL public meeting (Arlington)
- August 27 – San Antonio River Authority Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee (Karnes City)
- August 28 – Cedar Creek WPP stakeholder meeting (Kaufman)
- September 11 – TSSWCB Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 25 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on Lampasas River (Lampasas)

COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL

Program Overview

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a

member of Texas' Coastal Coordination Council, which administers the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The TSSWCB manages the agricultural and silvicultural portions of this program. The Texas Coastal Management Program was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on January 10, 1997. The Texas Coastal Management Program is administered by the Texas Coastal Coordination Council and staff of the Texas General Land Office. Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments requires each state with an approved Coastal Management Program to



develop a federally approvable program to control coastal nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The program must be submitted within 30 months of Coastal Management Program approval. As a result, the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program was submitted in December 1998 by the Coastal Coordination Council. The Coastal Management Program recognizes the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as holding primary responsibility over the development and implementation of the NPS program. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/coastalnps>.

Program Activities

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

CIAP Program

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

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

Grant applications for the 2008 state funding will be accepted through July 31, 2008. Applications must be made online at:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/fy2008.html>

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>

CMP Grant Program

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

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

Information on this grant program is available online:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle14.html>

WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

BACKGROUND:

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

- The TSSWCB staff and other professionals have reviewed current water enhancement projects throughout the State identifying the highest water yielding areas of each project with the assistance of Ken Rainwater PhD., P.E., BCEE Director, Water Resource Texas Tech University.
- Provided the following SWCDs with Water Enhancement Program Updates, and Water Enhancement Program Certification, and /or Contracts:

Area 2 Districts

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

Mitchell County SWCD
Gillispie County SWCD
Runnels SWCD
Middle Clear Fork SWCD

Area 3

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

Area 4

Harris Co. SWCD

Area 5

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

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Legislative update for Senator Duncan, Rep. Drew Darby
- Assist TCEQ with Brush rider concerning water yield in State Brush Projects
- Assist Upper Guadalupe River Authority in reviewing potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assist Sen. Wentworth office in developing Guadalupe Watershed project
- Assisted Corp of Engineers with planning of water enhancement plan for O.C. Fisher
- Assisted Upper Colorado River Authority with Concho River Water Protection Plan

FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

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

counties reduced flood damages by \$25 million for these storm events.

Statewide, 148 watershed projects provide average annual benefits exceeding \$119 million. This very important infrastructure provides benefits by reducing flood damages to homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and agricultural lands, as well as protects many people's lives.

The NRCS has prepared Watershed fact sheets have for all U.S. Congressional Districts in Texas and

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

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

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

O&M Initiative

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

| NRCS Assisted Watershed Program Dams as of July 11, 2008 | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Designed Hazard Class | Current Hazard Class | # of Dams | O&M Costs | Repair Costs | Rehabilitation Costs | Sponsor's Share of Rehab Cost |
| Low | High | 175 | \$672,298 | \$11,655,900 | \$262,500,000 | \$91,875,000 |
| Significant | High | 11 | \$38,134 | \$0 | \$16,500,000 | \$5,775,000 |
| High | High | 95 | \$477,313 | \$277,000 | NA | NA |
| Low | Significant | 30 | \$72,990 | \$773,500 | NA | NA |
| Significant | Significant | 81 | \$290,519 | \$5,577,000 | NA | NA |
| Low | Low | 1,603 | \$9,527,487 | \$35,263,693 | NA | NA |
| Totals | - | 1,995 | \$11,078,741 | \$53,547,093 | \$279,000,000 | \$97,650,000 |

Notes:

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

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

Repair costs include engineering services and are in addition to rehabilitation costs.

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

Approximately 23 dams currently classified as low hazard are being studied for potential change to high hazard.

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

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

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

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

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

Dam Safety Rules Revision

The TCEQ is in the process of updating Texas' dam safety rules. The proposed rules were posted in the Texas Register for public comment on July 25,

2008 for thirty days of public comment. Comments are due by August 25, 2008. The proposed rules may be viewed or downloaded from TCEQ's web site:

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

A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held on August 19, 2008.

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/hearings.html#08005>

The revised rules should become effective January, 2009.

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Section 26.403 of the Texas Water Code established the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), and mandated that the Executive Director (or a designee) of the TSSWCB be a permanent member. The TGPC bridges the gap between state groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource.

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

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

Meeting information is available on the TGPC website at:

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

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