



# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Monthly Program News and Activities

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November 2008

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local soil and water conservation district directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local Field Representative or our State Headquarters.

**REX ISOM, Executive Director**

### Budgeting and Accounting

#### Deadlines:

**Financial Statements and Audit Notifications for Fiscal Year 2008 were due October 31.**

**Audits for Fiscal Year 2008 are due December 31.**

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## STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

### Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has tentatively scheduled a Board Work Session for 1:30 p.m. in Temple, Texas at the Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center on **Wednesday, January 14, 2009**. A formal State Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas at the Texas AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>.

### Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November 20, 2008, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2009. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the

agency's website at

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

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

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## BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

### Deadlines:

**Financial Statements and Audit Notifications for Fiscal Year 2008 were due October 31.**

**Audits for Fiscal Year 2008 are due December 31.**

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant II in San Angelo

Administrative Assistant II in Nacogdoches

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

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

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

## 68th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in Bastrop, Texas

Approximately 650 conservation leaders gathered at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort on October 27-28, 2008, to attend the 68th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

We appreciate everyone who attended and participated in this meeting. Due to Hurricane Ike causing us to cancel our original plans, we know it took planning on your effort to reschedule and join us.

The state meeting next year is scheduled for October 19-21, 2009 in Arlington. Please save the date and plan to attend.

## The State Board adopts amendments to its Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management rules in Chapter 523.

Proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register, Friday, August 22, 2008 and were open for review and comment. Comments received on the proposed rule amendments were reviewed and considered by the State Board in their November 20, 2008 meeting before adopting the final rule. The new rule will become effective about mid-December.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contest

NACD is using the 2009 theme, "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," in partnership with the [Smithsonian Institution](#) and [Soil Science Society of America](#). NACD's stewardship and education material developed through this collaboration

complements the Smithsonian "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," exhibition, which will run July 19, 2008 through January 3, 2010 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and travel to museums across the United States, May 2010 to September 2013.

The 2009 packet of materials and instructions for FFA students who may want to participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Soil and Water Stewardship Leadership Development Public Speaking Contest is planned for development in December. The packet of materials is sent to SWCDs in early February and then distributed to Texas Ag teachers in late February.

### **SWCD Director and Employee Program Development Conference**

Planning is currently underway to conduct a district director/employee program development workshop on January 28-29<sup>th</sup>. Promotional flyers in October and November have been sent to all SWCDs announcing the workshop. Registration details will be sent to all districts in December.

### **Priority Education Funding Program**

In adopting their FY 09 budget, the Public Information Committee eliminated the priority education program. The program was a temporary program established by the PI Committee approximately three years ago to return to districts, under a type of grant program, some of the reserve funds that had built up over the years. Continuation of such a program would in due course impact all areas of the public information education program. All field staff has been advised to notify their districts that the program is no longer available for special project funding.

### **Region IV Wildlife Contest**

The Region IV wildlife contest (WAY) was held on October 29 near Nacogdoches. 100 participants representing 43 FFA teams and 47 participants representing 12 4-H teams participated in the event. John Tromza of the Queen City FFA chapter was high point individual in the FFA division. Cody

Harman of the Red River County 4-H chapter was high point individual in the 4-H division.

The Rusk FFA chapter earned the high point team honors in the contest while the Red River County 4-H team earned top honors in the 4-H division.

Competitive events in the program focus on plant identification, wildlife plant food preferences, wildlife biological facts, wildlife habitat evaluation, habitat management, fish and game laws, safety, the outdoors, wildlife identification techniques and navigation in the field.

Approximately 900 teams with nearly 3,000 FFA and 4-H youth in Texas participated in the program last year.

### **Area Association Events**

#### **North Central Texas Association of SWCDs**

The area association met on November 13 in Muenster. Prior to its business meeting district directors and others toured the newly constructed Wolf Ridge Wind Farm. The tour was hosted by the Florida Power and Light Company. Wolf Ridge Wind LLC., the subsidiary company of FPL Energy (a part of Florida Power and Light), is headquartered off FM 371 north of Muenster. The company is named for Wolf Ridge, a geologic rise and what was once a nearby community that was removed to make way for Camp Howze, a U.S. Army artillery training base utilized in World War II.

FPL Energy claims to be the largest developer, owner and operator of wind turbines in the U.S. FPL has been in Texas since 1998 where they have 11 wind energy farms operating. There are about 50 wind farms owned by FPL throughout the U.S.

The Wolf Ridge Project is planned to consist of 65 to 100 wind turbines, depending on the expense of equipment. The project is anticipated to generate enough power for 44,000 homes, based on FPL's data.

Most of the electricity is earmarked for the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and surrounding areas, using existing power lines.

Following the tour, State Board, ATSWCD and NRCS officials presented respective organizational reports during the business meeting.

## **Regional Office Activities**

### **Mt. Pleasant Regional Office**

Carl Steffey, Max Berry, and Andy Kuklish of the Mt. Pleasant regional office attended the Dairy Outreach Project Area fall meeting in Sulphur Springs on October 28. Topics covered included how to stay in compliance with federal and state agency regulations, keeping environmental records, soil testing, permit renewals, managing retention control structures, and new technologies for solids management. Speakers for the meeting included Abu Senkayi of EPA, Jim Bradberry Attorney, Sam Feagley, Brent Auverman, Saquib Makthar and others.

Submitted by Carl Steffy Regional Manager

## **SWCD Events**

### **Yoakum SWCD**

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District had a Local Work Group Meeting in Plains, Texas on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Also, on November 5<sup>th</sup> the District Clerk in Plains, Texas attended a public information meeting on establishing a Cluster of Commonwealth Communities for the purpose of conserving natural resources, growing leaders, engaging youth, supporting entrepreneurs, and harvesting wealth that is leaving the district's local communities, due to the sale or inheritance of lands and business' to people with no ties to local communities.

Submitted by: Jackie Pate

### **Hale County SWCD**

One of the three flood control dams on Running Water Draw has been upgraded from a significant to high safety hazard, Hale County commissioners learned during their regular monthly meeting. The dam in question is located two miles west of the Plainview city limits on West 24th Street.

Gerald McMasters with the state's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Greg Sokora with the U.S. Department of Agriculture addressed the issue with commissioners.

Sokora assured commissioners the dam is still structurally sound and there is not a problem with the dam's ability to operate. He said the heightened hazard designation is due to new homes being built in the flood plain since the last evaluation of the site. Sokora said, "USDA suggests the county develop an emergency action plan that takes the new construction into account."

Submitted by: Sharon Perkins, Hale County SWCD (Summary of an article which appeared in Plainview Daily Herald on October 28, 2008)

## **TSSWCB Conservation Video Library and Exhibit Activities**

### **Exhibits/Events/Video Library**

#### **Exhibit**

The TSSWCB exhibit was used at the South Texas Farm and Ranch Show on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Victoria.

#### **Video Library**

Nine videos have been loaned and sent out since the last board meeting.

#### **About The Catalog**

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2008 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at

[http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2008\\_Video\\_Library\\_Catalogue.pdf](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2008_Video_Library_Catalogue.pdf) . The 2008

Catalog includes 18 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage.

Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local soil and water conservation district or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

### How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public Information/Education Committee will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

### Ordering a Video

Select a video from the [TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog](#), then contact Meredith McArthur at [mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us) to check it out.

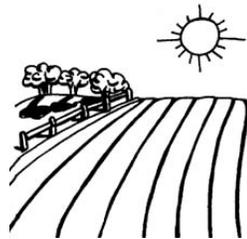
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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

### Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.

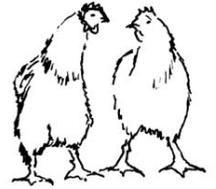
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.



## POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

### Overview

In 2001, the 77th Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit



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

### Program Activities

TSSWCB has begun conducting inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, staff continues to review and update existing WQMPs and develop plans for newly constructed farms.

**Contact the poultry office at (936) 462-7020 if you have questions about the poultry program.**

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Background

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) pollution. The Texas NPS Management Program (Texas NPS 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 Program is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Texas NPS Program utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, non-regulatory, 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. The goals describe guiding principles for all activities under the Texas NPS Program. The objectives specify the key methods that will be used to accomplish the goals. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the NPS Annual Report, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with CWA requirements.

Implementation of the Texas NPS Program involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, state, and federal agencies play an integral part in managing NPS pollution, especially at the watershed level. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the kind of pollution controls that are necessary to prevent and reduce NPS pollution. By establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, the State can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs administered by and/or coordinated through TSSWCB that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Program.

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

TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of updating the program publication. Staff from both agencies met on June 17, 2008 to begin discussing roles and responsibilities for the report,

as well as, a timeline for completion. Efforts to move forward with revisions to the program publication have been temporarily suspended while TCEQ completes a staff reorganization.

### **FY2008 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status**

TSSWCB staff and TCEQ staff are currently developing the content of the report. The report will highlight the State's efforts during FY2008 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent NPS pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans. This report must be submitted to EPA in January 2009 to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

## **CLEAN WATER ACT §319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM**

### **Background**

Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided through the EPA to States for the development and implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Approximately one-half of each agency's allocation is strictly for addressing waters listed as impaired on the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and §303(d) List*; this portion of the funding is referred to as "incremental" funding. The remainder of each agency's allocation is referred to as "base" funding and may be used for other activities including prevention, demonstration, and outreach efforts for waters that may be threatened but not yet listed as impaired.

Protecting the State's 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 water and groundwater. The

Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:  
Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;  
Water quality objectives based on scientific data;  
Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and  
Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

For groundwater management, the geographic focus is on aquifers rather than watersheds. Otherwise, the approach is the same. Wherever interactions between surface water and groundwater are identified, management activities will support the quality of both resources.

The TSSWCB and TCEQ apply the watershed approach to managing NPS pollution by supporting the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs). WPPs are locally-driven projects that serve as a mechanism for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed.

The development of WPPs is supported by §319(h) funding to varying extents; however, a WPP that meets EPA's criteria is required in order to utilize "incremental" §319(h) funding to implement portions of WPPs.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and WPP development and implementation and are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

## **FY2002 – FY2007 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Status**

There are currently 64 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Federal funds totaling approximately \$13 million are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement best management practices (BMPs), support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement WPPs, and implement the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans. Details on some of these projects are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report; updates on other projects not directly associated with restoration activities through a WPP or TMDL are available upon request from the TSSWCB's Statewide Resource Management group.

## **FY2008 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Application Status**

The TSSWCB's FY2008 §319(h) program allocation is \$4,578,700. Of the 18 proposals submitted to TSSWCB, 6 were selected for funding. TSSWCB submitted the FY2008 §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 9, 2008. EPA approved a partial grant award of \$3,078,841 on October 7, 2008. The remaining funds (\$1,499,859) – set aside for implementing components of the Pecos River WPP – will be awarded after EPA has completed their review of the Pecos River WPP.

## **FY2009 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Program Request for Proposals Status**

The FY2009 Request for Proposals was published in the *Texas Register* on October 3, 2008, posted on the TSSWCB website, and e-mailed to all SWCDs and cooperating entities on our contact list. The deadline for proposal submission was November 21, 2008.

# TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM

## Background

The federal CWA requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL, an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval.

With authority as the lead agency in Texas for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution, TSSWCB has shared responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs. TSSWCB is committed to funding and collaborating with TCEQ on TMDL projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through TMDL and/or WPP development and implementation. Impaired waters may be addressed through either mechanism depending on the specific situation. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

## FY2008 TMDL Grant Status

On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. There are currently 6 on-going projects that support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories, implementation of agricultural and silvicultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, and the collection and analysis of water quality and land use data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. A 7<sup>th</sup> project, leveraged with funding from a CWA §319(h) NPS Grant, has already been completed.

## FY2009 TMDL Grant Status

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to TMDL Program grants. Staff have obligated \$480,111 through five projects that support implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. Staff are in the process of developing

workplans, budgets and contracts with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining funds (\$720,383).

## **TEXAS COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local, and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas' state and local entities to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) administers the CMP and is chaired by the Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office (GLO). It comprises the chair or appointed representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the TSSWCB, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), the director of the Texas A&M University Sea Grant Program and four gubernatorial appointees. These members are selected to provide fair representation for all aspects concerning coastal issues.

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

**The CCC will meet in Austin on December 18, 2008.**

**Meeting information can be found at:**  
<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ccc.html>.

### **CIAP Program**

The State of Texas will receive \$48,591,202.09 for fiscal year 2007 and for fiscal year 2008. Of that amount, \$31,584,281.36 will be allocated to the state and \$17,006,920.73 will be allocated directly to the 18 coastal counties.

Before any funds can be disbursed to the state or the counties, a state CIAP plan must be approved by Minerals Management Service (MMS). This plan will include the recommended projects that have been submitted for funding.

The plan can be found at:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/fy2007.html>

**Additional information on the CIAP program can be found at:**

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/index.htm>  
**!**

The MMS is currently reviewing the Plan. Grant applications for individual projects will be submitted to MMS after the Plan has been approved. It is anticipated that state projects will be approved for funding by early 2009.

Grant applications are no longer being accepted for 2008 state CIAP funding. Coastal Land Advisory Board staff are currently reviewing all submitted applications. Recommendations for funding will be submitted to the Coastal Land Advisory Board by the end of the year. All grant applicants will be notified at that time regarding projects recommended for funding.

## **TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

### **Background**

Section 26.403 of the Texas Water Code established the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC), and mandated that the Executive Director (or a designee) of the TSSWCB be a permanent member. The TGPC bridges the gap between state groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource.

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:  
Improves coordination between State and Federal agencies to protect groundwater.  
Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.  
Publishes numerous reports.

Advises the TCEQ on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater. Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy and an annual Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report.

On October 29, 2008, Donna Long attended a meeting of the TGPC Research Subcommittee in Austin.

On October 29, 2008, Donna Long attended a meeting of the TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee in Austin.

On October 29, 2008, Donna Long attended a meeting of the TGPC in Austin.

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

## **WATER QUALITY COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

### **MOA Coordination with TCEQ**

On September 27, 2006, at a joint TSSWCB/TCEQ meeting, a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs* was approved by the Board and Commission. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB 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>.

### **ESF-14 Community Recovery Interagency Group (Hurricane Ike Recovery)**

During October and November 2008 various staff from the TSSWCB have participated in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinating group targeting community recovery. The ESF-14 Community Recovery Interagency

Group has developed numerous focus groups including Housing, Health & Human Services, Economic Development, Jobs & Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Transportation & Infrastructure, Wetlands & Coastal Restoration, Education & Outreach, Codes, Green Building, and Resiliency. TSSWCB staff are participating in the Agricultural & Forestry focus group, which is being coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

### **Bacteria TMDL Task Force**

On June 29, 2007, at a joint TSSWCB/TCEQ meeting in Austin, the Board and Commission approved the recommendations from the joint Bacteria TMDL Task Force. The Board directed TSSWCB staff to work with the staff of the TCEQ to 1) incorporate the principles of the recommendations into an updated joint-agency TMDL guidance document, 2) move diligently to expedite the development of bacteria TMDLs that were paused during the work of the Task Force, and 3) establish a multi-agency bacteria work group to continue examining the scientific research and development needs identified in the Task Force Report. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#taskforce>. TSSWCB staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement these directives.

Specifically, staff have completed a full draft of the revised TMDL Program Guidance document and began working with TCEQ staff to resolve outstanding issues with the document. Efforts to finalize and publish this document have been temporarily suspended while TCEQ completes a staff reorganization. TSSWCB staff have also worked with TCEQ staff to resume work on the development of TMDLs paused during the Task Force process, including holding public stakeholder meetings and collecting and analyzing data.

## Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List

The 2008 *Texas 303(d) List* identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards, as required by the federal CWA. Specifically, 837 waterbody-pollutant combinations are described. Bacteria impairments (contact recreation and oyster waters) continue to dominate the list with 48% of waterbody-pollutant combinations. Excessive levels of pollutants in fish tissue constitute 16% and low dissolved oxygen impairments account for 15%. The remainder of impairments are for a variety of pollutants.

More information on the 2008 *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List* is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/08twqi/twqi08.html>.

## Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Major revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are being drafted by TCEQ, including the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria. TCEQ staff continue to address comments received on the draft rule language discussed at the May 5, 2008 meeting of the Advisory Workgroup. TCEQ expects to post revised draft rule language in the near future and host another meeting of the Advisory Workgroup. TCEQ adoption of any changes to the Standards is not expected until mid-2009. EPA must also approve any changes.

More information on this Standards review process is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html).

## Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the

TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins in Texas. Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions. The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

On November 6, 2008, the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District hosted a Big Cypress Creek Basin Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee in Hughes Springs

## Galveston Bay Estuary Program

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

More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>. The implementation of

the *Galveston Bay Plan* affects agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to Galveston Bay in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

## Texas Watershed Planning Short Course

Proper training of watershed coordinators and water resource professionals is needed to ensure that WPPs are adequately planned, coordinated and implemented and the results properly assessed and reported. To provide the needed training and promote sustainable proactive approaches to managing water quality throughout the state, this Short Course (WPSC) provides participants with guidance on stakeholder coordination, education, and outreach; meeting the EPA's nine key elements of a WPP; data collection and analysis; and the tools available for plan development. The Texas Water Resources Institute, with CWA §319(h) funding from the TCEQ, developed this course. The planning team included TSSWCB staff.

On November 14, 2008, Aaron Wendt participated in a WPSC Planning Committee conference call. The next course is scheduled for January 12-16, 2009 in Bandera.

More information is available at <http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bell County Water Symposium

On November 6, 2008, Donna Long participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bell County Water Symposium in Belton. The Symposium was sponsored by the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District.

## Texas Hydrologic Information System Seminar

On October 27, 2008, Donna Long attended a workshop on the Texas Hydrologic Information

System (TxHIS) in Austin sponsored by the TWDB. Physical, chemical and biological data collected in Texas waterbodies are assembled by a number of federal, state and local agencies. The goal of TxHIS is to provide a *one stop shop* for these disparate sources of water data in Texas. TxHIS will allow the efficient identification and retrieval of water data via the Internet and will aid in the development of integrated applications that can take advantage of this capability. Data contributors to the TxHIS currently include TWDB, TCEQ, TPWD, USGS, and other sources.

## Upcoming Public Meetings

- December 1 – Guadalupe River Basin Monitoring Network Meeting (Seguin)
- December 2-4 – Caddo Lake WPP Hydrology Workgroup (Jefferson)
- December 2 – Leon River WPP Public Meeting (Hamilton)
- December 2 – TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Austin)
- December 2 – *Introducing the Watershed Forestry Resource Guide* (USDA Webcast)
- December 3 – Lake Granbury WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Granbury)
- December 3 – *Using Rain Gardens to Reduce Runoff* (EPA Webcast)
- December 4 – Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee (Houston)
- December 10 – TCEQ Agenda Meeting regarding Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous TMDL (Austin)
- December 11 – TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)
- January 12-16 – Texas Watershed Planning Short Course (Bandera)
- January 12-14 – 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial State of Galveston Bay Symposium (Galveston)
- January 13 – Arroyo Colorado WPP Outreach and Education Workgroup (Weslaco)

- January 20 – TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- January 20 – South Texas Irrigation Conference (Hondo)
- January 21 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (Austin)
- January 21 – TGPC Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee (Austin)
- January 21 – TGPC Groundwater Research Subcommittee (Austin)
- January 26 – Arroyo Colorado WPP Agricultural Issues Workgroup (Weslaco)
- January 26 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- January 26-27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wind Energy Conference (Austin)

## WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Adams and Cow Bayous

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs have limited impacts on livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

### Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
 Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment  
 Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, TMDL I-Plan  
 Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>. This WPP affects farming operations in the Arroyo Colorado watershed in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

### Atascosa River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, TMDL I-Plan  
 Lead: TCEQ

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

### Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria  
 Mechanism: WPP  
 Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.bastropbayou.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Bastrop Bayou watershed in Brazoria County.

### Brady Creek

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen  
 Mechanism: WPP  
 Lead: TCEQ

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

### Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria  
 Mechanism: WPP  
 Lead: TSSWCB

On November 13, 2008, Bob Gruner, John Foster, and Mitch Conine attended the Donley County SWCD meeting in Clarendon. Discussion focused on the SWCD's role in the watershed and progress in developing the WPP.

More information is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

## **Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous**

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

TCEQ intended to consider adopting *Eighteen TMDLs for Bacteria in Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous and Tributaries (Segments 1013, 1013A, 1013C, 1014, 1014A, 1014B, 1014E, 1014H, 1014K, 1014L, 1014M, 1014N, 1014O, 1017, 1017A, 1017B, 1017D, and 1017E)* as final at their September 24, 2008 meeting. Prior to that meeting, due to extensive damage to the Houston area from Hurricane Ike, TCEQ rescheduled action on these TMDLs until December 10, 2008.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html>. This TMDL will have limited to no affect on livestock operations in the Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous watershed in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties.

## **Caddo Lake**

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

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

## **Cedar Creek Reservoir**

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

More information is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect agricultural operations in the Cedar Creek watershed in Henderson, Kaufman, Rockwall and Van Zandt Counties.

## **Clear Creek**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/68-clearcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Clear Creek watershed in Galveston, Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties.

## **Concho River**

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

More information is available at [http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest\\_UCRA.html](http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html). This WPP will affect farming and livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, and Upton Counties.

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

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/42-copano.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

## **Cypress Creek**

Concerns: Dissolved Oxygen, Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

On November 10, 2008 Aaron Wendt attended a Cypress Creek watershed public meeting in Wimberley. Discussion focused on a report on the state of the watershed and on the characterization of groundwater sources contributing the bulk of flow to the creek. The project team is soliciting nominations for a Watershed Steering Committee.

More information is available at <http://www.cypresscreekproject.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Cypress Creek watershed in Hays County.

## **Dickinson Bayou**

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the ongoing TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

## **Eagle Mountain Reservoir**

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

More information is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Eagle Mountain Reservoir watershed in Clay, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

## **Elm and Sandies Creeks**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/31-elmsandies.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Elm and Sandies Creeks watershed in Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson and Guadalupe Counties.

## **Galveston Bay**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/74-uppercoastoyster.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations around the Galveston Bay complex in Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

## **Gilleland Creek**

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

More information on the Creekside Conservation Program is available at <http://www.lcra.org/community/conservation/creekside.html>. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

## **Lake Granbury**

Concern: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp>. This WPP has

the potential to affect agricultural operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

### **Lake Granger**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/granger>. This WPP will affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Granger watershed in Williamson and Burnet Counties.

### **Hickory Creek**

Concern: Nutrients, Sediment  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.cityofdenton.com/pages/mygovenvironmentalwater319grant.cfm>. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Hickory Creek watershed in Denton County.

### **Lake Houston**

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

On November 14, 2008, Brian Koch attended BIG workgroup meetings in Houston. Both the Agricultural Sources Workgroup and the Animal Sources Workgroup met.

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs have the potential to affect livestock operations in the Lake

Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

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

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/19-lakeopines.html>. This TMDL and I- Plan affect poultry, dairy and forestry operations in the Lake O' the Pines watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison and Marion Counties.

### **Lampasas River**

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

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, TMDL I-Plan  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (WPP)

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDL for bacteria. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/mdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/managementprogram/leonwpp>. Both the WPP and the TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

### **Little Brazos River Tributaries**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: Assessment

Lead: TSSWCB

For more information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds/littlebrazos>. This project will affect livestock operations in the Walnut, Pin Oak, Campbells, Mud and Spring Creeks watersheds in Robertson County.

### **Lower San Antonio River**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-lowersanantiobac.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Lower San Antonio River watershed in Karnes, Goliad, Refugio, DeWitt, Wilson, Victoria, and Guadalupe Counties.

### **North Bosque River**

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

More information 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.

### **Oso Bay and Oso Creek**

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

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/67-osobaybacteria.html>. This TMDL may affect livestock and farming operations in the Oso Bay/Creek watershed in Nueces County.

### **Peach Creek**

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

More information is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-peachcreek\\_group.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-peachcreek_group.html). This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Peach Creek watershed in Gonzales, Bastrop, Fayette and Caldwell Counties.

### **Plum Creek**

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

On November 13, 2008, Pamela Casebolt, Brian Koch and Aaron Wendt attended a Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lockhart.

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.

### **Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TCEQ

This project has the potential to affect livestock operations in Starr, Jim Hogg and Hidalgo Counties.

### **San Bernard River**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in

Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

### **Lake Somerville**

Impairment: pH, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: Assessment

Lead: TCEQ

On November 3, 2008 Brian Koch and Aaron Wendt attended a Lake Somerville technical advisory workgroup meeting in Austin.

This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Somerville watershed in Bastrop, Burleson, Lee, Milam, Washington, and Williamson Counties.

### **Upper Oyster Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, TMDL I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

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

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## **Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report**

The 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Enhancement Program by providing \$1,848,927.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY08. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- Provided the following SWCDs with Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Certification, and /or Contracts

### **Area 2 Districts**

North Concho River SWCD

Nolan County SWCD

Middle Concho SWCD

Eldorado-Divide SWCD

Tom Green County SWCD

Pedernales SWCD

Gillespie County SWCD

### **Area 3**

McMullen County SWCD

LaSalle County SWCD

Caldwell/ Travis SWCD

Comal/Guadalupe SWCD

Webb County SWCD

### **Area 4**

Harris Co. SWCD

### **Area 5**

Archer County SWCD

Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD

Pecan Bayou SWCD

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assisted Corp of Engineers with planning of water enhancement plan for O.C. Fisher and spraying of Salt Cedar
- 21 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Certifications
- 15 Landowners assisted with Water Supply Enhancement Contracts
- Assist Canadian River Municipal Water Authority with Salt Cedar Certification
- Discuss proposal for project with the White River Municipal Water District for treating Salt Cedar

- Met with Rep. Swinford to discuss the upcoming Legislative session
- Conference call with National Invasive Species coordinator concern requirements for Texas Invasive Species Council
- Presented presentation about Water Supply Enhancement Program to the City of San Angelo Water Advisory Board

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAMS

Floodwater retarding dams built by local watershed sponsors under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed program successfully protected many Texas communities from catastrophic damage during the spring and summer storms of 2007. Floodwaters from 24 storm events caused damages in 14 counties, with some counties being affected multiple times. Floodwater retarding dams in 19 watershed projects located within these counties reduced flood damages by \$25 million for these storm events.

Statewide, 148 watershed projects provide average annual benefits exceeding \$119 million. This very important infrastructure provides benefits by reducing flood damages to homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and agricultural lands, as well as protects many people's lives.

The NRCS has prepared Watershed fact sheets have for all U.S. Congressional Districts in Texas that have watershed projects. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds/index.htm>.

The fact sheets and other data from the watershed web may be used in working with your local watershed sponsors on O&M, repair, dam safety, and rehabilitation of watershed project dams.

## Dam Safety Rules Revision

The TCEQ is in the process of updating Texas' dam safety rules. The proposed rules may be viewed or downloaded from TCEQ's website:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/prop.html>

The revised rules should become effective January, 2009.

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*Monthly Program News and Activities* is produced by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for use by Texas soil and water conservation district directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please contact Loren Henley (254) 773-2250 or [lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:lhenley@tsswcb.state.tx.us).

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 217 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



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