



# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Monthly Program News and Activities

4311 South 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas 76502  
P.O. Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503 (254) 773-2250

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

July 2010

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**

- August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Supplemental Matching Fund claims, Technical Assistance Program performance reports, and Financial Statement / Audit notification forms.

For more information on Budgeting and Accounting See page 2.

### **CONTENTS**

State Board Work Sessions and Meetings	2
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 General Revenue Grant Funding	7
Total Maximum Daily Load Program	7
Watershed Protection Plan Program	8
Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program	8
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee	11
Water Quality Coordination Activities	11
Upcoming Meetings	16
Water Quality Planning & Implementation	17
Water Supply Enhancement Program	26
Flood Control Dams	27

---

## STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session for 1:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 15, 2010** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple.

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 Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

### Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 22, 2010, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting scheduled for September 16, 2010. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at

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

---

## BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

New Technical Service Provider (TSP) funds are now available for 2010. These funds will be in addition to the 2010 TSP funds Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs) have already been allocated. However, the criteria required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for using the new funds will be different. The new funds may only be used for handling and ranking applications, contract planning, contract development, contract management and conservation practice implementation on Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) contracts. Given the new criteria, SWCDs are being surveyed to identify the amount of TSP funds they can expend in an eleven-month time period. This survey is available to SWCDs on the

TSSWCB website. The deadline for submitting the survey is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Supplemental Matching Fund claims, Technical Assistance Program performance reports, and Financial Statement / Audit notification forms.

For more accounting and budgeting information contact Kenny Zajicek at (254)773-2250 or [kzajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:kzajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us)

---

## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following:

- Program Specialist IV-Area III
- Natural Resource Specialist III – Gonzales
- Natural Resource Specialist III – Temple

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

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

### 70th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 25-27, 2010 in Lubbock. Please make plans to attend.

Reservations for the meeting may be made at:

- Radisson Downtown Lubbock by calling 806-747-0171.
- Overton Hotel by calling 806-776-7000.
- Holiday Inn Hotel-Towers by calling 806-763-1200

---

## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Soil and Water Conservation Public Speaking Contest

Ten first place and ten second place FFA area winners competed for the State award in the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas FFA Convention held July 13-16 in Corpus Christi.

Kelli Neuman of the East Chambers FFA chapter located in Winnie, Texas earned first place in the state competition. As first place recipient the state ward, Ms. Neuman will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship through the Association of Texas SWCDs Public Information Education program. All first place area winners in the contest receive a \$500 scholarship.

Noted below are the names of the first and second place winners by area and rank.

Name	Rank	FFA Chapter
Chelsea Shields	1	Idalou
Ashleigh Willems	2	Frenship
Pamela Walker	1	Haskell
Jaci Cave	2	Klondike
Danielle Kelly	1	Bellville
Megan Coussens	2	Katy
Devon Shackelford	1	Comanche
Hanna Franklin	2	Winters
Taylor Shackelford	1	Prosper
Elizabeth Webster	2	Garland
Bethany Nolan	1	Gilmer
Lance Hollingsworth	2	Chapel Hill Northeast
Christine Hill	1	Sandra Day O'Connor
Travis McCubbin	2	Devine
Abby Prause	1	Bosqueville
Richard Comeau	2	Granbury
Alexis Mitchell	1	Barbers Hill
Kelli Neuman	2	East Chambers

Elizabeth Santelises	1	Sharyland
Shannon Riff	2	Carroll

### Terry SWCD Invites Texas SWCDs to 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Farm Tour

The Terry Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors are inviting Texas SWCD directors to the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry County Farm Tour and Awards Luncheon on Thursday, September 16, 2010. The Terry County Farm Tour is one of the longest running and largest farm tours in Texas.

Registration begins at 8:00 am at the First Baptist Church Activities Center, 219 W. Main Street, Brownfield TX 79316. Coffee and donuts will be provided at registration.

Transportation for the tour will be provided. The Tour will depart from the First Baptist Church parking lot at 9:00 am. Following the conclusion of the tour an awards luncheon will take place in the Activities Center. During the awards luncheon the Terry County Outstanding Farm Family and Terry County Young Farmer will be announced and awards presented by the Terry SWCD. The Terry SWCD will also be honoring NRCS with a plaque celebrating 75 years of "Helping People Help the Land."

To RSVP and/or for additional information please contact Jackie Pate, District Clerk, by email at [Jackie.pate@tx.nacdnet.net](mailto:Jackie.pate@tx.nacdnet.net) or by phone at 806-637-8902 Ext. 3.

### TSSWCB Conservation Video Library About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2009 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/2009VideoLibraryCatalogue.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 SWCD 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

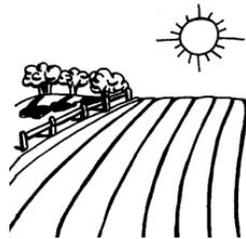
### Program Overview

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 SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 14,000 plans in the State of Texas.

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

A total of 528 water quality management plans have been certified by the State Board as of May 31, 2010 or the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY-2010. The yearly goal is 620 plans.

The period for obligating FY-10 cost-share funds ended on April 30, 2010. All funds not obligated through supplemental requests were transferred to the Statewide Fund. Additional allocations were approved at the July, 2010 State Board meeting.



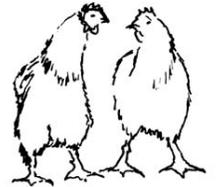
Lapsed cost-share funds have been reduced by 68.9% in the last five years. Approximately 8.3% of total cost-share funds are being lapsed statewide at the present time. The next lapsed fund report for the FY-08 funding cycle will be completed in September, 2010.

---

## POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

### Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas 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. In 2009, the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature 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. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. 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* 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 Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The *Texas NPS Management 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 Management 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.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program* is available 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 Management Program*.

## Watershed Approach

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 applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs) and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in those watersheds where agricultural and/or silvicultural NPS pollution is contributing to a water quality impairment or

concern to an extent which TSSWCB believes is sufficient to justify expenditure of agency resources. A list of these watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds>.

### **Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status**

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the process of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staffs from both agencies are currently reviewing the revised, draft chapters of the 2010 program publication. The revised program publication must be submitted to EPA to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

After discussions among TCEQ, TSSWCB, and EPA staff about the current timeline for updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document by December 2010, it was decided that an extension would be necessary to incorporate the new Watershed Action Planning initiative. A letter was sent by TCEQ to EPA requesting to extend the applicability of the current *Texas NPS Management Program* document until May 2012 to allow the new initiative to be incorporated in the revision. All other matters related to the *Texas NPS Management Program* document including goals and objectives, priorities, programs, and BMPs would remain unchanged during this extended period. Staff are currently waiting on EPA's response to this request for an extension.

### **Nonpoint Source Grant Program**

The NPS Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the *Texas NPS Management Program* through the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program.

Agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution prevention and abatement activities that can be funded through the NPS Grant Program include:

implementation of WPPs and the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans (I-Plans), surface water quality monitoring, demonstration of innovative BMPs, technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs, public outreach and education, development of WPPs, and monitoring activities to determine the effectiveness of specific pollution prevention methods.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

### **FY2010 Request for Proposals**

The TSSWCB's FY2010 CWA §319(h) program allocation from EPA is \$4,578,700. The TSSWCB received 22 proposals requesting nearly \$8.5 million in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Of those 22 proposals, 9 were selected for funding. TSSWCB submitted the FY2010 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 6, 2010.

## **Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding**

### **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. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately \$9 million.

### **FY2004 – FY2009 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 49 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 49 ongoing projects total approximately \$14 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; support various NPS outreach/education programs; develop and implement WPPs; and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

## State General Revenue Grant Funding

### Background

The Texas Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million dollars in general revenue funds, for the FY2008-FY2009 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. The Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation for the FY2010-FY2011 biennium. TSSWCB is committed to funding projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. On September 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning, Assessment, and Implementation Activities* which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. The Policy is available at [://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#).

### FY2008 – FY2010 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 16 ongoing general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 16 ongoing projects total approximately \$1.1 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAAs); provide technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazinglands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

SRM staff are in the process of finalizing budgets with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining FY2010 funds through four additional projects.

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.

## 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.

## **Watershed Protection Plan Program**

### **Background**

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms 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.

WPPs serve as tools to better leverage the resources of local governments, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation, and create a coordinated public communication and education

program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process involving monitoring and evaluating strategies and incorporating new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by the EPA in 2003. These guidelines describe nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ. These third-party WPPs may or may not adequately satisfy EPA's nine elements. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through WPP and TMDL 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.

## **Coastal NPS 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 Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. 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 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 federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217, requires each State with an approved 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 development and implementation of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*.

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

### **Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program**

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control 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 CCC again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully approved program.

On May 29, 2009, GLO received e-mail comments from NOAA and EPA which stated, in part, that:

“NOAA and EPA find that enough progress has been made to lift only the hydromodification condition. For several urban management measures, Texas identifies planned activities to meet the conditions. While those activities may result in the measures being met in the future, NOAA and EPA must evaluate the actual activities, rather than a plan for future actions, in order to lift the conditions.”

TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the State’s approach to addressing the conditional approval findings. TSSWCB, TCEQ, and GLO plan to meet with NOAA and EPA staff in the near future to discuss requirements for Texas to fully meet all conditions.

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

CCC meeting information is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cc.html>.

### **Sunset Review of CCC**

The CCC is currently undergoing Sunset Review. The Sunset Advisory Commission has released the Staff Report on the CCC.

Key Recommendations include:

1. Continue the Coastal Coordination Council for 12 years.
2. Require the Coastal Coordination Council to create a comprehensive, five-year Texas Coastal Plan, and provide annual updates to the Legislature on progress toward meeting goals

established in the Plan.

3. Require the Council to use goals developed through the Texas Coastal Plan to target its grant funding and evaluate the success of grant funds spent toward meeting the Plan's goals.
4. Require the Council to evaluate the need for the Permitting Assistance Group in its current form, and statutorily authorize the Council to assign it additional duties and add members if needed.
5. The Council should establish standard types of data networked agencies must include in their quarterly reports.

The Sunset Commission met on May 26, 2010 to make its decision regarding the recommendations of the Sunset staff on the CCC. Rather than continue the Council in its current form, the Sunset Commission recommended that an advisory committee would be formed by rule and the Council's function and authority would be transferred to the GLO. The committee would be made up of representatives from the current agencies on the Council, and four public members appointed by the Commissioner.

More information, including the Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report on the CCC and a schedule of public meetings, is available at <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/>.

### **Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 16**

Application information for Grant Cycle 16 was distributed in April 2010. As in the previous grant cycles, the CCC expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 16.

The deadline for pre-proposals was June 23, 2010. Submission of the pre-proposal is optional and is only necessary if written comments are desired. The full application is due October 13, 2010.

Further information on the CMP grant program is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/index.html>.

### **Section 309 Assessment and Strategies Review**

Section 309 of the CZMA allocates funds to encourage states with federally approved CMPs to develop projects that will effect program enhancements in one or more of the following nine enhancement areas: wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine debris, ocean resources, special area management plans, and aquaculture. As a condition of receiving grant funds under §309, Texas must submit a §309 Assessment and Strategies Report to NOAA every five years. The Report presents an analysis for each enhancement area, identifies needs, and outlines how the CMP plans to use §309 funds to address those needs over the next five years.

In 2006, the CCC drafted its third §309 Assessment and Strategies Report covering the time period of 2006-2010. In its 2006 Report, the Council identified four of the nine enhancement areas as being of high priority to the state. These included wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, and cumulative and secondary impacts. Energy and government facility siting and aquaculture were ranked as medium priorities and ocean resources, marine debris, and special area management plans were ranked as low priorities.

In November 2009, the CCC initiated its program review and assessment for the 2011-2015 report. The report and assessment is being developed by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

The CCC 309 working group met on June 2, 2010 to discuss the draft report. The final report should be available in several months.

Information on the meeting times and locations, a copy of the draft report, and a link for online comments is available here:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cmp/309/309grants.html>.

## 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 June 24, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee meeting in Austin.

On June 25, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC NPS Task Force meeting in Austin. This NPS Task Force is charged by the TGPC to coordinate NPS activities of member agencies to ensure consistency with the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program* and the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy*. The full Charge for the Task Force, as approved by the TGPC, is available at [http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/nonpoint/NPS\\_TF\\_Charge07Apr2010.pdf](http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/subcommittees/nonpoint/NPS_TF_Charge07Apr2010.pdf). The TSSWCB and TCEQ co-chair this Task Force. At this meeting, Long gave an overview of the *Texas NPS Management Program*, the CWA §319(h) grant program, and how the agencies apply the Watershed Approach to protecting and restoring water quality. TCEQ discussed the on-going process to revise the *Texas NPS Management Program* document and the agency's new Watershed Action Planning approach for prioritizing restoration efforts. It is important to ensure that all state programs addressing NPS pollution are described in the revised document.

On July 14, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee meeting in Austin.

On July 14, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC Groundwater Research Subcommittee meeting in Austin.

On July 14, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended a TGPC meeting in Austin.

### 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 SRM 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>.

On July 8, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [John Foster, TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt, Loren Henley, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, George Gable, IV, David Reeves, Donna Long] met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss and coordinate the many ongoing activities between the two agencies. Many topics were discussed including the status of the Watershed Action Planning initiative and the current status of both agencies' WPPs, TMDLs, and RUAA projects. Updates were given on the 2010 Assessment and 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, the water quality standards revision, and the NPS Grant Program. Also, progress on resolving the conditional approval status of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* was discussed; failure to achieve full approval by EPA and NOAA could result in EPA withholding a portion of the State's allocation of CWA §319(h) grant monies.

### **New Watershed Action Planning Process**

TCEQ staff have been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the State's water quality management programs. This document is expected to be finalized and published within the next several months.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders, and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired water bodies on the 303(d) List. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what

tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

The process emphasizes coordination by partners and stakeholders at both the watershed and state levels.

- Local Watershed Prioritization – Meetings held in each basin would be used to discuss issues associated with the impairments, concerns, and special interest waters in the basin.
- Program Integration – A workgroup of TCEQ and TSSWCB staff will update the Watershed Action Plan based upon input received from the basin meetings.
- Statewide Interagency Coordination – At the statewide level, input will be sought from state and federal agencies and state level special interest non-governmental organizations that have an interest in the watershed strategies stated in the draft State Watershed Action Plan. The result of this process will be to finalize the State Watershed Action Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. This plan will be the basis that each program area, partner agency, and stakeholder will use for planning, budgeting, and implementation of program activities as they relate to addressing impaired waters and other waters of interest in Texas.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information in the State Watershed Action Plan, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the 303(d) List, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency, and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the State's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Establishing the State Watershed Action Plan is key to providing for the

collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texans.

## Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

In the January 29, 2010 *Texas Register*, the TCEQ proposed for public comment revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs).

These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria. The IPs are an in-depth protocol that provides guidance and explanation of the general and technical procedures used by TCEQ in applying the Standards. This rulemaking provides for a periodic public review and revision of the State's Surface Water Quality Standards, as provided for in the Texas Water Code, §26.023, and as required by the federal CWA §303(c).

The public comment period closed March 17, 2010. TCEQ staff developed a response to comments received and made appropriate changes to the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the Standards and the IPs to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Association of Texas SWCDs and 74 individual SWCDs from across the state also submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions.

On June 30, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [John Foster, Aaron Wendt] attended a TCEQ Agenda meeting in Austin where the Commission adopted revisions to the Standards rule and approved the IPs document, both with modifications from the versions published in the *Texas Register*. Specifically, the proposed Standards rule and IPs were modified by the Commission to retain the

primary contact recreation bacteria criterion of 126 cfu/100 mL for freshwater (*E. coli*) and modify the high saline inland waterbodies' primary contact recreation criterion from 54 to 33 cfu/100 mL (*Enterococci spp.*). The proposed revision would have set the *E. coli* criterion at 206 cfu/100 mL, which was the upper limit of risk levels recommended by EPA for primary contact recreation. The Commission did adopt expanding the categories of recreation use to create more options and differentiating the bacteria criteria to protect those uses, specifically by creating a four tier approach including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation; previously, there were only two options, contact recreation or noncontact recreation.

The adopted Standards rule (30 TAC Chapter 307) will be published in the *Texas Register* and become effective in August 2010. EPA must then take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

More information on the revisions to the Standards is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/2010standards.html).

## Texas Integrated Report for CWA §§305(b) and 303(d)

The *Texas Integrated Report* (IR) 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, as required by CWA §305(b). The IR also identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards (i.e., impaired), as required by CWA §303(d).

On February 5, 2010, TCEQ staff released the draft *2010 Texas Integrated Report*, which constitutes the State's CWA §305(b) Assessment and §303(d) List of Impaired Waters, for public comment. The IR was published in 2008 as the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*.

The comment period ended March 8, 2010. TCEQ staff will develop a response to public comment received and revise the IR as appropriate. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the draft 2010 IR. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the IR and Assessment Guidance to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate and jointly administers the *Texas NPS Management Program*.

TCEQ intends to take action on August 25, 2010 and consider submitting the final 2010 IR to EPA.

More information on the *Texas Integrated Report*, including the 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) List, is available at

[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305\\_303.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html).

### **Recreational Use Attainability Analyses**

The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., PCR) to any of the other 3 tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA. TCEQ has developed procedures for conducting RUAAs; previously there were no RUAA protocols in Texas. The May 2009 *TCEQ Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey* is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg\\_handouts.html#proc](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg_handouts.html#proc).

The purpose of an RUAA is to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a waterbody, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. During an RUAA information is collected on water recreation activities, stream flow type, and stream depth; additionally, interviews from users who are present during surveys and those familiar with the waterbody may be conducted and a review of

historical information may be completed. If the results of the RUAA indicate that a different, more appropriate use is warranted, the resulting change in the associated bacteria criterion may result in the waterbody no longer being identified on the *303(d) List* as impaired, thus negating the need to adopt a TMDL.

TCEQ, and their contractors, are in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another dozen waterbodies. Prior to conducting the surveys, local stakeholders are being contacted to seek input on each project's monitoring plan. Specifically, citizens are being asked to provide input on potential sites near stream crossings to perform evaluations, and landowners are being asked to provide access to evaluate those stretches of the river that are not readily accessible to the public. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. Some of these RUAAs have been conducted in summer 2009, some will be finished this summer 2010, and some will be completed in spring and summer 2011. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the surface water quality standards for each waterbody.

Because adopted changes to the surface water quality standards affecting recreation use tiers and bacteria criteria must be approved by EPA, any changes to specific waterbodies as a result of these RUAAs will not likely be reflected until the *2014 303(d) List* is published in April 2014.

On June 30, 2010, when the Commission adopted major revisions to the Standards, the Commission also requested that TCEQ staff present information at the next TCEQ Agenda meeting on July 28, 2010 on the current status of conducting RUAAs across the state. Next week, the Commission will consider the current status of, and opportunities to streamline the process for, conducting RUAAs to assign recreational uses to streams, rivers, and other surface waterbodies in Texas.

Summaries of RUAA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information on RUAAs for certain waterbodies is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/94-neneasttexruaa.html>. These RUAAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

## 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. Basin steering committee meetings are being scheduled and will be held throughout the state between March-May 2010. SWCDs should look for notices of these meetings as they are scheduled and make plans to attend.

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 June 24, 2010, TSSWCB Regional Office staff [Lawrence Brown, Jr.] attended a Houston-Galveston Area Council CRP Steering Committee meeting in Houston. Discussion was limited to the San Jacinto River Basin, Brazos-Colorado Coastal Basin, San Jacinto-Brazos Coastal Basin, and Trinity-San Jacinto Coastal Basin. Among the items discussed was the *2010 Basin Highlights Report*; the Coordinated Monitoring schedule for FY2011 and the Water Resources Information Map which has the monitoring site locations. Updates on the WPPs for Bastrop Bayou, Westfield Estates (i.e., Halls Bayou) and San Bernard River were given. Special Projects updates were given on *Habitat Characterizations within the City of Houston* and *Aquatic Life Monitoring* on streams. USGS gave a report on the *Total Suspended Solids in the West Fork of the San Jacinto River*. An update was given on the BIG. More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/rivers/default.aspx>.

On July 14, 2010, the Sulphur River Basin Authority hosted a CRP Steering Committee meeting in Texarkana. 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. The TSSWCB is a named member of the Galveston Bay Council.

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

### **San Antonio Bay Estuary Program**

On June 24, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the San Antonio Bay Partnership public meeting in Victoria. This meeting was held to update stakeholders on the progress of the Partnership since January 2010, when the first meeting was held, and also provide some information on San Antonio Bay and its watershed.

USGS presented information on studies on both major rivers that feed the San Antonio Bay Estuary. The first study examined groundwater interaction in the San Antonio River by collecting and reviewing flow data; flow was also modeled using HSPF. The report will be available in late 2010. The other study was focused on total stream flow in the Guadalupe River, including gain/loss and water withdrawals from 1987-2006. A summary of this study is available at: [://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5165/](http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5165/).

The GLO presented information on oil spill prevention and response for the middle and lower Texas Coast. This program was started in 1990, in response to major oil spills in the U.S. and Mexico from the previous 30 years. Strategies for spill response include mobile command stations, tar ball response, fire booms, dispersants, and pre-staged response equipment at several locations along the coast. Spill prevention includes inspections, drills, and trainings geared toward response. More information is available at [://www.glo.state.tx.us/](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/).

Lastly, updates on what the steering committee and subcommittees have been working on were provided. The goals and governance subcommittee has been drafting a purpose and goals statement for the Partnership and discussing organizational structure. The funding subcommittee has been identifying different funding sources for program development and discussing strategies to obtain

funding for potential projects. The science/technical subcommittee has been using compiled data to work toward developing a comprehensive management plan for the San Antonio/Guadalupe Estuary. Also, plans for a two-day conference on the science of the San Antonio/Guadalupe Estuary, to be held in November 2010, were discussed.

More information is available at <http://www.sabaypartnership.org/>. The development of a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for San Antonio Bay has the potential to affect agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to the San Antonio Bay complex in Aransas, Calhoun, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria Counties.

### **Watershed Coordinator Roundtable**

On July 27, 2010, SRM staff [David Reeves, Aaron Wendt, Loren Henley, Pamela Casebolt, Donna Long, Mitch Conine, and Brian Koch] attended the Watershed Coordinator Roundtable meeting held in Dallas, Texas at the Texas AgriLife Extension Urban Solutions Center. The agenda began with presentations of Directory of Watershed Resources, and keys to effective grant writing. These presentations were geared to increase the awareness of resources that are available to help those that are focusing on implementation of a watershed protection plan. A presentation from James Earp, City Manager of Kyle showed the group the ways of using matching funds. Texas Water Development Board and EPA gave a presentation on the State Revolving Fund (SRF), discussion was based on what it is and how it can provide funding.

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

- August 5, 2010 – USDA-NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee (Austin)
- August 5, 2010 – Caney Creek RUAA Public Meeting (TBA)
- August 5-6, 2010 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Environmental Superconference (Austin)
- August 6, 2010 – Rural Land Preservation Workshop (Wallisville)
- August 10, 2010 – Geronimo and Alligator WPP Steering Committee (Seguin)

- August 11, 2010 – TCEQ Agenda re Gilleland Creek I-Plan (Austin)
- August 12, 2010 – Upper Guadalupe River TMDL I-Plan Public Meeting (Kerrville)
- August 12, 2010 – Plum Creek Watershed Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- August 12, 2010 – Big Cypress Creek Project Meeting (Mount Pleasant)
- August 13, 2010 – Brushy Creek RUAA Public Meeting (TBA)
- August 16, 2010 – Dickinson Bayou RUAA Public Meeting (Friendswood)
- August 19, 2010 – Navasota River and Tributaries RUAA Public Meeting (TBA)
- August 20, 2010 – *Reducing Air Emissions from Beef and Dairy* (NLPELC webcast)
- August 24, 2010 – Feral Hog Management Workshop (Helotes)
- August 25, 2010 – TCEQ Agenda re 2010 303(d) List (Austin)
- August 26, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Upper Guadalupe River (Kerrville)
- August 31, 2010 – Armand Bayou RUAA Public Meeting (TBA)
- September 2, 2010 – TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- September 9, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Attoyac Bayou (Nacogdoches)
- September 17, 2010 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee NPS Task Force (Austin)
- September 21, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Sabinal River (Uvalde)
- September 21, 2010 – Bacteria Implementation Group Steering Committee (Houston)

---

## WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to ongoing restoration projects within those watersheds is available at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds>; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

### **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.

### **Aquilla Reservoir**

Impairment: Atrazine

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#aquillareservoir>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect farming operations in the Aquilla Reservoir watershed in Hill and Johnson Counties.

### **Arroyo Colorado**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment

Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

On June 18, 2010, TSSWCB Regional Office staff [Andy Garza] and SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] participated in an Arroyo Colorado Watershed Sustainability Task Force meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on options to sustain the long-term implementation of the Arroyo Colorado WPP and the momentum of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership. Specifically, long-term

future funding of a watershed coordinator was the primary topic discussed. Additionally, the organization structure of the Partnership and the potential need to establish a 501(c)(3) organizational was discussed. Finally, a critical need to report to stakeholders and the general public on interim progress to implement the specific strategies in the WPP and the amount of work still remaining to be accomplished was debated. Recommendations from this Task Force will be presented to the Steering Committee for action.

On July 13, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] and Regional Office staff [Andy Garza, Ronnie Ramirez] hosted an Arroyo Colorado Watershed Agricultural Issues Work Group meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on the Agricultural Issues Work Group short- and long-term goals stated in the WPP which are to have 33% of irrigated cropland (approximately 100,000 acres) under conservation plans by 2010 and 50% of the irrigated cropland (approximately 150,000 acres) under conservation plans by 2015. Currently, there are approximately 73,500 acres under conservation plans (either TSSWCB WQMPs or USDA-NRCS RMS). The workgroup discussed ways to get more producers involved such as making it easier to sign up for cost-share programs, increase the public's awareness of the cost-share programs, and increasing the amount of cost-share available. Ways to get producers back to the table and refocus the Work Group were also discussed. The Texas Irrigation Expo has been scheduled for October 21-22, 2010 in Mercedes. Agencies were encouraged to get a booth. Updates were provided on projects supporting the implementation of the agricultural NPS components of the WPP, including the development and implementation of WQMPs on cropland, outreach and education activities targeted towards agricultural producers, and additional targeted water quality monitoring to refine NPS loadings originating from irrigated cropland.

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: UAA  
Lead: TCEQ

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

#### **Attoyac Bayou**

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

On July 15, 2010, TSSWCB Board Member [Jerry D. Nichols], TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, George Gable, IV, Aaron Wendt], Field Staff [Trey Watson], Regional Office staff [Carl Steffey], and Poultry Program staff [Mark Cochran, Jeremy Welch, Patrick Porter, Julie David] attended the first public meeting for the Attoyac Bayou WPP in Nacogdoches. Seventy people were in attendance for presentations on the historical water quality in Attoyac Bayou, the importance and benefits of watershed planning, building an Attoyac Bayou Watershed Partnership, and the proposed water quality monitoring approach that will be taken. A presentation was also given to promote the upcoming Texas Watershed Steward workshop to be held September 9, 2010 on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University.

More information is available at <http://attoyac.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect livestock, farming, and silvicultural operations in the Attoyac Bayou watershed in Nacogdoches, Rusk, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties.

#### **Bastrop Bayou**

Concern: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

On June 30, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Watershed Modeling Conference in Houston. This conference, hosted by HGAC as part of their Clean Waters Initiative, focused on several different computer models used in watershed planning to evaluate water quality improvement. HGAC opened the conference with a summary of the WPPs and I-Plans they are currently developing, and the different types of water quality models being used to aid in their development. One of the biggest challenges in watershed modeling has been the lack of flow data, which makes the utility of some models more desirable than others. The presentations provided an overview of how and why models are used. Models for stream and lake water quality, estuaries and watersheds were described, as well as different applications for modeling, basically giving watershed planners a set of modeling tools available.

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.

### **Big Cypress Creek**

Concern: Bacteria  
Mechanism: Assessment  
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#bigcypresscreek>. This project will affect poultry and livestock operations in the Big Cypress Creek watershed (including tributaries Hart and Tankersley Creeks) in Titus, Camp, Upshur and Morris Counties.

### **Brady Creek**

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

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

### **Buck Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP will 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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

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

### **Carters and Burton Creeks**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL  
Lead: TCEQ

On July 28, 2010, TCEQ held a coordination meeting of the Carters and Burton Creeks I-Plan. Facilitated by TWRI, the I-Plan is in its initial stages and planning has begun on how stakeholders want to proceed. The group decided on having workgroups that represent different aspects of the watershed. The next meeting will be held the week of August 23-27, 2010 to discuss what types of workgroups is needed in this watershed.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/85-carterscreek.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Carters Creek watershed in Brazos County.

### **Cedar Creek Reservoir**

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

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Clear Creek. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/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](http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html). This WPP affects 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/mdl/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, UAA  
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, UAA  
Lead: Third party

More information on the WPP 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 August 11, 2010, TCEQ intends to consider publishing and soliciting public comment on an *Implementation Plan for One TMDL for Bacteria in Gilleland Creek (Segment 1428C)*. Based on the environmental target of the TMDL (adopted by TCEQ in August 2007 and approved by EPA in April 2009), this I-Plan prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of bacteria in order to restore the primary contact recreation use of Gilleland Creek. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. The Lower Colorado River Authority Creekside Conservation Program, which is supported through a CWA §319(h) grant from the TSSWCB, in concert with the TSSWCB WQMP

Program, will be used to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to implement BMPs that reduce bacteria from grazing livestock in riparian areas.

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

### **Lake Granbury**

Concern: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

On July 7, 2010, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Lake Granbury WPP stakeholder meeting in Granbury. The Steering Committee adopted the final draft version of the WPP. The WPP will be submitted for review by TCEQ and EPA, while the stakeholders will now shift focus to implementing the management measures outlined in the plan. The final draft version is available on the website.

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp> or <http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu/>. 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/watersheds#lakegranger>. 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/mygoenvironmentalwater319grant.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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On July 14, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a BIG Research Work Group meeting in Houston. This meeting was held to approve this Work Group's section of the I-Plan, which is focused on researching different aspects of indicator bacteria. Specific research foci for the Work Group include BMP implementation effectiveness, bacteria re-growth, correlations between different indicator species, and other factors such as the relationship between pathogens and indicators. The research topics have been prioritized and the goal will be to pursue funding for the topics. With some minor changes, the section of the I-Plan was approved.

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

On July 15, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Steering Committee meeting in Lampasas. Updates were given on the 2010 Integrated Report and April and June Work Group meetings. Changes were made to the Ground Rules including joining the Agricultural Issues and the Habitat and Wildlife Work Groups into the Agriculture and Wildlife Work Group and the Urban/Suburban Issues and Wastewater Infrastructure Work Groups into the Urban Nonpoint Source Work Group. TCEQ staff discussed the changes to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards recently adopted by the Commission. The Steering Committee approved the current water quality standards as the water quality goals for the WPP. The group reviewed preliminary load duration curves. The Steering Committee approved using the conversion factor of 0.63 to convert fecal coliform to *E. coli* for use in data analyses for the WPP. The Steering Committee also approved the various Work Groups' recommendations for the land use/land cover analysis and SELECT population estimates.

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, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL, UAA), 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 Creek 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-lowersanantoniobac.html>. This TMDL affects 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.

### **Onion Creek**

Impairment: None  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.waterqualityplan.org/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Onion Creek watershed in Hays and Travis 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 affects 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.

### **Red River above Lake Texoma**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: Assessment  
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/projects/rivers/Red-River-.html>. This project affects livestock operations in portions of the Red River Basin in numerous 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, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ

On July 15, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the San Bernard River WPP in West Columbia. This meeting was held to update stakeholders and discuss concerns in the San Bernard River watershed. The Nature Conservancy provided an update on their work in the Columbia Bottomlands, which includes the lower San Bernard River. This area is critical habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife in southeast Texas and The Nature Conservancy is working with landowners to help preserve this habitat using different conservation strategies. Texas Stream Team volunteers provided an overview of data they have collected for almost two years near the mouth of the river; there have been many extreme events, natural and man-made – drought, freezes, and floods, and the reopening of the mouth of the river – that have impacted the data. High salinities from the drought and low dissolved oxygen from poor tidal exchange have been the most notable water quality impacts. However, the reopening of the mouth has had positive impact on water quality (higher dissolved oxygen) and visual beauty, such as more birds and wildlife using the river. Other issues raised by stakeholders include illegal dumping, bacteria loading from failing OSSFs, and more frequent monitoring to better characterize water quality conditions in the river.

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

### **Lake Somerville**

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

This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Somerville

watershed in Bastrop, Burleson, Lee, Milam, Washington, and Williamson Counties.

### **South Llano River**

Impairment: None  
Mechanism: Assessment and Planning  
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://southllano.org>. 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.

### **E.V. Spence Reservoir**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/04-spence.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect agricultural operations in the E.V. Spence Reservoir watershed in Borden, Coke, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties.

### **Upper Cibolo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Concern: Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.ci.boerne.tx.us/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock operations in the Upper Cibolo Creek watershed in Kendall County.

### **Upper Guadalupe River**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/65-guadalupeabovecanyon.html>. This TMDL affects livestock operations in the Upper Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County.

## Upper Oyster Creek

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, UAA

Lead: TCEQ

On July 28, 2010, TCEQ intends to consider adopting *Two TMDLs for Dissolved Oxygen in Upper Oyster Creek (Segment 1245)*. A public meeting to receive comments on the proposed TMDLs was held November 12, 2009 in Sugar Land. The public comment period closed November 18, 2009. A response to comments received was developed by TCEQ staff; however, the draft TMDLs were not revised. These TMDLs allocate maximum pollutant loadings of oxygen-demanding substances (CBOD and ammonia-nitrogen) between point sources and nonpoint sources in order to achieve the water quality criterion for dissolved oxygen, and effectively necessitate a 0% load reduction (for both pollutants) to restore attainment of aquatic life use. These TMDLs must be adopted by TCEQ and approved by EPA before they are effective.

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

---

## Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

### Background:

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources through selective control of brush species. 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 State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Since the beginning of the Water supply Enhancement program in 1999 there has been 766,529 acres of

brush treated in various watersheds throughout the State.

## Program Activities

TSSWCB provided the following SWCDs with Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certification, and /or Contracts:

### Area 1 District

Donley County SWCD

### Area 2 Districts

Middle Concho SWCD

Eldorado-Divide SWCD

Tom Green County SWCD

Pedernales SWCD

Gillespie County SWCD

Kerr County SWCD

Kendall SWCD

### Area 3

McMullen County SWCD

LaSalle County SWCD

Caldwell/ Travis SWCD

Comal/Guadalupe SWCD

Webb County SWCD

Frio SWCD

### Area 5

Archer County SWCD

Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD

Pecan Bayou SWCD

Bosque SWCD

Little Wichita SWCD

*Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 17 projects throughout the State. Listed below are the projects in their respective areas and the projects contact person.*

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin  
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Greenbelt Reservoir- Completed
- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher reservoir Project- Tuffy Wood
- Lake Ivie ( Main Concho)- Johnny Oswald
- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote

- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)- Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Adrian Perez
- Frio River Watershed – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Kendria Ray
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer- Kendria Ray
- Palo Pinto- Cody York
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties)- Cody York
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York

### Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assisted Gonzales County SWCD with Water Enhancement Project on the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer
- Assisted UCRA with the Twin Buttes lake basin project
- Assist Lower Guadalupe River project with contracts
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Assist the Texas Comptroller’s office with economic analysis of the Water Supply Enhancement Projects
- Spoke at the GMA 7 Water Conference

### 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

---

## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

### Background

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within the State of Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCIDs).

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over amount of needed O&M and repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15

million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

### Structural Repair Grant Program

On May 4, 2010 the TSSWCB published a request for applications for Fiscal Year 2010 Flood Control Structural Repair Grant Program. The TSSWCB received seventeen applications on thirty nine dams for structural repair projects. Three of the seventeen applications were for NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program matching Funds on five dams that sustained severe damage from flooding caused by heavy rains. The remaining applications were for structural repairs on flood control structures.

TSSWCB staff has ranked the applications and is currently working with NRCS through a contract to perform engineering design work to provide more accurate cost estimates for the work being preformed. As cost estimates are received, TSSWCB staff will be working with project sponsors to put together draft budgets for possible funding.

### O&M Grant Program

Since the O&M Grant Program went into effect on October 14, 2009, the TSSWCB has processed reimbursement requests, in-kind match reports, and administrative transfers of SWCD allocations in the following amounts as of July 29, 2010:

<u>\$ 2,472,008.85</u>	Total Allocated O&M Grant Funding (84 allocations)
<u>\$ 1,640,259.12</u>	Total State Funded O&M Reimbursements (305 requests)
<u>\$ 81,955.89</u>	Total Admin Fees Paid
<u>\$ 293,985.30</u>	Total In-Kind Match Reported
<u>\$ 56,668.52</u>	Total Allocation Transfers (11 transfers)

\$ 749,793.84 Remaining Un-Liquidated Allocated Amount

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

---

*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 Meredith Whitley (254) 773-2250 or [mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:mwhitley@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 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.



4311 S 31<sup>ST</sup> STREET, SUITE 125  
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502  
(254) 773-2250  
[www.tsswcb.state.tx.us](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us)