



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

MARCH 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 May 15, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, May 16, 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).

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### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- May 15th is the submission deadline for claiming two - thirds of Fiscal Year 2013 Matching Fund allocations. Claims must be submitted with original signature and post-marked by the submission deadline to be accepted for payment.

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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## APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act, was voted favorably out of the Senate Committee on Finance on March 13, and voted favorably by the Senate and received by the House on March 20. The House Committee on Appropriations voted a substitute out of committee on March 21 and the House voted to place the substitute on the House Calendar for April 4. A comparison of bills with the current budget follows:

| Program Area                                     | Current 2012-2013 (Biennial) Budget | Passed by Senate and Sent to the House                     | House Substitute of Bill Received from Senate (Pending House Vote)    |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| SWCD Technical Assistance & Matching Fund Grants | \$7,845,325                         | \$8,104,524<br>[+\$259,199 in either TA or Matching Funds] | \$11,245,324<br>[+1,000,000 in Matching Funds and +\$2,400,000 in TA] |
| Flood Control Grants                             | \$4,000,000                         | \$14,800,000<br>[+\$10,800,000]                            | \$14,800,000<br>[+\$10,800,000]                                       |
| SB 503 WQMP Program and 319 Program Grants       | \$22,730,634                        | \$22,730,634   | \$22,730,634  |
| Water Supply Enhancement Program                 | \$4,270,826                         | \$4,270,826  | \$4,270,826   |
| Indirect Administration                          | \$1,238,908                         | \$1,239,470  | \$1,239,470   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>\$40,085,693</b>                 | <b>\$51,145,454</b><br>[+\$11,059,761]                     | <b>\$54,286,254</b><br>[+\$14,200,561]                                |

All Budget Figures are Biennial; information is current as of March 27.

If the bills are not identical when passed by the House, a conference committee will be appointed to reconcile differences and the result will be considered by both chambers.

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 3 positions available at this time.

- Geographic Information Specialist II – Temple
- Natural Resource Specialist III – Dublin
- Natural Resource Specialist III - Gonzales

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.

- Reservations at the Omni Hotel will open May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### State Board Member Elections

State Board Member Elections will be conducted in State Districts I; III and V on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

- State District I will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the College Heights Baptist Church in Plainview.
- State District III will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Spring Creek Place Event Center in Victoria.
- State District V will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Room 219 of the Tarleton Student Center, Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Districts in those state districts must certify their delegate and alternate delegate by April 1, 2013.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The summer session for a Program Development Workshop is scheduled for June 25-26. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Temple, Texas. Information about the workshop will be sent to districts in early April.

Regional wildlife contests will be held in April as well as the State Wildlife contest.

The dates and locations are as follows:

- April 8-- Region III @ Welder Wildlife Refuge, Sinton, TX
- April 8-- Region V @ Cook Canyon Ranch south of Ranger, TX
- April 9-- Region II @ Angelo State University management, Instruction and Research Center, San Angelo, TX
- April 9-- Region I @ Matador Wildlife management Area, near Paducah/Childress, TX
- The State Wildlife Contest will be held April 15, at the Texas Tech campus, Junction, TX.

WAY is a consortium of state, federal, and private organizations working together to provide support and technical assistance to agricultural teachers and 4-H leaders who train youth in various aspects of wildlife conservation and habitat management. Intensive instruction is also given to youth on Texas hunting, angling, and boating safety to include laws which govern hunting and fishing in the state.

### 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.

## 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 seven months of FY2013, 119,348 acres have been certified through the WQMP Program. There have also been 119 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

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

There are currently 44 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 44 on-going projects total approximately \$12.4 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 General Revenue Grant Status**

There are currently 10 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 10 on-going projects total approximately \$3 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.

## **FY2012 Annual Report**

On March 15, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff distributed the *2012 Annual Report on Managing Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Texas* to all SWCDs; the report is jointly published by the TSSWCB and the TCEQ. In order to continue receiving CWA §319(h) funds, the State must annually report to EPA on success in achieving the goals and objectives of the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The report highlights the State's efforts during FY2012 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent NPS pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources in the State. The *2012 Annual Report* is available electronically at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/reports#nps>.

## 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**

Twenty-one grants were approved for Cycle 18

for a total of 1.75 million dollars. The grant list can be found here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/documents/grants-funding/cmp/cmp-cycle-18-website-project-information.pdf>.

Grant Cycle 19 will open in April 2013. 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>.

### **Annual Report**

The 2012 annual report of the coastal program can be viewed here:  
[http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/\\_publications/2012-cmp-annual-report.pdf](http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/_publications/2012-cmp-annual-report.pdf)

### **Texas Groundwater Protection Committee**

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.

On March 6, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Public Outreach and Education (POE) Subcommittee meeting in Austin. Nine agencies and organizations were represented. The meeting focused on the TGPC POE groundwater educational outreach plan. An overview of recent and upcoming outreach events were discussed.

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

### **Water Quality Coordination Activities**

#### **Coastal Bend, Bays and Estuaries Program**

The 75 miles of estuarine environment along the Texas Coastal Bend, including Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay, Baffin Bay and the Upper Laguna Madre, are of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, are included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Bays Council is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the

implementation of the *Coastal Bend Bays 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 Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team.

On February 13, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Baffin Bay Workgroup Meeting for the CBBEP in Corpus Christi. This workgroup, and meeting thusly, was formed to help develop a strategy to address concerns about Baffin Bay. Some of these concerns include malnourished black drum, fish kills since 2010, and algal blooms in the bay. Many factors, including a rising population of black drum, a decline in food source due to high salinity caused by drought and changing land use, have been identified as causes to these concerns.

On February 20, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a CBBEP Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team meeting in Corpus Christi. This meeting focused on FY14 proposals submitted for implementation projects in the CBBEP area. The proposals deal mainly with water quality in the bays and estuaries and must meet implementation goals set in the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan*. A total of fifteen proposals were reviewed and discussed during the meeting. The proposals will be edited and scored by the Team, and then sent to the Bays Council for approval.

More information is available at <http://www.cbbep.org/>. The implementation of the *Coastal Bend Bays Plan* affects agricultural operations in watersheds that drain to these estuaries in Refugio, Bee, McMullen, Live Oak, Jim Wells, Duval, Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, San Patricio, and Aransas Counties.

#### **Galveston Bay Estuary Program**

Galveston Bay is an estuary of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, is included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Galveston Bay Council (GBC) is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan*, which is a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under the auspices of the National Estuary Program. The TSSWCB is a named member of the Galveston Bay Council.

On February 19, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a GBC Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee meeting in Houston. This meeting focused on FY14 proposals submitted for implementation projects in the GBEP area. The proposals deal mainly with water quality in the Galveston Bay System and must meet implementation goals set in the *Galveston Bay Plan*. The proposals will be edited and scored by the Subcommittee, and then sent to the Bays Council for approval. A new vice-chair for the subcommittee was also elected.

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

### **Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee**

On March 7, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Wesley Gibson] hosted/attended, respectively, the Southeast and South Central Texas Watershed Coordination Steering Committee Meeting in Columbus. The Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and improvement partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB SRM staff on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas.

Presentations at the meeting included the following topics: Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program, Restoration of Guadalupe Bass in the Upper San Antonio River and Continued Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan through Feral Hog Management. More information, including meeting materials, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>.

### **Texas NPS Management Program End of Year Review**

On February 27-28, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Brian Koch, Jana Lloyd, Ashley Alexander, Wesley Gibson] met with EPA and TCEQ staff in Austin for the annual joint end-of-year review (FY2012) of the *Texas NPS Management Program* and the CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program. Many priority issues affecting both state agencies were discussed in the two-day meeting including new grant policies from EPA, financial aspects of the program, and measuring success in watershed restoration. Both agencies discussed on-going efforts in select watersheds to develop and implement WPPs and TMDLs, and the status of statewide educational projects. The group also discussed collaborating with other state and federal agencies on water quality restoration activities. Discussion highlighted the program's accomplishments, goals, and plans for the coming year.

### Water Quality Planning and Implementation

#### **STATE DISTRICT II**

#### **South and North Llano Rivers**

Impairment: None  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Development of the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$666,167/ External \$447,239

On February 21, 2013, TSSWCB SRM [Jana Lloyd, Pamela Casebolt], Field Staff [Kendria Ray] and Area 2 State Board Member [Marty Graham] attended a public meeting for the Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan in Junction. Presentations were given over water quality conditions in the North and South Llano Rivers, brush management techniques, and the possible prioritization of watershed issues. Also, group discussion centered on Coordination Committee membership and the ground rules of the committee.

On March 8, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended the Texas Water Symposium hosted by Texas Tech University Center at

Junction and Llano River Field Station. Discussion centered on rural land steward panelist's land management techniques. Other topics discussed included the science of groundwater, springs and surface water. In conjunction with the symposium the Kimble County annual public field trip to 700 Springs Ranch tour was held the next day.

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

#### **Upper Cibolo Creek**

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

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Boerne on February 27, 2013. Over 76 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Upper Cibolo Creek Watershed Partnership. The training focused on water quality issues in the Upper Cibolo 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.ci.boerne.tx.us/index.aspx?NID=147>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock operations in the Upper Cibolo Creek watershed in Kendall County.

### **STATE DISTRICT III**

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

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (UAA)  
Project: "Recreational Use Attainability Analysis for Aransas Creek", Nueces River Authority; GR \$125,402

On February 19, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton] attended the Copano Bay TMDL I-Plan Agriculture and Wildlife Workgroup meeting in Refugio. The group discussed various management measures such as WQMPs and feral hog management that will be included in the TMDL I-Plan.

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/aransaruua>. 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.

#### **Geronimo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Geronimo Creek", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$472,398/ External 320,115  
Project: "Water Quality Monitoring in the Geronimo Creek Watershed and Facilitation of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$292,421/ External \$191,435

On February 26, 2013, TSSWCB SRM [Jana Lloyd and Brian Koch] attended the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership meeting. The meeting focused on an update of the data collection efforts as well as discussion on the Luling feral hog workshop and an upcoming cleaning event in the watershed.

More information is available at <http://geronimocreek.org/>. This WPP affects ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

#### **Lower Nueces River**

Impairment: None  
Concern: Chlorophyll-a, Nutrients, Sediment

Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Projects: "Development of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan", Nueces River Authority; Federal \$309,727/External \$248,968

On March 5, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd and Pamela Casebolt] attended the Nueces River Watershed Partnership Stakeholder meeting in Corpus Christi. Discussion centered on the role of the TSSWCB for the Lower Nueces River WPP. Other presentation topics included project history, watershed partnership structure and how to get involved in the WPP process.

More information, including the draft *Source Water Protection Plan*, is available at <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Lower Nueces River watershed below Lake Corpus Christi in Jim Wells, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

#### **Lower San Antonio River**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL  
Lead: TCEQ  
Project: "San Antonio River Watershed Implementation Conservation Initiative", TSSWCB and NRCS; External \$214,010/ GR \$71,336

On March 13 – 14, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Wesley Gibson] attended Farm, Ranch & Range Management Workshops in Goliad and Floresville. The focus of the meetings was to target landowners in specific subwatersheds in the Lower San Antonio River basin to develop and implement conservation plans to support the Gulf of Mexico Initiative. The initiative focuses on the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basin along the Texas gulf coast. The workshops featured presentations and information on various technical and financial programs available to landowners and producers in order to promote conservation.

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

#### **STATE DISTRICT IV**

##### **Attoyac Bayou**

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

On March 7, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine], State Board member [Jerry Nichols], Field staff [Trey Watson], and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran, April Sease, Jackie Risner, Jeremy Welch] attended an Attoyac Bayou stakeholder meeting in Nacogdoches. Steven F. Austin State University gave a presentation on the findings of the RUAA. The report will be available for public comment in the coming months. The remainder of the meeting consisted of going over the final Load Duration Curve and Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool outputs from data provided by stakeholders at previous meetings. This will help in identifying locations for best management practices to help reduce bacteria loads to Attoyac Bayou.

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.

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

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

On February 19, 2013, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Mitch Conine] and Regional Office staff [Carl Steffy] attended the Lake O' the Pines TMDL I-Plan Agriculture Workgroup meeting in Mt. Pleasant. The workgroup worked on identifying management measures in the I-Plan that are yet to be completed. These measures along with the completed management measures will be updated if needed.

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.

#### Other State District IV Projects

Project: "Building Partnerships for Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$437,946/ External \$293,569\*

On February 27, 2013, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension hosted an Agriculture, Wildlife and Water Management Workshop, the third in a series of workshops for the Middle Trinity River Basin, in Corsicana. The goal of the series of workshops is to bring landowners and other stakeholders together to discuss solutions to challenges faced in the Middle Trinity region of the Basin. These workshops are designed to raise awareness of water quality issues, discuss land management techniques that could improve the water resources of the Trinity River Basin and make decisions to protect natural resources for future generations. Presentations at the workshop included the following topics: Managing Cattle During Drought, Techniques Cattle Producers can Employ to Improve Water Quality, and Feral Hog Control Techniques and Regulations. Presenters on these various topics included Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas A&M University- Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.. The final two workshops are to be held March 27 and April 3, 2013, all leading up to a Summit workshop this fall.

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

#### STATE DISTRICT V

##### Gilleland Creek

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

On March 6, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended the Gilleland Creek Watershed TMDL I-Plan update meeting in Pflugerville. The meeting focused on activities completed in year two of implementation. Items of discussion included OSSFs, natural resource management,

stormwater, education and outreach, ordinance and planning and wastewater.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL and I-Plan affect livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

#### Upcoming Public Meetings

- April 1, 2013 – Lower Colorado River Authority Mid-Lower Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Austin)
- April 9, 2013 – TWON training (Lubbock)
- April 9, 2013 – Nueces River Authority CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Corpus Christi)
- April 9, 2013 – Upper Colorado River Authority CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (San Angelo)
- April 10, 2013 – TWON training (Haskell)
- April 10, 2013 – Upper Colorado River Authority CRP Steering Committee Meeting (San Angelo)
- April 11, 2013 – Sheldon Lake State Park Wetland Field Day (Houston)
- April 16, 2013 – Growing Green: Technical and Financial Assistance for Agricultural Producers and Landowners Workshop (Crosby)
- April 17, 2013 – International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Laredo)
- April 18, 2013 – Brazos River Authority CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Waco)
- April 18, 2013 – IBWC CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Harlingen)
- April 22, 2013 – Houston-Galveston Area Council CRP Steering Committee Meeting (Houston)
- April 23, 2013 – Houston-Galveston Area Council CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Houston)
- April 23, 2013 – San Antonio River Authority CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (San Antonio)
- April 25, 2013 – Incentive Programs Update Meeting (Harlingen)
- April 30, 2013 – Trinity River Authority CRP Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring Meeting (Arlington)

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## 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 FY2012. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

### Staff Activities

- Continued to consult with Dr. Ken Rainwater and his staff to evaluate the Water Supply Enhancement Program project proposals that were re-submitted for analysis.
- The primary and secondary sub-basins will be evaluated to determine the highest yielding areas in those sub-basins.
- WSEP staff met to discuss and review updated policies and procedures to the program.
- WSEP staff attended the Senate Finance meeting.
- WSEP staff attended the House Ag meeting.

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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 FY2010, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. All FY2010 funds have been utilized.

In FY2011, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. Currently, there is a balance of \$64,190 to be utilized by June 28, 2013.

Structural Repair Grant Program Update  
In FY2010, \$4,055,471 in program funds were obligated to conduct structural repairs on 18 flood control dams. The TSSWCB and local SWCDs partnered and leveraged resources through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery and provided funding for structural repair activities on five of these dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on all 18 flood control dams.

In FY2011, \$2,823,166 in program funds was obligated to conduct structural repairs on six flood control dams. The TSSWCB and local SWCDs continued to partner and leveraged resources through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery and provided funding for structural repair activities on one of these dams. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on five of the six flood control dams the remaining dam is under construction.

In FY12, \$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.

On October 26, 2012, districts and sponsors were notified that the TSSWCB is seeking applications for structural repair projects on flood control dams in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Subchapter B. Applications for FY2013 grant funds were due no later than 8:00 am on November 30, 2012. The TSSWCB received ten applications on 21 dams for structural repair projects. Applications that were submitted for FY2010 and FY2011 repair projects that did not receive funding will also be considered for FY2013. TSSWCB staff is finalizing decisions on applications submitted for FY2013 grant funding and will be contacting potential grantees in the near future.

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

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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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