



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

NOVEMBER 2012

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions about specific programs or projects please don't hesitate to call your local field representative or our state headquarters.

**REX ISOM**  
Executive Director

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### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Monday, January 28, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Tuesday, January 29, 2013** in **San Antonio**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or [kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- Supplemental EQIP payments were made November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- December 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for submitting reviews and audits.
- Important dates and deadlines through December 31, 2012 may also be found on the SWCD resources page of the TSSWCB website.

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

### HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following State position at this time:

Database Administrator – Temple

## **Independent Contractor Opportunities (Non-State Employee Positions)**

TSSWCB does intend to engage the services of **contracted** conservation planners to provide services including recruitment of landowners and/or agricultural land operators and the development of conservation plans, in the specified sub-watersheds inside Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties. This initiative is a component of the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (USDA-NRCS) overall San Antonio River Watershed Protection Plan Implementation Conservation Initiative. Interested individuals should visit [http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid\\_show.cfm?bidid=98000](http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid=98000) for more information. **These positions will be independent contractors and will not be state employees.**

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

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Program Overview

The TSSWCB Special Projects department provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as publishing the agency’s Semi-Annual Report and coordinating rule-making functions.

Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors  
Mark your calendars for October 28 – 30, 2013 and plan on attending the 73rd Annual State Meeting held in Fort Worth.

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

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

The next Program Development Workshop is scheduled for February 12-13, 2013. More information will be available in January.

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### Conservation News

Conservation News is a collection of readily available current news and information regarding natural resource issues. TSSWCB periodically distributes Conservation News via email to those interested. To subscribe, send an email to [conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:conservation-news-subscribe@tsswcb.texas.gov). Conservation News is also available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/news>.

### Conservation Video Library

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

### Ordering a Video

Select a video from the Conservation Video Catalog, then contact Loren Warrick at [lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:lwarrick@tsswcb.texas.gov) to check it out. The Association of Texas SWCDs will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

With the passage of Senate Bill 503 in 1993, the Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) to abate agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs. The agency has been implementing WQMPs on private lands since late 1993 and has certified 10,166 plans on 3,960,817 acres as of November 19, 2012.

All agriculture and silviculture producers in the state are eligible to have a water quality management plan developed. The TSSWCB identifies areas of the state where water quality is being negatively impacted by agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution and allocates funding to those priority areas to serve as financial incentives to increase participation in the program. SWCDs with lakes, rivers or stream segments listed on the 303(d) list as impaired due to agriculture are eligible to be included as priority areas. All animal feeding operations are considered to be high priority and are eligible to receive financial incentives to install needed practices in their WQMP through their priority area or statewide assistance program.

From September 1, 2012 through November 19, 2012 there have been 36 new WQMPs certified on 29,553 acres. There have also been 52 applications approved for financial incentives to assist producers with the implementation of agricultural nonpoint source pollution abatement practices. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of

nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted by the Governor in June 2012 and thusly approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program*, including the *2011 Annual Report*, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram>.

### Nonpoint Source Grant Program

#### **FY2008 – FY2011 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 34 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 34 on-going projects total approximately \$10.2 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.

#### **FY2012 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status**

TSSWCB submitted the FY2012 CWA §319(h) grant application to EPA on June 20, 2012 requesting \$3,715,500 for 9 projects. On

September 28, 2012, all 9 projects were approved for funding by EPA.

### **FY2013 Request for Proposals**

On August 31, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2013 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program. The RFP was published in the Texas Register, posted on the TSSWCB website, and all SWCDs and cooperating entities were notified of this funding opportunity. TSSWCB SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the *Texas NPS Management Program* and the *2010 Integrated Report*. The deadline for proposal submission was October 12, 2012. TSSWCB received 21 proposals requesting a total of \$8,621,145 in federal funds. Received proposals are being reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and will be selected for funding. Projects receiving federal funding must be submitted to EPA in spring 2013 for review and approval.

### **FY2011 – FY2013 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 \$3 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct RUAs; support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies. SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate remaining FY2013 allocated funds.

### Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

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

### **Activities of the TGPC and Subcommittees**

On October 10, 2012, the TGPC met. It approved its final draft of the committees report of activities to the State Legislature.

The committee also approved two recommendations from the Nonpoint Source TaskForce: 1. Enhance the availability of groundwater geospatial data to the public, and 2. Provide recommendations for new projects to address nonpoint source pollution issues and information gaps. Recommendations of the TGPC and its Subcommittees are now considered in the ranking of projects for CWA 319 grants in Texas. A third recommendation—to deactivate the task force— was deferred until the next meeting.

The next meeting will be January 16, 2013.

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

### Water Quality Coordination Activities

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

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

On October 31, 2012, SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Galveston Bay Council meeting in Houston. This meeting featured a presentation on the Sheldon Lake State Park Wetland Restoration, which included; history of the area, restoration methodology, and future plans for the site. Updates were also provided on GLO Coastal Programs, including Coastal Impact Assistance Program, Coastal Management Program, and the Coastal Technical Advisory Committee process.

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

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

### **EPA's 22nd Annual Quality Assurance Conference**

On October 16-17, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt] participated in EPA's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Quality Assurance Conference in Dallas. The conference featured presentations on new policies, procedures, and solutions for monitoring and laboratory practices, as well as quality assurance strategies for data.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

### **STATE DISTRICT III**

#### **Arroyo Colorado**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment

Mechanism: WPP, UAA

Lead: TCEQ

Project: "Implementing Educational Components of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan Focused on Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution", Texas Water Resources Institute; Federal \$202,443/ External \$135,191

Project: "Implementing the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan by Providing Technical and Financial Assistance to Reduce Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution", Southmost SWCD #319, Hidalgo SWCD #350; Federal \$532,516/ External \$200,000

Project: "Bacterial Source Tracking to Support Adaptive Management of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Protection Plan", Texas Water Resources Institute/Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Federal \$465,555/ External \$178,333

On October 18, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] and Regional Office staff

[Ronnie Ramirez] hosted the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup meeting in San Benito. TWRI gave several presentations at the meeting. Firstly, TWRI presented results from the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) analysis of the Arroyo Colorado completed through a TSSWCB-funded project. An overview of the newly funded bacterial source tracking project provided by the TSSWCB followed. Discussion at the meeting mainly focused on how to address the bacteria impairment in the watershed, resulting in a vote to include bacteria in the Arroyo Colorado WPP. Lastly, a Cameron County landowner presented her experience as a natural, organic and small producer in the Arroyo Colorado watershed.

On October 18, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] and Regional Office staff [Ronnie Ramirez] attended the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Habitat Issues Workgroup meeting in Weslaco. Again, discussion centered on how to address the bacteria impairment in the watershed. Updates on various project were provided as well.

On October 18, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander], Regional Office staff [Luis Pena, Ronnie Ramirez] and Field Staff [Adrian Perez] attended the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Weslaco. The primary focus of the meeting was continuing discussion on the process and funding to update and revise the WPP, as this phase of implementation ends in 2015, and how to address the bacteria impairments along the Arroyo. The Steering Committee and other attendees of the meeting thoroughly discussed and then voted upon including bacteria in the Arroyo Colorado WPP. TCEQ then presented on new pesticide general permit regulations. Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research then followed up with a presentation discussing dissolved oxygen and bacteria modeling in the Arroyo Colorado.

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.

## STATE DISTRICT IV

### Double Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Development of a Watershed Protection Plan for Double Bayou", Houston Advanced Research Center; Federal \$1,023,614/ External \$388,149

On October 17, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] and field staff [Joel Clark] attended the Lower Trinity SWCD #435 meeting in Liberty. An introduction to the newly initiated Double Bayou WPP project was presented to the SWCD. Highlights included discussion of the watershed characterization study performed previously, water quality issues, and tasks that will be accomplished through this WPP project.

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

### Lake Houston

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

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

On October 16, 2012, SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a BIG meeting in Houston. This meeting was held to update the group on the progress of the implementation plan for many waterbodies in the Houston area. There was also an update on new TMDLs to be added to the I-plan once they are completed. There were a couple of segments

added in the Clear Creek watershed and several added in the Lake Houston watershed.

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

### Lake O' the Pines

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

On October 18, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Wes Gibson] and Regional Office staff [Mark Cochran] attended the Lake O' the Pines TMDL I-Plan stakeholder meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to re-engage stakeholders and facilitate participants in discussion regarding the existing I-Plan effectiveness and work toward reviewing, updating and revising the I-Plan. Workgroups are going to be put together to work on updating the I-Plan and progress to date.

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

### Other State District IV Projects

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

On November 1, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Alexander] attended the Cooperative Conservation in the Trinity River Basin Workshop, the first in a series of workshops for the Middle Trinity River Basin, in Huntsville. The goal of the series of workshops is to bring landowners and other stakeholders together to discuss solutions

to challenges faced in the Middle Trinity region of the Basin. These workshops are designed to raise awareness of water quality issues, discuss land management techniques that could improve the water resources of the Trinity River Basin and make decisions to protect natural resources for future generations. Presentations at the workshop included topics of what is a watershed, water quality basics and protection in Texas, and the benefits of watershed management to landowners and the public. Presenters on these various workshops included Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Trinity River Authority, and a local landowner, who participates in mitigation banking. Two additional workshops are planned to be held in Huntsville in early 2013, all leading up to a Summit workshop

Project: "Coastal Prairie Wetland Restoration at Sheldon Lake State Park", Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Sea Grant Program; Federal \$390,538/ External \$267,457

On October 18, 2012, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Wetland Field Day at Sheldon Lake State Park in Houston. The field day, which was presented as *A Case Study in Freshwater Coastal Prairie Wetland Restoration*, provided attendees the opportunity to learn about the unique methods used at this site for wetland restoration. This project, and field day, is funded by TSSWCB with a CWA §319(h) NPS grant. Presentations were given by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Ducks Unlimited on Prairie Wetland Restoration and specifically, the restoration methodology used at Sheldon Lake State Park. A field tour followed which included walk-throughs of the wetland restoration areas and concluded with a view from the new observation tower. More information is available at <http://www.urban-nature.org/urbanwet/sheldon.htm> and <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/wetland>

#### Upcoming Public Meetings

- December 5, 2012 – Bayou Preservation Association Symposium (Houston)
- December 11, 2012 – Cooperative Conservation in the Middle Trinity Workshop (Corsicana)
- December 11, 2012 – MOA Meeting (Austin)
- December 11, 2012 – Upper Llano River Watershed Protection Plan Coordination Committee (Junction)
- December 13, 2012 – Regional Watershed Coordination Steering

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## WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2012. Staff has begun implementing HB 1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

### Staff Activities

- Met with the Nueces River Authority and Edwards Aquifer Authority to review the project proposal for Arundo Cane eradication on the Nueces River.
- Attended a meeting with United States Geological Survey (USGS) to discuss the project proposal for computer modeling funding for Honey Creek.
- Reviewed with Dr. Ken Rainwater a system recommended by the Stakeholder Committee to rank project proposals for FY2013 funding of Water Supply Enhancement Projects.
- Assisted State Representative Paul Workman's office with information regarding Ash Juniper control.
- Consulted with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for guidance on including brush control as a strategy in

region water plans (RWP). RW Planning guidance leaves open the option for RWPGs to include brush control in a RW Plan even if there is zero associated yield during drought of record (DOR) conditions.

- Staff also met with USGS and TCEQ regarding a proposal to link the upper Guadalupe watershed SWAT model to the Water Availability Model (WAM) in order to determine how a simulated increase in water yields in the basin translates to water availability to end users. This could be critical to understanding what future role brush management can play in the Texas water plan including how brush management might increase water availability in times of drought.
- Met with Upper Colorado River Authority (UCRA) to address the validity of the feasibility study conducted on the Concho River, which was publicly criticized in a letter to the San Angelo Standard Times.
- Dr. Ken Rainwater and his staff are analyzing WSEP applications to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Providing a portion of our funds for evaluating the effectiveness of the WSEP was a non-statutory Sunset recommendation that was recently reviewed by the State Auditor's office.

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within the State of Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and

the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. SWCDs are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCIDs).

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over amount of needed O&M and repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15 million dollars to the TSSWCB for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

In response to this appropriation, TSSWCB assembled a representative stakeholder group and began the process of developing programs to deliver the funds to the sponsors of flood control dams during the Summer of 2009. It was determined that the most efficient and effective way to proceed was to develop two separate grant programs, one to address O&M, and the other to address structural repairs, due to their difference in complexity.

### O&M Grant Program Update

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

In FY2011, \$2,472,008 was allocated to 84 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. Currently, there is a balance of \$72,533 to be utilized by June 28, 2013.

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

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

In FY2012 the TSSWCB's budget was reduced from \$7.5 million per fiscal year to \$2 million per fiscal year. Due to this reduction in funding the TSSWCB is currently only able to fund two flood control dam repair projects. To date, all needed repairs have been completed on one of the two flood control dams and the remaining dam is under construction. Currently, \$1,364,836 of FY12 program funds has been obligated.

On October 26, 2012, districts and sponsors were notified that the TSSWCB is seeking applications for structural repair projects on flood control dams in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 529, Subchapter B. Applications for FY2013 grant funds are due no later than 8:00 am on November 30, 2012.

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at:

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/floodcontrol>

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



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

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>

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.