



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

JULY 2013

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions about specific programs or projects please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

**REX ISOM**  
Executive Director

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### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday September 18, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, September 19, 2013 in Temple**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or [kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for submitting the following items is August 31<sup>st</sup>:
  - Financial Statement/Audit Notifications
  - Regular and Supplemental Matching Fund Claims
  - Technical Assistance Performance Reports
- Technical Assistance, Matching Fund, and Director Mileage and Per Diem Allocations for Fiscal Year 2014 will be mailed in August.
- Financial Statement Forms will be available on the SWCD Resources Page of the TSSWCB Website in August.

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

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 2 positions available at this time.

- Natural Resources Specialist III – Nacogdoches
- Administrative Assistant II - Nacogdoches

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

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors  
Mark your calendars for October 28 – 30, 2013 and plan on attending the 73rd Annual State Meeting held in Fort Worth.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Conservation News

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

### Conservation Video Library

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

### Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Loren Warrick at [lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov) to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993.

All agriculture and silviculture producers in the state are eligible to have a water quality management plan developed. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution and allocates funding to those priority areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. SWCDs with lakes, rivers or stream segments listed on the 303(d) list as impaired due to agriculture are eligible to be included as priority areas. All animal feeding operations are considered to be high priority and are eligible to receive financial incentives to install needed practices in their WQMP through their priority area or statewide assistance program.

During the first eleven months of FY2013, 253,197 acres have been certified through the WQMP Program. There have also been 219 applications approved for financial incentives to assist producers with the implementation of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement practices. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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

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

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

### Nonpoint Source Grant Program

#### **FY2013 CWA §319(h) Grant Application**

TSSWCB received 21 proposals requesting a total of \$8,621,145 in federal funds during last fall's public request for proposals. Through the spring, TSSWCB and EPA worked on negotiating

scopes of work and budgets for selected proposals.

TSSWCB's FY2013 CWA §319(h) allocation from EPA is \$3,522,000. TSSWCB selected 8 proposals to be included in the FY2013 CWA §319(h) grant application, which was submitted to EPA on June 18, 2013.

#### **FY2008 – FY2012 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 43 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 43 on-going projects total approximately \$11.6 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPP); and implement the NPS portion of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans (I-Plan).

#### **FY2011 – FY2013 State Grant Status**

There are currently 13 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 13 on-going projects total approximately \$2.4 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAA); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate remaining FY2013 allocated funds.

### Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-

term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP 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) and the Land Commissioner are responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC), established by the Texas Legislature, advises the Land Commissioner on matters related to implementation of the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCAC.

The GLO 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 GLO reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the GLO 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.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

### **Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee**

The CCAC was created during sunset legislation (SB656) in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislature. SB656, which was enacted in 2011, abolished the Coastal Coordination Council and transferred its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation established the CCAC to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. The CCAC includes a representative of the

TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board.

The general structure of the coastal program consists of workgroups from the agencies and governor appointees which focus on specific projects. The main function of the CCAC is to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions and to provide support to the workgroups.

More information is available for a limited time at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/index.html>.

### **CMP Grant Program**

Through the CMP, GLO awards approximately \$1.8 million of the federal §306/§306A coastal management grant funds received from NOAA to local governments and other entities along the coast for planning and implementation of projects that address environmental problems affecting the coastal area and that promote sustainable economic development.

### **§306 Grants**

Grant Cycle 19 closed at the end of June 2013. A list of grants will be posted soon.

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html>.

### **Coastal Planning**

The coastal program is dedicating §309 funds to the creation of a long-term plan utilizing coastal and marine spatial planning. The first year of this five-year initiative was to create a report to provide a "snapshot" into the current priorities of the Texas coast. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of coastal experts was formed to review and evaluate the project list and the issues of concern for the four coastal regions. TSSWCB is participating in this planning effort as a member of the TAC. TAC regional meetings were held throughout September in Corpus Christi, South Padre Island, Galveston, and Victoria to identify the critical areas and needs of the Texas coast. The information collected at the TAC meetings was used to develop a "snapshot" report to inform the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature of the coastal priorities

for each of the four regions, and to serve as a baseline for the long-term planning process. A brochure was also developed, *The Texas Coast: Shoring up our Future*, and can be found here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/shoring-up-texas/shoring-up-our-future-brochure.pdf>.

Year two of this effort will continue with the creation of a broader planning effort. This long-term plan will better enable an integrated, adaptive management approach to plan for and balance competing natural and human uses along our coast. Meetings are scheduled with local elected officials in July and August in the various regions along the Texas coast, specifically Galveston, Beaumont, Port Lavaca, Corpus Christi and Port Isabel.

## Water Quality Coordination Activities

### Coordination with EPA

On June 18-20, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Pamela Casebolt] participated in an EPA Region 6 States NPS conference in Dallas. This meeting provided TSSWCB staff the opportunity to discuss the various approaches and strategies that are used to implement the *Texas NPS Management Program* with staff from EPA Region 6, TCEQ, and other states in the region including Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. In particular, attendees discussed the successes and challenges of implementing the state's NPS program, the new Program and Grants Guidelines, nutrient reduction strategies, and NPS pollutant reductions to achieve water quality standards.

## Water Quality Planning and Implementation

### STATE DISTRICT I

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

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

On June 26, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended an Implementation Evaluation meeting for a TMDL for Stream Segment 1426, Colorado River below E.V Spence Reservoir in Bronte. Discussion centered upon updating and

revising the I-Plan and forming a watershed coordination committee.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/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.

### Other State District I Projects

Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Five Creeks in the Canadian River and Red River Basins", Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University; State \$683,683\*

On July 10, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Mitch Conine] and Chairman of the Board and State District Five Board Member [Barry Mahler] participated in a public meeting in Iowa Park to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Buffalo Creek. The meeting was to inform local stakeholders on the findings of the first field survey. The second field survey is scheduled for July 18-21, 2013. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/ruaabuffalo>.

On July 11, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Mitch Conine] and State District One Field Representative [Jack Foote] participated in a public meeting in Vernon to discuss an ongoing RUAA on Paradise Creek. The meeting was to inform local stakeholders on the findings of the first field survey. The second field survey is scheduled for July 18-21, 2013. More information on this RUAA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/RUAAPARADISE>.

### STATE DISTRICT II

#### Leona River\*

Impairment: Bacteria  
Concern: Nutrients  
Mechanism: Assessment  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Assessment of Water Quality and Watershed Planning for the Leona

River”, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research; State \$861,714\*

On June 27, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Leona River Public Meeting in Uvalde. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the project’s bacterial source tracking (BST) results. Even with the drought persisting across the state, the BST results provided additional insight on potential bacterial sources in the watershed.

More information is available at <http://www.leonariver.org/>. This project affects livestock operations in the Frio, Uvalde, and Zavala Counties.

### STATE DISTRICT III

#### Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (UAA)

On July 11, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended an Agriculture Workgroup for the Copano Bay I-plan in Refugio. This meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to review management measures, ask questions, and comment on the Agriculture section of the I-plan. This was the last workgroup meeting before the plan will go to TCEQ for approval.

More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/42-copano.html> and on the RUAA at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransaruuaa>. 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.

#### Plum Creek

Impairment: Bacteria  
Concerns: Nutrients  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: “Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Guadalupe-

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

Project: “Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices in Support of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan”, Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304; Federal \$49,360

On June 15, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended the 2nd Annual Caldwell-Travis SWCD Agriculture & Natural Resources Exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Roundup in Lockhart. The purpose of this exhibit was to provide free activities to children about conservation and provide free information on conservation for parents and adults. Booths included Natural Resource Conservation Service and Caldwell-Travis SWCD, Plum Creek Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, Plum Creek Feral Hog Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension, Southwest Dairy Producers mobile truck, TSSWCB and Farm Bureau. There were about 50 adults and children who visited these booths and picked up conservation handouts and information.

On June 25, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Jana Lloyd] attended a Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Workshop in Lockhart. Over 65 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership. The training focused on water quality issues related to the Plum Creek Watershed, including the key role riparian areas play in improving and protecting water. Topics covered included: watershed and riparian area basics, riparian vegetation ratings, photo monitoring, and local resources for landowners. The training also involved a field tour of a local wetland project on Plum Creek, which gave attendees a chance to witness a recovering riparian area and evaluate the vegetation within it.

More information on the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan or the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Educational Program, please visit, <http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/>.

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

## STATE DISTRICT IV

### Double Bayou

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

On June 25, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended and presented at a Texas Watershed Steward workshop that took place in Oak Island. Over 30 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with Double Bayou Watershed Partnership and the Houston Advanced Research Center. The training, focused on the Double Bayou Watershed, discussed what it means to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>.

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

### Lake O' the Pines

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

On June 27, 2013, TSSWCB Regional Office [Carl Steffey, Mark Cochran] and SRM staff [Mitch Conine via conference call] attended the Lake O' the Pines TMDL I-Plan agriculture workgroup meeting in Hughes Springs. The group worked on updating the agriculture management measures identified in the I-Plan. The WQMP section was discussed and will be updated with the most current information. The I-Plan also had a silviculture component in which Texas A&M Forest Service provided updates. All of the agricultural education information in the I-Plan is currently being updated with the most current programs available.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/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.

## STATE DISTRICT V

### Lampasas River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas AgriLife Research; Federal \$205,305/External \$162,913

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Killeen on June 20, 2013. Approximately 60 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB in coordination with the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership. The training focused on water quality issues in the Lampasas River Watershed, as well as help private well owners to understand and care for their wells. Topics covered included: aquifers in Texas, private water well basics, onsite wastewater treatment, water quality and quantity, and protecting your water supply. More information on the Texas Well Owner Network Program is available at <http://twon.tamu.edu/>.

More information is available at <http://www.lampasasriver.org/>. This WPP affects livestock operations in the Lampasas River

watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

### Leon River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, UAA

Lead: TCEQ (TMDL, UAA), TSSWCB (WPP)

Project: "Implementation of the Leon River WPP through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair or Replace On-Site Sewage Facilities in Hamilton County", Hamilton County, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Federal \$365,976/ External \$66,536

Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan", Central Texas Council of Governments; Federal \$205,305/External \$162,913

Project: "Water Quality Improvement Project for the Leon River", Leon Bosque Resource Conservation and Development Council; State \$10,000

On June 24, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Leon River Watershed Working Committee meeting in Hamilton. Discussion centered upon introducing the group to the new Watershed Coordinator, as well as providing an update on past and ongoing activities in the watershed which included the repair and replacement of OSSFs in Hamilton County, bacterial source tracking, and results from the RUAA. A schedule of upcoming outreach and education workshops were also discussed.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>. More information on the RUAA is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/ruaasbrazos>. The WPP, the TMDL, and the RUAA affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

### Upcoming Public Meetings

- July 31, 2013 – E.V. Spence Reservoir TMDL Meeting (Bronte)
- August 1, 2013 – Upper Llano River Coordination Committee Meeting (Junction)
- August 15, 2013 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Baytown)
- August 21, 2013 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop, Leon River (Hamilton)
- August 27, 2013 – Lavaca Basin Riparian Workshop (Lake Texana)
- September 10, 2013 – Lower Nueces Watershed Partnership Meeting (Corpus Christi)

### WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2013. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

### Staff Activities

- Participated in field trip to Bandera County to consider changes to spatial analysis policies regarding priority areas: Bandera SWCD would like to consider other areas they deem as high priority in the sub-basin.
- Attended Region N Water Planning meeting.
- Began developing implementation of the status review process.
- Consulted with USGS regarding funding for the Honey Creek project.
- Assisted Gonzales County SWCD with implementation of WSEP project.
- Worked with the Science Advisory Committee on the development of feasibility study policies.

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

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 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.

In response to this appropriation, TSSWCB assembled a representative stakeholder group and began the process of developing programs to deliver the funds to the sponsors of flood control dams during the Summer of 2009. It was

determined that the most efficient and effective way to proceed was to develop two separate grant programs, one to address O&M, and the other to address structural repairs, due to their difference in complexity.

### O&M Grant Program Update

In FY2011, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. All FY2011 funds have been utilized.

In FY2013, \$2,050,997 was allocated to 69 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams.

### Structural Repair Grant Program Update

In FY2012, \$1,364,836 in program funds was obligated to conduct structural repairs on two flood control dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on one of the two flood control dams and the remaining dam is under construction.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at:

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/floodcontrol>

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



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<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>

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

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