TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

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September 2010

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 15th was the date allocation amounts for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage and Per Diem were mailed and 75 percent advances for Fiscal Year 2011 District Director Mileage and Per Diem were paid for Fiscal Year 2011.
- October 31st is the deadline for submitting 2010 Annual Financial Statements.

For more information on Budgeting and Accounting see page 2.

CONTENTS

State Board Work Sessions and Meetings	2
Budget and Accounting	2
Human Resources	2
Special Projects	2
Public Information and Education	3
Water Quality Management Plan Program	5
Poultry Water Quality Management Plans	5
Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program	6
Clean Water Act §319(h) NPS Grant Program	7
State General Revenue NPS Grant Program	8
Total Maximum Daily Load Program	8
Watershed Protection Plan Program	9
Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program	10
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee	11
Water Quality Coordination Activities	12
Upcoming Public Meetings	18
Water Quality Planning & Implementation	19
Water Supply Enhancement Program	27
Flood Control Dams	28

STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session for 1:30 p.m. on **Tuesday Nov. 9, 2010.** A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010** in Temple.

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 Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245.

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the Sept. 16, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting scheduled for Nov. 10, 2010. To view any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

September 15th was the date 2011 allocation amounts for Technical Assistance, Matching Funds, and District Director Mileage and Per Diem were mailed and 75% advances for 2011 District Director Mileage and Per Diem were paid.

September 30th was the deadline for submitting 4th Quarter District Director Mileage and Per Diem claims, Technical Assistance and Supplemental Technical Assistance claims, and returning unused 75% advances for 2010 District Director Mileage and Per Diem.

October 31st is the deadline for submitting 2010 Annual Financial Statements.

For more accounting and budgeting information contact Kenny Zajicek at (254)773-2250 or kzajicek@tsswcb.state.tx.us

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following:

- Natural Resources Specialist III – Temple

For more information on TSSWCB employment please visit the link below:
http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/employment

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

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

Annual State Meeting of Texas SWCD Directors

The 70th Annual State Meeting is scheduled for October 25-27, 2010 in Lubbock. Please make plans to attend.

Reservations for the meeting may be made at:

- Radisson Downtown Lubbock by calling 806-747-0171.
- Overton Hotel by calling 806-776-7000.
- Holiday Inn Hotel-Towers by calling 806-763-1200

Please check our website for meeting details and use our online registration.

Proposed Rule Amendment

The TSSWCB proposes amendments to Rule §517.33, Contracts for Cost-share to specify that follow-up brush control will now be required to be carried out as agreed to in an eligible persons brush control plan.

The TSSWCB proposes to amend 31 TAC §517.33 by deleting language that currently specifies brush control follow-up is subject to funding availability and inserting new language to state that brush control follow-up will be carried out as to in an eligible person's brush control plan with the agency.

The proposed rule amendment will be published in the October 1, 2010 issue of the *Texas Register* for a 30 day review and comment period.

Rule Reviews

The TSSWCB has filed notice of intent to review rule Chapter 518, Subchapter A, §§ 518.1 - 518.2, Employee Training Rules; Chapter 523, §§ 523.1 - 523.8, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management; and Chapter 525, Subchapter A, §§ 525.1 - 525.9, Technical Assistance Program For Soil And Water Conservation Land Improvement Measures, of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) in Accordance with the Texas Government Code, §2001.039. The Agency finds that the reason for adopting the rules continues to exist.

As required by §2001.039 of the Texas Government Code, the Agency will accept comments and make a final assessment on each rule regarding whether the reason for adopting the rule continues to exist. The comment period will last 30 days beginning with publication in the October 1, 2010 issue of the *Texas Register.*

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

PI Committee to Hold Teleconference Meeting

The Association of Texas SWCDs' Public Information/Education Committee met via a teleconference on September 23 to review the 2010 program status and to draft a budget for the 2011 Fiscal Year. The committee will meet again at the State Meeting of SWCD directors in Lubbock to finalize a FY 2011 budget and program year.

Based upon input from agricultural science teachers in Texas, the committee voted to change the Soil Stewardship Public Speaking Scholarship Program. In place of the $500 scholarships awarded to first place winners in the 10 FFA areas, the program will change in 2011 to award a $3,000 scholarship to the first place state winner, $2,000 scholarship to the second place state winner, and a $1,000 scholarship to the third place state winner.

Ag science teachers recommended the change on the basis of providing an incentive to attract more students to participate in the program as well as to provide a tier of scholarships for the best public speakers in the state.

Program Development Workshop

A program development workshop for SWCD directors, employees, and select NRCS district conservationists has been scheduled for January 25-26, 2011. An initial information flyer will be sent to all SWCDS in mid-October.

Area Associations of SWCDS Hold Meetings

North Central Texas Association of SWCDS

A meeting of the North Central Texas Association of SWCDs was held September 29, at the Decatur Civic Center in Decatur.

Principle speaker at the event was nationally known rancher and businessman Kit Pharo, owner and operator of the Pharo Cattle Co. headquartered in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. Pharo challenged the SWCD Directors to think outside the box to insure long-term business sustainability in their ranching operations.

Pharo's ranching philosophy rests on the premise that to achieve optimum production ranchers must produce cows that fit their environment, instead of artificially changing the environment to fit their cows.

South Central Texas Association of SWCDs

A business meeting of the South Central Texas Association of SWCDs was held September 30, at the Werner Steakhouse in Lockhart.

Prior to their business meeting, SWCD Directors toured the American Pew and Bench Factory. The Lockhart plant, established in 2007, designs, manufactures, and distributes furniture for churches and other industries.

Deep East Texas Association of SWCDs)
The Deep East Texas Association of SWCDs met September 30, at the Saxon Becnel and Sons Citrus Nursery located near Orange, TX to learn about citrus grafting, greenhouse operations and rotations of nursery plants

Ricky Becnel, a fifth generation family member to operate the business, gave the SWCD Directors a walk through of the operation where they saw approximately one-half million plants growing which included some 25 different types of citrus trees such as grapefruit, kumquat, oranges, satsumas, tangerines, lemons, lime, fig, persimmon and loquat in different stages of growth.

Becnel said their nursery operation, which expects to have more than 200,000 trees for sale this fall and approximately 270,000 available in the fall of 2011, is not for food production, but for the growing of trees which are sold to wholesale companies such as Home Depot, Lowe's Wal-Mart and other smaller outlets.

Before opening their operation in Texas in 2006, the Becnel family has been in citrus production along the Mississippi River in Belle Chasse, Louisiana near New Orleans since the 1850's.

South Texas Association of SWCDs
The South Texas Association of SWCDs will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, October 7 in Robstown at the Richard M. Orchard Regional Fairgrounds.

"Prior to the business meeting SWCD Directors will have an opportunity to visit exhibitors participating at the Coastal Bend Farm and Ranch Show. Following the meeting, interested Directors can take advantage of some of the educational programs offered for various continuing education units for pesticide applicators or certified crop advisors, or they can continue visiting with exhibitors or observe various farm equipment demonstrations offered in the afternoon," said Romualdo Herrera, president of South Texas Association of SWCDs.

Northeast Texas Association of SWCDs
The Northeast Texas Association of SWCDs will hold a business meeting October 4, in Mount Pleasant at the new La Quinta Inn and Suites.

"The meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m. with a catered barbecue dinner, will feature Representative Bryan Hughes as the principal speaker," said David Basinger, president of Northeast Texas Association of SWCDs.

Rolling Plains Association of SWCDs
The Rolling Plains Association of SWCDs will meet October 7, at Fort Richardson State Park located near Jacksboro.

Prior to the business meeting, SWCD Directors will tour historic Fort Richardson as well as have an opportunity to see recently cleared flood prevention structures at the park.

Fort Richardson was established in November 1867 and was named in honor of General Israel B. Richardson, who died in the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War. The Fort was abandoned in May 1878.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2009 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/docs/infoed/2009VideoLibraryCatalogue.pdf. The 2009 Catalog includes 30 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

SWCD or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas SWCDs' 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 Whitley at mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the TSSWCB to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 14,000 plans in the State of Texas. http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp.

A total of 657 water quality management plans were certified by the State Board in FY-2010. The yearly goal was 620 plans.

Cost-share allocations for FY-2011 were approved at the July, 2010 State Board meeting. The period for obligating FY-11 cost-share funds will be from September 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011.

The next lapsed fund report for the FY-08 funding cycle was presented at the State Board meeting in September, 2010. Between the FY-03 and FY-08 funding cycles, lapsed funds have been reduced by 73%.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

In 2001, the 77th Texas 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 TSSWCB. In 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. An odor control plan may be required for those farms. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry.

Program Activities

During FY 2010, 98 poultry CAFO facilities were inspected for program compliance and only 4 were found to have a discrepancy that could potentially impact water quality. All issues were satisfactorily resolved.

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

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

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the state's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the governor in December 2005. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The *Texas NPS Management Program* utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, voluntary, financial and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced program. NPS pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation and education. The TCEQ and TSSWCB have established goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of NPS management in Texas. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the *NPS Annual Report*, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with the CWA. Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. 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 necessary to prevent and reduce NPS pollution. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution. By establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, Texas can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program* is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram.

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

Watershed Approach

Protecting the state's rivers, streams, lakes, bays and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;
- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

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

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs) and total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) in those watersheds where agricultural and/or silvicultural NPS pollution is contributing to a water quality impairment or concern to an extent which TSSWCB believes is

sufficient to justify expenditure of agency resources. A list of these watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds.

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status
TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the process of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staff personnel from both agencies are currently reviewing the revised draft chapters of the 2010 program publication. The revised program publication must be submitted to EPA to ensure continued CWA §319(h) funding.

After discussions among TCEQ, TSSWCB, and EPA staff about the current timeline for updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document by December 2010, it was decided that an extension would be necessary to incorporate the new Watershed Action Planning initiative. A letter was sent by TCEQ to EPA requesting to extend the applicability of the current *Texas NPS Management Program* document until May 2012 to allow the new initiative to be incorporated in the revision. All other matters related to the *Texas NPS Management Program* document including goals and objectives, priorities, programs and BMPs would remain unchanged during this extended period. Staff personnel are currently waiting on EPA's response to this request for an extension.

Nonpoint Source Grant Program

The NPS Grant Program is administered by the TSSWCB for the purpose of providing funding as grants to cooperating entities for activities that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress (through the EPA) provide funding to the TSSWCB to administer the agricultural and silvicultural components of the *Texas NPS Management Program* through the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program.

Agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution prevention and abatement activities that can be funded through the NPS Grant Program include: implementation of WPPs and the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans (I-Plans), surface water quality monitoring, demonstration of innovative BMPs, technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs, public outreach and education, development of WPPs, and monitoring activities to determine the effectiveness of specific pollution prevention methods.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this NPS Grant Program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Funding

Background
Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided through the EPA to states for the development and implementation of each state's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB. Over the past several years, the State's allocation has been approximately $9 million.

FY2004 – FY2009 CWA §319(h) Grant Status
There are currently 45 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 45 ongoing projects total approximately $13 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; support various NPS outreach/education programs; develop and implement WPPs and implement the NPS portion of TMDL I-Plans.

FY2010 CWA §319(h) Grant Application Status
TSSWCB submitted the FY2010 CWA §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 6, 2010 requesting $4,578,700 for 11 projects. SRM staff received written comments regarding individual workplans

from EPA staff on August 18, 2010. TSSWCB staff developed responses to these comments and submitted them to EPA on August 27, 2010. TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt] met with EPA in Dallas on August 30, 2010 and had a conference call with EPA staff on September 2, 2010 to discuss remaining issues regarding the FY2010 grant application. TSSWCB SRM staff is working with EPA staff to complete the grant application and award process.

State General Revenue Grant Funding

Background
The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated $3.1 million dollars in general revenue funds, for the FY2008-FY2009 biennium, to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds. The 81st Texas Legislature renewed this appropriation for the FY2010-FY2011 biennium. TSSWCB is committed to funding projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation that address the goals and objectives stated in the *Texas NPS Management Program*. The Board has approved operating budgets for FY2009, FY2010, and FY2011 that allocated a total of $3.6 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. On Sept. 17, 2009, the Board approved a revised *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs and Watershed Planning, Assessment and Implementation Activities* which provides guidance to SRM staff on directing these state appropriations for the NPS Grant Program. The policy is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram#StateGR.

FY2009 – FY2010 State General Revenue Grant Status
There are currently 16 ongoing general revenue-funded projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 16 ongoing projects total approximately $1.7 million dollars and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct recreational use attainability analyses (RUAAs); provide technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazinglands and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through these grants are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

FY2011 State General Revenue Grant Status
On July 22, 2010, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2011 that allocated $1.1 million in state general revenue to the NPS Grant Program. SRM staff are in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities for various projects.

Total Maximum Daily Load Program

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

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

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

With authority as the lead agency in Texas for planning, implementing and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution, TSSWCB shares 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. More information on TMDLs is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl.

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

Watershed Protection Plan Program

Background

Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) are locally-driven mechanisms for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized 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.

WPPs serve as tools to better leverage the resources of local governments, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. WPPs integrate activities and prioritize implementation projects based upon technical merit and benefits to the community, promote a unified approach to seeking funding for implementation and create a coordinated public communication and education program. Developed and implemented through diverse, well integrated partnerships, a WPP assures the long-term health of the watershed with solutions that are socially acceptable and economically viable which achieve environmental goals for water resources. Adaptive management is used to modify the WPP based on an on-going science-based process involving monitoring and evaluating strategies and incorporating new knowledge into decision-making.

TSSWCB-sponsored WPPs are consistent with guidelines promulgated by the EPA in 2003. These guidelines describe nine elements fundamental to a potentially successful plan. TSSWCB provides technical and financial assistance to local stakeholder groups to develop and implement WPPs to address significant agricultural or silvicultural NPS issues. While WPPs sponsored by TCEQ have significant water quality issues related to urban NPS pollution or wastewater treatment, most, to varying degrees, have agricultural or silvicultural NPS pollution components. There are several other watershed planning projects across the state which are funded and sponsored by entities and agencies other than TSSWCB or TCEQ. These third-party WPPs may or may not adequately satisfy EPA's nine elements. More information on WPPs is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through WPP and TMDL development and implementation. Impaired waters may be addressed through either mechanism depending on the specific situation. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in

the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

Background
The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

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

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

More information on the CMP is available at http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal.html.

Personnel Changes in CMP at GLO
Because of State budget reductions, the General Land Office has suffered a reduction in CMP staff. Sheri Land, who has been with the CMP for over 11 years, is now the Director for Grant Programs and Support, which houses the CMP grant program. Kate Zultner has been named as the new CCC Secretary.

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program
Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*. The agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July 2008, the CCC again responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully approved program.

On May 29, 2009, GLO received e-mail comments from NOAA and EPA which stated, in part, that:

> "NOAA and EPA find that enough progress has been made to lift only the hydro modification condition. For several urban management measures, Texas identifies planned activities to meet the conditions. While those activities may result in the measures being met in the future, NOAA and EPA must evaluate the actual activities, rather than a plan for future actions, in order to lift the conditions."

TCEQ is finalizing a letter to NOAA and EPA that describes the state's approach to addressing the conditional approval findings. TSSWCB, TCEQ and GLO plan to meet with NOAA and EPA staff in the near future to discuss requirements for Texas to fully meet all conditions.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)
CCC meeting information is available at http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ccc.html. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010 in Austin.

Section 309 Assessment and Strategies Review
Section 309 of the CZMA allocates funds to encourage states with federally approved CMPs to develop projects that will effect program enhancements in one or more of the following nine enhancement areas: wetlands, public access, coastal hazards, cumulative and secondary impacts, energy and government facility siting, marine debris, ocean resources, special area management plans, and aquaculture. As a condition of receiving grant funds under §309, Texas must submit a §309 Assessment and Strategies Report to NOAA every five years. The Report presents an analysis for each enhancement area, identifies needs, and outlines how the CMP plans to use §309 funds to address those needs over the next five years.

In 2006, the CCC drafted its third §309 Assessment and Strategies Report covering the time period of 2006-2010. In its 2006 Report, the Council identified four of the nine enhancement areas as being of high priority to the state. These included wetlands, public access, coastal hazards and cumulative and secondary impacts. Energy and government facility siting and aquaculture were ranked as medium priorities and ocean resources, marine debris and special area management plans were ranked as low priorities.

In November 2009, the CCC initiated its program review and assessment for the 2011-2015 report. The report and assessment is being developed by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.

The CCC 309 working group met on June 2, 2010 to discuss the draft report. The group will again meet on September 29, 2010 to discuss the current status of the report, review changes made since the last meeting, and discuss steps for finalizing the strategy and report.

Information on the meeting times and locations, a copy of the draft report and a link to online comments is available at http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cmp/309/309grants.html.

CMP Cycle 16 Grant Program
As in the previous grant cycles, the CCC expects to award approximately $1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 16. The final deadline for the Cycle 16 grant program is October 13, 2010. More information on the CMP grant program can be found at http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle16.html.

Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

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

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

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

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

- Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.
- Publishes numerous reports.
- Advises the TCEQ on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

On September 17, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) Nonpoint Source Task Force (NPS TF) meeting in Austin. Six state agencies and organizations were represented. A summary was presented of the fiscal year 2010 fourth quarter meeting, along with an overview of some of the statewide programs related to the monitoring, assessment and mitigation planning for NPS groundwater pollution in Texas.

TCEQ and TSSWCB, Co-chairs, gave an overview of the aquifer vulnerability assessment conducted by Texas in the late 1980s. The Task Force discussed the need to re-assess aquifer vulnerability in Texas. Committee members will provide feedback regarding the following: areas where the historic DRASTIC assessment in Texas could have been improved, potential data users and uses for a new aquifer vulnerability assessment and data sources and components that could be included. As summary of input from committee members regarding re-assessing aquifer vulnerability in Texas will be provided at the next NPS TF meeting.

The NPS TF will next meet December 1, 2010 at 9:30 A.M.

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

Water Quality Coordination Activities

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

On Sept 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB SRM staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa.

New Watershed Action Planning Process

TCEQ staff have been working to develop a document that describes a new Watershed Action Planning approach to the state's water quality management programs. This document is expected to be finalized and published within the next several months.

The document will illustrate Watershed Action Planning and describe the approach including an overview of the state water quality planning programs, the role of stakeholders and the options available to address water quality impairments. The Watershed Action Planning process recognizes a range of tools and options for addressing impaired water bodies on the 303(d) List. The Watershed Action Planning process provides for a stakeholder-led evaluation of watershed-specific circumstances and a deliberative and collective decision as to what tool to apply to move forward with addressing the listing.

TCEQ will maintain a database of information in the State Watershed Action Plan, such as the waterbody, the impairment or priority interest, the date it was first listed on the 303(d) List, the management strategy to address the impairment (e.g., UAA, TMDL, WPP), the timeline for completing the management strategy, the responsible agency and interim performance measures.

Watershed Action Planning will increase the transparency of the state's water quality management programs by presenting the list of impaired waters in such a manner as to communicate activities and intentions collectively to the public at large. Establishing the State Watershed Action Plan is key to providing for the collaboration being called for and the coordination

necessary to achieve the goal of clean water for Texans.

Surface Water Quality Standards Revision

On June 30, 2010, the TCEQ adopted major revisions to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 307, Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (Standards), and the *Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, RG-194* (IPs). These major revisions to the Standards include the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for large reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria. The IPs are an in-depth protocol that provides guidance and explanation of the general and technical procedures used by TCEQ in applying the Standards.

The public comment period closed March 17, 2010. TCEQ staff developed a response to comments received and made appropriate changes to the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions to the Standards and IPs. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the Standards and the IPs to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate. The Association of Texas SWCDs and 74 individual SWCDs from across the state also submitted written comments to TCEQ on the proposed revisions.

Both the Standards rule and the IPs document were adopted with modifications from the versions published in the *Texas Register*. Specifically, the proposed Standards rule and IPs were modified by the Commission to retain the primary contact recreation bacteria criterion of 126 cfu/100 mL for freshwater (*E. coli*) and modify the high saline inland waterbodies' primary contact recreation criterion from 54 to 33 cfu/100 mL (*Enterococci spp.*). The proposed revision would have set the *E. coli* criterion at 206 cfu/100 mL, which was the upper limit of risk levels recommended by EPA for primary contact recreation. The Commission did adopt expanding the categories of recreation use to create more options and differentiating the bacteria criteria to protect those uses, specifically by creating a four tier approach including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation; previously, there were only two options, contact recreation or noncontact recreation.

The adopted Standards rule (30 TAC Chapter 307) was published in the *Texas Register* and become effective as a state rule on July 22, 2010. TCEQ submitted the revised Standards and IPs to EPA on August 4, 2010. EPA must now take action to approve these changes to the Standards in accordance with the federal CWA.

Recreational Use Attainability Analyses

The recently adopted revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards establish a four tier approach to recreation use including primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation 1, secondary contact recreation 2, and noncontact recreation. In order to change the presumed level of recreation use of a waterbody (i.e., PCR) to any of the other 3 tiers and the associated bacteria criterion, a recreational use attainability analysis (RUAA) must be completed for each waterbody and approved by TCEQ and subsequently EPA. TCEQ has developed procedures for conducting RUAAs; previously there were no RUAA protocols in Texas. The May 2009 *TCEQ Procedures for a Comprehensive RUAA and a Basic RUAA Survey* is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg_handouts.html#proc.

The purpose of an RUAA is to ascertain the actual recreation occurring on a waterbody, establish or verify a presumed use, and, if necessary, assign a more appropriate use. During an RUAA information is collected on water recreation activities, stream flow type, and stream depth; additionally, interviews from users who are present during surveys and those familiar with the waterbody may be conducted and a review of historical information may be completed. If the results of the RUAA indicate that a different, more appropriate use is warranted, the resulting change in the associated bacteria criterion may result in the waterbody no longer being identified on the *303(d) List* as impaired, thus negating the need to adopt a TMDL.

TCEQ, and their contractors, are in the process of conducting RUAAs on over 110 waterbodies across the state; TSSWCB is taking the lead on conducting RUAAs on another dozen waterbodies. Prior to conducting the surveys, local stakeholders are being contacted to seek input on each project's monitoring plan. Specifically, citizens are being asked to provide input on potential sites near stream crossings to perform evaluations, and landowners are being asked to provide access to evaluate those stretches of the river that are not readily accessible to the public. TCEQ contractors were asked to coordinate communication with SWCDs through TSSWCB SRM staff. Some of these RUAAs have been conducted in summer 2009, some will be finished this summer 2010, and some will be completed in spring and summer 2011. After the RUAAs are conducted, TCEQ will evaluate the information and again consult with stakeholders regarding potential site-specific revisions to the surface water quality standards for each waterbody.

Because adopted changes to the surface water quality standards affecting recreation use tiers and bacteria criteria must be approved by EPA, any changes to specific waterbodies as a result of these RUAAs will not likely be reflected until the *2014 303(d) List* is published in April 2014.

Summaries of RUAA activities on waterbodies where TMDLs and/or WPPs are also on-going are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

More information on RUAAs for certain waterbodies is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/94-neneasttexruaa.html. These RUAAs affect livestock operations in scores of watersheds across the state.

Texas Integrated Report for CWA §§305(b) and 303(d)

The *Texas Integrated Report* (IR) 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, as required by CWA §305(b). The IR also identifies waterbodies not attaining water quality standards (i.e., impaired), as required by CWA §303(d).

On August 25, 2010, the TCEQ approved the *2010 Texas Integrated Report* for submission to EPA. The public comment period ended in March 2010. TCEQ staff developed a response to public comments received and revised the IR as appropriate. TSSWCB submitted written comments to TCEQ on the draft 2010 IR. TSSWCB comments were focused on the impact of the IR to how the agency implements its agricultural/silvicultural NPS water quality mandate. EPA must now take action to approve or disapprove the *2010 Texas 303(d) List of Impaired Waters*.

The IR is a compilation of many documents including:

- 303(d) List of Impaired Waters [Category 5 waterbodies]
- Waterbody Assessments by Basin [23 river and coastal basins, plus Bays/Estuaries and Gulf Waters]
- Index of Water Quality Impairments [Categories 4 and 5 waterbodies]
- Waterbodies with Concerns for Use Attainment and Screening Levels
- Sources of Pollution for Impairments and Concerns
- Waterbodies and Parameters Removed from the 303(d) List
- Schedule to Develop TMDLs in 2011 and Beyond

For the 2010 IR, TCEQ prepared a comprehensive assessment by evaluating 374 classified and 840 unclassified waterbodies; although, only 1,066 of those waterbodies had sufficient data to evaluate). Data collected during the most recent seven-year period (December 2001 to November 2008) was included in the assessment. One hundred eighty-one (181) impairments (by segment, not assessment unit) were added to the 303(d) List while 76 were removed. A total of 621 impairments are now included in Category 5. Impairments due to elevated bacteria continue to dominate (51%) the list of impairments. Impairments due to Dissolved oxygen

and organics in edible fish tissue each have the next highest percentages (15% each). Overall, the number of segments assessed between 2008 and 2010 increased by 60%; however, the net increase in impairments was only 17%.

More information on the *Texas Integrated Report*, including the 305(b) Assessment and 303(d) List, is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.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. Basin steering committee meetings are being scheduled and will be held throughout the state between March-May 2010. SWCDs should look for notices of these meetings as they are scheduled and make plans to attend.

The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html.

On August 25, 2010, the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) hosted a Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum in Mercedes to discuss recent Rio Grande flood operations. The USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project consists of a system of flood control levees, diversion dams, and interior floodways in the United States and Mexico. For the first time since 1988, the USIBWC diverted floodwaters from the Rio Grande into the U.S. interior floodway system at Anzalduas Dam near Mission which consists of channels known as the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, North Floodway, and Arroyo Colorado. Upstream reservoir operations also affected the Valley; in the wake of Hurricane Alex, Falcon Reservoir reached its highest elevation in history, surpassing the record set in 1958. Because of the high elevation at the reservoir and continued high inflows, the USIBWC made flood releases out of the dam, which impacted the Valley. More information is available at http://www.ibwc.state.gov/CRP/Index.htm.

On August 30, 2010, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch] attended the San Antonio River Authority CRP Steering Committee meeting in Goliad. This meeting was held to update stakeholders in the San Antonio River Basin on activities over the past year. The 2010 Basin Highlights Report was reviewed. Through ongoing water quality monitoring in the basin, water quality improvement is being shown in many areas in the basin, including the Upper and Lower San Antonio River where implementation activities have been occurring over the past few years. The San Antonio Zoo is expected to begin construction on a UV disinfectant system for water discharges into the river by the end of 2010. TSSWCB staff mentioned implementation of WQMPs on livestock operations in the lower watershed. Updates were given on the Instream

Flows and Freshwater Inflows work being performed in the basin; this work is expected to go on thru 2011. TCEQ updated the group on the changes to the water quality standards, including the contact recreation standard; this was followed by lengthy discussion on the RUAA process. The SARA Board of Directors recently adopted a resolution that seeks to keep all waterbodies in the San Antonio River Basin designated for primary contact recreation by achieving the highest water quality standards for bacteria. More information is available at http://www.sara-tx.org/.

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.

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.

Permit for the Application of Pesticides to, over, or near Waters of the U.S.

On September 9, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] participated in a TCEQ Pesticide General Permit Stakeholder Group meeting in Austin. The TCEQ is currently in the process of developing a new general permit to implement recent federal court rulings and regulations for pesticide discharges into waters of the U.S. The EPA will issue their final federal permit by December 2010 and the TCEQ must issue its final permit by April 9, 2011 in order to be compliant with the federal policy. The TCEQ draft permit will be posted on the TCEQ website through September 16, 2010. This provides stakeholders with an opportunity to preview and comment on the draft permit prior to the formal public notice. Written responses to these preliminary comments will not be provided; however, TCEQ will review and consider all comments submitted. Proposed revisions to the draft permit will be subject to formal notice publication and public comment prior to adoption. TCEQ anticipates publishing the formal proposed draft permit by the end of October 2010, with a public meeting on the proposed draft permit sometime in early December 2010. On this anticipated schedule, TCEQ would move forward with Commission adoption and EPA approval by March of 2011 in order to meet the federal policy of State implementation by April 2011. More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/pesticidegp_stakeholder_group.html and http://www.epa.gov/npdespub/pesticides.

On July 19, 2010, the Texas Department of Agriculture provided written comment to EPA on the draft federal pesticide general permit. TDA emphasized the appropriateness of giving States maximum flexibility in drafting state permits so long as they meet at least the standards of the federal permit. TDA observed EPA's efforts to recognize and reduce the double burden to comply with the significant overlap of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and this new CWA pesticide general permit.

Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

On September 2, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Aaron Wendt] hosted the quarterly Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (WCSC) meeting in Columbus. This meeting featured three presentations on activities happening across the region and state.

TPWD presented results from their study on Nutrient Impacts in Aquatic Communities in Six Wadeable Brazos River Basin Streams. The study was conducted to aid in the process of establishing

numeric nutrient criteria for streams. The report is available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/environconcerns/water_quality/.

Naismith Engineering presented information on the Tule Creek Stormwater Treatment Wetland. Tule Creek is a 3,000 acre watershed in the cities of Rockport and Fulton in Aransas County which drains to Little Bay. Funding for this constructed wetland is through a TCEQ CWA §319(h) grant.

TSSWCB SRM staff discussed the Rationale for Reclassifying Plum Creek from Category 5 to Category 4b on the 2010 Texas Integrated Report. The national guidance and regulatory mechanisms governing the process of utilizing WPPs in lieu of TMDLs was discussed, as well as, how Integrated Report Category 4b relates to the nine essential elements of WPPs. More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp#4b_option.

The WCSC is composed of about two dozen water quality monitoring and restoration partners, including other state and federal agencies, river authorities, national estuary programs, and councils of governments. The WCSC is tasked with providing guidance to TSSWCB SRM staff on watershed planning activities in 47 counties across southeast and south central Texas. More information, including meeting materials, is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/cwp.

Clean Waters Initiative Instream Bacteria Dynamics Research Workshop

On September 28, 2010, SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Brian Koch, Donna Long, Loren Henley (via conference call] attended the Instream Bacteria Dynamics Research Workshop, which is part of Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Clean Waters Initiative in Houston. HGAC staff provided brief overviews of work accomplished to date from various programs housed within the Council. Concerns of members serving on these programs and groups culminated in prioritizing research needs in the area. The top three needs are:

- Determination of abatement effectiveness in stormwater activities
- Bacteria persistence and degree of re-growth in the environment
- Determination of more effective indicators for bacteria contamination

Presentations of current research efforts within the Houston area followed. Dr. Robin Brinkmeyer, from Texas A&M at Galveston, has been studying the bacteria re-growth and nutrients in sediment from Buffalo Bayou and the effects of bridge-roosting bat colonies on instream water quality. Results indicate that *E. coli* in sediment have the capability of doubling in population every 48-60 hours. Dr. George Guillen, from the Environmental Institute of Houston, presented research studies that indicate fish have a role as possible sources and vectors of E. coli within the local streams. Finally, Dr. Hanadi Rifai, from the University of Houston, correlated shortcomings in the relationship between bacteria of concern to humans and currently accepted, conventional water quality parameters.

Development of a Synergistic, Comprehensive Statewide Lone Star Healthy Streams Program

On September 28, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, TJ Helton, Nathan Smith, Aaron Wendt] and TSSWCB poultry staff [Mark Cochran] attended a Lone Star Healthy Streams Program Development steering committee meeting. The purpose was to get the principle investigators from the beef cattle, dairy cattle, poultry, feral hog, and horse bacteria projects together to discuss BMP's for addressing bacteria. The five individual projects will be combined into one education program to be able to be presented state wide to landowners. There will be resource manuals, presentations, and online resources developed for cattle, poultry, feral hogs, and horses.

Air Quality, Atmospheric Change, and Energy Training

On September 21-23, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Donna Long] attended the Air Quality, Atmospheric Change, and Energy Considerations in Conservation Planning training, hosted by USDA-NRCS in Temple. Participants were educated on basic air chemistry and air quality indicators.

Regulatory processes and how they interact with the upcoming legislation on Climate Change, when addressing agriculture, were considered at length. Some of the exercises performed as a part of the training involved off-farm considerations, identification of regulatory issues to include climate change, as well as review of meteorology and topography in the area.

Presentations included TCEQ Chairman, Dr. Bryan Shaw on the political implications of the new climate change legislation as it pertains to the unique situations in Texas. Dr. Calvin Parnell presented the challenges of accurate monitoring and data collection with relation to the upcoming reduced emissions criteria. The training workshop ended with a field trip to the research plots at the USDA-ARS Grassland Research Center, in order to better understand the biofuels research conducted in the state of Texas and across the nation.

Upcoming Public Meetings

- Oct. 1, 2010 – San Antonio Bay Partnership (Victoria)
- Oct. 1-2, 2010 – Bastrop County Conservation Partnership Workshop (Cedar Creek)
- Oct. 4, 2010 – Managing Riparian Areas Workshop for Plum Creek Landowners (Lockhart)
- Oct. 11-14, 2010 – TCEQ Annual Surface Water Quality Monitoring Workshop (TBA)
- Oct.12, 2010 – Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Seguin)
- Oct. 12-13, 2010 – Restoration and Management of Riparian Corridors Workshop (Fort Worth)
- Oct. 14, 2010 – USIBWC Clean Rivers Program Middle Rio Grande Basin Steering Committee (Laredo)
- Oct. 15, 2010 – *Reducing Air Emissions from Poultry and Swine Operations* (NLPELC webcast)
- Oct. 20, 2010- Concho River Steering Committee Meeting (San Angelo)
- Oct. 21, 2010 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Agricultural Issues Workgroup (Mercedes)
- Oct. 21-22, 2010 – Texas Irrigation Expo (Mercedes)
- Oct. 21, 2010 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop for Middle Trinity River (Palestine)
- Oct. 21, 2010 – USGS Gulf Coast Regional Cooperators Meeting (Woodlands)
- Oct. 21, 2010 – Bell County Water Symposium (Belton)
- Oct. 27, 2010 – Galveston Bay Council (Houston)
- Oct. 28, 2010 – Riparian Workshop for Lampasas River (Killeen)
- Oct. 28, 2010 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Habitat and Wildlife Workgroup (Weslaco)
- Oct. 28, 2010 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- Oct. 29, 2010 – Riparian Workshop for Lampasas River (Evant)
- Nov. 1-2, 2010 – San Antonio Bay Science and Stakeholder Conference (Victoria)
- Nov. 3-5, 2010 – 30th International North American Lake Management Society Symposium (Oklahoma City, OK)
- Nov. 9, 2010 – *Building Better Environmental Models for Decision-Making* (USGS webcast)
- Nov. 11, 2010 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- Nov. 13-17, 2010 – 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration (Galveston)
- Nov. 14-17, 2010 – ASAB TMDL Conference on Watershed Management to Improve Water Quality (Baltimore, MD)
- Nov. 16, 2010 – USGS West Texas Regional Cooperator Meeting (San Angelo)
- Nov. 17, 2010 – USGS North Texas Regional Cooperator Meeting (Lubbock)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of WPPs and TMDLs. A list of watersheds including links to on-going restoration projects within those watersheds is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds; more detailed information on all watersheds described below is available at this website.

Adams and Cow Bayous
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

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

Aquilla Reservoir
Impairment: Atrazine
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#aquillareservoir. This TMDL and I-Plan affect farming operations in the Aquilla Reservoir watershed in Hill and Johnson Counties.

Armand Bayou
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: RUAA
Lead: TCEQ

On August 31, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a meeting for the Armand Bayou RUAA in Clear Lake. This meeting was held to update stakeholders on the results of the RUAA that was completed. Three sites were selected along the non-tidal portion of the bayou which covers about 6 miles. These sites were evaluated during the period with the highest likelihood of recreation occurring, holidays and weekends during the warmer months. Evidence of biking, kayaking, fishing, and jogging were observed, and all of these activities, in addition to swimming were documented in surveys. Stakeholders at the meeting strongly suggested that the water quality standard should remain for primary contact recreation for this stream.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/89-armandbacteria.html.

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

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

Atascosa River
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: UAA
Lead: TCEQ

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

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

On September 9, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [David Reeves, Nathan Smith] and Poultry Program staff

[Mark Cochran, Jeremy Welch, Patrick Porter, Julie David, Teresa Reese, Dawna Winkler] attended the Texas Watershed Steward workshop in Nacogdoches. Approximately 45 individuals attended this workshop. Sponsored by TSSWCB, through a CWA §319(h) grant, and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. The workshop was held in support of efforts to develop a WPP for Attoyac Bayou. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at http://tws.tamu.edu/.

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

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.

Big Cypress Creek
Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Brady Creek
Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

Buck Creek
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

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

Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous. 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. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html. This TMDL will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous watershed in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties.

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

On August 30, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] and Regional Office Staff [Carl Steffey, Cindy Ramirez, Max Berry] attended the Caddo Lake WPP stakeholder meeting in Jefferson. The modeling results for bacteria and dissolved oxygen across the watershed were presented. Some of the stakeholders felt that there was more modeling that needed to be done to fully understand the bacteria loadings. TSSWCB staff gave a presentation on the agency's WQMP Program as an option available to put BMPs on the ground to address the bacteria impairments. The Northeast Texas Municipal Water District is drafting the WPP and will release it for public comment in the future.

More information is available at 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.

Carters and Burton Creeks
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL
Lead: TCEQ

On August 26, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Loren Henley] attended a public stakeholder meeting for the Carters and Burton Creeks TMDL in College Station. Topics of discussion were a review of water quality in the creeks, the reasons for working to restore water quality in Carters and Burton Creeks, what the TMDL I-Plan process is, how the formation of a Coordination Committee and Work Groups have been initiated and the need for local inputs to develop an effective I-Plan. TCEQ plans to consider adopting these bacteria TMDLs in August 2011; these TMDLs will establish the load reduction targets to be achieved to restore the primary contact recreation use of the creeks. TCEQ is working with this stakeholder group to have a draft I-Plan that describes the management measures needed to achieve the environmental target of the TMDL by summer 2011.

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/85-carterscreek.html. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Carters Creek watershed in Brazos County.

Cedar Creek Reservoir
Impairment: pH
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

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

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

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing bacteria TMDLs in the greater Houston area, including Clear Creek. 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. Current activities of the BIG are detailed in the *Lake Houston* section of this report.

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

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

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

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

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

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

In early September 2010, the River Systems Institute at Texas State University-San Marcos released the final version of the *Cypress Creek Watershed Characterization Report*. The *Report* characterizes the current condition of water resources in the watershed. The *Report* also discusses load duration curves which describe pollutant loadings and water quality goals and reduction targets, as well as, modeling results for pollutant sources including an examination of impervious cover and sensitive areas.

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

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

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going 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
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: Third party

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

Elm and Sandies Creeks
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, 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, 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.

Geronimo Creek
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On September 28, 2010 SRM staff [Loren Henley] attended a Comal-Guadalupe SWCD meeting to discuss the ongoing efforts in the Geronimo and Alligator Creek Watershed. Board Members were updated on the progress of the WPP, and the future implementation projects planned for the local watershed.

More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek. This WPP has the potential to affect ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

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

More information 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 or http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu/. 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/watersheds#lakegranger. 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, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

The Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is focused on implementing 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.

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

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, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

On Sept. 23, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Pamela Casebolt, Nathan Smith] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lampasas. Discussion centered on reviewing water quality data, needed load reductions, and potential monitoring sites for the bacterial source tracking project. Water quality data was used to develop load duration curves. The load duration curves revealed that no load reductions were needed for moist, mid-range, dry and low flow conditions. The Partnership unanimously voted to not use a margin of safety with the percent reduction. A brief overview was given on the new bacterial source tracking project funded by TSSWCB that will collect water quality data at 15 sites throughout the watershed for 12 months. Potential monitoring locations were discussed by the Partnership. More information is available at http://www.lampasasriver.org.

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

Leon River
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL, UAA), TSSWCB (WPP)

More information on the postponed bacteria 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.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp. Both the WPP and the TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

Little Brazos River Tributaries
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#littlebrazosriver. This project will affect livestock and poultry operations in the Walnut, Pin Oak, Campbells, Mud and Spring Creek watersheds in Robertson County.

Lower San Antonio River
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-lowersanantoniobac.html. This TMDL affects 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, 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.

Onion Creek
Impairment: None
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

More information is available at http://www.waterqualityplan.org/. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Onion Creek watershed in Hays and Travis Counties.

Oso Bay and Oso Creek
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

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

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

More information is available at 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.

Pecos River
Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/. This WPP affects agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

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

On August 30, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt] met with staff from EPA, TCEQ, and AgriLife Extension in Dallas to discuss the *Rationale for Reclassifying Plum Creek From Category 5 to Category 4b on the 2010 Texas Integrated Report*. EPA Region 6 has outlined a process by which the State may submit a WPP in lieu of a TMDL. The *Rationale* for Plum Creek was based on the State's understanding and interpretation of the EPA Region 6 process, the national guidance and regulatory mechanisms governing the use of WPPs in lieu of TMDLs, as well as, how Integrated Report Category 4b relates to the nine essential elements of WPPs. This meeting was held for the agencies to discuss EPA's preliminary review and comments on a draft of this *Rationale*. The final version must be submitted by TCEQ with the *2010 Texas Integrated Report* to substantiate removing Plum Creek from the 303(d) List.

On August 31, 2010, TSSWCB SRM staff [Aaron Wendt, Loren Henley, Pamela Casebolt, TJ Helton] attended the Sustaining the Goals of the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership meeting in Lockhart. Discussion focused on efforts to locally sustain the Partnership and the watershed coordinator. Texas AgriLife Extension Service detailed implementation

activities since the Plum Creek WPP was published in February 2008. AgriLife Extension also discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator. A roundtable discussion followed detailing a plan to begin drafting an interlocal agreement between the governmental entities and a grant proposal for continued funding for a watershed coordinator.

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.

Red River above Lake Texoma
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: Third party

More information is available at http://www.rivers.txstate.edu/projects/rivers/Red-River-.html. This project affects livestock operations in portions of the Red River Basin in numerous counties.

Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

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

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

On September 21, 2010, the Texas Watershed Steward program held a workshop in Utopia. Approximately 35 individuals attended this workshop. Sponsored by TSSWCB, through a CWA §319(h) grant, and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at http://tws.tamu.edu/.

San Bernard River
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.h-gac.com/go/sanbernard and http://www.sanbernardriver.com/. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

Lake Somerville
Impairment: pH, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TCEQ

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

South Llano River
Impairment: None
Mechanism: Assessment and Planning
Lead: Third party

More information is available at http://southllano.org. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the South Llano River watershed in Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Real and Sutton Counties.

E.V. Spence Reservoir
Impairment: Salinity
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/04-spence.html. This TMDL and I-Plan affect agricultural operations in the E.V. Spence Reservoir

watershed in Borden, Coke, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Sterling Counties.

Upper Cibolo Creek
Impairment: Bacteria
Concern: Dissolved Oxygen, Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.ci.boerne.tx.us/. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock operations in the Upper Cibolo Creek watershed in Kendall County.

Upper Guadalupe River
Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/65-guadalupeabovecanyon.html. This TMDL affects livestock operations in the Upper Guadalupe River watershed in Kerr County.

Upper Oyster Creek
Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, UAA
Lead: TCEQ

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

WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Background

Administered by the TSSWCB, the goal of the program is to enhance the state's quantity of water resources through selective control of brush species. The 81st Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing $4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY10. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the TSSWCB. Since the beginning of the Water supply Enhancement program in 1999 there has been over 700,000 acres of brush treated in various watersheds throughout the State.

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

Area 1
Donley County SWCD
Area 2
Middle Concho SWCD
Eldorado-Divide SWCD
Tom Green County SWCD
Pedernales SWCD
Gillespie County SWCD
Kerr County SWCD
Kendall SWCD
Area 3
McMullen County SWCD
LaSalle County SWCD
Caldwell-Travis SWCD
Comal-Guadalupe SWCD
Webb County SWCD
Frio SWCD
Area 5
Archer County SWCD
Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
Pecan Bayou SWCD
Bosque SWCD
Little Wichita SWCD

Currently the Water Supply Enhancement Program is administrating 15 projects throughout the State. Listed below are the projects in their respective areas and the projects contact person.

- Twin Buttes – Tuffy Wood
- O.C. Fisher Reservoir Project – Tuffy Wood
- Lake Ivie (Main Concho) – Johnny Oswald
- Pedernales Project – Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project – Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County) – Melissa Grote
- Fort Phantom Hill – Cody York
- Nueces River Project – Adrian Perez

- Frio River Watershed – Adrian Perez
- Lower Guadalupe River – Kendria Ray
- Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer – Kendria Ray
- Palo Pinto – Cody York
- Bosque Project – Cody York
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties) – Cody York
- Lake Brownwood Project – Cody York

Staff Activities

- Evaluate all current projects
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Certifications
- Assisted landowners in Twin Buttes, Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Kickapoo, Bosque River with Brush Contracts
- Assisted Gonzales County SWCD with Water Enhancement Project on the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer
- Assisted UCRA with the Twin Buttes lake basin project
- Assist the Frio and Nueces Projects with contracts and certifications
- Amend Brush 002 Contract
- Amend 31 TAC, Chapter 517 Subchapter B, 517.33 Contracts for Cost Share
- Held Work Group meetings in Pedernales, Guadalupe, Bosque, Wichita River, Carrizo-Wilcox, Lake Brownwood, and Lower Guadalupe
- Amend Cooperative Agreements with the following SWCDs: Pedernales, Pecan Bayou, Webb, La Salle, Aqua Poquito, and Frio

Evaluating Watersheds are based on the following criteria as per Chapter 203.053:
In ranking areas under the plan, the board shall consider:

(1) the location of various brush infestations;
(2) the type and severity of brush infestations;
(3) the various management methods that may be used to control brush;
(4) the amount of water produced by a project and the severity of water shortage in the project area; and
(5) any other criteria that the board considers relevant to assure that the brush control program can be most effectively, efficiently, and economically implemented.

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Background

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 velocity of 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.

O&M Grant Program Update
All funds allocated to dam sponsors for Fiscal Year 2010 (Sept. 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010) have either been dispersed or contractually obligated for use prior to August 31, 2011 (contractually obligating the remaining funding allows sponsors an additional year to reimburse O&M work).

At their July 22, 2010 meeting, the State Board approved the Fiscal Year 2011 O&M allocations. TSSWCB staff has prepared FY2011 grant allocation letters for 81 SWCDs and three non-SWCDs for a statewide total of $2,472,008.85. The grant allocation letters, representing the same total program budget as FY2010, were mailed directly to the dam sponsor during the first week of September 2010. Fiscal Year 2011 O&M allocations will be available immediately for reimbursement and will remain so through August 31, 2011.

Structural Repair Grant Program Update
After receiving applications for funding for Fiscal Year 2010 Structural Repair Grant Program funding, the TSSWCB staff conducted a ranking exercise and began contract negotiations with dam sponsors representing the highest ranking applications. A total of 18 flood control dams will receive state grant funding from FY2010. Of the 18 dams, five are also receiving funding through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for disaster recovery; the TSSWCB is providing 95% of the non-federal match requirement (25%) for these dams. The remaining 13 dams are receiving state grant funds providing representing 95% of the total cost of each project. In total, $3,915,471 of FY 2010 state repair grant funds have been obligated.

The TSSWCB anticipates publishing a request for applications for Fiscal Year 2011 Structural Repair Grant funding during September 2010. All SWCDs will be notified as soon as the request is published.

For more information on these new programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/floodcontrol

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Monthly Program News and Activities is produced 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 contact Nathan Smith (254) 773-2250 or nsmith@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The 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 216 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 Texas to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.

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