



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

4311 South 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas 76502
PO Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503
(254) 773-2250

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

May 2011

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local SWCD 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

CONTENTS

State Board Work Sessions and Meetings	1
State Board Member Elections	1
Legislative Update	2
Budget and Accounting.....	2
Human Resources	2
Special Projects.....	2
Public Information and Education.....	2
Water Quality Management Plan Program.....	4
Poultry Water Quality Management Plans.....	5
Water Conservation Advisory Council	5
Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program.....	6
Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding	7
State General Revenue Grant Funding.....	8
Total Maximum Daily Load Program.....	8
Watershed Protection Plan Program.....	9
Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program.....	9
Water Quality Coordination Activities	11
Upcoming Public Meetings.....	14
Water Quality Planning and Implementation.....	14
Water Supply Enhancement Program.....	18
Flood Control Dam Programs	19

STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday, July 20, 2011** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, July 21, 2011** in Temple. More information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

STATE BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

On May 3, 2011, SWCD Directors in State Districts I, III, and V held State Board Member elections. José Dodier, Jr. (District III) and Barry Mahler (District V) were both re-elected. Scott Buckles was elected in District I, filling the vacancy by Aubrey Russell who did not seek re-election.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Appropriations

The Conference Committee appointed to adjust the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on House Bill 1 (General Appropriations Act) completed their work on May 26 and have reported it back to the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House with the recommendation that it be passed.

The Conference Committee chose to include the Senate's version of the TSSWCB's budget which restores \$4 million of the \$15 million reduction for flood control grants. Two full time positions will also be restored.

The Senate and House are both expected to vote on the budget Saturday, May 28, after which the budget will be sent to the Governor. The last day of the Session is May 30, 2011.

Sunset Legislation

Legislation needed to continue the TSSWCB's existence beyond August 31, 2011 and implement the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission was signed by the Governor on May 17, 2011. House Bill 1808 takes effect September 1, 2011, and continues the TSSWCB through September 1, 2023. TSSWCB have started developing recommendations on changes to agency programs for the State Board to act upon in order to implement the legislation.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The 5% administration payments for the Water Quality Management Plan Program were distributed in May.
- The deadline for claiming $\frac{2}{3}$ Matching Funds for 2011 was May 15. Allocations have now been adjusted for those that did not claim the $\frac{2}{3}$ amount.

- The deadline for claiming 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter Director Mileage and Per Diem for 2011 is July 1.

For more accounting and budgeting information, contact Kenny Zajicek at (254) 773-2250 or zajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Engineering Technician IV in Hale Center
- Program Supervisor III in Harlingen

For additional information on posted vacancies or to download an application, visit <https://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/employment>.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of 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 Texas SWCD Directors

The 71st Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 24-26, 2011, in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Hotel and Resort. For reservations call (210) 647-1234 or (800) 233-1234.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Follow TSSWCB on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn!

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

Conservation News is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/news>.

Program Development Workshop

The next Program Development Workshop for SWCD Directors and employees is scheduled for June 28-29, 2011 in Temple. New USDA-NRCS District Conservationists will also be invited to attend the training. A final reminder flyer was sent to all SWCDs on May 2. A general letter of invitation to all SWCD Directors and employees will be sent on May 24. If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Clyde Gottschalk at (254) 773-2250 ext. 222 or cgottschalk@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

Teacher's Workshop at Franklin Ranch

A Teacher's Workshop on Conservation of Natural Resources will be held at the Franklin Family Ranch in Blanco. The workshop, sponsored by the Pedernales SWCD, will be held June 7-9, 2011. Teachers can earn 16 hours of professional continuing education units.

The workshop is an opportunity for teachers to receive valuable training and resources they can take to their classrooms. Topics covered will be soils, the water cycle, plants in the Texas Hill Country, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat, energy conservation, and more. The cost is \$200 and covers lodging, meals, and materials. Scholarships may be available through SWCDs to cover the cost.

Registration information and a promotional flyer can be found at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/infoed/summerworks> or by contacting Katy Murrah at (830) 868-7237 ext. 3 or pedernalesswcd@tx.nacdnet.org.

Registration closes May 31, 2011, and this workshop will fill up quickly!

Youth Range Workshop

The 57th consecutive annual youth range workshop will be conducted June 19-24, 2011 at the Texas Tech University campus in Junction. The workshop is sponsored by the Texas Section Society for Range Management.

The purpose of the workshop is to recognize outstanding youth, develop leadership skills, and provide advanced training to 4-H and FFA youth interested in practical range ecology, ranch, and natural resource management.

The workshop curriculum is structured to provide knowledge and understanding in the following areas: land stewardship, range ecology, plant growth, plant-soil-water relations, primary and secondary plant succession, watershed management, livestock and wildlife needs, tools of range and natural resource management, prescribed burning, and the impact of management decisions on range resources.

A total of 40 youth will be accepted to the 2011 workshop. For more information on this youth workshop, visit <http://www.rangelands.org/texas/youtheducation.htm>.

Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY)

The state wildlife career development event was held May 10, 2011 at the MT-7 Ranch near Breckenridge. The results of the contest are:

FFA	Place	4-H
High Point Individual Colton French Ingram FFA High Point Team Ingram FFA	1 st Place	High Point Individual Jake Boehnke Harris County 4-H High Point Team Cherokee County 4-H
High Point Individual Garrett Deike Johnson City FFA High Point Team Brownwood FFA	2 nd Place	High Point Individual Tommy Marchetti Cherokee County 4-H High Point Team Cherokee County 4-H

High Point Individual Zach Zumwalt Ingram FFA High Point Team Johnson City FFA	3 rd Place	High Point Individual Logan Carroll Harris County 4-H High Point Team McLennan County 4-H
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Total	FFA	4-H
Teams	49	7
Participants	100	27

The contests operate under the rules and guidelines of the Wildlife Alliance for Youth. The Alliance consists of the TSSWCB, Association of Texas SWCDs, USDA-NRCS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas AgriLife Extension 4-H, Welder Wildlife Foundation, Texas Education Agency Agricultural Science and Technology, Texas A&M University Instructional Materials Service, Texas FFA Association, and Texas Wildlife Association.

At the state contest, the first place winning teams in both the FFA and 4-H division earned a \$500 cash award, second place teams earned a \$300 cash award, and the third place teams earned a \$200 cash award.

Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contests

The 2011 FFA soil stewardship public speaking area contests were held in May. The dates of the contests were:

Area	Date
I	May 14
II	May 13
III	May 12
IV	May 14
V	May 14
VI	May 13
VII	May 17
VIII	May 13
IX	May 12
X	May 12

First and second place winners in each area contest will compete for top honors in the state contest which will be held in July at the state FFA convention in Lubbock.

First, second, and third place winners in the state level soil stewardship public speaking contests will receive scholarships. First place winner will receive a \$3,000 scholarship, second place winner will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, and the third place winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The theme of this year's contest is "Forests for People – More than you can imagine!" The contest is a cooperative effort of Texas FFA, TSSWCB, and the Association of Texas SWCDs. The theme of the contest is based on the National Association of Conservation Districts' annual soil stewardship program.

Conservation Video Library

About the Library

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

Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Mel Davis at mdavis@tsswcb.state.tx.us 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

Program Overview

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate nonpoint source water pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since the mid-1990s and has certified over 14,000 plans. The

TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution and allocates funding to those areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

Allocations of financial incentive funding for FY2011 were approved by the State Board in July 2010. The deadline for obligating FY2011 funds was April 30, 2011.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Program 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 WQMP certified by the TSSWCB.

In 2009, the 81st 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.

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.

For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry> or contact the Poultry Program Office at (936) 462-7020.

WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Program Overview

Recognizing the importance of water conservation in meeting our future demand, the 80th Texas Legislature in 2007, via the passage of Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4, directed the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to appoint the members of the newly created Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC). The WCAC was created to provide the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Legislature, TWDB, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), political subdivisions, and the public with the resource of a select council with expertise in water conservation.

According to the legislation, the WCAC is composed of 23 members appointed by the TWDB. At their August 27, 2007 meeting, the TWDB appointed one member to represent each of the 23 entities or interest groups. The TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the WCAC.

Duties of the WCAC include:

- Monitoring trends in water conservation implementation and new technologies for possible inclusion as BMPs
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program and developing and implementing a state water management resource library
- Developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation
- Monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the TWDB and TCEQ
- Evaluating the desirability of requiring certification of water conservation training facilities, entities, and programs that provide assistance to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans

Recent Activities

The WCAC met in Austin on April 20, 2011. Eight council member positions will be expiring in August 2011:

- TCEQ – Scott Swanson
- Texas Department of Agriculture – Gary Walker
- TWDB – Robert Mace
- Federal Agencies – Steven Bednarz, USDA-NRCS
- Municipalities – Karen Guz
- Refining & Chemical Manufacturing – Karl Fennessey
- Landscape Irrigation & Horticulture – Kelly Hall
- Municipality Utility Districts – Donna Howe

Nominations will be accepted by TWDB for the positions, and selections will be approved in August 2011.

Upcoming Activities

The WCAC recently reorganized its workgroups and is developing plans for upcoming activities. The WCAC has established four workgroups to work on water conservation issues: agricultural, municipal, industrial, and public awareness.

The agricultural workgroup, over the next biennium, will be reviewing the state's agricultural water conservation BMPs that were developed by the Water Conservation Task Force (2003-2005). The workgroup will determine if each BMP is still appropriate as is, or if it needs updating or removal. The agricultural workgroup will also review current methods of reporting irrigation water use (e.g., gal/ac, gal/ton) to evaluate if current methods are appropriate, or if more efficient methods should be developed and used.

The workgroups do not make any decisions, but make recommendations to the WCAC for any required decisions. All interested persons are welcome and encouraged to participate as members of the various workgroups. If anyone is interested in becoming a workgroup member, please contact Richard Egg at (254) 773-2250 ext. 246 or regg@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The next WCAC meetings are scheduled for June 8, 2011 and September 1, 2011, both at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Field Office in Austin.

More information on the WCAC is available at <http://www.savetexaswater.org/>.

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 *Annual Report on Managing NPS Water Pollution in Texas*, 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. 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*, including the *2010 Annual Report*, 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 and functions 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.

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>.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within

specific watersheds are provided in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

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.

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.

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 annually through the EPA to States for the 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.

FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status

On October 8, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff were informed that EPA was not going to approve the workplan submitted to begin implementing components of the Leon River WPP until EPA had completed an adequate review of the WPP and the \$365,976 dedicated to that project would be withheld from the agency's FY2010 CWA §319(h) grant award. During the Leon River WPP public comment period (December 17, 2010-February 18, 2011), EPA conducted a preliminary federal consistency review of the WPP. On April 14, 2011, EPA awarded the remaining \$365,976 from the TSSWCB's FY2010 grant allocation and approved the scope of work.

FY2004 – FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 51 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 51 on-going projects total approximately \$14.8 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 WPPs and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status

The deadline for proposal submission was November 19, 2010. TSSWCB received 26 proposals requesting a total of \$10,877,077 in federal funds. TSSWCB SRM staff are working with EPA to negotiate scopes and work and budgets for proposals that were selected for funding. The full grant application must be submitted to EPA in June 2011 for review and approval.

On May 19, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff were notified that EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer had published EPA's FY2011 operating budget based on the final Congressional budget approved in April 2011. EPA ultimately shifted \$25 million out of the Congressionally-approved national CWA §319(h) allocation (~\$200 million) to other EPA program areas. This effectively reduces TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA §319(h) allocation by over 13% from FY2010 levels. TSSWCB SRM staff are evaluating options for absorbing this unexpected cut and impacts to proposals that were selected for funding.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated general revenue funds 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 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation.

The State Board has approved operating budgets for FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 that allocated a total of \$3.79 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant 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. This *Policy* is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#StateGR>.

FY2009 – FY2011 State General Revenue Grant Status

There are currently 14 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 14 on-going projects total approximately \$2.2 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; 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.

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 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 TMDL allocates 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. TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs.

More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>. 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 water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the watershed planning 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 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 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 that incorporates new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. EPA requires certain expenditures through CWA §319(h) grants to be in accordance with a WPP. 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.

More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>. 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 CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure the 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) 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 and subdivisions of state government 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.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.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. NOAA identified five areas the State must strengthen or correct; 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. However, in May 2009, GLO received comments from NOAA and EPA which concluded that enough progress had been made to lift only one of the conditions.

On May 18, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss progress by TCEQ to finalize a letter to EPA and NOAA that describes the State's approach to address the remaining conditional approval findings.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

The CCC was reviewed by the Sunset Advisory Commission this biennium. Sunset legislation (SB656) has been signed by the Governor. The act abolishes the CCC and transfers its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation also requires establishment of a Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. This Advisory Committee includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board. The act takes effect September 1, 2011.

More information on the CCC is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/ccc-meetings.html>.

CMP Grant Program

Application information for Grant Cycle 17 was distributed in April 2011. The CCC expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects during Grant Cycle 17. The deadline for pre-proposals is June 22, 2011. The full application is due October 12, 2011. Submission of the pre-proposal is only necessary if applicants would like written comments on their pre-proposals.

The CCC will accept applications for both construction and non-construction projects that address any of the following funding categories:

- Coastal Natural Hazards Response

- Critical Areas Enhancements
- Shoreline Access
- Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development
- Permit Streamlining/Assistance, Governmental Coordination, and Local Government Planning Assistance
- Water Sediment Quantity and Quality Improvements

Five grant workshops were held on the coast to inform potential applicants about the changes made to the grant program and to discuss potential project application submissions.

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>.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

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 May 18, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick, Aaron Wendt, David Reeves, Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Donna Long, Brian Koch, Jana Baker] met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss and coordinate the many on-going activities between the two agencies. Many topics were discussed including updates on the Watershed Action Planning process and progress on revising the *Texas NPS Management Program*. 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. Other updates included

the current status of both agencies' WPPs, TMDLs, and RUAA projects, the 2010 Assessment and *303(d) List of Impaired Waters*, the water quality standards revision, and EPA CWA performance measures.

Coordination with EPA

On May 3, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt] participated in a conference call with TCEQ and EPA staff to discuss a national NPS Program study being conducted by EPA headquarters staff. EPA is working with the Office of Management and Budget to characterize and compare how the States are utilizing CWA 319(h) funds to implement the States' NPS Management Programs. EPA is examining progress to achieve water quality restoration and reduce impairments on the 303(d) List, the role of regulatory approaches in implementing NPS programs, the extent to which the States partner with other agencies and leverage other funding mechanisms to implement NPS controls, and the extent to which WPPs and TMDLs are being developed and implemented.

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.

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 waterbodies 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.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information gathered during the Watershed Action Planning process, 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. Watershed Action Planning is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texan.

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., primary contact) 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.

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 are conducted and a review of historical information is 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.

The TCEQ is in the process of conducting RUAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAs on another

12 waterbodies. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. After the RUAs 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.

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.

On May 17, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Mitch Conine, Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt, Brian Koch, Loren Warrick, Jana Baker] participated in a conference call with TCEQ staff to discuss RUAs. Priorities for conducting RUAs on additional waterbodies were discussed. Also, the group discussed the public participation process being used to engage stakeholders in RUAs; ways to improve communication with the public were emphasized.

More information on RUAs is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/index. These RUAs 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, plus bays and estuaries, in Texas.

Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions.

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB.

The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Integrated Report*.

More information on CRP is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On April 27, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended an LCRA Coordinated Monitoring meeting in Austin. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2012 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the middle Colorado River Basin. More information is available at <http://www.lcra.org/water/quality/crp/index.html>.

On April 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended a Coordinated Monitoring meeting hosted by the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section, in Midland. Discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2012 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Pecos River basin. The group discussed on-going implementation of the TSSWCB-sponsored Pecos River WPP. TCEQ's new watershed action planning process was discussed with stakeholders. Updates were provided on the 2010 *Texas Integrated Report* and the 2010 Texas Surface Water Quality Standards revision. The draft *Basin Highlights Report* was presented to the group. More information is available at <http://www.ibwc.state.gov/home.html>.

On April 29, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Trinity River Authority

CRP Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring meetings in Dallas. At the CRP Steering Committee meeting, the group discussed Environmentally Sensitive Areas and the Hickory Creek WPP developed by the City of Denton. There was also a presentation on the Trinity River Existing Conditions Survey that was performed last fall by the Trinity River Authority. The group also discussed the 2010 *Basin Summary Report* and the 2010 *Texas Integrated Report*. For the Coordinated Monitoring meeting, discussion focused on coordinating surface water quality monitoring activities planned for FY2012 among various entities collecting data in order to avoid overlap and maximize resources in the Trinity River Basin. More information is available at <http://www.trinityra.org/>.

On May 4, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick] attended an LCRA upper Colorado River Basin CRP Steering Committee meeting hosted by the Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) in San Angelo. The committee was updated on the fact that the Colorado River Municipal Water District will no longer be collecting data through CRP; to ensure that continuing monitoring efforts are still maintained, UCRA has agreed to pick up additional sites. TCEQ's new Watershed Action Planning process was briefly discussed with the committee and a brief update was given on the status of the Concho River WPP. More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/>.

San Antonio Bay Estuary Program

On May 12, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a meeting on a Wetland Inventory for San Antonio Bay in Victoria. This project is part of the ongoing effort to develop a comprehensive management plan for San Antonio Bay. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is performing the study, which includes site inventory for protection, restoration, and enhancement of coastal habitats around the bay. Stakeholder input is being solicited for this process. Habitat maps will be created that examine features in the bay that have been altered. The group discussed adjusting and narrowing the project area for the wetland inventory.

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.

Bell County Blackland Field Day

On May 2, 2011, TSSWCB Staff [Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker] attended the 2011 Bell County Blackland Field Day in Temple sponsored by Texas AgriLife Research and USDA-Agricultural Research Service. Presentations covered soil fertility, brush management, pasture management, and wheat and oat crop evaluation. Results from the TSSWCB-funded project, *Efficient Nitrogen Fertilization: Accounting for Field Nitrogen Mineralization*, were presented demonstrating to producers the importance of soil testing prior to cultivation.

Southwest Dairy Day

On May 5, 2011, TSSWCB Staff [Ashley Alexander, Lee Munz] participated in the grand opening of the Southwest Regional Dairy Center in Stephenville. This event was hosted by Tarleton State University and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The dairy center is a brand new, state-of-the-art facility that will provide infrastructure support for teaching, research, service, and outreach programs to meet the need for higher education and the dairy industry in Texas and the southwest U.S. TSSWCB provided a grant to Texas AgriLife Research to develop a monitoring strategy for the Center that describes methods to assess the impacts of dairies on natural resources and a communication strategy for the Center that describes approaches for communicating findings from implementing the monitoring strategy.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- May 27, 2011 – Lower Neches Valley Authority Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee (Beaumont)

- June 1, 2011 – Stream Processes and Restoration Workshop (Waco)
- June 2, 2011 – TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- June 3, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee NPS Task Force (Austin)
- June 7, 2011 – San Antonio Bay Partnership Wetland Inventory Stakeholder Group (Victoria)
- June 8, 2011 – H-GAC Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee (Houston)
- June 8, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Austin)
- June 13, 2011 – Big Cypress Creek Bacteria Assessment Stakeholder Meeting (Mount Pleasant)
- June 14, 2011 – Upper Oyster Creek TMDL I-Plan Coordinating Committee (Sugar Land)
- June 14, 2011 – Geronimo Creek Watershed Steering Committee (Seguin)
- June 16, 2011 – Attoyac Bayou Watershed Steering Committee Meeting (Nacogdoches)
- June 16, 2011 – Lampasas River Watershed Steering Committee (Lampasas)
- June 16, 2011 – TCEQ Advisory Work Group for Surface Water Quality Assessment Guidance (Austin)
- June 20, 2011 – TCEQ Nutrient Criteria Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- June 22, 2011 – H-GAC Clean Waters Initiative Sediments in Waterways Workshop (Houston)
- June 28, 2011 – Lavaca-Navidad River Authority Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee (Edna)
- July 14, 2011 – Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership (Corpus Christi)

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 on-going 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.

Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On April 21, 2011, TSSWCB Regional Office staff [Andy Garza, Ronnie Ramirez, Richardo Chapa] attended the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup meeting in Harlingen. Discussion centered on current agricultural activities in the Arroyo Colorado watershed. The meeting highlighted the new *Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado WPP Focused on Agricultural NPS Pollution* project as well as past and current projects relating to financial incentives, technical assistance, education, and monitoring. A local landowner discussed his involvement in conservation programs in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

On April 21, 2011, TSSWCB Regional Office staff [Ronnie Ramirez] attended the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Weslaco. Discussion centered on workgroup updates, long-term Partnership sustainability, as well as, opportunities for future implementation funding. Texas Stream Team provided an update on their education and monitoring activities in the Arroyo Colorado watershed. The Nueces River Authority presented information on the on-going RUAA for the Arroyo Colorado; a literature search on historical uses of the Arroyo is being conducted and the second field survey will be completed in late April.

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.

Cedar Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Macrobenthic Community
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On May 6, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Aaron Wendt] attended a Harris County SWCD #442 meeting in Houston. At the meeting the *Development of a WPP for Cedar Bayou* project was introduced. In attendance to explain the project objectives was project lead Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). H-GAC is responsible for facilitating stakeholder involvement in the project as well as accomplishing other major tasks. Major project tasks include collecting water quality monitoring data, conducting a watershed source survey, developing a comprehensive GIS inventory, and performing computer modeling which will all culminate in the development of a WPP.

On May 11, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch] and field staff [Joel Clark] attended a Trinity Bay SWCD #434 meeting in Winnie. At the meeting the *Development of a WPP for Cedar Bayou* project was introduced. In attendance to explain the project objectives was project lead H-GAC. H-GAC is responsible for facilitating stakeholder involvement in the project as well as accomplishing other major tasks. Major project tasks include collecting water quality monitoring data, conducting a watershed source survey, developing a comprehensive GIS inventory, and performing computer modeling which will all culminate in the development of a WPP.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/cedarbwpp>. This WPP will affect livestock operations in the Cedar Bayou watershed in Harris, Liberty, and Chambers Counties.

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On April 27, 2011, EPA notified TCEQ that they had completed the federal consistency review of the revised Lake Granbury WPP. In order for the State to utilize CWA §319(h) grant monies to implement

portions of this WPP, EPA must find that the WPP is consistent with and satisfies the nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. In December 2010, EPA determined that the Lake Granbury WPP did not satisfy all the elements; however, after modifications to the WPP by the Brazos River Authority and stakeholders, EPA has now concluded that the revised Lake Granbury WPP fully satisfies all the elements.

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp> and <http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

Lampasas River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On April 26-27, 2011, the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership hosted two one-day Proper Functioning Condition riparian workshops in Killeen and Lampasas. The workshops, presented by USDA-NRCS, focused on landowners developing a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas as well as methods for assessing the condition of riparian/wetland sites. The workshops were held in support of the Lampasas River WPP.

On April 29, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Jana Baker] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Urban Issues Work Group meeting in Killeen. Discussion centered on municipal management strategies and responsibilities of the Cities within the watershed. Urban management strategies are focused on wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary sewer systems, stormwater management, on-site sewage facilities, and domestic and non-domestic animals. These management strategies will be incorporated into the Lampasas River WPP.

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

On May 9, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Went] attended the Hamilton County Commissioners Court meeting in Hamilton. The purpose of attending was to inform the Court of the release of CWA §319(h) funds by EPA to begin the *Implementation of the Leon River WPP through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair or Replace On-Site Sewage Facilities in Hamilton County* project. SRM staff discussed the scope of work, timeline to initiate a contract, and answered questions.

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 affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

North Bosque River

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

In April 2011, TCEQ released the annual *Status Report: Implementing TMDLs to Reduce Phosphorus – Improving Water Quality in the North Bosque River*. This report provides an overview and update of activities to monitor and improve water quality in the North Bosque River. The report provides an analysis of water quality data and discusses interim progress in achieving the load reductions called for in the TMDL. Reduction

targets have regularly been met at four of the five index sites. Additionally, the report includes a discussion of progress to implement specific components of the I-Plan. Several TSSWCB programs are highlighted, including CNMPs and DMES, as well as, tributary monitoring funded by TSSWCB through CWA §319(h) grants.

More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/06-bosque.html>. This TMDL affects dairy operations in the North Bosque River watershed in Bosque, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Coryell and McLennan Counties.

Lower Nueces River

Impairment: None
Concern: Chlorophyll-a, Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third Party

On May 12, 2011, over 40 individuals attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Corpus Christi. Sponsored by TSSWCB, through a CWA §319(h) grant, and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed 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 was held in support of on-going watershed planning efforts by the Nueces River Authority. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

More information 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.

Pecan Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: UAA
Lead: TSSWCB

On May 4, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt] attended the Mid Pecan

Bayou RUAA stakeholder meeting in Brownwood. Discussion centered on designing a watershed source survey that characterizes sources of bacteria contributing to pollutant loading in Mid Pecan Bayou. Technical experts and local stakeholders gave input regarding the survey as well as provided additional watershed information. The watershed source survey compliments the RUAA being conducted on Mid Pecan Bayou.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#pecanbayou>. This project affects livestock operations in portions of the Pecan Bayou watershed in Brown County.

Plum Creek

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

On May 5, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt, Jana Baker, Brian Koch] and field staff [Tony Franklin] attended the Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304 meeting in Lockhart. The purpose of attending the meeting was to update the SWCD on the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership, WPP, and draft interlocal agreement.

On May 5, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt, Jana Baker, Brian Koch] and field staff [Tony Franklin] attended a Plum Creek Watershed Partnership sustainability meeting in Lockhart. Discussion focused on efforts to locally sustain the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership and a watershed coordinator to support implementation of the Plum Creek WPP. Edits to the draft interlocal agreement among the cities, counties, Plum Creek Conservation District, and SWCDs were discussed and a finalized agreement will be circulated among cooperating partners for signatures in June 2011. An update on the proposal submitted to TSSWCB for a CWA §319(h) NPS grant was given. GBRA was selected as the new watershed coordinator to take over for Texas AgriLife Extension Service when their contract ends in September 2012.

On May 5, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt, Jana Baker, Brian Koch] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart. Discussion centered on the Partnership's long-term sustainability meetings with cities, counties, GBRA, and PCCD, and the new implementation proposal submitted to TSSWCB for CWA §319(h) funding. Updates were given on the Hillside Terrace Wastewater Project and potential funding from the TWDB Clean Water State Revolving Fund, as well as, active implementation projects such as the City of Kyle's urban NPS project, Plum Creek Feral Hog Education, and implementation of agricultural BMPs. Texas Stream Team presented on current monitoring and outreach activities within the watershed. The Plum Creek Watershed Partnership is implementing components of the Plum Creek WPP in an effort to restore water quality within the Plum Creek watershed.

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.

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

On April 28, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the San Bernard River WPP in Wharton. TCEQ presented information on their NPS grant program and promoted the upcoming FY2012 Request-for-Grant-Applications for CWA §319(h) proposals. Updates to the SELECT model were also presented and an update on modeling for the tidal portion was discussed. The SELECT model was updated using the 2006 national land use/land cover dataset; this resulted in no major changes in the model outputs. CDM Engineering will be working on modeling the tidal portion of the watershed. The group also discussed placement of watershed roadway signs and technical and financial needs for BMPs.

More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard>. This WPP affects farming

and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

Upper Oyster Creek

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

On May 3, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended an Agriculture and Wildlife Sources workgroup meeting for the Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan in Sugar Land. The meeting focused on strategies to deal with agricultural and wildlife sources of bacteria, with discussion on specific programs including the TSSWCB WQMP Program and the USDA-NRCS EQIP.

On May 10, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Coordinating Committee meeting for the Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan in Sugar Land. This meeting featured reports from the four workgroups: Human Waste, Research, Agriculture and Wildlife Sources, and Urban NPS. Each workgroup discussed strategies and BMPs necessary to achieve bacteria reductions in the creek.

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

Program Overview

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources in selected aquifers, streams, and reservoirs through the selective control of brush species. The 81st Texas Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641 in General Revenue Funds in FY2011.

These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the TSSWCB. Since the beginning of the program in 1999, there has been over 741,000 acres of brush treated in priority watersheds throughout the state.

The following SWCDs were provided Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program Certifications and/or Contracts:

Area 2 Districts

- Middle Concho SWCD
- Eldorado-Divide SWCD
- Tom Green SWCD
- Pedernales SWCD
- Gillespie County SWCD
- Kerr County SWCD
- Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts

- McMullen County SWCD
- LaSalle County SWCD
- Caldwell-Travis SWCD
- Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
- Webb SWCD
- Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts

- Archer County SWCD
- Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
- Pecan Bayou SWCD
- Bosque SWCD
- Little Wichita SWCD

Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 14 projects throughout the state. Listed below are the projects and the project's contact person:

- Twin Buttes Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher Reservoir – Tuffy Wood
- Pedernales River – Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River – Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer (Bandera County) – Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill Reservoir – Cody York
- Nueces River – Adrian Perez

- Frio River – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Tuffy Wood
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer – Tuffy Wood
- Palo Pinto Reservoir – Cody York
- Bosque River – Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties) – Cody York
- Lake Brownwood – Cody York

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River, Kendall and Blanco Counties with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, and Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Coordinating meetings in Frio, Nueces, and Twin Buttes to begin application on Projects
- Evaluate new rules and recommendation for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Program Overview

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within 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. A secondary benefit is the reduction of nonpoint source pollutants (e.g., sediment) in floodwater downstream. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by 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.

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over the amount of needed O&M and structural 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.

More information on these Flood Control Programs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/floodcontrol>.

Small Watershed Program Receives National Award

The USDA-NRCS Small Watershed Program (flood control dams) received a national award at the National Watershed Coalition Conference in Oklahoma City, OK, on May 17, 2011. Many SWCDs are sponsors of watershed projects and have contributed to the success of the program over the years.

The program was designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

Since 1948, over 11,000 dams and associated conservation practices in more than 2,000 watershed projects encompassing 160 million acres in 47 states have been constructed as a part of the USDA Small Watershed Program. These projects have improved the quality of life and the environment in rural communities by protecting people's lives and property, conserving soil and water resources, reducing flooding, providing

economic development, recreation, and water supplies, enhancing water quality, and improving wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The program established the principle of combining conservation practices in a watershed with flood control dams on tributary streams. In order to implement this program, innovations in engineering, hydraulics, hydrology, and soil mechanics were developed by USDA-NRCS and USDA Agricultural Research Service engineers and scientists.

O&M Grant Program

Below is a summary of the Flood Control O&M Program for FY2010 and FY2011 as of May 20, 2011.

FY2010 Contracted \$555,129		FY2011 Allocation \$2,472,009	
Original O&M	Original Admin	Original O&M	Original Admin
\$528,652	\$26,477	\$2,354,636	\$117,373
Spent O&M	Spent Admin	Spent O&M	Spent Admin
\$413,287	\$19,189	\$1,326,834	\$66,078
Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin	Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin
\$116,770	\$5,838	\$1,027,802	\$51,295
Total FY2010 Remaining \$122,609		Total FY2011 Remaining \$1,079,097	

Structural Repair Grant Program

TSSWCB staff is finalizing decisions on applications submitted for FY2011 grant funding and will be contacting potential grantees in the near future.

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.



4311 SOUTH 31ST STREET, SUITE 125
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502
(254) 773-2250

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

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.