



# TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Program News and Activities

SEPTEMBER 2013

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

**REX ISOM**  
Executive Director

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### UPCOMING STATE BOARD WORK SESSION AND MEETING

The State Board has scheduled a Work Session on **Wednesday November 20, 2013** and a formal State Board Meeting on **Thursday, November 21, 2013 in Temple**. More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/boardmeetings>, or by contacting Karen Preece at (254) 773-2250, ext. 245 or [kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov](mailto:kpreece@tsswcb.texas.gov).

### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- September 30th is the deadline for submitting Fiscal Year 2013
  - 4th Quarter Mileage/Per Diem claims and return of unused advance funds. Advance payments for Fiscal Year 2014 will not be paid if unused advanced funds from Fiscal Year 2013 are not returned by the deadline.
  - Regular and Supplemental Technical Assistance claims.
- TSP allocations and required forms were mailed on September 23rd.
- October 15th advance payments for 2014 Mileage and Per Diem will be made.
- October 31st is the deadline for submitting completed financial statements.
- November 1st supplemental Technical Assistance, Matching Fund, and Mileage/Per Diem claims will be paid.

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

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB currently has 2 positions available at this time.

- Natural Resources Specialist III – Nacogdoches

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

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## SPECIAL PROJECTS

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

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

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Conservation News

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

### Conservation Video Library

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

### Ordering a Video

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

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## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

The Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Certification Program established by the enactment of Senate Bill 503 in 1993 offers landowners and operators of agricultural and silvicultural lands a voluntary mechanism for being protective of state water quality with respect to nonpoint source pollution. This program offers cost-share funding for the installation of soil and water land improvement measures to serve as an incentive for participating. Major changes regarding the delivery of the cost-share incentive funds were implemented for Fiscal Year 2014.

On May 24, 2013 a letter was sent to all 216 districts notifying them of a number of changes to the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Program that will go into effect September 1, 2013.

The letter also included a survey that each district was asked to provide an update on the water quality conditions within the district, the desired cost-share rate, maximum cost-share amount and the practices eligible for funding.

This information was used to prepare a recommendation to the State Board to establish final priorities, allocations and the ranking process for the fiscal year.

To assist the districts in implementing the new program staff developed a WQMP program information packet which provides a detailed description of the changes to the program and information on how districts may participate.

Staff has revised all forms for the program and the forms are on the website to be downloaded for use. As of September 1, 2013 the new program is up and operational, and the districts have began accepting request for water quality management planning assistance and request for cost-share for ranking. More information about the WQMP Program is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wqmp>.

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## TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted by the Governor in June 2012 and thusly approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The *Texas NPS Management Program* is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Implementation of the *Texas NPS Management Program* involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution.

More information on the *Texas NPS Management Program* is available at

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

## Nonpoint Source Grant Program

### **FY2008 – FY2012 CWA §319(h) Grant Status**

There are currently 42 on-going §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 42 on-going projects total approximately \$10.2 million and are primarily being used to implement BMPs to abate NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, grazing livestock operations and row crop operations; provide technical assistance through SWCDs for the development of WQMPs; provide financial incentives for implementing certain BMPs prescribed in WQMPs; support various targeted educational programs; develop and implement Watershed Protection Plans (WPP); and implement the NPS portion of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans (I-Plan).

### **FY2014 Request for Proposals**

On August 30, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff issued the FY2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program. The RFP was published in the Texas Register, posted on the TSSWCB website, and all SWCDs and cooperating entities were notified of this funding opportunity. TSSWCB SRM staff identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the Texas NPS Management Program and the 2012 Integrated Report. The deadline for proposal submission is October 11, 2013.

### **FY2012 – FY2014 State Grant Status**

There are currently 13 on-going projects addressing an array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated state funds for these 13 on-going projects total approximately \$2.4 million and are primarily being used to implement agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans; conduct Recreational Use Attainability Analyses (RUAA); support increased analytical infrastructure at public bacterial source tracking (BST) laboratories; demonstrate innovative BMPs on animal feeding operations and grazing lands; and collect and analyze water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

SRM staff is in the process of developing workplans and budgets with collaborating entities to obligate the FY2014 allocated funds.

## Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The CMP improves the management of the State's coastal resources to ensure long-term ecological and economic productivity of the coast. The CMP brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Land Commissioner are responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee (CCAC), established by the Texas Legislature, advises the Land Commissioner on matters related to implementation of the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCAC.

The GLO 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 GLO reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions of state government that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the GLO oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

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

More information on the CMP is available at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for->

[the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html](http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html).

## Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee

The CCAC was created during sunset legislation (SB656) in the 82<sup>nd</sup> legislature. SB656, which was enacted in 2011, abolished the Coastal Coordination Council and transferred its functions to the Land Commissioner and the GLO. The legislation established the CCAC to advise the Land Commissioner on matters related to the CMP. The CCAC includes a representative of the TSSWCB designated by the Chairman of the State Board.

The general structure of the coastal program consists of workgroups from the agencies and governor appointees which focus on specific projects. The main function of the CCAC is to provide consistency review of federal projects and actions and to provide support to the workgroups.

More information is available for a limited time at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/GLO/boards-and-commissions/coastal-coordination-council/index.html>.

## CMP Grant Program

Through the CMP, GLO awards approximately \$1.8 million of the federal §306/§306A coastal management grant funds received from NOAA to local governments and other entities along the coast for planning and implementation of projects that address environmental problems affecting the coastal area and that promote sustainable economic development.

## §306 Grants

Grant Cycle 19 pre-proposal deadline closed at the end of June 2013. The final application deadline is September 25, 2013, at 5:00 p.m., with a proposed project start date of October 2014. All applications must be submitted electronically. In order to submit pre-proposals or final applications, you must register to receive a user ID and password. To register go to the following link: <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/grant-upload/register.cfm>. In order to upload your completed application, go to the following link: <https://s3.glo.texas.gov/grant-upload/index.cfm>.

More information on the CMP grant program can be found at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we->

[do/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html](http://www.glo.texas.gov/caring-for-the-coast/grants-funding/cmp/index.html).

### **Coastal Planning**

The coastal program is dedicating \$309 funds to the creation of a long-term plan utilizing coastal and marine spatial planning. The first year of this five-year initiative was to create a report to provide a "snapshot" into the current priorities of the Texas coast. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of coastal experts was formed to review and evaluate the project list and the issues of concern for the four coastal regions. TSSWCB is participating in this planning effort as a member of the TAC. TAC regional meetings were held to identify the critical areas and needs of the Texas coast. The information collected at the TAC meetings was used to develop a "snapshot" report to inform the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature of the coastal priorities for each of the four regions, and to serve as a baseline for the long-term planning process. A brochure was also developed, *The Texas Coast: Shoring up our Future*, and can be found here: <http://www.glo.texas.gov/shoring-up-texas/shoring-up-our-future-brochure.pdf>.

Year two of this effort will continue with the creation of a broader planning effort. This long-term plan will better enable an integrated, adaptive management approach to plan for and balance competing natural and human uses along our coast. Meetings were scheduled with local elected officials in July and August in the various regions along the Texas coast, specifically Galveston, Beaumont, Port Lavaca, Corpus Christi and Port Isabel.

### Texas Groundwater Protection Committee

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

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 TGPC develops, implements, and updates a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

On September 10, 2013, TSSWCB Conservation Outreach staff [Loren Warrick] attended a TGPC Work Session to discuss the revision of the *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy*. The committee discussed the policy framework, new goals, and management. The committee reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the committee and the subcommittee, as well as data management and groundwater research.

On September 10, 2013, Conservation Outreach staff [Loren Warrick] attended a TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee. The subcommittee reviewed press articles that were released by committee members, as well as informational documents that discuss groundwater. The subcommittee discussed groundwater issues in the State and website activity statistics.

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

### Water Quality Coordination Activities

#### **Coordination with EPA**

On August 27, 2013, TSSWCB staff [TJ Helton, Pamela Casebolt] attended a Texas Nonpoint Source coordination meeting with EPA Region 6

and TCEQ staff in Temple. Discussion centered on impacts of 2013 NPS Guidelines on Texas FY14 projects and the status of WPPs across the state.

### **Coordination with TCEQ**

On September 10, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Ashley Wendt, Jana Lloyd, Wesley Gibson, Pamela Casebolt, TJ Helton, Mitch Conine, Brian Koch] met with TCEQ staff in Austin to discuss and coordinate the many on-going activities between the two agencies. Many topics were discussed including the Watershed Action Planning process, CWA 303(d) Vision for furthering watershed planning activities, water quality standard revisions, including EPA approval, and 2014 Assessment (Integrated Report) progress. An update on the progress of resolving the conditional approval status of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* was discussed as well. Other updates included status of the FY2013 and FY2014 CWA §319(h) NPS grant Request-for-Proposals, CRP and the estuary programs (GBEP and CBBEP).

### **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 assessment in the 23 river and coastal basins and associated bays and estuaries in Texas.

Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions.

The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-

generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Integrated Report*.

On August 23, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a CRP Steering Committee meeting hosted by the Lower Neches Valley Authority in Beaumont. This meeting featured a background of the CRP, updates from the Neches River basin, and a tour of the saltwater barrier on the river. More information is available at <http://www.lnva.dst.tx.us/>.

On August 27, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a CRP meeting for the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority in Edna. A brief background of the CRP was given, which was followed by a Riparian Education workshop. Many aspects of riparian management were covered, including the fact that healthy riparian areas provide water quality and quantity benefits, along with fish and wildlife habitat. More information is available at <http://www.lnra.org/>.

More information on CRP is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/clean-rivers/index.html>.

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

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

On September 5, 2013, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Brian Koch, Wesley Gibson] attended a Southeast and South Central Texas Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meeting in Columbus. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department presented information on their Kills and Spills Program, which responds to fish kills out of their regional offices across the state. Texas Water Resources Institute presented information on trends in agriculture water use in Texas. Brian Koch led a discussion on successes during watershed planning in order for watershed groups

to get more buy-in from local communities in developing WPPs.

More information, including meeting materials, is available at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>.

### **San Antonio Bay Partnership**

On August 29, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a San Antonio Bay Partnership meeting in Victoria. This meeting was held to plan for events on the upcoming San Antonio Bay Day, which takes place September 28, 2013 in Seadrift. Also, the partnership elected two new board members, expanding the board to seven members. Other topics included grant opportunities, an update on the CMP grant, and the possibility of adding more contracted staff to work on different activities of the partnership.

Water Quality Planning and Implementation

### **STATE DISTRICT III**

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

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: TMDL, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (UAA)

On August 20, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the final stakeholder meeting to develop the I-plan for the Mission and Aransas Rivers TMDL in Refugio. This meeting was held to finalize the I-plan with stakeholder approval before it goes to TCEQ for final approval. All of the recommendations in the plan were discussed and approved by the stakeholders. The TMDL was also reviewed, including the modeling and the process of development.

More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/42-copano.html> and on the RUAA at <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/managementprogram/aransaruua>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

#### **Dickinson Bayou**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ

A WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen.

On August 21, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Dickinson Bayou Partnership meeting in Dickinson. The purpose of this meeting was to review the I-plan and its various management measures, as well as announce that it has been approved for public comment by TCEQ beginning September 6, 2013 and ending October 7, 2013 at midnight. Public comment must be made in writing and can be submitted electronically at [www5.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments](http://www5.tceq.texas.gov/rules/ecomments), by mail to Mr. Roger Miranda, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of Water, Water Quality Planning Division, MC 203, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087, or fax, 512/239-1414, ATTN: Roger Miranda.

More information on the bacteria TMDL and the RUAA is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/80-dickinsonbayoubacteria.html> and more information on the dissolved oxygen TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs will affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

#### **Geronimo Creek**

Impairment: Bacteria  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Water Quality Monitoring in the Geronimo Creek Watershed and Facilitation of the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Partnership", Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority; Federal \$292,421/ External \$191,435

On September 10, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Partnership meeting in Seguin. This meeting provided a presentation on the involvement of Seguin High School in water

quality education and Geronimo Creek. Texas Parks and Wildlife presented on their Kills and Spills Program, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension staff led a discussion on Feral Hogs, with a focus on planning an upcoming workshop in the watershed. Implementation activities were also reported to the partnership.

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

### **Lower Nueces River**

Impairment: None  
Concern: Chlorophyll-a, Nutrients, Sediment  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: Third Party  
Projects: "Development of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan", Nueces River Authority; Federal \$309,727/External \$248,968

On September 10, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Jana Lloyd] attended a Nueces River Watershed Partnership Stakeholder meeting in Corpus Christi. Discussion centered on steering committee membership and draft ground rules for the Partnership. Other presentations included an update from the Nueces River Partnership Association, OSSF survey status update and overview of WPP sections.

More information, including the draft *Source Water Protection Plan*, is available at <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Lower Nueces River watershed below Lake Corpus Christi in Jim Wells, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties.

## **STATE DISTRICT V**

### **Lampasas River**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP  
Lead: TSSWCB  
Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan", Texas A&M

AgriLife Research; Federal  
\$205,305/External \$162,913

On September 12, 2013, TSSWCB staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended the Lampasas River Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting in Lampasas. The Steering Committee discussed the changes made to the WPP following public comment and ultimately approved the Lampasas River Watershed Protection Plan. In May, the Partnership received notification that EPA had completed their review of the WPP and found that it was consistent with their nine key elements for Section 319 funding. The WPP is now one of four approved WPPs in the State. Other discussions included future funding opportunities, the new feral hog program in the watershed, and upcoming education events.

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

### **Leon River**

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen  
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, UAA  
Lead: TCEQ (TMDL, UAA), TSSWCB (WPP)  
Project: "Implementation of the Leon River WPP through Technical and Financial Assistance to Repair or Replace On-Site Sewage Facilities in Hamilton County", Hamilton County, Texas AgriLife Extension Service; Federal \$365,976/ External \$66,536  
Project: "Coordinating Implementation of the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan", Central Texas Council of Governments; Federal \$205,305/External \$162,913  
Project: "Water Quality Improvement Project for the Leon River", Leon Bosque Resource Conservation and Development Council; State \$10,000

On August 21, 2013, TSSWCB SRM Staff [Pamela Casebolt] attended a Texas Watershed Steward workshop that took place in Hamilton. Over 25 people attended the workshop that was

sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and TSSWCB, in coordination with Texas Council of Governments and the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. The training, focused on the Leon River Watershed, discussed what it means to be a watershed steward, 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 included an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>.

On September 12, 2013, TSSWCB SRM staff [Wesley Gibson, Pam Casebolt] attended a Riparian and Stream Ecosystem workshop in The Grove, Texas. Over 45 people attended the workshop that was sponsored by the Texas Water Resource Institute and TSSWCB, in coordination with the Leon River Watershed Group and the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. The training focused on water quality issues relating to the Leon River Watershed, including the key riparian areas play in helping improve and protect water in the area. Topics covered included: the definition of a watershed and riparian area, riparian vegetation ratings, how to photo monitor, and local resources for landowners. The training also involved a field tour of a Mother Neff State Park and a chance to see a recovering riparian area and evaluate the vegetation within it. More information on the Leon River Watershed Protection Plan or the Riparian and Stream ecosystem educational program, please visit [leonriver.tamu.edu/%20](http://leonriver.tamu.edu/%20) or <http://twri.tamu.edu/>.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>. More information on the RUAA is available at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/standards/ruaas/ruaasbrazos>. The WPP, the TMDL, and the RUAA affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

#### Upcoming Public Meetings

- October 2, 2013 – Trinity River Land and Water Summit (Athens)
- October 2, 2013 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Upper West Fork Trinity (Weatherford)
- October 3, 2013 – Cedar Bayou Watershed Partnership Meeting (Baytown)
- October 3, 2013 – Bayou Preservation Association Annual Symposium (Houston)
- October 8-10, 2013 – Texas Forestry Association Annual Meeting (Montgomery)
- October 10, 2013 – Texas Well Owner Network Training, Atascosa River (Pleasanton)
- October 16, 2013 – Feral Hog Workshop, Lampasas River (Lampasas)
- October 16, 2013 – Llano River Riparian Education Workshop (Junction)
- October 16, 2013 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee and Subcommittee Meetings (Austin)
- October 16, 2013 – E.V. Spence TMDL Brush Control Workgroup Meeting (San Angelo)
- October 22-23, 2013 – Texas Forest Service Four State Best Management Practice Conference (Longview)
- October 23 – 24, 2013 – Fundamentals of Developing a Water Quality Management Plan Workshop (Temple)
- October 24, 2013 – Clean Water Initiative Workshop: Urban Stream Ecology (Houston)
- October 30, 2013 – Galveston Bay Council Meeting (Webster)

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#### WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The 83rd Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$2,135,413 in General Revenue Funds in FY2014. Staff has begun implementing HB

1808 and the Sunset Commission's recommendations.

## Staff Activities

- Finalized all FY11 program funds  
Completed FY13 Performance Measures, which includes the water yield report  
Funded the following feasibility studies: Lake O.H. Ivie Reservoir, Honey Creek, Upper Llano River, and Goliad/Victoria counties  
Collaborated with USGS, SARA, and the Corps of Engineers to begin developing the model for Goliad/Victoria counties
- Met with the Texas Farm Bureau to review potential WSEP projects on the Brazos River
- Attended the Region L Water Planning Meeting
- Posted FY14 Application for WSEP projects on the TSSWCB website and mailed official letter to the districts
- Currently working with USGS and Lubbock to develop a contract to study Lake Allen Henry

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## FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

### **Fiscal Year 2014**

The State Board has approved a FY2014 budget that includes \$7,075,000 for program grants. The highest ranking application that has been submitted to the TSSWCB would finance embankment repair for Mountain Creek Site 10 in Ellis County. TSSWCB Staff are currently working with the Dalworth SWCD to finalize contracting activities to repair this dam.

When the contract for this repair project is complete, TSSWCB staff will prepare a recommendation for the State Board for the use of the remaining FY2014 funding.

### **Fiscal Year 2015**

Appropriations for FY2015 have been approved for the programs. Traditionally the State Board approves an annual budget for the upcoming year in July (July 2014 for FY2015).

## **PROGRAM RESULTS**

### **Operation & Maintenance Grants**

For 2010-2011 biennium, the TSSWCB approved O&M grants to 81 SWCDs, 2 WCIDs, and 1 County Government for \$4.9 million. O&M activities were performed on 720 flood control dams. In-Kind Match was reported in excess of \$1.4 million during the biennium. No O&M grants were awarded with FY2012 funds.

For FY2013, \$2,050,997 was allocated to 69 SWCDs and co-sponsors to conduct O&M activities on flood control dams. Grant notifications were signed with all 69 entities which allow the funds to be used until June 30, 2015.

### Structural Repair Grants

Dam #	Dam Name	County	STATE \$	FEDERAL \$	LOCAL \$	Total \$	Finished
TX02630	Richland Creek WS NRCS Site 107B	Navarro	\$35,625.00	\$112,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$150,000.00	8/31/2011
TX02624	Richland Creek WS NRCS Site 31	Navarro	\$35,625.00	\$112,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$150,000.00	8/31/2011
TX02634	Richland Creek WS NRCS Site 110	Navarro	\$35,625.00	\$112,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$150,000.00	8/31/2011
TX02810	Cedar Creek WS NRCS Site 137	Van Zandt	\$8,313.00	\$26,250.00	\$438.00	\$35,000.00	8/31/2011
TX00571	Elm Fork WS NRCS Site 7A	Cooke	\$73,725.00	\$232,815.00	\$3,880.00	\$310,420.00	7/31/2013
TX02369	Johnsons Draw WS NRCS Site 2	Crockett	\$16,546.00	\$0.00	\$871.00	\$17,417.00	7/31/2012
TX02370	Johnsons Draw WS NRCS Site 4	Crockett	\$64,046.00	\$0.00	\$3,371.00	\$67,417.00	7/31/2012
TX02366	Johnsons Draw WS NRCS Site 7	Crockett	\$64,046.00	\$0.00	\$3,371.00	\$67,417.00	7/31/2012
TX01310	Mountain Creek WS NRCS Site 9	Ellis	\$1,287,904.00	\$0.00	\$67,784.00	\$1,355,689.00	7/31/2013
TX04091	Castleman Creek WS NRCS Site 1	McLennan	\$436,406.00	\$0.00	\$22,969.00	\$459,375.00	7/31/2012
TX04095	Castleman Creek WS NRCS Site 3	McLennan	\$768,574.00	\$0.00	\$40,451.00	\$809,025.00	7/31/2012
TX01265	Chambers Creek WS NRCS Site 3	Ellis	\$264,338.00	\$0.00	\$13,913.00	\$278,250.00	7/31/2012
TX01273	Chambers Creek WS NRCS Site 12	Ellis	\$50,588.00	\$0.00	\$2,663.00	\$53,250.00	7/31/2012
TX01280	Chambers Creek WS	Ellis	\$397,338.00	\$0.00	\$20,913.00	\$418,250.00	7/31/2012

	NRCS Site 14						
TX01275	Chambers Creek WS NRCS Site 15	Ellis	\$444,838.00	\$0.00	\$23,413.00	\$468,250.00	7/31/2012
TX03355	Lower East Fork Laterals NRCS Site 7	Kaufman	\$542,558.00	\$0.00	\$28,556.00	\$571,114.00	7/31/2012
TX02651	Richland Creek WS NRCS Site 115	Navarro	\$830,419.00	\$0.00	\$43,706.00	\$874,125.00	7/31/2013
TX02582	Richland Creek WS NRCS Site 137G	Navarro	\$830,419.00	\$0.00	\$43,706.00	\$874,125.00	7/31/2013
TX01264	Chambers Creek WS NRCS Site 2F	Ellis	\$666,544.00	\$0.00	\$35,081.00	\$701,625.00	7/31/2013

For more information on these programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at:  
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/floodcontrol>

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



**TSSWCB**  
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Established in 1939, the TSSWCB administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers through the State's 216 individual SWCDs. The agency is governed by a seven-member State Board composed of two Governor appointees and five individuals elected from across Texas by

1,080 Directors of local SWCDs. The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and

abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program through the targeted control of brush species in areas in need of water conservation; provides operation, maintenance, and structural repair grant funds to local government sponsors of the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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