



# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Monthly Program News and Activities

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

September 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**

September 30<sup>th</sup> Deadlines:

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Director Mileage and Per Diem claims
- \* Technical Assistance reimbursements
- \* Supplemental Technical Assistance reimbursements
- \* Return of Director Mileage and Per Diem 75% advance payment not used
- \* Technical Service Provider reimbursements

**Please see page 2 for more information!**

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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, November 19, 2008**. 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, November 20, 2008**. 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 September 18, 2008, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting tentatively scheduled for November 20, 2008. 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

September 30<sup>th</sup> Deadlines:

- \* 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Director Mileage and Per Diem claims
- \* Technical Assistance reimbursements
- \* Supplemental Technical Assistance reimbursements
- \* Return of Director Mileage and Per Diem 75% advance payment not used
- \* Technical Service Provider reimbursements

Supplemental payments for Fiscal Year 2008 Matching Funds, Director Mileage and Per Diem, and Technical Assistance will be made in October.

Effective September 1, 2008 the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board renewed through August 31, 2009 the blanket Director and Officers Liability Insurance Policy purchased last year for all Districts and Directors of Districts. There is no action required by your board to continue coverage. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board have already paid the premium.

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

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for a **Natural Resource Specialist IV position in the Gonzales Poultry Program Office** location. 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.

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

The proposed amendments were published in the Texas Register, Friday, August 22, 2008 and are open for review and comment. Comments on the proposed rules may be submitted in writing to Rex Isom, Executive Director, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, P.O. Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503. To view this document please visit:

[http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/33\\_TexReg\\_6742\\_August\\_22-2.pdf](http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/33_TexReg_6742_August_22-2.pdf)

## **Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors**

The Annual State Meeting has been rescheduled due to Hurricane Ike. The Meeting will now be held in Bastrop on October 27-28 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa. All Soil and Water Conservation Districts that have registered will receive a notification in the mail. Please refer to the website for information regarding hotel accommodations. If you have any questions, please contact Mel Davis or Meredith Whitley at 254-773-2250.

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

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## **PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

**Wildlife Alliance for Youth (WAY)**— In a teleconference on September 22, The Public Information/Education Committee enacted a change related to cash awards given to high point individuals in the regional wildlife contests and the state contest. Because of an IRS ruling that cash awards are prohibited to be given by a 501 (c)(3) organization directly to individuals, the committee decided to grant the cash awards to the high point scoring FFA chapter in each of the five regions as well as the top three high point scoring FFA chapters in the state contest. Such action is acceptable to the IRS because the granting of the cash award is given directly to an educational entity.

**SWCD Director/Employee Program Development Workshop**—A workshop for directors and district employees will be scheduled in January 09. Districts will be receiving information about the workshop in early November.

**Priority Education Funding Grant Program**—SWCDs who have requested funding in the 08 fiscal year under the priority education funding program and have completed their projects, but who have not yet submitted an after project report are reminded that to receive their requested funds the report must

be submitted to the Association of Texas SWCD office.

### **Area Association Meetings**

The Northeast Texas Association of SWCDs met in Gilmer on Sept. 22nd. Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Todd Staples was the featured speaker. He spoke about agriculture in Texas, and specifically the impact of agriculture in Northeast Texas region. State Board and State Association officials also presented reports of their respective organizations. A business meeting was also conducted. (**Trey Watson, Area IV Field Representative**)

## **TSSWCB Conservation Video Library**

### **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 [mmcarthur@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:mmcarthur@tsswcb.state.tx.us) to check it out.

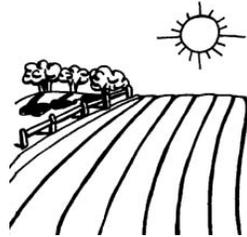
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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

### 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>.



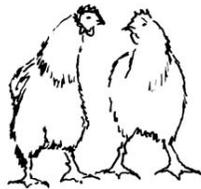
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## POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

### 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

The TSSWCB Poultry Office recently sent out a letter and checklist to poultry producers to remind them TSSWCB will soon be conducting inspections

of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, existing WQMPs are being reviewed and updated and plans are being developed for newly constructed farms.

Complaints against poultry farms have been significantly higher this fiscal year than past years. Due to increasing number of farms and increasing overall population and increased awareness and availability of the complaint processes to the public, this trend will probably continue. TSSWCB is actively working with producers, the industry, and other agencies to minimize negative effects to neighbors from poultry 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 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 Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Texas NPS Management Program utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, non-regulatory, financial, and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced NPS Management Program. Programs within the scope

of the Texas NPS Management Program that are administered either entirely or jointly by the TSSWCB include (1) a CWA, §319(h) NPS Grant Program, (2) a Total Maximum Daily Load Program, and (3) a Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The agency also administers a Water Quality Management Plan Program that falls within the scope of the Texas NPS Management Program which is described and highlighted elsewhere in this publication.

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 NPS Management 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 Management 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 Management 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. Staff from both agencies met on August 25, 2008 and again on September 5, 2008 to discuss the structure and content of the report, as well as a timeline for completion. The report will highlight the State's efforts during fiscal year 2008 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 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 evenly 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;
- 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 (WPP). 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 are supported by §319(h) funding to varying extents, however, a WPP or other watershed-based plan that meets

EPA's criteria is required in order to utilize "incremental" §319(h) funding in order 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 *Planning and Implementation* section of this publication.

### **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, 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 *Planning and Implementation* section of this publication; 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; Contact T.J. Helton at [thelton@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:thelton@tsswcb.state.tx.us) or 254-773-2250, ext. 234

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

The TSSWCB's Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 §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. TSSWCB staff received written comments regarding individual workplans from EPA staff on July 31, 2008. TSSWCB staff developed responses to these comments and submitted them to EPA on August 7, 2008. TSSWCB staff had a conference call with EPA staff on August 14, 2008 to discuss

any remaining issues regarding the FY2008 Grant Application. At the end of the conference call TSSWCB staff were informed that EPA was not going to approve the workplan submitted to begin implementing components of the Pecos River WPP and the \$1,499,859 dedicated to this project would be withheld from the agency's grant award.

A meeting was held August 28, 2008 to discuss EPA's decision regarding the implementation project for the Pecos River WPP. The meeting was attended by Rex Isom, John Foster, T.J. Helton, Aaron Wendt, Mitch Conine, Allan Jones (Texas Water Resources Institute), representatives from Texas AgriLife Extension and USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Miguel Flores (EPA Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division Director), and other EPA program staff. During this meeting, EPA assured the TSSWCB that the funding for this project was not in jeopardy of being lost, but an adequate review of the existing Pecos River WPP would need to be completed by EPA prior to the funding being added to the FY2008 §319(h) grant award. EPA also stressed that anticipated load reductions for salinity would need to be included in the implementation project's scope of work.

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

The FY2009 Request for Proposals will be published in the *Texas Register* on October 3, 2008, posted on the TSSWCB's website, and e-mailed to all SWCDs and cooperating entities on our contact list. The deadline for proposal submission is 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 TMDL for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 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 best management practices 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 *Planning and Implementation* section of this publication.

### **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. These monies have been fully obligated. There are currently 6 on-going projects that support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking laboratories, implementation of agricultural and silvicultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, and development of TMDLs through the collection and analysis of water quality and land use data. A 7<sup>th</sup> project, leveraged with funding from the FY2003 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 \$255,250 through two contracts that support 1) implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans and 2) technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands. Staff are in the process of developing workplans, budgets and contracts with collaborating entities to obligate the remaining \$945,244 for various projects to begin work this fall.

## **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 is comprised of the chair or appointed representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the 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.

The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), §6217, requires each state with an approved coastal zone management program to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal nonpoint source pollution.

This program for Texas is the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program (Coastal NPS Program) and has been under development since 1997. To facilitate the development of the Coastal NPS Program, the CCC appointed a Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program workgroup comprised of staff from GLO, TCEQ, RRC, TxDOT, TPWD, TSSWCB and a public member from the CCC. This workgroup has addressed comments submitted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and EPA regarding Texas' Coastal NPS Program, reviewed and recommended proposed NPS pollution control projects, and researched possible options to enhance the program.

In December 1998, Texas submitted its Coastal NPS Program to NOAA and EPA. After two and a half years of discussion between Texas and the federal agencies, NOAA and EPA published in the Federal Register, in late September 2001, their intent to approve the Texas Coastal NPS Program with certain conditions. NOAA and EPA identified the following six areas that Texas must strengthen

or correct prior to receiving full approval of the Coastal NPS Program:

1. New Development and Existing Development
2. Site Development
3. Watershed Protection
4. New and Operating Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems
5. Roads, Highways, and Bridges (not under TxDOT jurisdiction)
6. Hydromodification

The second notice to conditionally approve Texas' Coastal NPS Program was posted in the *Federal Register* on April 7, 2003. The final conditional approval letter was sent on July 3, 2003. Texas was given five years to meet the remaining conditions.

States that fail to submit an adequate program face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds of 10% for the first year, and up to 30% in the fourth year of an unapproved program.

### **Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Status**

In July 2008, the CCC sent a letter to NOAA and EPA with supporting documentation that addressed the remaining conditional approval findings in the Coastal NPS Program. The CCC will continue to work with EPA and NOAA in order to obtain full approval of the Coastal NPS Program. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration granted Conditional Approval to the Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (NPS). Texas has five years to meet the five remaining conditions to gain full approval of the program:

1. New Development and Site Development (areas not covered by Phase II Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System stormwater program)
2. Watershed Protection and Existing Development.
3. New and Operating Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS)

4. Roads, Highways, and Bridges (not under TxDOT jurisdiction)

5. Hydromodification

The NPS Work Group has developed a list of potential options that will be used to address the remaining conditions and submitted it to NOAA and EPA for approval.

On August 15, 2008, the Governor appointed Bob McCan to the Coastal Coordination Council for a term to expire May 31, 2009. McCan fills the agriculture representative position on the CCC. The CCC oversees Texas Coastal Management Program grants and adopts policies to guide decision-making by entities regulating or managing natural resource use along the Texas coast. McCan is past president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, chairman of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, regional vice president of the National Cattleman's Beef Association, and chairman of the Victoria SWCD #346. He replaces John Sullivan of Galveston.

### **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 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.html>

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.

### **CMP Grant Program**

As in the previous grant cycles, the Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 14. The full application is due October 15, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. Information on this grant program is available online:

<http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle14.html>

## **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>.

### **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 are working with TCEQ staff to resolve outstanding issues and move this project to conclusion and publish the document. 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.

On July 28, 2008, Aaron Wendt, TJ Helton and Mitch Conine met with TCEQ staff to discuss 1) the status of Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) projects across the state, 2) current BST methodologies in use in Texas, 3) the current "state-of-the-science" of BST, and 4) needed improvements in quality assurance and control for BST methods. These discussions will aid TSSWCB and TCEQ staff in establishing a multi-agency workgroup to examine issues identified in the Task Force Report, including BST.

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

On July 9, 2008, EPA partially approved, and partially disapproved, the *2008 Texas 303(d) List*. This report describes the status of the state's waters, as required by the federal CWA. It summarizes the status of the state's surface waters, including concerns for public health, fitness for use by aquatic species and other wildlife, and specific pollutants and their possible sources. The *List* identifies those waterbodies not attaining water quality standards as impaired. Specifically, EPA approved Texas' listing of 836 waterbody-pollutant combinations but did not agree with the State's decision to not list one waterbody-pollutant combination. EPA has identified Corpus Christi Bay as impaired for

recreation use due to excessive levels of bacteria and placed this waterbody-pollutant combination on the final 2008 Texas 303(d) List. More information on EPA's decision is available at <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-WATER/2008/July/Day-17/w16387.htm>. More information on the *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 accepted comments on the draft rule language through May 27, 2008; TSSWCB staff submitted comments focused on the proposed revisions to the bacteria standards. Since the May 5, 2008 meeting of the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Workgroup, TCEQ has posted all comments, as received, on the website. Comments will be incorporated and the draft rule (Standards) will be proposed in the Texas Register for public comment. 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>.

## 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 Instream Flow Program

In 2001, the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 2 which directed the TPWD, the TCEQ, and the TWDB, in cooperation with other appropriate agencies, to jointly establish and continuously maintain an instream flow data collection and evaluation program. In addition, the agencies were

directed to conduct studies and analyses to determine appropriate methodologies for determining flow conditions in state rivers and streams necessary to support a sound ecological environment, including riparian and floodplain features, considering hydrology, biology, geomorphology, water quality, and connectivity. The *Programmatic Work Plan for Texas Instream Flow Studies* identifies priority studies, outlines the roles of the state agencies, and presents the scope of the studies and the general methods used to conduct the studies. First-tier priority instream flow studies are on-going in the lower San Antonio River Basin, the lower and middle Brazos River Basin, and the lower Sabine River Basin. For more information on the Texas Instream Flow Program is available at <http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/instreamflows>.

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

### **H-GAC Natural Resources Advisory Council**

On August 7, 2008, Brian Koch attended the Natural Resources Advisory Council meeting for Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) in Houston. At this meeting a public hearing for comments on the 2008 Water Quality Management Plan Update was held. Discussion on environmental activities within the greater Houston area covered watershed planning for cities not in the MS4

program, the H-GAC Clean Water Initiative, and the Bacteria Implementation Group. More information is available at <http://www.hgac.com/>.

### **Statewide Feral Hog Abatement Program Advisory Committee**

On August 28, 2008, Mel Davis participated in the Feral Hog Abatement Program Advisory Committee meeting in Austin. Led by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service with grant funding from the Texas Department of Agriculture, this program is designed to implement regional feral hog control strategies. The Advisory Committee was assembled to prioritize geographic focus areas, discuss effective control methods, and identify where funds could be leveraged with other programs. More information is available at <http://ws.tamu.edu/> or <http://feralhog.tamu.edu/>.

### **Lone Star Healthy Streams**

The Lone Star Healthy Streams Project Steering Committee is scheduled to meet October 27 in conjunction with the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Texas Soil And Water Conservation District Directors in Bastrop. The main topics to be discussed are:

- Review the Lone Star Healthy Streams Education Program for educating cattlemen on bacteria issues.
- Evaluate the results of the first year of research on grazing practices and bacteria water quality.
- Discuss the Bacteria Water Quality Standards, proposed changes and implications of research findings.

### **Upcoming Public Meetings**

- September 30 – Caddo Lake WPP Stakeholder meeting (Jefferson)
- October 7 – *Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia* (EPA Webcast)
- October 7-9 – *Solutions to Instream Flows Conference* (San Antonio)
- October 9 – Carters and Burton Creeks TMDL Public Meeting (College Station)

- October 10 – *Landowner's Toolbox: Workshop on Rural Land Management* focused on Gilleland (Austin)
- October 13 – Forum on Hypoxia in Corpus Christi Bay (Corpus Christi)
- October 14 – Little Brazos River Tributaries Bacteria Assessment Public Meeting (Franklin)
- October 15 – Galveston Bay Council (TBD)
- October 16 – Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative Technical Advisory Group (Harlingen)
- October 17 – *Impact of Manure Application on Soil and Water Quality* (NLPELC Webcast)
- October 17 – Trinity Basin Conservation Foundation Annual Meeting (Crockett)
- October 20 – Instream Flow Workgroup on Middle and Lower Brazos River (College Station)
- October 21 – Instream Flow Workgroup on Lower San Antonio River (Floresville)
- October 21 – TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group (Austin)
- October 20-21 – *Sustainable Water Resources Conference* (Houston)
- October 23 – Buck Creek WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Wellington)
- October 27 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- October 28 – Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) (Houston)
- October 30 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on Leon River (Comanche)
- November 5-7 – Texas Water Quality Conference (San Antonio)
- November 6 – Coastal Coordination Council Executive Committee (Austin)
- November 13 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- November 19 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop on Arroyo Colorado (Harlingen)

## WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Adams and Cow Bayous

Impairment: *Bacteria, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen, pH*

Mechanism: *TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*

Lead: *TCEQ*

On September 9, Brian Koch attended and Adams and Cow Bayous TMDL I-Plan meeting in Orange. This meeting focused on identifying implementation strategies for the TMDL. The largest reductions in bacteria loadings are anticipated by regionalizing wastewater infrastructure, including removing as many people from septic systems as possible and eliminating dischargers along the bayous by moving them to the Sabine River, which is capable of assimilating greater effluent waste loads. In the meantime, work is being performed to upgrade septic systems and identify problem areas. Also, education and outreach programming is planned that utilizes the Texas Watershed Steward Program and Texas Stream Team. It was noted that both the TSSWCB WQMP Program and USDA NRCS EQIP already are on-going implementation programs in the watershed that are being utilized by farmers and ranchers. A draft of the I-Plan is expected in November.

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, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen*

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, Depressed 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: *Depressed 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*

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: *Depressed 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*  
Mechanism: *WPP*  
Lead: *Third party*

On September 11, 2008 Loren Henley and Lee Munz attended the Cedar Creek Watershed Steering

Committee meeting in Kaufman. The economic performance cost analysis for BMPs was discussed. The Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD gave an update on WQMPs that have been developed for local landowners; there are currently seven WQMPs in the watershed. A tour and discussion of urban BMPs was conducted; stakeholders viewed some of the proposed urban BMPs, including rainwater harvesting. Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) reviewed the monitoring sites with the stakeholders and asked for their approval of the monitoring regime. Finally, stakeholders were asked for their feedback on the draft WPP document. Workgroups broke out and discussed their relevant portions of the WPP.

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*

On September 10, 2008, the TCEQ adopted, as final, *Nine TMDLs for Bacteria in Clear Creek and Tributaries (Segments 1101, 1101B, 1101D, 1102, 1102A, 1102B, 1102C, 1102D, and 1102E)*. These TMDLs must be approved by the EPA

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, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen, Macrobenchics*  
Mechanism: *WPP*  
Lead: *TSSWCB*

UCRA has submitted the final version of the WPP to TSSWCB and staff are in the process of reviewing the document for consistency with the nine elements, after which the WPP will be forwarded to EPA for federal consistency review.

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.

### **Dickinson Bayou**

Impairment: *Bacteria, Depressed 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/tmdl/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*  
Mechanism: *WPP*  
Lead: *Third party*

On September 3, 2008, Aaron Wendt and Lee Munz attended an Eagle Mountain Reservoir Watershed Steering Committee meeting in Decatur. Another meeting was also held that evening in Newark. These were the first public meetings to present information and work the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and the TRWD have been doing to understand water quality conditions in the reservoir. While the focus of the WPP is on abating sediment and nutrient loading to the reservoir, there are numerous streams that drain to the lake which are impaired for bacteria. TWRI and TRWD are soliciting stakeholders to participate in this planning process.

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, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen*  
Mechanism: *TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*  
Lead: *TCEQ*

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/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/tmdl/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*

On September 17, 2008, Pamela Casebolt attended the Gilleland Creek TMDL I-Plan Natural Resource Management Workgroup meeting via conference call. The main topics of discussion were the landowner workshop planned for October 10, 2008 and how to garner landowner participation in the Creekside Conservation Program. The workshop entitled *Landowner's Toolbox: A free workshop on rural land management practices to conserve soil and water* will focus on the benefits of streams and riparian areas, working in and around streams, and funding resources to implement best management practices. The Creekside Conservation Program is funded through a CWA §319(h) NPS grant from the TSSWCB to the Lower Colorado River Authority and will be featured at the workshop.

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/tmdl/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*

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/tmdl/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: *Depressed Dissolved Oxygen*  
Mechanism: *TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*  
Lead: *TCEQ*

On July 9, 2008, the TCEQ approved *An Implementation Plan for One TMDL for Dissolved Oxygen in Lake O' the Pines (Segment 0403)*. On July 17, 2008, the Board also approved this I-Plan.

TSSWCB staff collaborated with TCEQ staff and Lake O' the Pines watershed stakeholders, including SWCD Directors, NRCS, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Forest Service, to draft this I-Plan. The goal of the I-Plan is to restore the high aquatic life use in Lake O' the Pines by increasing average concentrations of dissolved oxygen through reductions in phosphorus loadings. To reduce phosphorus loadings from animal feeding operations, the I-Plan establishes goals for developing and implementing WQMPs on 100% of poultry operations and 85% of dairies in the watershed. TSSWCB and NRCS will continue to provide technical and financial assistance to achieve these goals. Additionally, TSSWCB will continue to work with the Texas Forest Service to administer a BMP program focused on minimizing impacts to water quality from forestry activities. TSSWCB will continue to support forestry implementation monitoring and BMP effectiveness studies in East Texas conducted by the Texas Forest Service. Finally, educational outreach activities will be used to promote the efficient and wise use of phosphorus within the watershed. Educational outreach programs will be coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and others, and targeted towards 1) commercial providers of fertilizers, 2) homeowners for lawn and garden practices, 3) agricultural producers, 4) homeowners with OSSFs, and 5) forestry operations.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/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.

## Lampasas River

Impairment: *Bacteria, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen*

Mechanism: *WPP*

Lead: *TSSWCB*

On September 25, 2008, Donna Long attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Lampasas. Participants learned about local water quality issues and ways to get involved in local watershed management efforts. The workshop was sponsored by TSSWCB, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas AgriLife Research Center at Blackland in support of ongoing watershed planning efforts in the Lampasas River watershed. Workshop participants learned about watershed systems, water quality regulation and monitoring, methods to improve water quality, and how to become more involved in decision-making regarding the protection and management of community water resources.

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/lampasas>. This WPP will affect livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

## Leon River

Impairment: *Bacteria, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen*

Mechanism: *WPP, TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*

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

On September 2, 2008, the TCEQ announced that final adoption of the proposed *One TMDL for Bacteria in the Leon River below Proctor Lake (Segment 1221)* has been delayed. Proposed revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards may affect future decisions to recommence with development of this TMDL. Before moving forward, the TCEQ will schedule meetings with stakeholders to discuss options for future actions.

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/tmdl/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: *Indeterminate*

Lead: *TSSWCB*

## Lower San Antonio River

Impairment: *Bacteria*

Mechanism: *TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*

Lead: *TCEQ*

On August 20, 2008, the TCEQ adopted, as final, *One TMDL for Bacteria in the Lower San Antonio River (Segment 1901)*. This TMDL must be approved by the EPA.

On September 18, 2008, the Board considered approving this TMDL but postponed action and requested staff obtain clarity on TCEQ's decision to adopt the TMDL in light of 1) on-going issues with proposed revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards and 2) decisions to postpone action on other TMDLs including the Leon River and Peach Creek.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-lowersanantonionbac.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, Depressed Dissolved Oxygen (Bay only)*  
Mechanism: *TMDL, TMDL I-Plan*  
Lead: *TCEQ*

In August 2008, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) published a report, *Hydrologic Conditions and Quality of Rainfall and Storm Runoff for Two Agricultural Areas of the Oso Creek Watershed, Nueces County, Texas, 2005–07*, that describes the results of a three-year study of agricultural NPS runoff from cropland in the Oso Creek watershed. The study was conducted by USGS and Texas AgriLife Research Center at Corpus Christi with funding from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and a CWA §319(h) NPS grant from TSSWCB. Results from this study were discussed at the June 26 stakeholder meeting. The report is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5103/>.

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*

On September 2, 2008, the TCEQ announced that final adoption of the proposed *One TMDL for Bacteria in Peach Creek (Segment 1803C)* has been

delayed. Proposed revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards may affect future decisions to recommence with development of this TMDL. Before moving forward, the TCEQ will schedule meetings with stakeholders to discuss options for future actions.

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*  
Mechanism: *WPP*  
Lead: *TSSWCB*

On September 25, Pamela Casebolt attended the Caldwell County Regional Water and Wastewater Planning Study meeting in Lockhart. This study is funded with a grant from the TWDB to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. Discussion centered on providing Caldwell County with the water supplies needed for future development while protecting the surface water quality and groundwater supplies in the area from adverse effects. Participants were informed on the study's scope of work which entails developing baseline information, establishing an advisory group, formulation of development scenarios, analysis of water quality options, developing a regional water supply and quality protection plan, and recommendations of watershed management practices. Addressing wastewater infrastructure needs, as through this study, is one the recommended management strategies identified in the Plum Creek WPP.

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

## San Bernard River

Impairment: *Bacteria*

Mechanism: *WPP*

Lead: *Third party*

On September 6, 2008, Brian Koch attended the Friends of the River San Bernard Annual Meeting in Brazoria. The group discussed progress in the effort to restore the mouth of the San Bernard River to the Gulf; work is slated to begin within the next 6 months. Also, the group discussed the expansion of their activities throughout the entire watershed. Brian Koch presented information on water quality conditions in the watershed and discussed the concept of watershed planning. He presented information on WPPs from across the state, the nine element of potentially successful WPPs, and the Texas Watershed Steward Program. The group expressed interest in beginning the development of a WPP for the San Bernard River. More information is available at <http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>.

## Upper Oyster Creek

Impairment: *Bacteria, Depressed 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 to no 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

### BACKGROUND:

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 Updates, Water Supply Enhancement Program 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  
Mitchell County SWCD  
Gillispie County SWCD  
Runnels SWCD  
Middle Clear Fork SWCD

### Area 3

McMullen County SWCD  
LaSalle County SWCD  
Caldwell/ Travis SWCD  
Comal/Guadalupe 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
- Assist TCEQ with Brush rider concerning water yield in State Brush Projects
- Assist Upper Guadalupe River Authority in reviewing potential areas for Water Enhancement Project
- Assisted Guadalupe Blanco River Authority with potential areas for Water Enhancement Project

- Assist Sen. Wentworth Rep. Hilderbran's office in developing Guadalupe Watershed project
  - Assisted Corp of Engineers with planning of water enhancement plan for O.C. Fisher and spraying of Salt Cedar
  - Attended Legislative Conference in San Angelo and attendees included Speaker Tom Craddick, Rep. Aycock, Rep. Darby, Rep. Chisum, Senator Duncan, Rep. Heflin, and Rep. Hilderbran.
  - Provided information to Rep. Aycock on using different brush species as Bio Fuel alternative
  - Provided information to Rep. Chisum, Rep Swinford and Rep. Darby on the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee
  - Hosted Governors Drought Preparedness Committee in San Angelo and participated in field day at O.C. Fisher Reservoir
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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 and Texas Senate Districts that have watershed projects. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access the fact sheets from the Texas Watershed Web at:

<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.

## O&M Initiative

NRCS has conducted an O&M initiative mandated by their national office. This included an O&M inspection, an estimate of needed O&M and associated costs, an estimated of needed major repairs and the repair cost, and a review of the hazard classification of all of the structures. These actions have been completed. A summary of the cost data compiled to date is:

NRCS Assisted Watershed Program Dams as of September 15, 2008						
Designed Hazard Class	Current Hazard Class	# of Dams	O&M Costs	Repair Costs	Rehabilitation Costs	Sponsor's Share of Rehab Cost
Low	High	233	\$868,400	\$12,461,800	\$334,500,000	\$117,075,000
Significant	High	15	\$70,100	\$0	\$15,000,000	\$5,250,000
High	High	95	\$494,300	\$260,000	NA	NA
Low	Significant	35	\$106,300	\$773,500	NA	NA
Significant	Significant	77	\$258,500	\$5,577,000	NA	NA
Low	Low	1,540	\$9,410,500	\$34,006,600	NA	NA
<b>Totals</b>	-	<b>1,995</b>	<b>\$11,208,100</b>	<b>\$53,078,900</b>	<b>\$349,500,000</b>	<b>\$122,325,000</b>

Notes:

# of Dams includes inventory sized grade stabilization structures and floodwater retarding structures.

Estimated cost to rehab dam from Low to High Hazard criteria = \$1.5 million per dam (based on recently completed projects).

233 L to H dams - 10 dams rehabbed to date = 223 dams need rehab; Cost = 1.5 X 223 = \$334.5 million

Estimated cost to rehab dam from Significant to High Hazard criteria = \$1.0 million per dam.

Repair costs are in addition to rehabilitation costs.

Rehabilitation costs are shared 65% federal and 35% local sponsor.

RC&D dams with evaluated life < 100 years not included.

O&M Costs are the costs needed to complete needed O&M. It does not include costs for annual O&M.

Rehabilitation is needed to bring dams up to high hazard safety standards because of downstream development.

O&M is routine maintenance: mowing, brush control on dam and spillway, maintaining fences,

Repair is major repair above normal maintenance: slope slides, inlet or spillway replacement,

If a dam needs both repair and rehabilitation, the repair will be performed as part of the rehabilitation.

## Dam Safety Rules Revision

The TCEQ is in the process of updating Texas' dam safety rules. The proposed rules were posted in the Texas Register for public comment on July 25, 2008 for thirty days of public comment. The comment period has been closed. The proposed rules may be viewed or downloaded from TCEQ's web site:

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

The revised rules should become effective January, 2009. Warren Samuelson, Dam Safety Program Coordinator with TCEQ will give a presentation on the new rules at the state meeting in Bastrop.

## TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *State Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

The Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee encourage the development and coordination of educational outreach programs for landowners concerned with groundwater protection and environmental health issues. In addition, it facilitates interagency communication and coordination to provide support for landowner educational outreach projects.

They recently met on September 15, 2008 to discuss and deliberate the following subjects:

- abandoned well closure,
- private well owner drinking water health impacts,
- OSSF maintenance by the home owner, (Septic Systems)
- domestic drinking well sampling, and
- TEX\*A\*Syst water quality protection program.

The Subcommittee has developed a [Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan](#) which addresses these and other issues; this *Plan* will provide guidance to

the Subcommittee over the next two years and lay the foundation for longer-term projects. The Subcommittee's [Groundwater Educational Outreach Plan Implementation Strategy](#) is a working document that will be subject to continued refinement as the members make progress on various Specific Activities.

Meeting information is available on the TGPC website at:

<http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/meetings/Meetings.htm>.

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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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