



Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Protecting and Enhancing Texas' Natural Resources for Tomorrow

Our Mission

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) works in conjunction with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources. It is our goal to ensure the availability of those resources for future generations, so that all Texans' present and future needs can be met in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment and strong economic growth.

Who We Are

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1939, the TSSWCB is governed by seven board members, all of which are actively involved in agriculture or silviculture. Five of the board members are voted in by a delegation of their local peers, and two board members are appointed by the Governor of Texas. Our staff is comprised of a strongly committed group of natural resource professionals who are eager to assist the conservation needs of Texas' farmers, ranchers, and private land owners with voluntary conservation programs.



What We Do

TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing coordinated natural resource conservation programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. TSSWCB also works to ensure that the State's network of over 2,000 flood control dams are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repair grants to local government sponsors.

How We Do It

TSSWCB successfully delivers technical and financial assistance to private land owners of Texas through Texas' 216 local SWCD Districts which are led by 1,080 locally elected district directors who are active in agriculture. This efficient locally led conservation delivery system ensures that those most affected by conservation programs are able to make decisions on how and what programs will be implemented on their private lands.

Why We Do It

As the population of the state continues to increase, maintaining the productivity of our soil and water resources becomes more and more vital in meeting the food, fiber and resource needs for all Texans. TSSWCB is committed to working with farmers, ranchers, and private landowners to conserve and protect natural resources of Texas.





Water Quality Management Plan Program

Farmers, ranchers, and silviculturalists receive technical and financial assistance to voluntarily conserve and protect natural resources. Participants receive assistance with conservation practices that address water quality and soil erosion while promoting the productivity of agricultural lands. Since the program was created in the 1990s, TSSWCB has certified over 14,000 Water Quality Management Plans across Texas.

Nonpoint Source Management Program

The Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing nonpoint source pollution. TSSWCB implements the program through voluntary, financial, and technical assistance for watershed assessment, planning, implementation, and education.

Flood Control Program

TSSWCB works to ensure that the State's network of over 2,000 flood control structures are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repair grants to local government sponsors.

Water Supply Enhancement Program

The Water Supply Enhancement Program increases available surface and ground water through the targeted control of brush species that are detrimental to water conservation (e.g., juniper, mesquite, saltcedar).

Carrizo Cane Eradication Program

In order to help meet the Governor's border security priorities, the 84th Texas Legislature directed the TSSWCB, through Senate Bill 1734, to develop and implement a program to eradicate carrizo cane along the Rio Grande.

Conservation Initiatives

In an effort to preserve farm and grazing lands necessary to prevent the destruction of food and cover for wildlife, TSSWCB is active in many other conservation initiatives, including enhancing and restoring habitat for species such as the Monarch Butterfly, Lesser Prairie Chicken, and migratory birds.

For More Information

Visit the TSSWCB website at www.tsswcb.texas.gov or call (254) 773-2250.

Board Members

Scott Buckles, *Area I*

Marty H. Graham, *Area II*

José Dodier Jr., *Area III*

David Basinger, *Area IV*

Barry Mahler, *Area V*

Tina Y. Buford, *Governor Appointee*

Carl Ray Polk, *Governor Appointee*

Executive Director

Rex Isom

Check Out Our Agency Overview Video

