

SHELBY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT #449

*WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir
Watershed and Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed*

FINAL REPORT

Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) Non-Point Source Grant

TSSWCB Project # 99-9 and 03-5



USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Center, Texas

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Regional Office

Mt. Pleasant, Texas

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INTRODUCTION

Problem/Need Statement:

The basis for project 99-9 and project 03-5 was to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution loadings into the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and 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. Sam Rayburn Reservoir (segment 0610) and Toledo Bend Reservoir (segment 0504) were identified as a NPS pollution concern for low dissolved oxygen in the 2000 State of Texas 303(d) list. These segments were on the TCEQ basin schedule for TMDL development in 2001. Therefore, this timely project would be incorporated into the overall Watershed Action Plan for the Basin.

These projects would expand the efforts and activities of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). As the lead agency for the State of Texas in abating agricultural/silvicultural NPS pollution, the TSSWCB would work 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 were 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 had become compromised due to continued reductions in personnel and additional federal program mandates. The roles and responsibilities of the NRCS would be to provide training, as needed, to the technician. They would also assist the technician with mapping the general location of WQMPs, and would provide assistance to the Shelby SWCD in the development and implementation of WQMPs.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) developed a work plan for FY99 and FY03 Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) Non-Point Source Grant Project. These projects were for Water Quality Management Plan Development and Implementation Assistance in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir Watershed and Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed, Shelby District. The Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) worked cooperatively with the TSSWCB and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical and financial assistance for the implementation and maintenance of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP) with an emphasis on NPS pollution abatement.

A technician was initially hired to complete the task of developing WQMP's. The SWCD hired Sean Crouch from 8/01 to 1/03 followed by Janet Ritter from 1/03 to end of project. These technicians developed and implemented WQMP's with and without financial assistance, attended meetings, assisted NRCS, completed reports and status reviews. Interaction with poultry producers was done on a daily basis to assist them with financial assistance, plan development, compliance and management.

Monthly and quarterly reports were submitted to the TSSWCB Project Manager detailing the progress and budget of the project. Technical assistance was provided for the development of 98 New WQMP's, 85 Certified Revisions, 10 Transfers, 46 status reviews and ongoing maintenance of 292 currently active plans. These plans included guidance for mortality disposal, nutrient management, waste utilization and storage systems. Best Management Practices (BMP's) were also determined and implemented for each individual WQMP developed. These WQMP locations were indicated on a map of Shelby County with a supporting BMP list for each. Status Reviews were conducted to ensure the plans were being followed or updated with any new or deleted practices.

Cost share assistance was also offered to the producers with a WQMP. Highest priority was given to the implementation of the most cost effective and most needed pollution abatement practices. Local SWCDs determined which landowners would receive technical and financial assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs based on a three-tier system. The system consisted of the following:

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

The SWCD offered a sign up for the implementation assistance. Landowners and operators first signed a cooperative agreement with the local SWCD to obtain a WQMP. The SWCD then reviewed the request and assigned a priority to each request based on the system above and based on land units that were in the greatest need of WQMP implementation. All unregulated activities on an operating unit were required to be covered under the WQMP. Upon approval of the request by the SWCD, the technician would work with the landowners to develop the WQMP. WQMPs that were developed would be completed according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Some of the activities that the technician would work on included:

- 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
- Complete worksheets used during the planning phases (forage inventories, grazing plans, erosion worksheets, and field notes)

Once the technician completed the WQMP, it would be signed by the landowner, NRCS, and SWCD. Then, it would be sent by the SWCD to the TSSWCB Regional office in Mt Pleasant for technical review, and then on to the TSSWCB in Temple, TX for certification. Upon TSSWCB certification of the WQMP, the technician would work with the landowner in taking the appropriate steps needed to implement the WQMP. If the landowner would not implement the WQMP according to the conditions established in the plan, then the TSSWCB had/has the authority to decertify the plan. The technician would complete 100% status reviews on all WQMPs developed by the project for the duration of the project. After the project end, the TSSWCB Regional office will be responsible for conducting status reviews on 10% of all WQMPs implemented by the project.

The Mt. Pleasant Regional office provided technical review of developed WQMPs during this project to ensure that the WQMPs were consistent with TSSWCB specifications and procedures. The technical review of developed WQMPs by the Mt. Pleasant Regional office provided part of the match needed for this project.

It was crucial to target funds within the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds because of being listed on the 303(d) list and these watersheds were to be included in the TMDLs developed for the basin. The entire Shelby SWCD area falls within the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds. Therefore, WQMP financial assistance was offered throughout all areas of the district with first priority being given to those producers located within the subwatershed .

Designs were calculated and implemented for waste storage facilities, composters and incinerators. Freezers, pasture planting, erosion control and other items were also available for funding. The Shelby County SWCD oversaw the construction and/or installation of 40 Waste Storage Facilities, 37 incinerators, 8 freezers. Soil samples were also collected for the producer as needed. This was a very successful program for progressively developing plans while helping the producer financially.

In addition to individual assistance, two educational workshops were held for the poultry producers discussing the components of a WQMP and informing them of the latest rules and regulations. With increasing stipulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), new permitting requirements were introduced to the poultry community. This affected the plan requirements and compliance as well. The technicians attended informative meetings held by TSSWCB, TCEQ and EPA regarding these issues. This helped the technicians filter the information to provide better guidance to the local producers requiring permits. The Technicians also attended monthly SWCD Board of Directors meetings and NRCS staff meetings.

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY TASK

TASK 1: PROGRAM COORDINATION with PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Objective: To foster coordinated technical assistance activities in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds between the TSSWCB, Shelby SWCD, NRCS, and other interested groups.

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

The SWCD initially hired a technician in August 2001 followed by another for replacement in January 2003 until end of project.

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

Quarterly Reports were generated for MBE/WBE, BMP and practice inventories, Agendas and Minutes of SWCD Board of Director Meetings and other pertinent information. All Quarterly Reports have been completed and submitted to the TSSWCB Project Manager.

Subtask 1.3 The technician will participate in Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir TMDL stakeholder meetings.

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

The SWCD Technicians met with program participants and assisted customers on a daily basis. They also attended monthly SWCD Board Meetings and NRCS Staff Meetings. The Technicians conducted and/or participated in numerous meetings between the TSSWCB, NRCS, TCEQ, Texas Poultry Federation, Texas Cooperative

Extension, Pilgrim's Pride and Tyson Foods to discuss WQMP components and other poultry related issues.

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.

A Final Report was provided to the TSSWCB Project Manager in electronic format, CD and hard copy. Additional hard copies were provided to the SWCD Board of Directors and the NRCS District Conservationist.

TASK 2: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF WQMP'S

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 60 unfunded WQMPs within the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds.

102 plans were developed and or revised unfunded; of these plans many were developed due to cost-share assistance availability, however with the great success of EQIP during this period, many producers opted to cancel their cost-share with this project due to funding approval with NRCS. Even still the development of plans proved to be a great success. 93 funded plans were developed and or revised, utilizing all cost-share monies available.

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.

The Technician advertised available assistance through the Light & Champion newspaper, local radio station KQBB and producer contact through their integrators and direct mailings.

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

Needed BMPs were included in the WQMP, however additional optional BMPs were often noted and guidance given.

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

WQMPs were forwarded to Mt. Pleasant Regional Office for review and certification.

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

Fourty six Status reviews were completed

TASK 3 : INVENTORY OF LAND USE PRACTICES AND BMPs IMPLEMENTED

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 watersheds annually.

A database has been compiled with all BMPs and acres accordingly.

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

A map has been composed to indicate each farm.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR PROJECT TASKS

Page 18, Friday, June 15, 2001, THE LIGHT and CHAMPION

HIGHEST BIDDER NEED A HOME ?

Bids will be received on a two-story house **TO BE MOVED** or **TORN DOWN** at
306 South Main Street
Tenaha, Texas.

Sealed bids will be received until
5:00 p.m. on June 29, 2001

Burns Realty
116 George Bowers Drive
P.O. Box 348,
Tenaha, TX 75974
or First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 159
Tenaha, TX 75974

It will be sold to highest bidder.

Performance bond required.

For more info call:

(936)248-2316 or (936)248-2581
or E-mail fbtenaha@nacogtx.com

The Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District,

Located in Center, has an Employment opportunity for a temporary, full time Natural Resource Specialist position. The candidate will assist local soil and water district with the development & implementation of water quality management plans on agricultural lands in Shelby County. Candidate should have educational background or work experience in agronomy, agricultural waste management or closely related field. Qualified applicants should request an application & job description for employment from:

**Shelby Soil & Water
Conservation District**
C/O Ray Grant
158 Cass Caid Dr.
Center, TX 75935
936/598-5557 Ext.101

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO:

SIDNEY THOMPSON

GREETING: YOU ARE HEREBY

COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, Shelby County,

Texas at the Courthouse of said county in CENTER, TEXAS, at or before 10 o'clock a.m. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance of this citation, the same being the 23rd day of July, 2001 then and there to answer the petition of PHIL-LIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY. Plaintiff, filed in said Court on the 17th day of May, 2001 numbered 01CV-27025 on the docket of said Court, and entitled PHIL-LIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY VS. SIDNEY THOMPSON the nature of which suit is a request for: a receiver is appointed to take charge of the property and to execute and deliver a mineral lease on Defendant's interest so that the miner-

als can be developed and produced as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's petition on file in this suit. The name and address of the attorney for petitioner, or the address of petitioner is: **MARI C. HALEY, 3905 SAM BASS RD., ROUND ROCK, TX 78681.** ISSUED this the 7th day of June, A.D., 2001. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two days from the date of issuance of this citation, a default judgment may be taken against you, GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT, at office in Center, Texas, this 7th day of June, A.D., 2001.

MARSHA SINGLETARY CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT P.O. DRAWER 1953 CENTER, TEXAS 75935 BY: Shiloh Denney, Deputy

CEASED; AND JOHN HENRY WHITE, JR., OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN HENRY WHITE JR., DECEASED Defendants in the cause described in this citation. You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Petitioner's Petition at or before the

CEASED; JOSEPH WHITE, DECEASED; LONNIE WHITE OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LONNIE WHITE, DECEASED; DORA LEE WHITE, OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF DORA LEE WHITE, DECEASED; SAMMIE MAE WHITE, OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SAMMIE MAE WHITE, DECEASED; ORA LEE WHITE, OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ORA LEE WHITE, DECEASED; AND JOHN HENRY WHITE, JR., OR THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF JOHN HENRY WHITE JR., DECEASED

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*MAILED TO PRODUCERS
WITH WQMP*

Shelby Soil and Water
Conservation District
158 Cass Caid
Center, TX 75935
936-598-5557 ext.103
936-598-8957 Fax #

January 15, 2002

Dear Poultry Producer,

This letter is to inform you that you are agriculture producers in the watershed of Toledo Bend Reservoir. Each poultry producer has an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program beginning Fall 2001. The Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District will be offering technical and financial assistance for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP). A WQMP is a site-specific plan to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution into the Toledo Bend reservoirs from runoff due to agricultural activities in the area through land treatment practices, production practices and technologies. Toledo Bend reservoir was listed on the 2000 State of Texas 303(d) list as NPS pollution concerns for low dissolved oxygen concentration. With this assistance, the local producers should be able to implement the WQMP to help raise dissolved oxygen concentrations in the watershed while coming into compliance with the new requirements for poultry producers. Farms along critical regions that adjoin the reservoirs get first priority on cost-share practices such as incinerators, composter, litter storage barn, and grass planting. Poultry producers in the critical area will have sixty days to apply before it will be available countywide. For more information about available assistance in your area, contact Sean Crouch or Ray Grant at (936) 598-5557 extension 3.

Thank You,

SEAN CROUCH

Sean C. Crouch
Shelby SWCD
District Planner

Shelby Soil and Water
Conservation District
158 Cass Caid
Center, TX 75935
936-598-5557 ext.103
936-598-8957 Fax #

February 12, 2002

Dear Poultry Producer,

This letter is to inform you that you are agriculture producers in the watershed of Toledo Bend Reservoir. Each poultry producer has an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program beginning Fall 2001. The Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District will be offering technical and financial assistance for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP). A WQMP is a site-specific plan to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution into the Toledo Bend reservoirs from runoff due to agricultural activities in the area through land treatment practices, production practices and technologies. Toledo Bend reservoir was listed on the 2000 State of Texas 303(d) list as NPS pollution concerns for low dissolved oxygen concentration. With this assistance, the local producers should be able to implement the WQMP to help raise dissolved oxygen concentrations in the watershed while coming into compliance with the new requirements for poultry producers. Farms along critical regions that adjoin the reservoirs get first priority on cost-share practices such as incinerators, composter, litter storage barn, and grass planting. Poultry producers in the critical area will have 30 days to apply before it will be available countywide. For more information about available assistance in your area, contact Sean Crouch or Ray Grant at (936) 598-5557 extension 3.

Thank You,



Sean C. Crouch
Shelby SWCD
District Planner

Shelby Soil and Water
Conservation District
158 Cass Caid
Center, TX 75935
936-598-5557 ext.103
936-598-8957 Fax #

MAILED TO
PRODUCERS ON
3/18/02

March 18, 2002

Second Notice

Dear Poultry Producer,

This letter is to inform you that you are agriculture producers in the watershed of Toledo Bend Reservoir. Each poultry producer has an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program beginning Fall 2001. The Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District will be offering technical and financial assistance for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP). A WQMP is a site-specific plan to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution into the Toledo Bend reservoirs from runoff due to agricultural activities in the area through land treatment practices, production practices and technologies. Toledo Bend reservoir was listed on the 2000 State of Texas 303(d) list as NPS pollution concerns for low dissolved oxygen concentration. With this assistance, the local producers should be able to implement the WQMP to help raise dissolved oxygen concentrations in the watershed while coming into compliance with the new requirements for poultry producers. Farms along critical regions that adjoin the reservoirs get first priority on cost-share practices such as incinerators, composter, litter storage barn, and grass planting. Poultry producers in the critical area will have less than 30 days to apply before it will be available countywide. For more information about available assistance in your area, contact Sean Crouch or Ray Grant at (936) 598-5557 extension 3.

Thank You,

SEAN CROUCH

Shelby Soil and Water
Conservation District
158 Cass Caide
Center, TX 75935
936-598-5557 ext.103
936-598-8957 Fax #

April 03, 2002

Dear Poultry Producer,

This letter is to inform you that you are agriculture producer in the watershed of Toledo Bend Reservoir and Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Each poultry producer has an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program beginning Fall 2001. The Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District will be offering technical and financial assistance for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP). A WQMP is a site-specific plan to reduce non-point source (NPS) pollution into the Toledo Bend reservoirs from runoff due to agricultural activities in the area through land treatment practices, production practices and technologies. Toledo Bend reservoir was listed on the 2000 State of Texas 303(d) list as NPS pollution concerns for low dissolved oxygen concentration. With this assistance, the local producers should be able to implement the WQMP to help raise dissolved oxygen concentrations in the watershed while coming into compliance with the new requirements for poultry producers. Cost-share practices such as incinerators, composter, litter storage barn, freezers, and grass planting can be applied for. Poultry producers in the critical area will have sixty days to apply before it will be available countywide. For more information about available assistance in your area, contact Sean Crouch at (936)598-5557 ext. #103.



Sean C. Crouch
Shelby SWCD
District Planner

Poultry Educational Outreach
Poultry and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations
Provided by Texas Cooperative Extension
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dear Producer : This is a schedule of meetings that are intended for poultry growers that are now considered by TCEQ to be Large Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO), now required to obtain a permit for operation from TCEQ. If you are not currently considered a Large CAFO, but are considering expanding your operation and would fall into this category as a result, this meeting is for you as well.

WHAT defines a Large CAFO ? – 125,000 chickens (or 82,000 layers) for 45 days out of a year (not per flock). – SEE ATTACHED BROCHURE FROM TTTSWCB

Date	Time	Location
November 17	10 to 3	Mt. Pleasant, Civic Center
November 18	10 to 3	Shelby County, JOI Ranch
December 2	10 to 3	Gonzales, American Legion
December 7	10 to 3	Franklin, Community Center
December 16	10 to 3	Nacogdoches, Fredonia Hotel Convention Center

Time	Presenter	Topic
10:00-11:15	Darrell Williams and Ed Whitmore	TCEQ Rules and Regulations for Poultry
11:15-11:30	Mark Cochran and John O'Connor	TSSWCB Water Quality Management Plans
11:30-12:00		Question and Answer Period
12:00-12:30		Lunch
12:30-1:15	Rick Leopold	NRCS Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management Plans
1:15-1:45	John Carey	TCE Poultry Litter Sampling
1:45-2:15	Saqib Mukhtar	TCE Odor Control and Mortality Management
2:15-2:45	Sam Feagley	TCE Soil Sampling and Analyses
2:45-3:00		Question and Answer Period

For further information contact your local County Extension Agent at 936-598-7744 or your local SSWCD at 936-598-5557 x3

MAP ON REVERSE of this page for JOI RANCH

Shelby Soil & Water Conservation District
Cost-Share Priority Levels

-High-

Inside Watershed Priority Area

No Method of Dead Bird Disposal (In or Out of Priority Area)

-Medium-

Waste Storage Facilities

Grass Planting (Less Than 50% Ground Cover)

-Low-

Producer that has one Method of Disposal but Request Another

Producer that has Received Cost-Share in the Past

Cross Fences (Subject to Water)