

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WORKPLAN

FOR THE FY99 CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 319(h) PROJECT

***WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Toledo Bend
Reservoir Watershed
(Panola District)***

TSSWCB Project # 01-11



NONPOINT SOURCE SUMMARY PAGE

FY01-11 319 (h)

- 1. Title of Project: WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed (Panola SWCD)**
- 2. Project Goals/Objectives:** (1) To provide technical assistance to landowners to aid in the development and implementation of WQMPs. (2) To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed between the TSSWCB, Panola SWCD, NRCS, and other interested parties. (3) To compile information on the location and types of BMPs for each WQMP implemented. (4) To coordinate with the TNRCC monitoring program
- 3. Project Tasks:** (1) Program coordination with project participants, (2) Development and implementation of WQMPs in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed, (3) Compilations of WQMPs Implemented in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed and (4) Mapping of WQMPs Implemented in Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed.
- 4. Measures of Success:** Implementation of 75 WQMPs throughout the project period;
Reduction in percentage of samples exceeding 303(d) list screening criteria (5.0 mg/L);
Removal from 303(d) list
- 5. Project Type:** Statewide (); Watershed (); Demonstration ()
- 6. Water body Type:** River (); Groundwater (); Reservoir (); Other ()
- 7. Project Location:** Segment #0504 (Toledo Bend Reservoir), Panola County, TX
- 8. NPS Management Program Reference:** State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program- approved February 15, 2000.
- 9. NPS Assessment Report Status:** Impaired (); Impacted (); Threatened (); Other ()
- 10. Key Project Activities:** Hire Staff (); Monitoring (); Regulatory Assistance (); Technical Assistance (); Education (); Implementation (); Demonstration (); Other ()
- 11. NPS Management Program Elements:** Milestones from the “1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program”, which will be implemented include: (1) providing financial assistance to Soil and Waters Conservation Districts for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans to reduce NPS pollution (2) Coordinating with Federal, State, and Local Programs (3) Committing to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.

12. Project Costs: Federal (\$507,085); Non-Federal Match (\$338,057); Total (\$845,142)

13. Project Management: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

14. Project Period: start date to 4/12/04



WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
FY01 CWA Section 319(h)

WORKPLAN

Start date- 4/12/04

Problem/Need Statement:

The basis for this project is to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution loadings into the Toledo Bend Reservoir from agricultural and silvicultural activities by offering producers an opportunity to comply with State water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program. Toledo Bend Reservoir (segment 0504) has been identified as a NPS pollution concern for low dissolved oxygen in the *2000 State of Texas 303(d) list*. This segment is on the TNRCC basin schedule for TMDL development in 2001. Therefore, this timely project will be incorporated into the overall Watershed Action Plan for the Basin.

The project will expand the efforts and activities of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Panola Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). As the lead agency for the state of Texas in abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution, the TSSWCB works closely with local SWCDs to reduce NPS pollution from various agricultural/silvicultural activities. The TSSWCB addresses the prevention and/or abatement of NPS pollution through Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) development and implementation. A WQMP is a site-specific plan, which includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, technologies and combinations thereof, and an implementation schedule. 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.

In Texas, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works cooperatively with local SWCDs in providing technical assistance on various soil and water conservation issues including NPS pollution abatement. The NRCS provides technical assistance for the development of WQMPs in many of the Texas SWCDs. However, the ability of the NRCS to provide technical assistance and other services to SWCDs has been restricted due to continued reductions in personnel and additional federal program mandates. The roles and responsibilities of the NRCS will be to provide training, as needed, to the technician. They will also assist the technician with mapping the general location of WQMPs, and will provide assistance to the Panola SWCD in the development and implementation of WQMPs. The NRCS will be reimbursed for their services, office space, and expenses related to providing an office for the technician.

General Project Description:

This proposed project will consist of TSSWCB working cooperatively with the Panola SWCD in the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed to provide technical/financial assistance to landowners. It is anticipated that roughly 100 producers in the Toledo Bend watershed

need cost share assisted WQMPs. Furthermore, an estimated 50 additional producers need WQMPs but do not require financial assistance. The use of 319(h) funds will greatly improve and enhance the abilities of local SWCDs in meeting these needs.

In this project, a technician hired by the Panola SWCD, will work with the Panola SWCD, the TSSWCB Mt. Pleasant Regional Office and NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to landowners for WQMP development and implementation. This technician will provide 100% effort in developing and implementing WQMPs within the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed. Technical assistance is best provided by local SWCDs because it allows for greater local support for the project.

The objective of WQMP implementation is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation with the local SWCD, to be consistent with State water quality laws. Highest priority is given to the implementation of the most cost effective and most needed pollution abatement practices. Local SWCDs determine which landowners receive technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs based on a three-tier system. The system consists of the following:

- 1st priority: Poultry Operations
- 2nd priority: Cattle Operations
- 3rd priority: Critical Eroding areas

The Panola SWCD will offer a sign up for implementation assistance. Landowners and operators must first sign a cooperative agreement with the local SWCD to obtain a WQMP. The SWCD will then review the request and assign a priority and number to each request based on the system above and based on land units that are in the greatest need of WQMP implementation. All unpermitted on an operating unit must be covered under the WQMP. 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:

- Develop Conservation Plan Maps showing boundaries, field, land use, acres and facilities
- Acquire soil maps with appropriate interpretations
- Prepare guidance for mortality disposal, waste utilization, and nutrient management
- Develop an implementation schedule
- Completing worksheets used during the planning phases (forage inventories, grazing plans, erosion worksheets, and field notes)

Once the technician completes the WQMP, it must be signed by the landowner, NRCS, and SWCD. Then, it will be sent by the SWCD to the TSSWCB regional office for technical review, and then on to the TSSWCB state office for certification. Upon TSSWCB certification of the WQMP, 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 has the authority to decertify the plan. The technician will complete status reviews on 100% of all WQMPs developed by the project for the duration of the project. After the project ends, the TSSWCB regional office will be responsible for conducting status reviews on 10% of all WQMPS implemented.

The Mt. Pleasant 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 Mt. Pleasant Regional office will provide part of the match needed for this project.

It is crucial to target funds within the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed because it is listed on the 303(d) list and will be targeted for TMDL development in 2001. However, the entire Panola SWCD area is a vital recharge zone for the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Producers in the Panola SWCD area who receive a water quality management plan will not only improve water quality in Toledo Bend Reservoir, they will improve groundwater quality.

The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) will monitor at nine sites on the Toledo Bend Reservoir. Monitoring plans will be determined annually and will consist of three sampling events per year.

Tasks, Objectives, Schedules, and Estimated Costs:

TASK 1: Program Coordination with Project Participants

Costs: \$73,511 (Federal), \$49,008 (Non-Federal Match), \$122,519 (Total).

Objective: To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed between the TSSWCB, Panola SWCD, NRCS, and other interested parties.

Subtask 1.1 The Panola SWCD will hire and supervise a technician, who will coordinate and carry out the project.

Subtask 1.2 The technician will complete and submit electronic quarterly/final reports to the TSSWCB project manager and all other project cooperators and participants.

Subtask 1.3 The technician will attend all Toledo Bend TMDL stakeholder meetings.

Subtask 1.4 The technician will meet semi-annually with local poultry integrator(s) to coordinate technical and financial assistance efforts.

Subtask 1.5 The TSSWCB Project Manager will meet semi-annually with the technician to evaluate and discuss project status, deliverables, and the final report.

Deliverables:

- Quarterly Reports
- Final report at culmination of project
- Copies of agendas, attendance, and minutes from all meetings

TASK 2: Development and Implementation of WQMPs

Costs: \$420537 (Federal), \$280,358 (Non-Federal Match), \$700,895 (Total).

Objective: To encourage agricultural/silvicultural landowners to comply with state water quality laws through a traditional voluntary-based incentive program, and assist producers with the development and implementation of WQMPs/ BMPs.

Subtask 2.1 The technician will provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for the development of **40 funded WQMPs**, and an additional 35 unfunded WQMPs within the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed..

Subtask 2.2 The technician will send out notifications announcing the availability of assistance for implementing WQMPs, and will rank the WQMP applications based on greatest need of BMP implementation.

Subtask 2.3 The technician will provide landowners with information on appropriate BMPs for their property.

Subtask 2.4 TSSWCB will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs.

Subtask 2.5 The technician will conduct status reviews on all WQMPs to ensure BMP implementation schedules are being followed.

Deliverables:

- 75 WQMPs developed and implemented within the watershed.
- Records of BMPs implemented to date by each producer
- Copies of status reviews

Task 3: Inventory of Land Use Practices and BMPs Implemented

Costs: \$13,037(Federal); \$8,691 (State); \$21,728 (Total)

Objective: To compile and document information on the amount and types of BMPs implemented through WQMPs, conservation plans, and all 1996 Farm Bill-related contracts (EQIP, WHIP, FIP, WRP, CRP, etc.)

Subtask 3.1 The technician and NRCS will compile information on the location, numbers, and types of BMPs implemented within the watershed annually.

Subtask 3.2 The technician will map the general location of WQMPs implemented through the project.

Deliverables:

- Annual reports on all BMPs implemented through WQMPS, conservation plans, and Farm bill-related programs (including EQIP, CRP, WHIP, FIP, WRP, etc.).
- Map of general location of WQMPS implemented through the project.

Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:

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

- **Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board**- Project Lead- Responsible for technical review and certification of WQMPS. Work with and assist as needed local SWCDs in the implementation and development of WQMPS. Also assist the district in inventorying current BMPs and land use practices and the implementation of WQMPS
- **Panola SWCD** Responsible for hiring and supervising technician. Responsible for developing and implementing WQMPS within the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed. Also responsible for inventorying current BMPs and land use practices on a subwatershed basis and for tracking the implementation of WQMPS within watershed.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**- Work with and assist as needed local SWCDs in the implementation and development of WQMPS. Training of the technician.

Public Participation:

This is an internal TSSWCB project with the Mt. Pleasant Regional Office, the Panola SWCD, and NRCS. This project will provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in the Toledo Bend Reservoir watershed for the development/implementation of WQMPS.

Measures of Success:

- Implementation of 75 WQMPS throughout the course of the project for the technician within the targeted watershed.
- Measured improvement in dissolved oxygen levels within Toledo Bend Reservoir based on TNRCC monitoring results.
- Increased awareness of agricultural/silvicultural NPS impacts on water quality thru BMP technology transfer.

Reference to Project in the NPS Management Program:

Category: Agriculture

Project Lead:

Name: Kenny Zajicek
 Address: P.O. Box 658
 Temple, Texas 76503
 Phone #: (254) 774-6042
 Affiliation: Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board



WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
FY01 CWA Section 319(h)

BUDGET

Start date-4/12/04

(see Excel spreadsheet file)