



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Program News and Activities

NOVEMBER 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 January 15, 2014** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, January 16, 2014 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.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- October 15th advance payments for 2014 Mileage and Per Diem were made.
- October 31st was the deadline for submitting completed financial statements.
- November 1st supplemental Technical Assistance, Matching Fund, and Mileage/Per Diem claims were paid.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 1 position available at this time.

- Natural Resources Specialist III- Temple

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

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 27-29, 2014 and plan on attending the 74th Annual State Meeting held in Galveston.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Program Development Workshop

A letter of invitation will be sent to all newly elected and appointed district directors at the beginning of December announcing a Program Development Workshop scheduled for February 11-12, 2014. A general letter of invitation will be sent to all SWCDs about mid-December.

The workshop will be held at the Bell County Expo Center located south of Belton, TX off Interstate Highway 35. A block of rooms have been arranged with the La Quinta Inn located adjacent to the Expo Center.

The workshop will take on a new format to promote attendance. As an incentive to further encourage attendance, the agenda will include two hours of training on the "Open Meetings Act" and "Texas Public Information Act" which is mandatory training for newly appointed or elected directors. The topics will be presented by a representative of the Office of the Attorney General.

Directors, district employees and NRCS employees who want to receive CEU training toward maintaining current pesticide applicator licenses may participate in the training if they

wish. One hour of credit can be earned during the normal course of the workshop as a result of relevant program content. An additional two hours of credit on laws and regulations can be earned by attending an optional two hours of training following the conclusion of the Program Development Workshop

In addition, several existing agenda items are being revised or updated.

Region IV Wildlife Contest: Rain did not deter FFA and 4-H members from taking to the field to engage in competitive events at the Region IV Wildlife Contest. The event was held November 6th at the Stephen F. Austin State University Experimental Forest.

The top three high point teams in the FFA Division were Rusk (First Place), Avery (Second Place), and Gilmer (Third Place). High point individuals in first to third place order were John Murray of Warren, Hunter Scoggins of Woodville, and Dillon Bamburg of Dayton.

In the 4-H Division, Rusk County placed first, Trinity County placed second, and Bowie County placed third. High point individuals in respective first to third place order were Kaleb Hor of Rusk County, Meredith Ecord of Trinity County, and Alden Utzman of Rusk County.

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. 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 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.

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

FY2009 – FY2013 CWA §319(h) Grant Status

There are currently 36 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 36 on-going

projects total approximately \$12 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).

FY2014 Request for Proposals

On August 30, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program. The RFP was published in the Texas Register, posted on the TSSWCB website, and all SWCDs and cooperating entities were notified of this funding opportunity. TSSWCB SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the Texas NPS Management Program and the 2012 Integrated Report. The deadline for proposal submission was October 11, 2013. A total of 30 proposals were received. SRM staff is currently reviewing and ranking the proposals that were received.

FY2012 – FY2014 State Grant Status

There are currently 16 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 16 on-going projects total approximately \$2.3 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 the FY2014 allocated funds.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal

resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Land Commissioner are responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC), established by the Texas Legislature, advises the Land Commissioner on matters related to implementation of the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCAC.

The GLO is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The GLO reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the GLO oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

The federal Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217 requires each State with an approved CMP to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the development and implementation of the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program.

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

Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee

The CCAC was created during sunset legislation (SB656) in the 82nd 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 the planning and implementation of projects that address environmental problems affecting the coastal area and that promote sustainable economic development.

§306 Grants

The grant cycle 19 application deadline closed at the end of September 2013, with a proposed project start date of October 2014.

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

Coastal Planning

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

to inform the 83rd Texas Legislature of the coastal priorities for each of the four regions, and to serve as a baseline for the long-term planning process. A brochure was also developed, *The Texas Coast: Shoring up our Future*, and can be found here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/shoring-up-texas/shoring-up-our-future-brochure.pdf>.

Year two of this effort will continue with the creation of a broader planning effort. This long-term plan will better enable an integrated, adaptive management approach to plan for and balance competing natural and human uses along our coast.

Water Quality Coordination Activities

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 October 30, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a quarterly Galveston Bay Council Meeting in Houston. This meeting featured updates from the Galveston Bay Estuary Program and the Chair of the Council. Also, there were presentations from Dow Chemical on their relationship with the Nature Conservancy and from the Gulf Coast Economic Development District and their relationship with Galveston Bay. Various subcommittee reports were given along with announcements and updates from council members.

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.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

STATE DISTRICT I

E.V. Spence Reservoir

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

On October 16, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended an E.V. Spence Brush Control Workgroup Meeting in San Angelo. Discussion at the workgroup meeting was on continued brush control to support the Colorado River below E.V. Spence TMDL.

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

STATE DISTRICT II

Concho River

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

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in San Angelo on October 23, 2013. Over 90 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Middle and South Concho River Watershed. 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.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/conchowpp>. This WPP affects farming and

livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, and Upton Counties.

Pecos River

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Implementing Components of the Watershed Protection Plan for the Pecos River in Texas", Texas Water Resources Institute, Crockett SWCD #235, Upper Pecos SWCD #213; Federal \$1,499,859/ External \$526,956
Project: "Implementing the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan through Continuous Water Quality Monitoring and Dissolved Oxygen Modeling", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$224,826/ External \$152,050
Project: "Implementing the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan through a Heliborne Electromagnetic (EM) Survey", Texas Water Resources Institute/ Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Federal \$378,320/External \$210,681

A Texas Well Owner Network training took place in Fort Stockton on October 22, 2013. Over 15 people attended the training that was sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB. The training was focused on helping private well owners care for their wells and water quality issues in the Pecos River Watershed. 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://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Pecos River

watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

STATE DISTRICT III

Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ
Project: "Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$202,443/ External \$135,191
Project: "Implementing Best Management Practices to Reduce Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution in Support of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan", TSSWCB-Harlingen Regional Office; Federal \$183,741
Project: "Bacterial Source Tracking to Support Adaptive Management of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan", Texas Water Resources Institute/Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Federal \$465,555/ External \$178,333

On October 17, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt] attended a kickoff meeting for the "Implementing Best Management Practices to Reduce Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution in Support of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan" project, TSSWCB project #13-10. All project staff were in attendance to go over the new scope of work. TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt] also attended an Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting in Weslaco. Discussion at the meeting centered upon workgroup meeting updates and the ongoing update of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan to include the bacteria impairment.

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.

Plum Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB
Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$216,000/ External \$144,000
Project: "Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Additional Data Collection Activities to Support the Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$485,545/ External \$257,165
Project: "Implementation of Agricultural Best Management Practices in Support of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan", Caldwell-Travis SWCD #304; Federal \$49,360

On November 7, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd, Brian Koch] attended the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart. The Watershed Coordinator gave updates on community clean up events, feral hog projects, and upcoming workshops. Updates were provided from the district technician on WQMPs as well as a presentation on a proposed county landfill.

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

STATE DISTRICT IV

Double Bayou

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

Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou", Houston Advanced Research Center; Federal \$1,023,614/ External \$388,149

On November 12, 18 and 19, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended workgroup meetings for the Double Bayou WPP in Anahuac. These meetings focused on potential pollution sources from recreational activities, wastewater infrastructure and agriculture in the watershed. Workgroup members were presented information on sources of bacteria and sources related to low dissolved oxygen, and then asked to discuss areas in the watershed that could have higher potential for pollution. Also, they discussed any other pollution, such as littering and dumping. These meeting results will be incorporated into the WPP.

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

Lake Houston

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing 72 bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Lake Houston, Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous, Clear Creek and others. The BIG is responsible for receiving input, establishing workgroups, facilitating communications, developing recommendations, and providing oversight in the development of the I-Plan designed to achieve the load reductions called for in these TMDLs.

On October 15, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a BIG meeting in Houston. This meeting was held to update the members on upcoming TMDLs in the East and West Forks of the San Jacinto River and how they will be incorporated into the BIG. Also, the stakeholder group in the Armand Bayou TMDL has decided to join the BIG and the group had a discussion on

how to bring them into the I-plan. The next meeting will be held in May 2014.

On November 7, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a San Jacinto River workgroup meeting in The Woodlands. Discussion was held on the ongoing TMDLs in the watershed, public outreach and getting the information out on the project, and identifying new stakeholders for the group. The San Jacinto River is in the Lake Houston watershed and once the TMDLs are complete, these segments will become a part of the BIG I-plan.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

STATE DISTRICT V

Lampasas River

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

A Feral Hog Management Workshop took place in Lampasas on October 16, 2013. Over 70 individuals attended this workshop that was put on by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. This workshop was held to implement portions of the Lampasas River WPP. Presenters at the workshop included Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Game Warden, Texas Animal Health Commission and the Lampasas River Watershed Coordinator. Topics covered feral hog life history and biology, laws and regulations, current research, and control methods for this invasive species including hunting and trapping.

More information is available at <http://www.lampasasriver.org/>. This WPP affects livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS (NOT WATERSHED-SPECIFIC)

Project: "Continued Statewide Delivery of the Texas Watershed Steward Program", Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Federal \$417,398/ External \$72,033

A Texas Watershed Steward workshop took place on November 5, 2013 in Sugarland. Over 30 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with Houston-Galveston Area Council. The training, focused on multiple urban watersheds in the Houston area, discussed what it means to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

A Texas Watershed Steward workshop took place on November 6, 2013 in Spring. About 15 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Houston-Galveston Area Council. The training, focused on multiple urban watersheds in the Houston area discussed what it means to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community driven watershed protection and management. The workshop included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tw.s.tamu.edu/>.

Project: "Texas Silvicultural Best Management Practices Education and Implementation Project",

On October 22-23, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson] attended the Four State Forestry Best Management Practice (BMP) Conference in Longview. Discussion centered on the current BMPs being used in the forestry industry and how they improve water quality. There was a field tour to visit the site of a previous forest fire where BMPs were used to prevent soil erosion and maintain water quality.

Project: "Delivery of Lone Star Healthy Streams Feral Hog Component and Providing Technical Assistance on Feral Hog Management in Priority Watersheds", Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service; Federal \$491,227/External \$312,768

On November 9, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Feral Hog Workshop in Rosenberg. Presentations were given by AgriLife Extension, USDA Wildlife Services, Texas Department of Agriculture, TSSWCB, Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The presentations covered feral hog life history and biology, rules, regulations and strategies for hunting, trapping and transport, water quality issues and demonstrations. There are an estimated 2-4 million feral hogs statewide, and are responsible for crop and property damage in the millions of dollars, and now being identified as a major source to water quality problems across the state.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- November 22, 2013 – Feral Hog Workshop, Leon River (Gatesville)
- November 21, 2013 – Carters Creek Riparian Workshop (College Station)
- November 21, 2013 – Upper San Antonio River I-Plan Meeting (San Antonio)
- December 4, 2013 – Coastal Management Program Meeting (Austin)
- December 5, 2013 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Baytown)
- December 10, 2013 – Double Bayou Steering Committee Meeting (Double Bayou)
- December 12, 2013 – Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) Meeting (Columbus)
- December 17, 2013 – Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Meeting (Houston)

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 83rd Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2014. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

Staff Activities

- Consulted with Dr. Ken Rainwater to complete ranking index of FY 14 WSEP Project Proposals
- Provided a WSEP presentation to Region L
- Began applying spatial analysis of FY 14 WSEP Project Proposals to determine highest yielding areas

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



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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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