

# Gonzales Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Management Plan Development, Implementation, and/or, Maintenance Assistance

## NONPOINT SOURCE SUMMARY PAGE

FY01 319 (h)

1. **Title of Project:** Gonzales Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Management Plan Development, Implementation, and/or, Maintenance Assistance.
2. **Project Goals/Objectives:** (1) To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Gonzales SWCD between the TSSWCB, and local SWCDs. (2) To provide technical assistance to landowners to aid in the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs. (3) To map the location and types of BMPs implemented.
3. **Project Tasks:** (1) Program Coordination with Project Participants, (2) Development, Implementation, and/or Maintenance of WQMPs, (3) Education and Technology Transfer.
4. **Measures of Success:** Development, implementation, and/or maintenance of 150 WQMPs in Gonzales SWCD throughout the project. Documentation of Technical Assistance provided to landowners. Map of locations and types of BMPs implemented.
5. **Project Type:** Statewide ( ); Watershed (X); Demonstration ( ); District (X)
6. **Waterbody Type:** River (X); Groundwater ( ); Other ( )
7. **Project Location:** Gonzales SWCD
8. **NPS Management Program Reference:** State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural NonPoint Source Management Program approved February 25, 2000.
9. **NPS Assessment Report Status:** Impaired (X); Threatened ( ); Other ( )
10. **Key Project Activities:** Hire Staff (X); Monitoring ( ); Regulatory Assistance ( ); Technical Assistance (X); Education (X); Implementation (X); Demonstration ( ); Other ( )
11. **NPS Management Program Elements:** Implementing Milestones from the 1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program:
  - Provide financial assistance to Soil and Waters Conservation Districts for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans to reduce NPS pollution.
  - Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Programs
  - TSSWCB is committed to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.
12. **Project Costs:** Federal \$412,700; Non-Federal Match \$31,479; Total Project \$444,179
13. **Project Management:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Gonzales Soil and Water Conservation District.
14. **Project Period:** Three years from start date

Gonzales Soil and Water Conservation District Water Quality Management Plan Development,  
Implementation, and/or, Maintenance Assistance  
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
FY01 CWA Section 319(h)

**WORKPLAN**

**Problem/Need Statement:**

The basis for this project is to expand the efforts and activities of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution loadings from segments 1803A, 1803B, 1804B listed on the 2000 CWA Section 303(d) list. These segments are listed for low dissolved oxygen and bacteria levels that exceed the criterion established.

As the lead agency for the State of Texas in abating agricultural NPS pollution, the TSSWCB works closely with local SWCDs to reduce NPS pollution from various agricultural activities. The TSSWCB addresses the prevention or abatement NPS pollution through the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) program. A WQMP is a site-specific plan, which includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, technologies and combinations thereof, and an implementation schedule. This program is administered by the TSSWCB and provides agricultural producers in priority areas, such as the Gonzales SWCD, an opportunity to comply with State water quality laws through traditional voluntary incentive-based programs. The TSSWCB oversees and is responsible for the cost-share component of the program. The local SWCDs are required to provide or arrange for technical assistance to applicants to develop WQMPs.

NRCS specifications require all WQMP's on poultry operations be updated with current soils analysis every other year. However, Tyson requires their producers' plans be updated every year. SWCDs in the project area constantly have producers bringing in new soil analysis, which is added to their file. The problem develops when a year has passed, and the SWCDs were not able to provide the needed assistance and the soil analysis become outdated. Soils tests are considered to be current for a period of twelve months. The producer is then required to obtain another current soil analysis, often at the producer's expense. Several producers have in excess of forty pastures, and are required to obtain soil analysis from each one, at a cost of ten dollars each. In the past there have been short-term programs sponsored by SWCDs with grant funding, where soil tests have been offered to poultry producers. This proved to be a tremendous benefit, but these programs and funding have since expired.

**General Project Description:**

This proposed project would consist of TSSWCB working cooperatively with the Gonzales SWCD to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs. The primary focus of the TSSWCB 319(h) program is to provide assistance to landowners to States to develop and maintain WQMPs and implement BMPs that abate or reduce NPS pollution. The use of 319(h) funds greatly improves and enhances the abilities of local SWCDs to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the implementation and/or maintenance of WQMPs.

In this project, two Technicians will work under the direction of the Gonzales SWCD, with assistance when needed from the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office, and NRCS to assist landowners in the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs. Two Technician positions supervised by the Gonzales SWCD will work closely with producers to provide 100% effort in developing, implementing, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs. Technical assistance is best provided by local SWCDs because it allows for greater local support from landowners in the development, implementation, and/or maintenance of WQMPs.

The objective of WQMP implementation is to achieve a level of non point source pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation with the local SWCDs, to be consistent with State water quality standards. Highest priority is given to the implementation of the most cost effective and most needed nonpoint source pollution abatement practices. Local SWCDs determine which landowners receive technical assistance for the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs.

- Priority: For the purposes of this project, assistance will be to poultry operations

The SWCDs will offer a sign up period for technical/implementation assistance. Upon compiling the list of producers who are interested in assistance, they will be ranked based on land units that are in the greatest need of WQMP implementation. All activities on an operating unit must be covered under the WQMP. To obtain a WQMP, landowners and operators must first submit a request to the local SWCD. The District will review the request and assign a priority and number to each request. Upon approval of the request by the SWCD, the technician will work with the landowners to develop the WQMP. WQMPs that are developed will be completed according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Some of the activities that the technician will work on include:

- Developing Conservation Plan Maps showing boundaries, field, land use, acres and facilities
- Acquire soil maps with appropriate interpretations
- Develop an implementation schedule
- Complete worksheets used during the planning phases (forage inventories, grazing plans, erosion worksheets, and field notes)

Once the WQMP is completed by the Technician, it will be sent by the District to the TSSWCB Wharton Regional office for technical review and then on to the TSSWCB main office in Temple, TX for certification. Upon certification of the WQMP by the TSSWCB, the Technician will work with the landowner in taking the appropriate steps needed to implement the WQMP. If the landowner does not implement the WQMP according to the conditions established in the plan, then the TSSWCB will decertify the plan, and take the appropriate correctional action.

The Wharton Regional office will provide technical review of developed WQMPs during this project to ensure that the WQMPs are consistent with TSSWCB specifications and procedures. The technical review of developed WQMPs by the Wharton Regional office will provide part of the match needed for this project. NRCS will sign the WQMPs assuring that they meet the criteria established in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

**Tasks, Objectives, Schedules, and Estimated Costs:**

***TASK 1: Program Coordination with Project Participants***

Costs: \$111,045 (Federal), \$0 (Non-Federal Match), \$111,045 (Total). Task is 25% of total.

**Objective:** Two Technicians will be hired by the Gonzales SWCD to coordinate technical assistance activities in the Gonzales SWCD between the TSSWCB, local SWCDs, NRCS, poultry integrators, and all other interested parties to achieve the highest level of assistance for poultry producers in the Gonzales SWCD.

**Subtask 1.1** The Gonzales SWCD will hire two Technicians for the purpose of developing, implementing, and/or, maintaining WQMPs and other tasks in this workplan. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 1.2** The Technicians will meet semi-annually with the TSSWCB project manager to review project progress, events, etc. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 1.3** The Technicians will conduct semi-annual meetings with the Gonzales SWCD, TSSWCB personnel, poultry integrators, NRCS, and others interested, to discuss technical assistance activities. The meetings will be coordinated by the Technicians through the Gonzales Soil and Water Conservation District. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 1.4** The Technicians will complete and submit quarterly reports to the TSSWCB project manager. The TSSWCB project manager will set the appropriate due dates of these reports. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 1.5** The Technicians, with help from other entities involved in the project will complete and submit a final report to the TSSWCB at the culmination of the project. This report will be completed on CD as well as in the form of hard copies. The TSSWCB project manager will set the appropriate due dates for this task.

**Deliverables:**

- Quarterly Reports
- Copies agendas, attendance, handout information, and minutes from semi-annual meetings
- Final Report (hard copies and CD)

***TASK 2: Development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs***

Costs: \$279,446 (Federal), \$31,479 (Non-Federal Match), \$310,925 (Total). Task is 70% of total.

**Objective:** The objective of this task is to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the Gonzales SWCD through the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs.

**Subtask 2.1** The Technicians will notify producers in the Gonzales SWCD announcing a sign up period for technical and financial assistance available through the Gonzales SWCD. The assistance will be concentrated toward the development and maintenance of WQMPs and soils testing. This will be accomplished through the newspaper, letters to producers, etc. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date:

Month 3)

**Subtask 2.2** The Technicians, with assistance from the NRCS, Poultry integrators, the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office and others involved, will provide landowners with information on appropriate best management practices and will work with landowners in developing, implementing and maintaining WQMPs within the Gonzales SWCD. The TSSWCB with assistance from NRCS will provide the needed training for the two Technicians on the development of WQMPs. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 2.3** TSSWCB will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 32)

**Subtask 2.4** The Technicians with assistance from the Gonzales SWCD, and the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office, will create a map showing the location of all WQMPs implemented and developed within the Gonzales SWCD throughout the project. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 2.5** The Technicians will conduct annual Status Reviews on all WQMPs developed through the project. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Subtask 2.6** The Technicians will assist producers in the acquisition of current soils tests through utilization of project funding. This will be an important component to maintaining the WQMPs. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Deliverables:**

- Status Reviews
- Project announcement
- Map of project area and BMPs implemented
- Records of soils tests and summary of test results

**Task 3 Education and Technology Transfer**

Costs: \$22,209 (Federal), \$0 (Non-Federal Match), \$22,209 (Total). Task is 5% of total.

**Objective:** The objective of this task is to provide poultry producers in the Gonzales SWCD with proper information that is pertinent to poultry operation and compliance. This information will be disseminated through workshops and other events as needed.

**Subtask 3.1** The Technicians will be responsible for conducting a minimum of two workshops throughout the duration of the project. These workshops may include topics such as, proper soil sampling, litter sampling, and other issues on the horizon for the poultry industry. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

**Deliverables:**

- Agendas
- Presentation information
- Other associated information

**Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:**

Participating organizations and agencies along with their roles in this project include:

- **Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board-** Over all management of project activities. Responsible for technical review and certification of WQMPs. Work with and assist, as needed, local SWCDs and the Wharton regional office in the implementation, development, and maintenance of WQMPs. Also assist the district in inventorying current BMPs and land use practices and the implementation of WQMPs
- **Gonzales SWCD –** Responsible for the supervision of the two technicians. Responsible for developing, implementing, and/or, maintaining WQMPs within the Gonzales SWCD. Responsible for the tracking of soils tests funded through the project. Responsible for tracking the implementation of WQMPs. Responsible for project quarterly reports and Final Report.
- **USDA/NRCS-** Provide training to the technicians and assist in the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs as needed. NRCS will sign the WQMPs assuring that they meet the criteria established in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
- **TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office-** Assist the technicians in the development and certification of WQMPs.
- **Poultry Integrators, and Other Parties-** Will assist in the non-federal match portion, by providing assistance in the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance of WQMPs.

**Public Participation:**

This is an internal TSSWCB project with the Wharton Regional Office, NRCS, and the Gonzales SWCDs. This project will provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the Gonzales SWCD for the development, implementation, and/or, maintenance and maintenance of approximately 150 WQMPs.

**Measures of Success:**

- Implementation, development, and/or, maintenance of 150 WQMPs throughout the course of the project.
- Significant reduction in NPS pollution from WQMP implementation.
- Updating soil samples to aid in bringing producers into compliance.

**Reference to Project in the NPS Management Program:**

Category: Agriculture

**Project Manager:**

Name: Kevin Canfield  
Address: P.O. Box 658  
Temple, Texas 76503  
Phone #: (254) 773-2250  
Affiliation: Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board  
E-Mail: [kcanfield@tsswcb.state.tx.us](mailto:kcanfield@tsswcb.state.tx.us)