



# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Monthly Program News and Activities

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June 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
Legislative Update .....	1
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.....	4
Water Conservation Advisory Council .....	4
Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program.....	5
Nonpoint Source Grant Program .....	6
Total Maximum Daily Load Program .....	7
Watershed Protection Plan Program.....	8
Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program .....	8
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee .....	10
Water Quality Coordination Activities .....	10
Upcoming Public Meetings.....	14
Water Quality Planning and Implementation.....	14
Water Supply Enhancement Program .....	16
Flood Control Dam Programs .....	17

### 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 is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

#### Appropriations

House Bill 1 (General Appropriations Act) was signed by the Governor on June 17, 2011, and goes into effect on September 1, 2011.

The cumulative amounts for the 2012-13 biennium will result in a general revenue reduction of approximately \$7 million per year (33%) for the agency.

The most notable reductions are a 73% reduction to the Flood Control Dam grant programs and a 50% reduction to the Water Supply Enhancement Program. Other outcomes include an overall 20% reduction in the Technical Assistance Program a 10% reduction in Indirect Administration.

## 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 has started developing recommendations on changes to agency programs for the State Board to act upon in order to implement the legislation.

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## BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- The deadline for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter SWCD Director Mileage and Per Diem claims is July 1
- The deadline for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Supplemental Matching Fund claims is August 31
- The deadline for annual Technical Assistance Performance Reports is August 31

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

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following position:

- Information Specialist III (Public Affairs Specialist) in Temple

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

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## 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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. Additional reservations may be made with:

- Hilton San Antonio/Hill Country Hotel and Spa by calling 1 (800) Hiltons, or by calling them directly at (210) 767-5900. Please use the group code: TSSWCB
  - Holiday Inn Northwest/Sea World Area by calling 1 (800) Holiday or (210) 520-2508, or by going to their website, [www.holidayinn.com/sanantonionw](http://www.holidayinn.com/sanantonionw). Please use the group code of TSS
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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Follow TSSWCB on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn!

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<http://www.facebook.com/tsswcb>

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/968674>



### 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](mailto:conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.state.tx.us). Conservation News is also 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. At present 27 people are registered to attend the training. If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Clyde Gottschalk at (254) 773-2250 ext. 222 or [cgottschalk@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:cgottschalk@tsswcb.state.tx.us).

## Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Contests

The 2011 Future Farmers of America (FFA) soil stewardship public speaking area contests were held in May. First and second place winners in each of the ten FFA areas will advance to state competition which will be held in conjunction with the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas FFA State Convention. The convention will be in Lubbock, July 11-15.

Top area contestants from the following chapters competing at the State event are:

Contestant	FFA Chapter	Area
Caitlyn Brown	Valley	1
Chelsea Shields	Idlou	1
Pamela Walker	Haskell	2
Courtney Jasik	Irion County	2
Kaitlyn Sestak	Weimar	3
Megan Coussens	Katy	3
Abby Guy	Winters	4
Savannah Bowers	Iowa Park	4
Sarah Kline	Bridgeport	5
Amanda Hill	Commerce	5
Breanthony Baker	Chapel Hill Northeast	6
Lakin Porter	Mount Pleasant	6
Travis McCubbin	Blanco	7
Kellam Nabers	Blanco	7
Cheyenne Hammons	Burleson	8
Clayton Stone	Fairfield	8
Anna Bailey	Madisonville	9
Lauren R. Kirk	Madisonville	9
Katy Atkinson	Los Fresnos	10
Victoria Mathis	Calallen	10

First, second, and third place winners in the state level soil stewardship public speaking contest 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 first place winner will also be a guest speaker at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors in October in San Antonio.

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

## Pedernales SWCD Teachers Workshop

Twenty-four teachers from a wide range of communities throughout the state attended the annual "Studies in Conservation of Natural Resources" workshop held at the historic Franklin Family Ranch located near Blanco. The workshop held June 7-9, 2011, was sponsored by the Pedernales SWCD.

Teachers attending the workshop learned about prescribed burning, and range, plant and wildlife ecology. In addition, presentations focused on energy, soil, and water conservation issues.

## 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 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](mailto: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 agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source water pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993 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 77<sup>th</sup> 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 81<sup>st</sup> 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:regg@tsswcb.state.tx.us).

The next WCAC meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011, at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Field Office in Austin.

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

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## 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.

#### **FY2005 – FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 48 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of

agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 48 on-going projects total approximately \$14.3 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 is 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 summer 2011 for review and approval.

On May 19, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was 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.

On June 1, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff was informed that EPA Region 6 was going to utilize special project funding to make up for the State's 13% funding reduction and restore the FY2011 allocation to FY2010 levels. TSSWCB's FY2011 CWA 319 allocation from EPA is \$4,578,700.

### **State General Revenue Grant Funding**

#### **Background**

The 80<sup>th</sup> 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 81<sup>st</sup> 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 11 on-going general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 11 on-going projects total approximately \$2.7 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAAs); 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 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. TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA 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 was June 22, 2011. The full application is due October 12, 2011.

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

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>.

## Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

### Background

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies, and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC.

The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater is kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

- Requires that pollution discharges, waste disposal and other regulated activities not harm public health or impair current or potential groundwater use;
- Recognizes the variability between aquifers;
- Acknowledges the importance of water quality;
- Balances the protection of the environment and the long-term economic health of the state; and,
- Recognizes the use of the best professional judgment of the responsible state agencies to implement the policy.

On June 3, 2011 TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended the TGPC NPS Task Force meeting in Austin. At the meeting six state agencies and organizations were represented. The latest draft of the *Texas NPS Program* was discussed by the Task Force. The Task Force provided recommendations on an appendix for groundwater providing NPS and vulnerability prioritizations. Suggestions regarding goals and objectives for the State along with the

groundwater appendix will be provided by the Task Force prior to the next meeting.

On June 8, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick, Jana Baker] and TSSWCB Special Projects Coordinator [Mel Davis] attended a TGPC Public Outreach & Education Subcommittee meeting in Austin. Nine agencies and organizations were represented. The latest draft of "FAQ's" over Regional Water Planning Groups, Oil and Gas Waste Disposal, Wells and Water Quality were reviewed by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee provided suggestions to clarify and enhance the "FAQ's" document. Recent and upcoming outreach events were discussed as well. The newly hired project coordinator for the TSSWCB-funded Texas Well Owner Network was in attendance and introduced to the Subcommittee.

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

## 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 June 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended a meeting of the Advisory Work Group for Surface Water Quality Assessment Guidance in Austin. This group provides guidance to TCEQ staff on the process and methods for assessing and reporting surface water quality in Texas to satisfy CWA §§305(b) and 303(d). Discussion at this meeting was on changes to the "Assessment Guidance" for the 2012 assessment. Due to changes in the 2010 water quality standards regarding contact recreation, input was solicited on options for incorporating evaluations of variability

of bacteria in order to reduce uncertainty. Options proposed included increasing sample size and/or using confidence intervals for the minimum dataset required to assess a waterbody. This change to the assessment method could have large implications particularly on bacteria impaired waters. Other issues discussed included: numeric nutrient criteria for reservoirs related to historic evaluation of chlorophyll-a, changes to existing practices of collecting water depth data, revisions to methods for calculating dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria based on physical site specific attributes, and how to better account for seasonal and flow-based considerations related to DO criteria.

More information on this Advisory Work Group is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/swqmgawg.html>.

On June 20, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt] attended a meeting of the TCEQ Nutrient Criteria Development Advisory Work Group in Austin. EPA has mandated that States develop numeric nutrient criteria to address excessive nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and eutrophication in waterbodies. As criteria are developed for different waterbody types, they will be included in subsequent triennial revisions of the surface water quality standards. In June 2010, TCEQ adopted major revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards which included the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs. While EPA has not yet taken action on these changes in accordance with the federal CWA, TCEQ is moving forward with the next suite of numeric nutrient criteria for large rivers, small streams, and estuaries. At this meeting, TCEQ discussed the potential approaches to establishing these criteria. The group discussed the pros and cons of each option, focusing on the extensive geographic, hydrologic, and chemical variability between rivers and streams and estuaries across the states, as well as, gaps in existing data. TCEQ intends to propose these criteria by mid-2013. Once approved, these numeric nutrient criteria will impact the number of impaired waterbodies on the *Texas 303(d) List*.

More information on this TCEQ Nutrient Criteria Development Advisory Work Group is available at [http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/stakeholders/nutrient\\_criteria\\_group.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/stakeholders/nutrient_criteria_group.html).

### **Coordination with EPA**

On June 2, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Aaron Wendt] participated in a conference call with EPA and State staff from across the nation to discuss the impacts of the FY2011 budget and current status of the national NPS Program study being conducted by EPA headquarters staff. EPA provided additional background information and answered questions regarding the FY2011 budget reduction. The NPS Program study to characterize and compare how the States are utilizing CWA 319(h) funds to implement the States' NPS Management Programs is expected to be completed this summer and a draft report will be available for review by the States.

On June 14-16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine] participated in an EPA Region 6 States NPS conference in Dallas. This meeting provided TSSWCB staff the opportunity to discuss the various approaches and strategies that are used to implement the *Texas NPS Management Program* with staff from EPA Region 6, TCEQ, and other states in the region including Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. In particular, attendees discussed the successes and challenges in writing and implementing WPPs, increasing stakeholder involvement, reporting interim progress in achieving restoration, and NPS pollutant reductions to achieve water quality standards. Further, the group discussed the impacts that recent and proposed reductions in CWA §319(h) grant allocations will have on the States' ability to restore waterbodies impacted by NPS pollution. Additionally, the States strengthened their mutual goals for NPS management through meaningful discussion during a States-only caucus. TSSWCB and other partners had the opportunity to highlight for the other States Texas' efforts to increase citizen awareness of water quality issues through the Texas Watershed Steward Program and to improve the capacity of watershed coordinators to facilitate watershed planning efforts through the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course and

Watershed Coordinator Roundtables; these programs are funded with CWA §319(h) grants from TSSWCB and TCEQ.

### **New Watershed Action Planning Process**

TCEQ staff has 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 RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another 12 waterbodies. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. After the RUAAs 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.

More information on RUAAs is available at [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water\\_quality/wq\\_assessment/standards/ruaas/index](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/wq_assessment/standards/ruaas/index). These RUAAs 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 June 8, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee meeting in Houston. The CRP Steering Committee discussed the “2010 Basin Highlights Report”, which summarized the water quality conditions in the basin, the status of several WPPs, including Westfield Estates, Bastrop Bayou, San Bernard River and Cedar Bayou, and the status of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

More information is available <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/rivers/>.

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

On June 2, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Ashley Alexander, Jana Baker, Brian Koch] worked a quarterly Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus. This meeting featured presentations on several watershed planning activities in the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office service area. The first presentation was by H-GAC staff on the Cedar Bayou WPP in Liberty, Chambers and Harris Counties. Cedar Bayou has bacteria, PCB, dioxin and macrobenthic community impairments along with concerns for nutrients and low DO. This project started in November 2010. Currently, H-GAC is compiling historical water quality data, preparing to begin surface water quality monitoring, and determining modeling strategies. H-GAC is planning to start the stakeholder process in early fall 2011 with a kickoff of a Texas Watershed Stewards training in Baytown at the end of August. Texas AgriLife Extension staff presented an update on the Plum Creek WPP, which is in implementation. There are several implementation activities going on in the watershed, including agricultural BMPs for grazing and croplands, feral hog management education, and various urban stormwater practices. H-GAC staff also gave an update on the Bacteria Implementation Group, which is the I-Plan for many of the Houston area bacteria TMDLs, including Buffalo/White Oak Bayous, Lake Houston, and Clear Creek. The BIG has been ongoing since 2008 and is nearing completion of the I-Plan, which is expected in August 2011. Coordination with ten counties, many large and small cities, municipal utility districts, SWCDs, and State agencies has been key to developing this I-Plan.

The Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and improvement partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB SRM staff on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas.

More information, including meeting materials, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/cwp>.

### **Clean Waters Initiative- Sediment in Our Waterways**

On June 22, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch], attended a Clean Waters Initiative workshop, Sediment in Our Waterways, hosted by H-GAC in Houston. The workshop featured several presentations on different projects and activities that are looking at sediments as well as different management measures dealing with sediments. The Clean Waters Initiative is a program by H-GAC to raise water quality awareness through workshops in their service area.

More information is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/cwi/> .

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

- June 30, 2011 – Dickinson Bayou I-Plan Agriculture and Animals Workgroup meeting (Houston)
- July 12, 2011 – Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan meeting (Sugarland)
- July 14, 2011 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop (Temple)
- July 14, 2011 – Lower Nueces River Watershed Partnership (Corpus Christi)
- July 18, 2011- Big Cypress Creek Stakeholder meeting (Mount Pleasant)
- July 19, 2011 – TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- July 20, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Groundwater Research Subcommittee (Austin)
- July 20, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Agricultural Chemicals Subcommittee (Austin)
- July 20, 2011 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (Austin)
- July 20, 2011 – Galveston Bay Council (Pasadena)
- July 21, 2011- Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting (Weslaco)

- July 26, 2011 – Stakeholder Facilitation Workshop (Austin)
- July 27, 2011 – Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable (Austin)

### **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.

#### **Attoyac Bayou**

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

On June 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Aaron Wendt], field staff [Trey Watson], and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran, Jeremy Welch] attended an Attoyac Bayou stakeholder meeting in Nacogdoches. AgriLife Extension staff presented information on what load duration curves (LDCs) and SELECT modeling are. This is the approach that will be used to help identify the bacteria loading and the areas where BMPs will have the most potential to reduce bacteria loading. Stephen F. Austin State University presented a brief update on water quality monitoring and the RUAA that is being conducted in the watershed.

More information is available at <http://attoyac.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect livestock, farming and silvicultural operations in the Attoyac Bayou watershed in Nacogdoches, Rusk, San Augustine and Shelby Counties

## **Big Cypress Creek**

Concern: Bacteria  
Mechanism: Assessment  
Lead: TSSWCB

On June 13, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Big Cypress Creek bacteria assessment stakeholder meeting in Mount Pleasant. AgriLife Research presented final LDCs on bacteria loading in the watershed. The SELECT modeling was not completely finished due to a need of more information from stakeholders before being finalized. This will be presented at the next meeting. An update was given on the first round of RUAA field surveys that were conducted. An update was given about the current water quality sampling that is being conducted to support the project as well.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#bigcypresscreek>. This project will affect poultry and livestock operations in the Big Cypress Creek watershed (including tributaries Hart and Tankersley Creeks) in Titus, Camp, Upshur and Morris Counties.

## **Cedar Bayou**

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

On May 11, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander, Brian Koch] and field staff [Joel Clark] attended a Lower Trinity SWCD meeting #435 in Moss Hill. At the meeting the *Development of a Watershed Protection Plan 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 culminate in a watershed protection plan.

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.

## **Geronimo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB

On June 14, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Warrick, Jana Baker] attended a Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Steering Committee meeting in Seguin. The meeting began with a presentation from Texas AgriLife Extension who presented on LDC and SELECT modeling which are covered in chapters 4 and 5 of the draft WPP. The meeting concluded with Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority giving an overview of the FY2011 CWA 319 grant proposal.

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

## **Lampasas River**

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

On June 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Loren Warrick, Jana Baker] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee Meeting in Lampasas. Discussion focused on workgroup recommendations for BMPs to address wastewater treatment facilities, sanitary sewer collection systems, on-site sewage facilities and dogs, as well as other proactive measures. Outreach and educational programs to support the Lampasas River WPP were also discussed.

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.

## San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ

On June 16, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended a stakeholder meeting for the San Bernard River WPP in Wharton. This meeting featured updates on the modeling conducted so far. The SELECT model has identified livestock as the highest potential source of *E. coli* loading in the watershed. H-GAC's subcontractor will be running a SWAT model and a Tidal Prism model as well. H-GAC also plans on generating LDCs to enhance the modeling efforts. The WPP is nearing completion of the planning phase and H-GAC is beginning to put together management measures for different sources.

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 June 14, 2011, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended an Upper Oyster Creek I-Plan meeting in Sugarland. This meeting featured updates from the different workgroups that are putting together implementation ideas to deal with elevated bacteria levels in Upper Oyster Creek. H-GAC staff presented information on the DO impairment and introduced a few BMPs for increasing DO levels in the water.

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 81<sup>st</sup> 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 states' 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>.

### O&M Grant Program

The following table is a summary of the Flood Control O&M Program for FY2010 and FY2011 as of June 20, 2011.

FY2010 Contracted \$555,129		FY2011 Allocation \$2,472,009	
Original O&M	Original Admin	Original O&M	Original Admin
\$528,653	\$26,477	\$2,354,636	\$117,373

Spent O&M	Spent Admin	Spent O&M	Spent Admin
\$450,087	\$21,029	\$1,440,906	\$71,439
Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin	Remaining O&M	Remaining Admin
\$79,971	\$3,998	\$913,730	\$45,934
Total FY2010 Remaining \$83,969		Total FY2011 Remaining \$959,664	

### 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.



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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.