

Implementation of Water Quality Management Plans in Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watersheds of Nolan County Texas

**A Joint Collaboration of Many Contributing Partners
Including:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District
USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service
City of Sweetwater
Nolan County Commissioner's Court
Nolan County Extension Program Council
Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation
Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce

July 14, 2003

Table of Contents

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Problem/Needs Statement	3
2. Project Management Team, Main Objective and Principle Tasks	6
3. Executive Summary	8
4. Project Introduction	10
5. Project Description	12
6. Work Plan Objectives and Tasks	16
7. Appendices	
A. Project Summary, Work Plan, and Measures of Success	29
B. Site Maps and photos	37
C. Enclosures	
1. SWAT Model	
2. Announcement Letter sent of targeted landowners	
3. Supporting Enclosures #3-#84	

Problem/Needs Statement

Problem/Needs Statement

Over 30,000 people are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable water.

These two water storage reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation that serves rural customers in Nolan and Fisher County. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

Both reservoirs draw people from a 100-mile radius to enjoy fishing, boating, camping, swimming, and hunting on a regular basis, which aids the local economy. Oak Creek Reservoir draws from a much larger area as it is a major water body in the area of the state.

A long term concern is sedimentation as reported on page 21 of the 1990 Update to the Non-point Source Water Pollution Report for the State of Texas, that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

The Regional Water Supply Plan prepared for the West Central Texas Municipal Water District in 1991 shows that the available water storage in Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell will be reduced by 314 acre feet (102,050,000 gallons) from 1990 to 2020 due to sedimentation. This equates a 12% reduction in available storage. Conversely, demand for potable water will increase 22% above 1990 needs by 2020 (an increase of 1,276 acre feet annually).

Rainfall simulation tests were conducted by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service staff on typical rangeland sites in 1989 in each watershed. Based on the test results, a majority of the agricultural land within the watersheds is eroding at rates up to 8 times higher than the standard established as acceptable by the USDA.

This agriculturally induced sediment loading of surface runoff has the potential to transport nutrient pesticide, organic and bacterial pollutants attached to soil particles or suspended in the runoff water.

The total area within the two watersheds is 187,712 acres. Fifty percent (94,000 acres of the watershed area) is classified as either Highly Erodible or Potentially Highly Erodible Soils by the USDA. About 19,000 acres is used as cropland; 10,000 acres is pastureland/hayland; and 159,000 acres in the watershed area is rangeland. There is no forest or urban land in the watershed area. Of the 159,000 acres of rangeland, 82% (131,000 acres) has an excessive amount of brush that not only reduces grass cover and increases surface runoff, but also inefficiently uses water.

A local work group meeting was convened by the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District on November 6, 1996, in Sweetwater, Texas to review conservation concerns and possible solutions. At this public meeting, Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) was ranked as the third greatest conservation problem on dry cropland – ranking third behind water and wind erosion. NPS erosion on rangeland ranked fourth behind invading brush, improper grazing management, and water erosion.

Each of the conservation problems ranked higher than NPS is a main cause of the NPS problem. NPS can be reduced only by treating its main causes.

At this meeting, solutions selected to address Non-Point Source Pollution included educating the agricultural producers about the value of Best Management Practices (BMP's), providing adequate technical assistance to design and implement these practices, providing financial assistance to install the practices, and the value of maintaining the practices over an extended time period.

Based on the identified significant sedimentation problems in this watershed, there is a significant need to: actively involve the agricultural producers in developing and implementing solutions to the sedimentation problem; educate the agricultural producers about the economic and environmental benefits they will achieve from implementing and maintaining Best Management Practices (BMP's) that are tailored to reduce the sediment loads in the watershed; and provide technical and financial assistance to the producers to help them implement the necessary BMP's that will reduce the sediment loads significantly. This project is designed to achieve these needs and when funded will result in significant environmental benefits.

Project Management Team, Main Objective and Principle Tasks

Project Management Team

The project management team for this project consisted of the Big Country RC&D Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, Sweetwater NRCS Field Office Staff of District Conservationist and Soil Conservationist, Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District Directors and Technician, and the Texas Agriculture Extension Agent. Assistance with development of the SWAT Model was provided by the Blacklands Research Center in Temple, Texas. Oversight and guidance was provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board offices in Hale Center and Temple, Texas.

Major Project Objectives

1. To insure coordination among agencies performing duties under this grant and inform eligible participants concerning the project.
2. To prepare WQMP's developed on a whole farm/ranch unit basis that include all BMP's needed to conform to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.
3. Reduce in-stream sediment loading by implementing WQMP's.
4. To determine the effectiveness of BMP's installed in reducing NPS pollution loading on a site specific basis.
5. To deliver the results of this project to an audience capable of implementing BMP,s on their operations.

Principle Project Tasks

- Task 1 - Program Coordination with Project Participants
- Task 2 - Development of whole farm/ranch WQMP's
- Task 3 - BMP Implementation
- Task 4 - Evaluation
- Task 5 - Technology Transfer

Executive Summary

Implementation of Best Management Practices for Improved Water Quality in the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watersheds

(FY 98-3A EPA CWA 319 Cooperative Agreement No. C9-996236-05-3)

Executive Summary

Between May 1998 and April 2003 approximately **\$294,204.99** in non-federal matching funds from Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. and private sources were leveraged to obtain and utilize **\$445,702.97** from EPA 319(h) funds to implement nineteen Water Quality Management Plans in the Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell Watersheds. Of this amount, **\$360,535.16** was paid directly to landowners to implement their WQMP's. These plans served as models demonstrating the utilization of Best Management Practices to achieve numerous environmental benefits, primarily a large reduction in sediment loading of the water bodies. Accomplishments included the following:

- Planned and installed nineteen Water Quality Management Plans in the targeted watersheds.
- Conducted public meetings, tours, field days and published numerous news articles in local and regional newspapers, newsletters and Annual Reports designed to educate agricultural producers, professionals as well as media sources about the benefits of BMP implementation.
- Installed the following Best Management Practices reducing sediment loading by 90% within the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watersheds (based on TX-TDV-1 before and after water erosion calculations):

Brush Management--- <u>6,959.1</u> acres	Pest Management--- <u>41,984</u> acres
Range Planting----- <u>2,976.6</u> acres	Prescribed Grazing--- <u>42,065</u> acres
Terrace construction- <u>11,069</u> feet	Trough Construction- <u>25</u> no.
Well Installation ----- <u>8</u> no.	Pipeline Installation - <u>10,022</u> feet
Diversion Construction - <u>171</u> feet	Fence Construction-- <u>38,623</u> feet
Wldlf Upld H.Mgmt <u>42,153</u> acres	Conservation Cover--- <u>1,570</u> acres
Conserv.Crop Rotat.-- <u>680</u> acres	Nutrient Management- <u>1,204</u> acres
Residue Management- <u>681</u> acres	Terrace Maintenance-- <u>70,200</u> feet

Hours spent by discipline:

	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Actual</u>
RC&D Coordinator (NRCS)	340	431 hours
District Conservationist (NRCS)	850	884 hours
Soil Conservationist (NRCS)	870	1297 hours
Administrative Assistant (Big Country RC&D)	1500*	742 hours
Mileage associated with project claimed	18,000*	14,335 miles

* These reductions allowed \$6000 to be transferred to implementation funds.

Project Introduction

Implementation of Water Quality Management Plans in the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watersheds of Nolan County Texas

A Local Work Group Meeting was convened by the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District on November 6, 1996, in Sweetwater, Texas to review conservation concerns and possible solutions. At this public meeting, Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) was ranked as the third greatest conservation problem on dry cropland – ranking third behind water and wind erosion. NPS rangeland - ranking fourth behind invading brush, improper grazing management, and water erosion.

Each of the conservation problems ranked higher than NPS is a main cause of the NPS problem. NPS can be reduced only by treating its main causes.

At this meeting, solutions selected to address Non-Point Source Pollution included educating the agricultural producers about the value of Best Management Practices (BMP's), providing adequate technical assistance to design and implement these practices, providing financial assistance to install the practices, and the value of maintaining the practices over an extended time period.

Based on the identified significant sedimentation problems in these watersheds, there was a significant need to: actively involve the agricultural producers in developing and implementing solutions to the sedimentation problem; educate the agricultural producers about the economic and environmental benefits they will achieve from implementing and maintaining Best Management Practices (BMP's) that are tailored to reduce the sediment loads in the watershed; and provide technical and financial assistance to the producers to help them implement the necessary BMP's that will reduce the sediment loads significantly. This project has achieved these results and has resulted in significant environmental benefits.

This five year project has targeted producers within the watershed that have had the greatest impact on the health of the watershed. Innovative technology utilizing the Non-Point Source Pollution computer model Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) with its Geographic Information System (GIS) interface have been utilized effectively to focus BMP implementation to areas having the largest influence on water quality in the watersheds. This project has emphasized pollution prevention as opposed to remediation.

Participating producers have developed whole farm/ranch State Board Certified Water Quality Management Plans in exchange for financial assistance. Covering the entire farm or ranch operating units has been a vast improvement over previous cost-share programs that pertain only to the targeted fields or pastures. Producers have planned, installed, maintained and managed numerous conservation practices on their management unit as a whole, thereby making a significant reduction in sediment loads.

Project Description

General Project Description

The Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watersheds are contained primarily in Nolan County, Texas with some minor overlap into Coke County, Texas. However, the request for a project was only for that portion within Nolan County and Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) boundaries.

A land ownership map and mailing list was developed for the area.

Natural Resources

1. Site map is attached (SWAT Model)
2. Annual average precipitation 22.19 inches
3. Soils – Ector, Potter, Veal, Mereta
4. Geology – Gypsum Plains, Callahan Divide

Demographics

Statistics concerning the entire watershed area are:

1. Total Acres: 187,712 acres (Lake Trammell 35,970; Oak Creek 151,742)
2. Total number of farms and ranches: 200
3. Total number of farms and ranches contributing to the problem: 180
4. Water Body:
 - a. Oak Creek Reservoir
 - b. Lake Trammell
5. USGS Hydrologic Units
 - a. Oak Creek Watershed – 12080008-80
 - b. Lake Trammell – 12060102-010
6. Approximate number of limited resource farmers: 15
7. Approximate number of minority resource farmers: 5
8. Type of Farms:
 - a. Small Grain – 50 farms – average 320 acres
 - b. Beef Cattle – 120 farms – average 1,200 acres
 - c. Wool and Lamb – 30 farms – average 1,000 acres

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was developed by the Blacklands Research Center in Temple, Texas to target the agricultural units contributing the greatest amount to sediment loads.

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Sweetwater Field Office staff and Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Directors and staff will make personal contacts with the owners of the targeted units.

A public meeting to explain the program was held in the project area coordinated by the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. and conducted by the Nolan County SWCD, NRCS Staff, and Nolan County Agriculture Extension Agent. Special emphasis was made to invite owners of targeted units.

Practices included in the Water Quality Management Plans were based on the 503 approved practice list. Payments for all BMP's were based on seventy-five percent (75%) of the actual cost figures. Actual cost figures were based on average costs developed by the NRCS for use in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and by the state and local offices of the USDA Farm Services Agency for use in their traditional cost-share program for Nolan County.

All practices currently included in the 503 approved practice list were eligible for inclusion into a Water Quality Management Plan. These approved practices may be expanded if relevant to the success of the project and approved by a majority of the State Board.

A unique feature of this program was the active involvement of the landowner in developing a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) that is specific to their individual operation. This involvement was essential to the success of this voluntary approach to addressing prevention of agriculturally generated Non-Point Source Pollution.

The landowner developed the WQMP jointly with the NRCS and SWCD staff that met both his needs and the requirements set forth in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. The landowner was actively involved in implementing the WQMP through cash match, in-kind services, and sweat equity to ensure successful implementation.

RC&D, Nolan County SWCD and NRCS offered a sign up for the implementation assistance. Upon compiling the list of interested producers, they were ranked based on location within the priority watershed area with the greatest need of WQMP implementation. Each site specific whole farm/ranch WQMP was reviewed and approved by the Nolan County SWCD Board of Directors. Upon approval of the request by the SWCD, the SWCD technician, RC&D project personnel, NRCS personnel began working with the landowner to develop the WQMP. The BMP's included in the WQMP were installed according to the standards and specifications of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Upon completion of the WQMP by the RC&D, NRCS and SWCD personnel, and approved by the SWCD each plan was sent to the TSSWCB Regional Office in Hale Center, Texas for technical review and then forwarded on to the TSSWCB State Office in Temple for certification. After certification of the WQMP by the State Board, the project personnel began working with the landowner to take the appropriate steps needed to implement the WQMP. If a landowner had not implemented the WQMP according to the conditions established in the plan; then the plan would have been decertified by the TSSWCB. While the actual funding portion of the project was to be completed in 3 years, the landowners receiving financial assistance agreed to maintain the BMP's installed for the average life expectancy of the practice as established by the

USDA Farm Services Agency. Annual Status Reviews were conducted by NRCS, Nolan Co. RC&D Director and SWCD personnel and filed in the landowner's WQMP.

Producers were reimbursed according to accepted State Board costs list within the constraints of estimated costs to actual costs. Example, if a practice was estimated at \$40, but the actual cost is \$38, then the producer was reimbursed at 75% of the actual cost (\$38). The project funds were obligated to landowners within the targeted watershed boundaries within Nolan County SWCD. If 51% of a landowner's property was located within the targeted watershed boundaries his entire farm/ranch was declared eligible to be included in the WQMP.

During the life of the project, if a circumstance arises of "No Fault of Producer" then the producer will be eligible for re-funding if funds were available. In the case of a producer dying within the contract period, his heirs would have been obligated to complete the requirements of the contract or reimburse the State Board for benefits received.

The implemented BMP's were evaluated by the SWAT model and the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) to show before and after treatment effects on reducing erosion. Use of the USLE formula resulted in substantial cost savings as opposed to a monitoring effort and provided sufficient information to demonstrate the positive aspects of implementing whole farm/ranch WQMP's.

A DQO/QAPP was not required for this project as no data collection occurred.

Field Days were conducted in the second and third year of the project on participating landowner's properties for the purpose of educating all landowners in the project area of the benefits to the operations and in reducing Non-Point Source Pollution by the implementation of BMP's. These Field Days were conducted by NRCS Field Office staff; the County Agricultural Extension Agent; Directors and staff of the local SWCD. Big Country RC&D coordinated the activities.

The Big Country RC&D Area Staff prepared materials suitable for incorporation into the Nolan County SWCD Annual Report, Big Country RC&D Annual Report, news articles, and radio programs.

The Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. coordinated and was responsible for the overall activities of the project. The Nolan County SWCD coordinated and assisted the RC&D in the effort. Duties performed included, but were not limited to, education/information activities, conducting landowner/operator sign-up, and submitting annual status reviews, and quarterly reports to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Processing of payment applications will be handled by the TSSWCB.

Funding for USDA, NRCS personnel was justified as this project entailed work not normally carried out and supported accelerated work on agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution concerns.

WORK PLAN OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project

TASK 1 – Program Coordination with Project Participants

Subtask 1.1 Complete SWAT model for project

- Computer-based mapping information of the soils and land use have been secured.
- Preliminary work to set up the Model has started.
- Blackland Research Center has scheduled to begin development of the model the latter part of July 1998. QR#1 7/7/98 5% Complete
- Computer-based mapping information of the soils and land use have been secured.
- Preliminary work to set up the Model has been completed.
- Blackland Research Center has 90% of the Lake Trammell Watershed complete and 20% of the Oak Creek Watershed complete. Scheduled for completion November 1, 1998. QR#2 10/9/98 40% Complete
- Completed SWAT Model –received 11/16/98.
- Print 50 copies of completed report. Published by a WBE.
- Copy enclosed (copy #1). QR#3 1/11/99

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 1.2 Conduct initial meeting of agencies involved.

- Met with involved agencies at Nolan County SWCD 12/9/97.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 1.3 Contact landowners targeted by use of SWAT model

- Individualized letters sent to 147 landowners/operators in the Project Area 11/18/98. (Copy enclosed #2).
- Feature news article on public meeting published 11/22/98 in Sweetwater Reporter (original enclosed #3).
- News article on public meeting published 11/24/98 in Abilene Reporter News (original enclosed #4).
- Public meeting announcement published 11/25/98, 11/27/98, and 11/29/98 in Sweetwater Reporter (originals enclosed #5).
- Public meeting announcement published 11/27/98 in Roscoe Times (original enclosed #6).
- Public meeting announcement broadcast on KXOX Radio – Sweetwater on 11/24/98, 11/25/98, 11/26/98, 11/27/98, 11/28/98, 11/29/98, and 11/30/98. (#7)
- Personal contacts made by NRCS staff with producers located in sub-basins identified in the SWAT Model as contributing the greatest amount of sediment and associated pollutants.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 1.4 Conduct public meeting to explain program to eligible landowners

- Public Meeting scheduled for October 5, 1998.
- Public meeting conducted 11/30/98 at the Maryneal Community Center located within the Project Area (Copy of sign-in sheet enclosed #8).
- Copies of Agenda and materials provided to those attending the Public Meeting enclosed. (#9)
- Article published 12/3/98 in the Sweetwater Reporter on the public meeting (original enclosed #10).
- Article published December 1998 in the Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter on the public meeting (original enclosed #11).

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 1.5 Conduct interim meetings of involved and interested parties as needed

- Met with Kathy Miller, NRCS, Cooperative Agreement between NRCS and the RC&D Area for contractual work completed.
- Met with Hester, Stephens, and Been on progress of project.
- Review Progress Report at Quarterly Meeting of the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors.
- Met with Nolan County SWCD, Sweetwater NRCS Staff, TSSWCB staff (Hester and Stephens), and RC&D Board (Becker) for review and signing of contract.
- Met with Sweetwater City Council to announce funding of Project.
- Provide information to Baird and Bednarz (NRCS) for development of SWAT model.
- Review Work Plan at Quarterly Meeting of the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors.
- Conducted tour of Project Area for TSSWCB staff (Rogers and Baker) with Been (NRCS).
- Met with TSSWCB staff (Rogers and Baker), NRCS staff (Been and Watson), and SWCD employee (Stovall) to review development of WQMP's.
- Met with Nolan County Commissioner's Court to announce funding of Project.
- Presentation of Project 10/5/98 given during the Nolan County SWCD 1998 Conservation Tour to 80 people. Location of tour in the Project Area (Agenda enclosed #12).
- Met with Dan Blackstock (TSSWCB) to review Project progress 10/13/98.
- Met with Glen Baker (TSSWCB) to review Project progress 10/15/98.
- Met with Nolan County Extension Program Council and Nolan County Commissioners 11/26/98 to present Project progress report (Agenda attached #13)
- Progress report on Project presented by Terry Been (NRCS) at the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting 12/2/98 (Minutes enclosed #14).
- Met with Nolan County SWCD Directors to review sign-up progress and set date to rank applications 12/8/98 (Agenda enclosed #15).

- Progress report on Project given at the West Central Texas Council of Governments Solid Waste Task Force meeting during Regional Activities Update 12/10/98 (Agenda enclosed #16). Twenty-three present.
- Met with Charlie Rogers, Dan Blackstock, Terry Been, Joe Bob Watson, and Dixie Stovall to review WQMP preparations on 2/2/99 in Sweetwater.
- Assist Nolan County SWCD with project signs to be located in watershed.
- Met with Justin Hester, Kevin Canfield, and Terry Been. Conducted tour of project area and reviewed status of WQMP development on 2/17/99.
- Review progress in developing WQMP's with Charlie Rogers on 4/6/99 in Lubbock.
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Four 4/12/99.
- Met with Lee Munz, Kevin Canfield, and Terry Been. Conducted tour of project and implementation of BMP's on 5/27/99.
- Presentation to the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce State and Federal Committee on project on 6/8/99.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 6/15/99 (minutes enclosed #17).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Five 7/1/99.
- Review matching fund requirement with Kenny Zajicek on 7/19/99.
- Met with Nolan County SWCD on 8/10/99 to review status of Project.
- Met with Lee Munz, Kevin Canfield, and Charlie Rogers at Lubbock during South Plains Association of SWCD's to review WQMP development progress.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 9/14/99 (minutes enclosed #18).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Six 10/5/99.
- Met with Dan Blackstock and Glenn Baker at Lubbock during Farmer Stockman Show to review WQMP development progress.
- Amendment Number 1 signed and returned to TSSWCB on 10/28/99.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 11/30/99 (Minutes enclosed #19).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Seven 1/5/00.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 3/7/00 (Minutes enclosed #20).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Eight 4/7/00.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 6/5/00 (Minutes enclosed #21).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Nine 7/5/00.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 9/12/00 (Minutes enclosed #22).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Ten 10/5/2000.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 12/5/00 (Minutes enclosed #23).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Eleven 1/9/2001.

- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 3/6/01 (Minutes enclosed #24). Project highlighted at Big Country RC&D Sponsor's Conference with 74 present (Minutes enclosed #25).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Twelve 4/4/2001.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 6/5/01 (Minutes enclosed #26).
- On site review of BMP's installed on WQMP's in the Project Area with Kevin Canfield (TSSWCB) and Ken Cash (NRCS).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Thirteen 7/6/2001.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 9/12/01 (Minutes Enclosed #27).
- Nolan County SWCD and Big Country RC&D Area each submitted a request to extend Project one year through 4/30/03. Requests were made due to the extended drought hampering the implementation of practices, such as range planting.
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Fourteen 10/3/2001.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 12/4/01 (minutes enclosed #28).
- Prepare a project map showing the location of each WQMP. Prepare and submit information pertaining to the status of activities planned and completed for each WQMP. Information submitted to TSSWCB on 10/4/01.
- Attend December Meeting of the Nolan County SWCD to review status of project.
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Fifteen 1/8/2002.
- Attend January Meeting of Nolan County SWCD to review status of project.
- Conduct tour of project area for EPA and TSSWCB personnel in conjunction with Nolan County SWCD on 2/27/02.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 3/12/02 (Minutes Enclosed #29).
- Project highlighted at Big Country RC&D Annual Sponsor's Conference held 3/13/02 with 87 present (Minutes Enclosed #30).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Sixteen 4/3/2002.
- Submit letter to TSSWCB requesting that \$6,000.00 be transferred from RC&D Assistance to Construction 5/24/02.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 6/04/02 (Minutes enclosed #31).
- Attend June Meeting of Nolan County SWCD to review status of Project 6/11/02.
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Seventeen 7/3/2002.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 9/10/02 (Minutes enclosed #32).
- Prepare and submit Quarterly Report Number Eighteen 10/7/2002.
- Audit conducted by Kenny Zajicek and Ken Becker 10/18/02.
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 12/3/02 (Minutes enclosed #33).
- Review Annual Status Reviews with Nolan County SWCD Directors.

- Review Annual Status Reviews with Ken Becker, Nolan County RC&D Director
- Project highlighted at Big Country RC&D Annual Sponsor's Conference held 3/11/2003 (Minutes enclosed #34)
- Project progress reviewed at Big Country RC&D Board of Director's Meeting held 3/11/03 (Minutes enclosed #35)

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 1.6 Preparation of quarterly, annual, and final reports

- Quarterly Report Number One 1/7/98
- Quarterly Report Number Two 10/9/98
- Quarterly Report Number Three 1/11/99
- Quarterly Report Number Four 4/12/99
- Quarterly Report Number Five 7/2/99
- Quarterly Report Number Six 10/5/99
- Annual Status Reviews conducted (see Subtask 3.4)
- Quarterly Report Number Seven 1/5/2000
- Quarterly Report Number Eight 4/7/2000
- Quarterly Report Number Nine 7/5/2000
- Quarterly Report Number Ten 10/5/2000
- Annual Status Reviews conducted (see Subtask 3.4)
- Quarterly Report Number Eleven 1/9/2001
- Quarterly Report Number Twelve 4/4/2001
- Quarterly Report Number Thirteen 7/6/2001
- Quarterly Report Number Fourteen 10/3/2001
- Annual Status Reviews conducted (see Subtask 3.4)
- Quarterly Report Number Fifteen 1/8/2002
- Quarterly Report Number Sixteen 4/3/2002
- Quarterly Report Number Seventeen 7/3/2002
- Quarterly Report Number Eighteen 10/10/2002
- Quarterly Report Number Nineteen 12/23/2002
- Annual Status Reviews conducted (see Subtask 3.4)
- Final Report 7/2003

100% COMPLETE

TASK 2 – Development of whole farm/ranch WQMP's

Subtask 2.1 Conduct sign-up for eligible participants

- Sign-up conducted from 11/30/98 to 12/11/98 (Log of Applications enclosed #36).

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 2.2 Review applications and prepare list by priority

- Nolan County SWCD Directors met 12/15/98 and prioritized applications based on ranking criteria (material utilized in developing priority listing and Minutes of the meeting enclosed #37).

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 2.3 Develop whole farm/ranch State Board certified WQMP's

- Determination letters sent to all applicants 12/18/98 with a request to approved applicants to arrange an appointment for Plan development (examples of letters sent enclosed#38).
- Nine State Board Certified WQMP's have been developed obligating \$160,795.36.
Quarterly Report (QR) #4 4/12/99.
- Fifteen State Board Certified WQMP's have been developed obligating \$277,144.72. QR #5 7/2/1999.
- Twenty State Board WQMP's have been developed obligating \$380,966.00. Nineteen have been certified by the State Board. QR#6 10/5/99.
- Twenty State Board WQMP's covering 44,879 acres have been developed obligating \$380,966.00. All 20 have been certified by the State Board. QR#7 1/5/2000.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 2.4 Prepare USLE documentation on existing conditions prior to implementation of BMP's

- Copies of TX-TDV-1 (Water Erosion Data) for two producers on installation of site specific BMP's developed using USLE are enclosed (#39) showing before and after calculations. QR#5 7/1/99
- TX-TDV- 1 (Water Erosion Data) Completed for all cost-share practices on producers showing before and after erosion rates.

100% COMPLETE

TASK 3 – BMP Implementation

Subtask 3.1 Provide technical assistance in a timely manner to participants according to the time schedule developed for each WQMP

- WQMP's being reviewed with operators upon receipt from the State Board of the WQMP including the time schedule for implementing BMP's.
- TSSWCB Form 002, Application for Cost-Share Assistance has been submitted for the nine State Board Certified WQMP's.
- WQMP's are being reviewed with operators upon receipt from the State Board of the WQMP including the time schedule for implementing BMP's.
- TSSWCB Form 002, Application for Cost-Share Assistance has been submitted for the 19 State Board Certified WQMP's.
- Technical assistance is being provided to the 19 approved WQMP's to implement BMP's according to the time schedule listed in the individual WQMP's.
- All WQMP's have been reviewed with operators upon receipt from the State Board of the WQMP including the time schedule for implementing BMP's.
- TSSWCB Form 002, Application for Cost-Share Assistance has been submitted for the 20 State Board Certified WQMP's.
- Technical assistance is being provided to the 20 approved WQMP's to implement BMP's according to the time schedule listed in the individual WQMP's.
- Technical assistance has been provided to the 20 approved WQMP's to implement BMP's according to the time schedule listed in the individual WQMP's.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 3.2 Document completed BMP's for each WQMP

- BMP's have been documented in the individual WQMP's as completed.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 3.3 Request incentive payment from TSSWCB for installation of BMP's as part of the WQMP's.

- Six Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$58,681.52. Quarterly Report (QR) #5 7/1/99
- Eleven Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$75,935.78. QR#6 10/5/99
- Fifteen Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$90,415.96. QR#7 1/5/2000
- Twenty-one Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$158,708.88. QR#8 4/7/2000
- Twenty-two Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$168,612.63. QR#9 7/5/2000

- Twenty-six Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$194,965. QR#10 10/5/2000
- Twenty-nine Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$206,135. QR#12 4/4/2001
- Thirty-six Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$236,351.71. QR#13 7/6/2001
- Forty-four Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$285,872.00 QR#14 10/3/01
- Forty-five Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$295,078.00 QR#15 1/8/2002
- Forty-eight Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$314,615.67. QR#17 7/3/2002
- Forty-nine Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$346,118.99. QR#18 10/7/2002
- A total of Fifty-six Form 003 Request for Incentive Payments have been submitted to TSSWCB requesting \$360,535.16

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 3.4 Conduct Annual Status Reviews of each WQMP and send forms to Temple to place in WQMP file.

- All Annual Status Reviews for 1999 are complete (enclosed #40). QR#7 1/5/2000
- A field review of all WQMP's was done 11/16/00. Status reviews were reviewed with the producers and signatures secured prior to 12/31/00 (copies of non-expiring WQMP's attached #41). QR#11 1/9/2001
- Prepared Annual Status Reviews 11/7 /02 and 11/8/02
- Conducted Annual Status Reviews with Cash and Watson 11/19/02

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 3.5 Prepare final status report upon completion of each WQMP

- Final Status Reviews were completed for three (3) WQMP's (copies attached #42). QR#11 1/9/01
- Four 319h WQMP's will expire 12/31/02. 60% Complete QR#19 12/23/02
- Remaining Final Status reviews conducted 4/03 (copies attached #43)

100% COMPLETE

TASK 4 – Evaluation

Subtask 4.1 Utilize the SWAT model to compare the amount of erosion that will occur over a 15 year period without installation of WQMP's

- SWAT Model comparison included in completed report (enclosed #44).

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 4.2 Prepare USLE documentation before implementation of WQMP's

- Copies of TX-TDV-1 enclosed Refer to Subtask 2.4 - 95% complete
- TX-TDV-1 (water erosion worksheets) completed for all practices prior to implementation. Copies are filed in WQMP's.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 4.3 Prepare USLE documentation following implementation of WQMP's

- Copies of TX-TDV-1 (enclosed #45). Refer to Subtask 2.4. 5% complete QR#5 7/1/99
- 10% complete QR#6 10/5/99
- 20% complete QR#7 1/5/2000
- 35% complete QR#8 4/7/2000
- 40% complete QR#9 7/5/2000
- 45% complete QR#11 1/9/2001
- 50% complete QR#12 4/4/2001
- 60% complete QR#15 1/8/2002
- 70% complete QR#15 4/3/2002
- 81% complete QR#17 7/3/2002
- 89% complete QR#18 10/7/2002
- 100% complete Final Report

100% COMPELTE

TASK 5 – Technology Transfer

Subtask 5.1 Conduct Field Days (2) for entire service area

- Field Day conducted in conjunction with Nolan County SWCD Annual Conservation Tour with 80 present (see Subtask 1.5) QR#3 1/11/99 50% Complete
- Second Field Day held October 6, 1999, with 172 attending. Agenda and materials presented at the Field Day are enclosed (#47). Charlie Rogers and Glenn Baker attended.

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 5.2 Prepare results for incorporation into relevant publication to include the Nolan County SWCD Annual Report

- Copy of SWCD Annual Report with project information (enclosed #48) QR#7 1/5/2000 50% Complete
- Project highlighted in Big Country RC&D Annual Report presented at Sponsor's Conference 3/7/2000 (enclosed #49). QR#8 4/7/2000 75% Complete
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #50). QR#9 7/5/2000 75% Complete
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #51). QR#10 10/5/2000 75% Complete
- Nolan County SWCD Annual Report (enclosed #52)
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project Status (enclosed #53). QR#11 1/9/2001
- Big Country RC&D Annual Report (enclosed #54)
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #55) QR#12 4/4/2001
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #56) QR#13 7/6/2001
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #57) QR#14 10/3/2001
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #58) QR#15 1/8/2002
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #59)
- Big Country RC&D Annual Report (enclosed #60) QR#16 4/3/2002
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #61) QR#17 7/3/2002
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #62) QR#18 10/7/2002
- Quarterly RC&D Newsletter with Project status (enclosed #63) QR#19 12/23/2002

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 5.3 Submit news stories through TSSWCB to regional publication

- Draft news story on Project receiving funding concurred in by TSSWCB. Article published 5-13-98 in Abilene Reporter-News, 5-19-98 in Sweetwater Reporter, and in the Summer edition of the Big Country RC&D Newsletter.
- Feature news article published in Sweetwater Reporter 11/22/98 (see Subtask 1.3)
- News article published in Abilene Reporter-News 11/24/98 (see Subtask 1.3)
- Article published in the December 1998 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (see Subtask 1.3) QR#3 1/11/99 50% Complete
- Arrange dedication article with Representative David Counts, Ralph Stirl (Nolan Co. SWCD), and Ken Becker (Big Country RC&D) with Sweetwater Reporter 2/11/99. Feature news article published in Sweetwater Reporter 2/12/99 (original attached #64).
- News article published in Abilene-Reporter News 2/18/99 (original attached #65)
- Project reviewed by Windi Fuller 3/3/99 at the Area Annual Sponsor's Conference. Seventy-four present to hear the Annual Report (sign-in register and Annual Report attached #66).
- Feature news article in the Sweetwater Reporter 3/4/99 on the Annual Sponsor Conference listing the Project (original attached #67).
- Article published in the March 1999 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (original attached #68). QR#4 4/12/99 75% Complete
- News Article on project published in Sweetwater Reporter 4/19/99 (copy enclosed #69).
- News Article on project published in Sweetwater Reporter Special Edition – Spruce Up For Spring – 4/30/99 (copy enclosed #70).
- Feature Article on project published in the Sweetwater Reporter 6/21/99 (copy enclosed #71).
- Article published in the June 1999 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #72).
- The four informational signs listing project partners are installed. The locations are: Blackwell, Texas on Highway 70; East of Hylton, Texas on FM 1170; next to the Post Office at Maryneal, Texas on FM 608; and at the junction of Highway 70 and FM 608 south of Sweetwater, Texas. QR#5 7/1/99 90% Complete
- News article on project published in Roscoe Times 8/13/99 (copy enclosed #73).
- News article on Field Day prepared and submitted to area newspapers and radio stations 9/20/99 (copy enclosed #74).
- Article published in the September 1999 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #75). QR#6 10/5/99 95% Complete
- News Article on project published in Roscoe Times 10/1/99 (copy enclosed #76).
- News Article on project published in the Observer/Enterprise 10/1/99 (copy enclosed #77).
- News Article on project published in the Sweetwater Reporter 10/5/99 (copy enclosed #78).
- Article published in the December 1999 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #79) QR#7 1/5/2000

- Article published in the March 2000 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #80). QR#8 4/7/2000
- Article published in the March 2000 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #81). QR#9 7/5/2000
- Article published in the September 2000 Big Country RC&D Area Newsletter (enclosed #82). QR#10 10/5/2000
- Information provided to Clay Wright, Information Specialist TSSWCB, as requested was utilized in the Texas Non-Point Source Pollution Management Program 2000 Annual Report that is jointly published by the TSSWCB and TNRCC (copy attached of portion addressing this Project #83). QR#13 7/6/01

100% COMPLETE

Subtask 5.4 Broadcast radio programs

- Radio program on Public Meeting (see subtask 1.3) QR#3 1/11/99
25% Complete
- Program 9/30/99 on KVMC Radio, Colorado City, on Field Day. QR#6
10/5/99 50% Complete
- Program 10/4/99 on KXOX Radio, Sweetwater, on Field Day. QR#7
1/5/2000 75% Complete
- Radio Programs on Project broadcast by KXOX Sweetwater and KVMC
Colorado City on March 7, 2001. QR#12 4/4/2001

100% COMPLETE

Appendix A

Project Summary, Work Plan and Measures of Success

NON-POINT SOURCE PROJECT SUMMARY
for the
CWA, Section 319(h) Agricultural/Silvicultural
Non-Point Source Management Program

1. **Title of Project:** Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project.
2. **Project Goals/Objectives:** To actively involve agricultural producers within the project area to develop and implement solutions to the sedimentation problem by educating them about the economic and environmental benefits they will achieve; by implementing Best Management Practices through a tailored whole farm/ranch site specific Water Quality Management Plan; and to transfer this knowledge to the other producers in the project area by outreach activities.
3. **Project Tasks:** (1) Coordination and management (2) Development of whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plans (3) BMP implementation (4)Evaluation (5) Technology transfer
4. **Measures of Success:** Development of a significant number of whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plans installing Best Management Practices to effectively demonstrate the benefits to the landowner and the environment by comparing erosion rates before and after implementation of the Water Quality Management Plan by use of the Universal Soil Loss Equation on a site specific basis.
5. **Project Type:** Statewide(); Watershed(X); Demonstration()
6. **Waterbody Type:** River(); Groundwater(); Other(X)
7. **Project Location:** Basin(X); Segment()
8. **NPS Assessment Report Status:** State of Texas, USA, Agricultural/Silvicultural Non-Point Source Management Program, November, 1994.
9. **NPS Assessment Report Status:** Impaired(); Impacted(X); Threatened()
10. **Key Project Activities:** Hire Staff(X); Monitoring(); Regulatory Assistance(); Technical Assistance(X); Education(X); Implementation(X); Demonstration(); Other()
11. **NPS Management Program Elements:** Milestones Number 125, and 127.
12. **Project Costs:** Federal 319(h) (\$500,000)-60%; Non-Federal Match (\$333,333)-40%; Total Project (\$833,333)

13. **Project Management:** Big Country Resource Conservation and Development(RC&D) Area, Inc. and Nolan County SWCD Cooperating Entities: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Supporting Entities: City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

14. **Project Period:** Three years from date of funding.

WORKPLAN AND MEASURES OF SUCCESS

PROJECT TASK 1 - Coordination and Management

Costs: \$29,925 (Federal), \$4,655 (Non-Federal Match), \$34,580 (Total)

Objective:

To ensure coordination among the agencies performing duties under this grant and inform eligible participants concerning the project.

Subtask 1.1 Complete SWAT model for project.

Subtask 1.2 Conduct initial meeting of agencies involved.

Subtask 1.3 Contact landowners targeted by use of the SWAT model.

Subtask 1.4 Conduct public meeting to explain program to eligible landowners.

Subtask 1.5 Conduct interim meetings of involved and interested parties as needed.

Subtask 1.6 Preparation of quarterly, annual and final reports.

Deliverables:

- * Copy of SWAT model to State Board (SB)
- * Listing of participating agencies.
- * Minutes of meetings.
- * Quarterly, annual and final reports to interested/involved agencies.

Measures of Success:

A successful implementation of program and timely reporting of all activities.

PROJECT TASK 2 - Development of whole farm/ranch WQMP's

Costs: \$15,370 (Federal), \$8,699 (Non-Federal Match)
\$24,069 (Total)

Objective:

To prepare WQMP's developed on a whole farm/ranch unit basis that include all BMP's needed to conform to the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

Subtask 2.1 Conduct sign-up for eligible participants.

Subtask 2.2 Review applications and prepare list by priority.

Subtask 2.3 Develop whole farm/ranch WQMP's.

Subtask 2.4 Prepare USLE documentation on existing condition prior to implementation of BMP's.

Deliverables:

- * List of producers that signed up to SB.
- * Example of standard application submitted to SB.
- * Submit a representative example of a whole farm/ranch WQMP to SB.
- * Provide an example of the USLE documentation on a site specific BMP to the SB.

Measures of Success:

Development of significant number of whole farm/ranch WQMP's.

PROJECT TASK 3 - BMP Implementation

Costs: \$434,245 (Federal), \$318,684 (Non-Federal Match)
\$752,929 (Total)

Objective:

Reduce sediment loading into stream by implementation of BMP's.

Subtask 3.1 Provide technical assistance in a timely manner to participants according to the time schedule developed for each WQMP.

Subtask 3.2 Document completed BMP's.

Subtask 3.3 Request incentive payment for BMP's installed from SB.

Subtask 3.4 Conduct Annual Status Reviews of each WQMP.

Subtask 3.5 Prepare final status report upon completion of each WQMP.

Deliverables:

- * Submit documentation for incentive payments to SB.
- * Annual Status Reviews completed by January 1 each year and report submitted to SB.
- * Final Status Reviews completed by 12-31-99 and submitted to SB.

Measures of Success:

BMP's are installed according to schedule, properly documented and requests for incentive payments are submitted in a timely manner.

PROJECT TASK 4 - Evaluation

Costs: \$6,425 (Federal), \$0 (Non-Federal),
\$6,425 (Total)

Objective:

To determine the effectiveness of BMP's installed in reducing NPS pollution loading on a site specific basis.

Subtask 4.1 Utilize the SWAT model to compare the amount of erosion that will occur over a 15 year period with and without installation of BMP's.

Subtask 4.2 Prepare USLE documentation before implementation of BMP's.

Subtask 4.3 Prepare USLE documentation following implementation of BMP's.

Deliverables:

- * Submit SWAT model comparison report to SB.
- * Develop USLE documentation on a site specific basis for each Agreement following implementation of BMP's and submit example to SB.

Measures of Success:

A substantial reduction in erosion after BMP's implementation as opposed to no action.

PROJECT TASK 5 - Technology Transfer

Costs: \$14,035 (Federal), \$1,295 (Non-Federal Match), \$15,330 (Total)

Objective:

To deliver the results of this project to an audience capable of implementing BMP's on their operations.

Subtask 5.1 Conduct Field Days (2) for entire service area.

Subtask 5.2 Prepare results for incorporation in relevant publications, to include the Nolan County SWCD Annual Report.

Subtask 5.3 Submit news stories (8) through SB to regional publications.

Subtask 5.4 Broadcast radio programs (4).

Deliverables:

- * Reports of attendance on Field Days to SB.
- * Reports on distribution of project specific reports.
- * Submission of draft news stories for concurrence to SB.

Measures of Success:

Transfer of BMP implementation comparison technology to interested parties and replication of the project concept within additional watersheds.

Appendix B: Site Maps and Photos

Oak Creek/Lake Trammell
Water Quality Project
Attachment #1

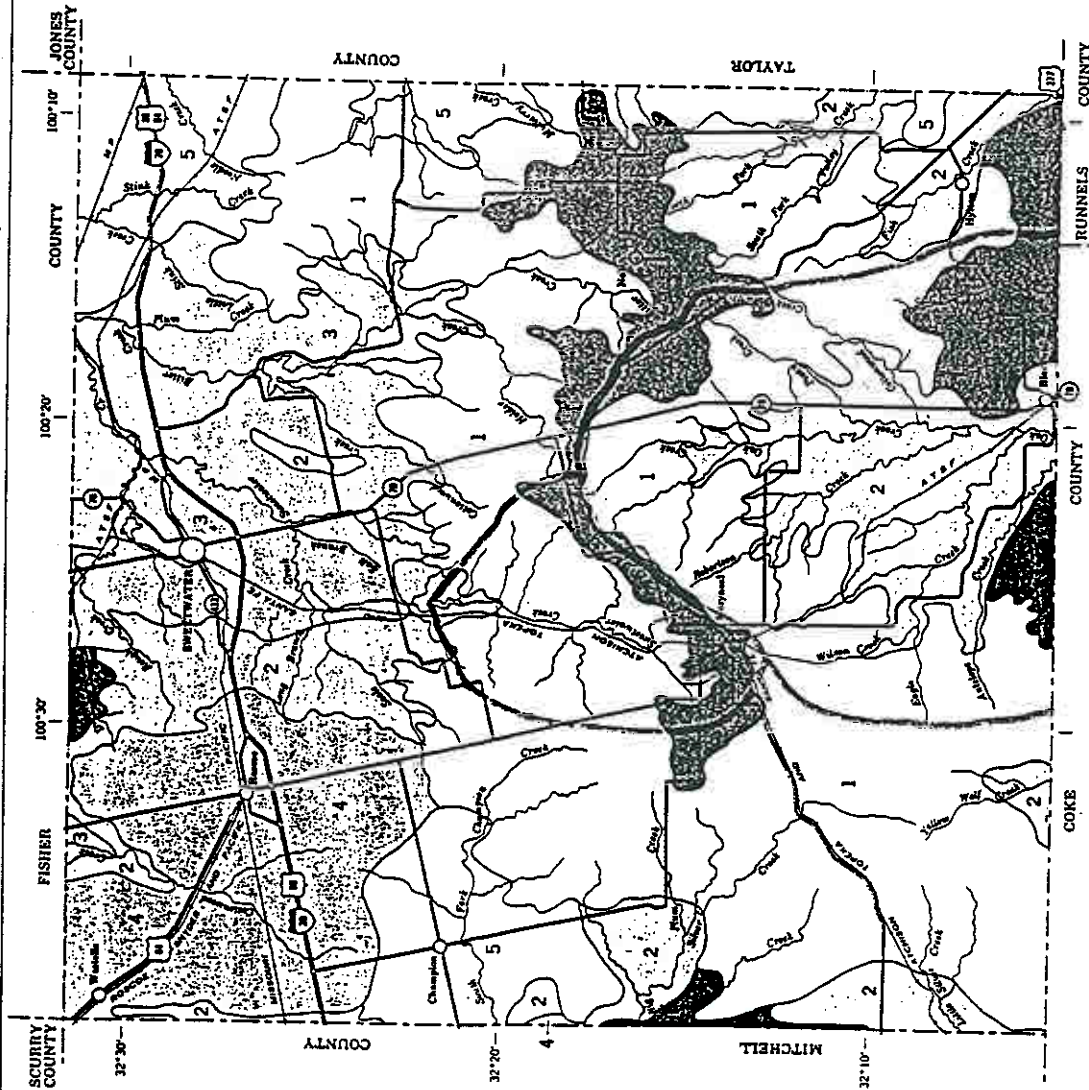
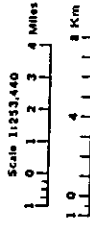
LEGEND

- 1 ECTOR: Very shallow and shallow, undulating to hilly, moderately permeable, loamy and very gravelly soil
- 2 POTTER-VEAL-MERETA: Very shallow, shallow, and deep, nearly level to hilly, moderately permeable to moderately slowly permeable, loamy and gravelly soils
- 3 WOODWARD-QUINLAN-BURSON: Very shallow to moderately deep, gently sloping to hilly, moderately permeable, loamy soils
- 4 ROWENA: Deep, nearly level to gently sloping, moderately slowly permeable, loamy soils
- 5 SAGERTON-ROTAN-COBB: Deep and moderately deep, nearly level to gently sloping, moderately permeable to moderately slowly permeable, loamy soil
- 6 TOBOSA-KAVETT: Deep and shallow, nearly level to gently sloping, very slowly permeable and moderately slowly permeable, clayey soils
- 7 LATON-COBB-ROCK OUTCROP: Very shallow to moderately deep, nearly level to rolling, moderately permeable, loamy soils and rock outcrop

Compiled 1980

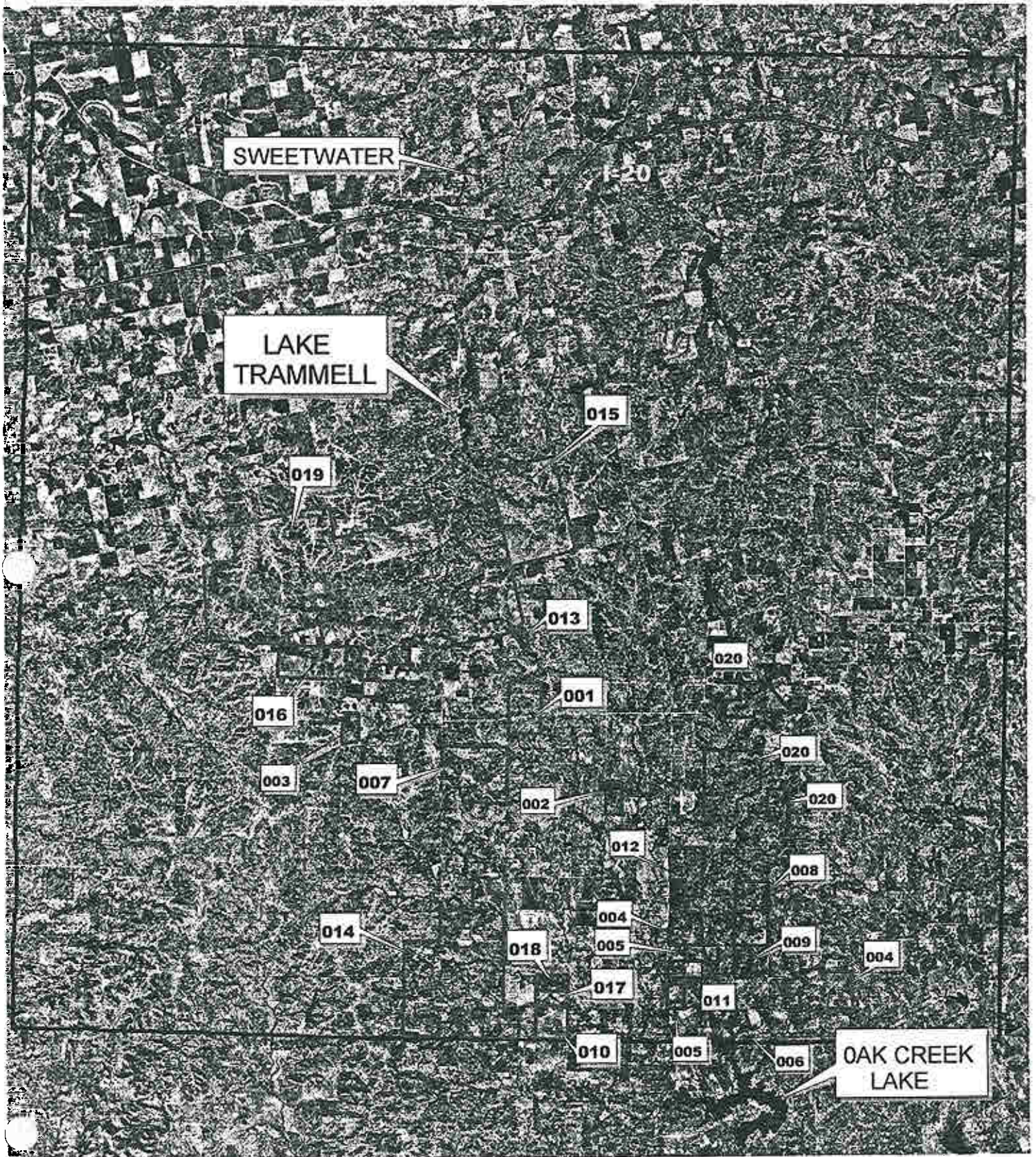
This map indicates the major soil orders of the area shown and does not show soil types. For general planning purposes, this is the best information available. For decisions on the use of specific tracts, see the soil survey report for the area.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
GENERAL SOIL MAP
NOLAN COUNTY, TEXAS

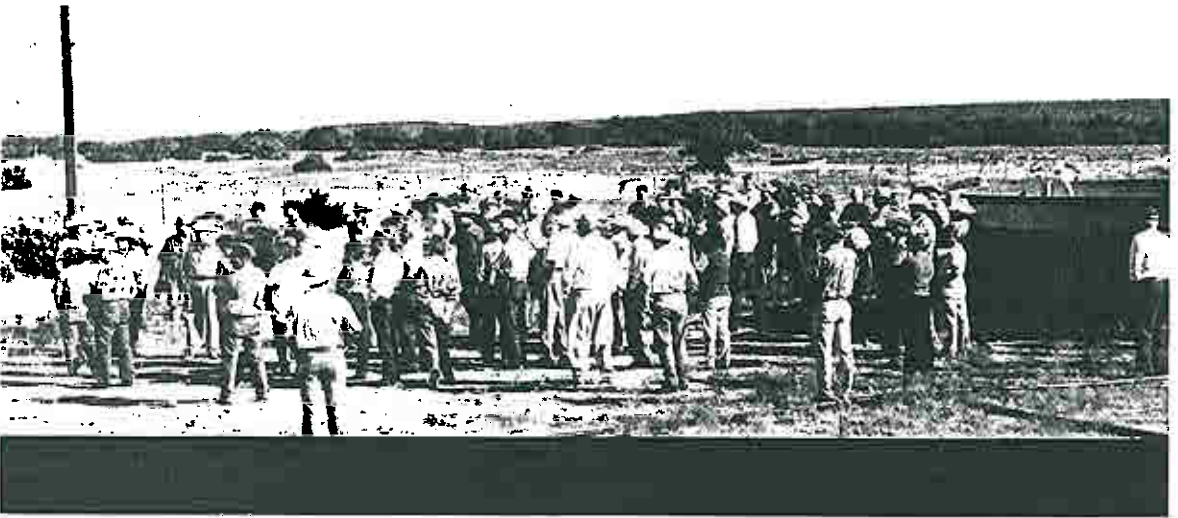


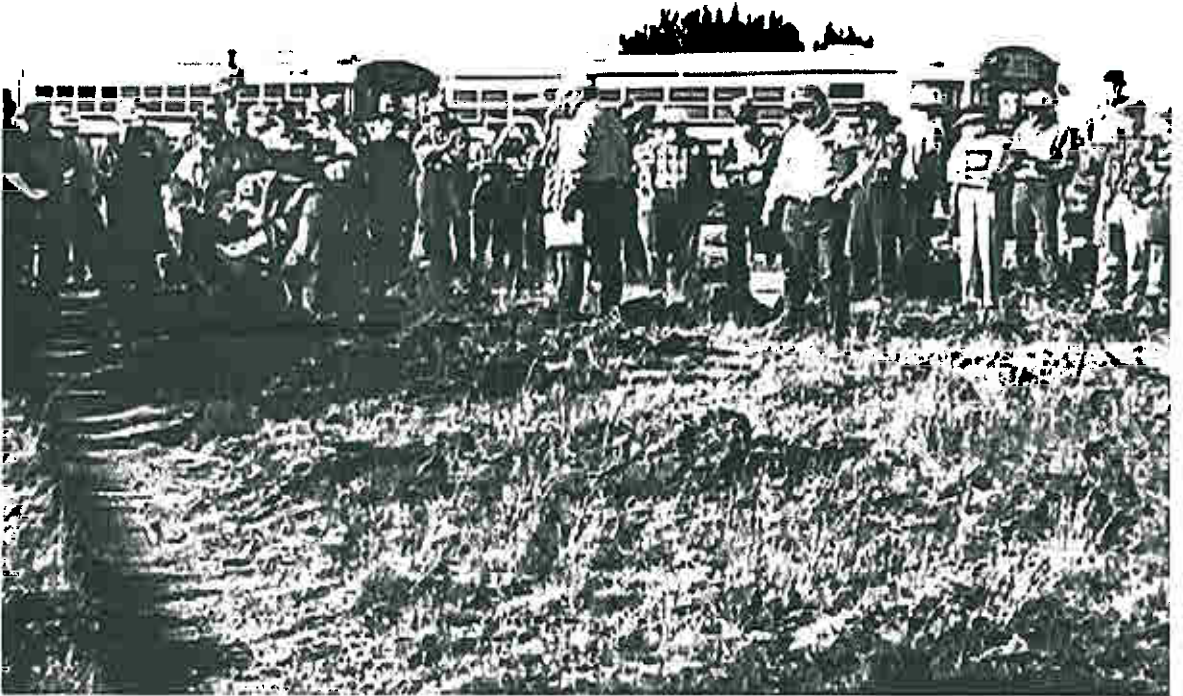
- 319h Projects
- Primary road with limited access
- Primary road
- Nolan County SWCD

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

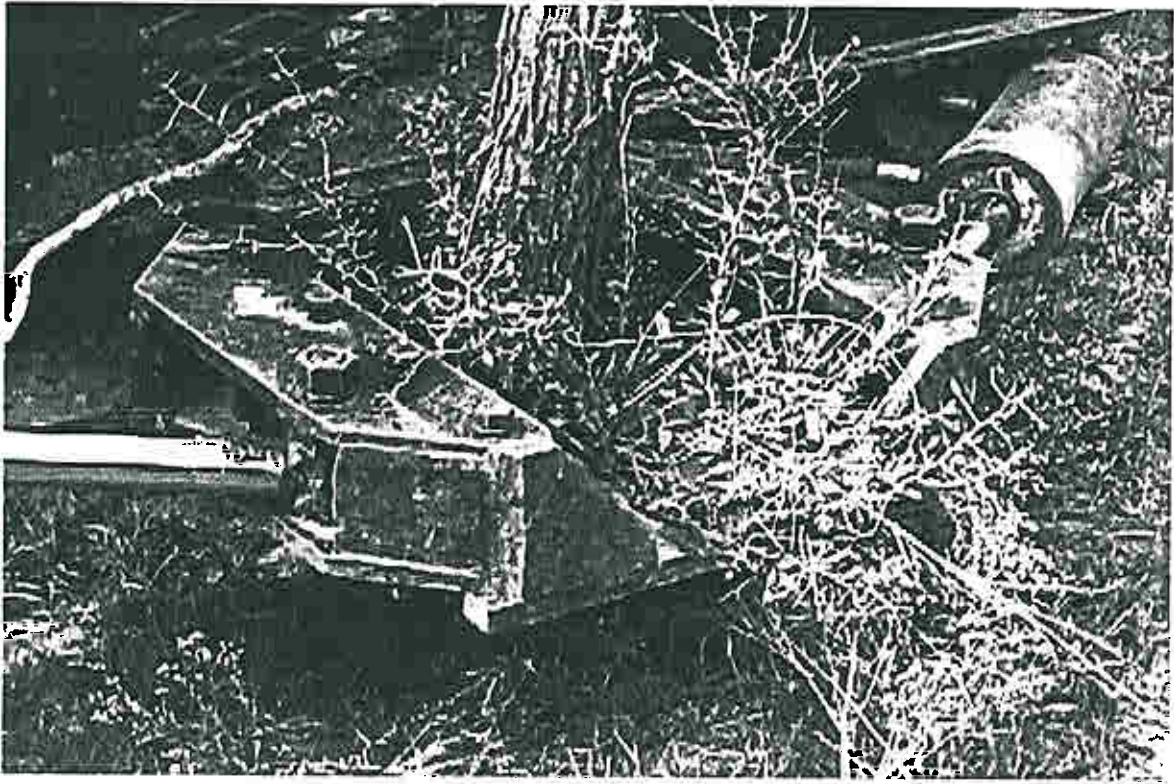


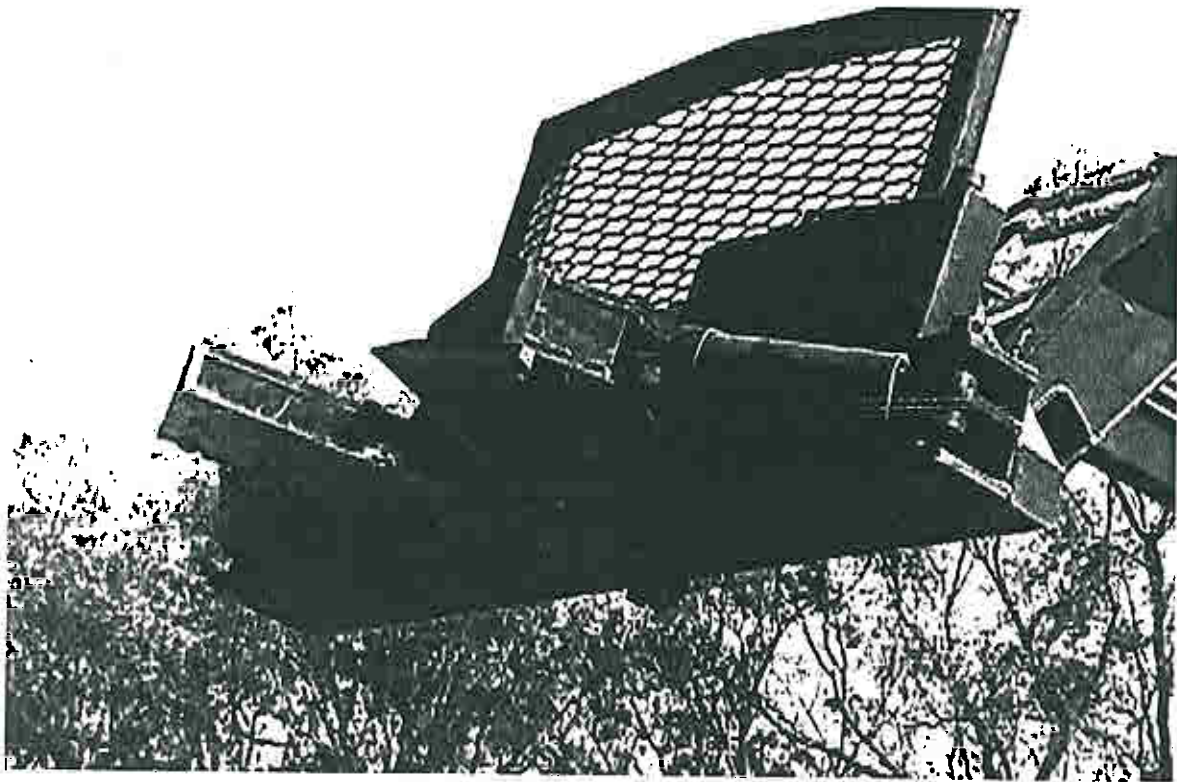
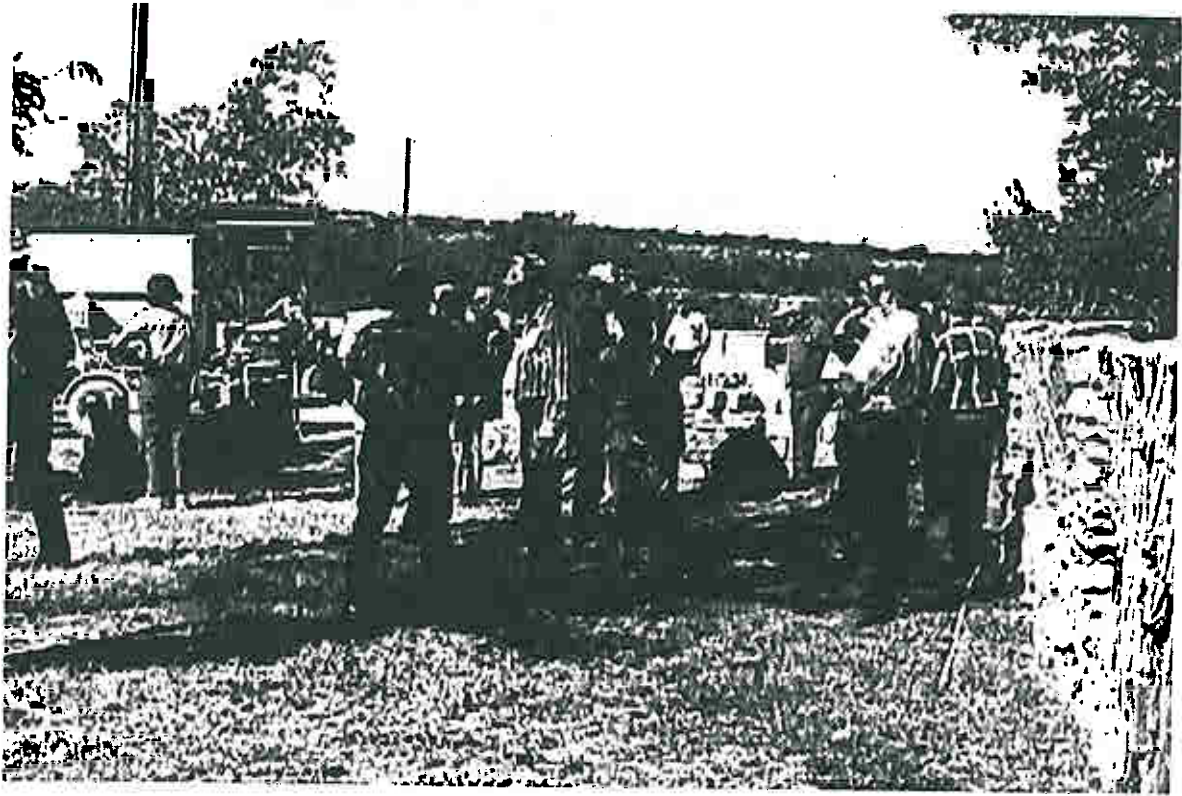


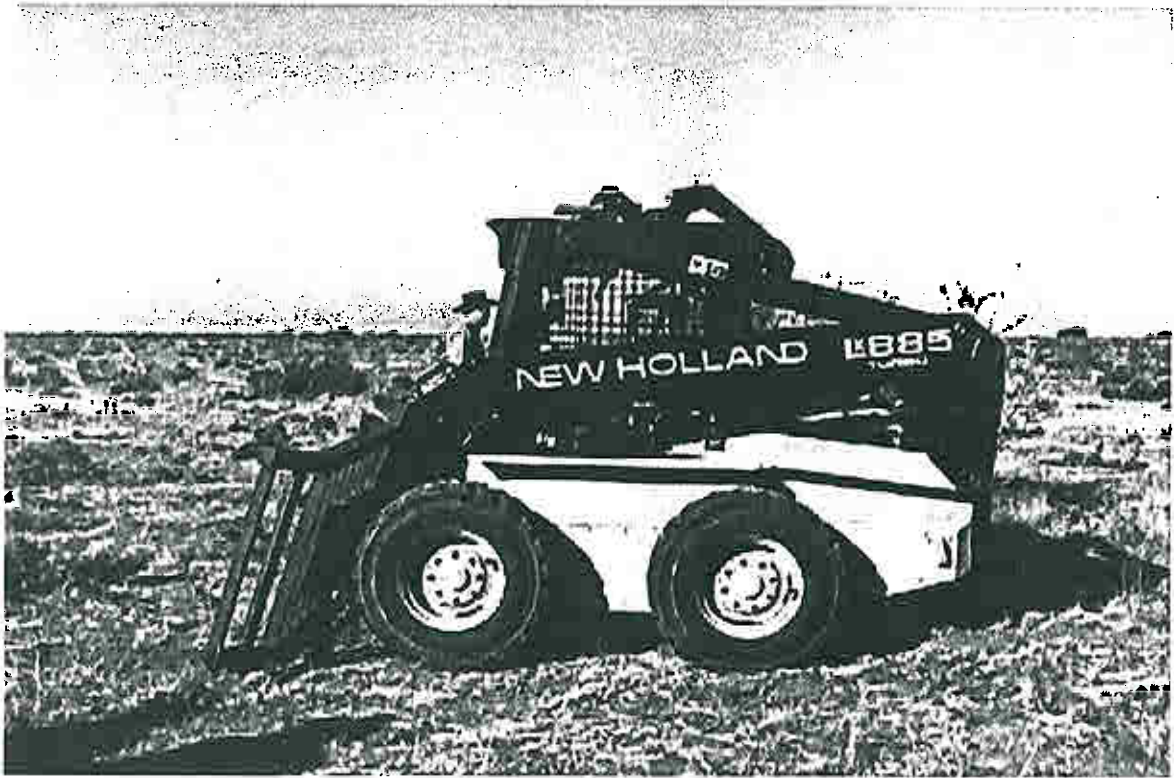
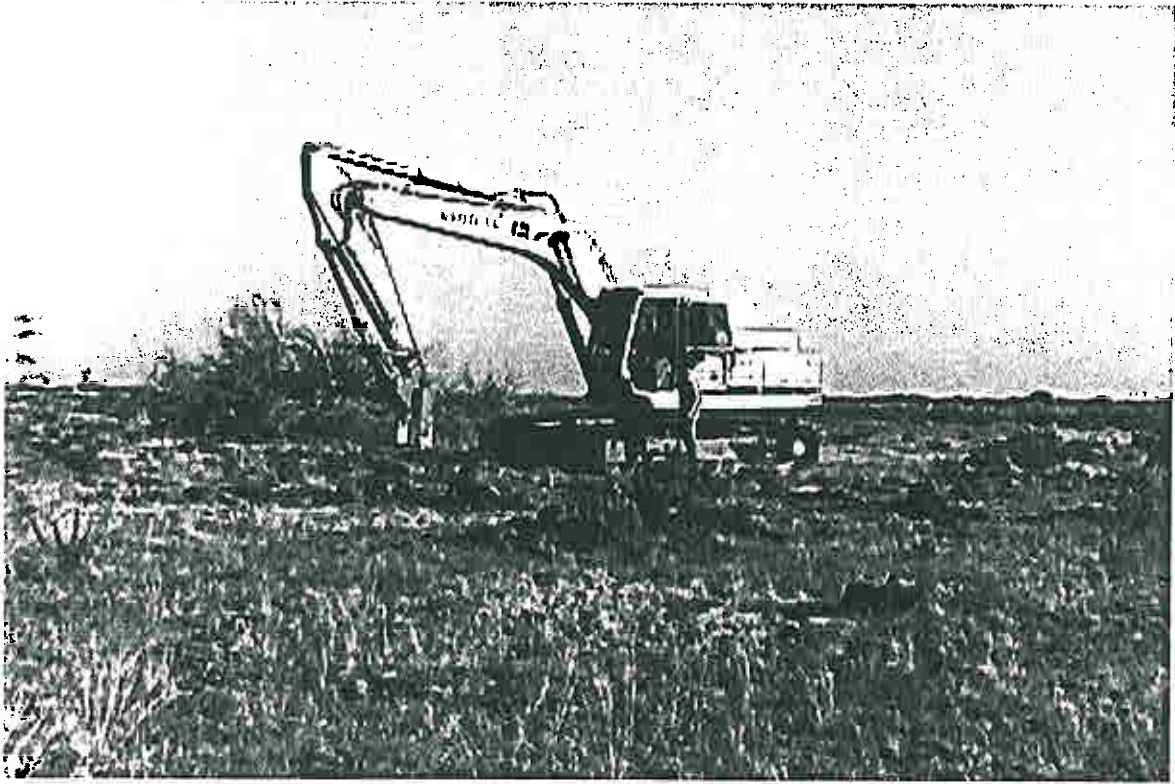


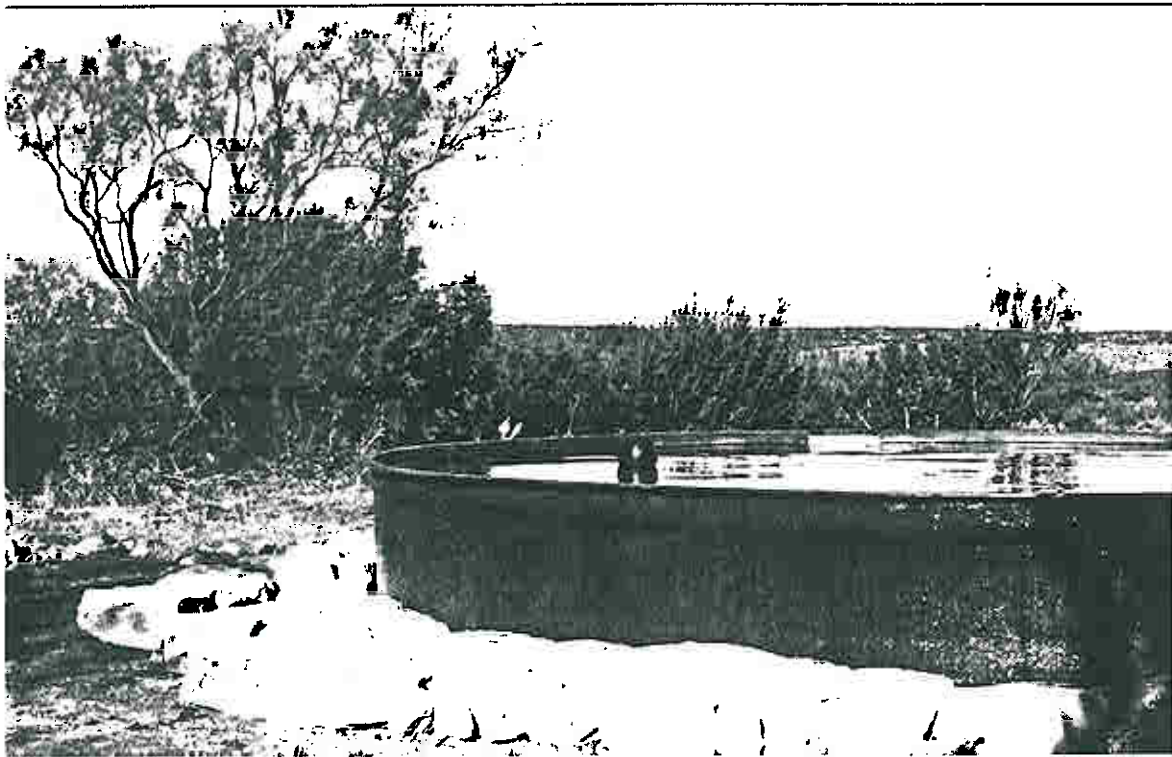
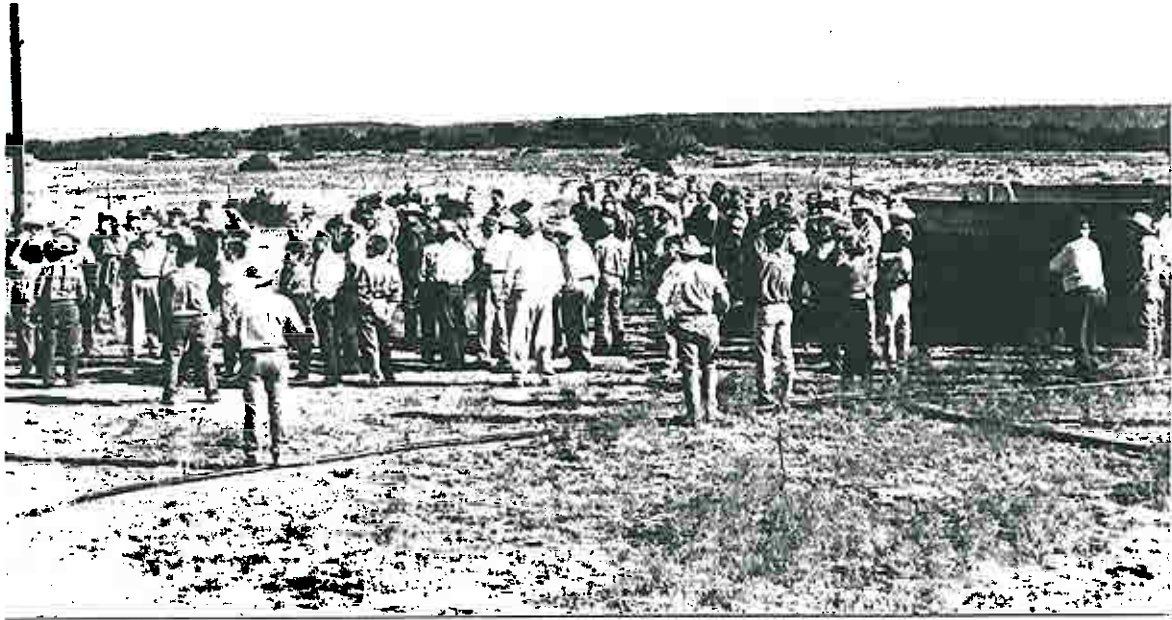












**ENTERING OAK CREEK LAKE TRAMMELL
WATER QUALITY PROJECT AREA**

Sponsored by

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

TEXAS STATE

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

HOLAN COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USDA,

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

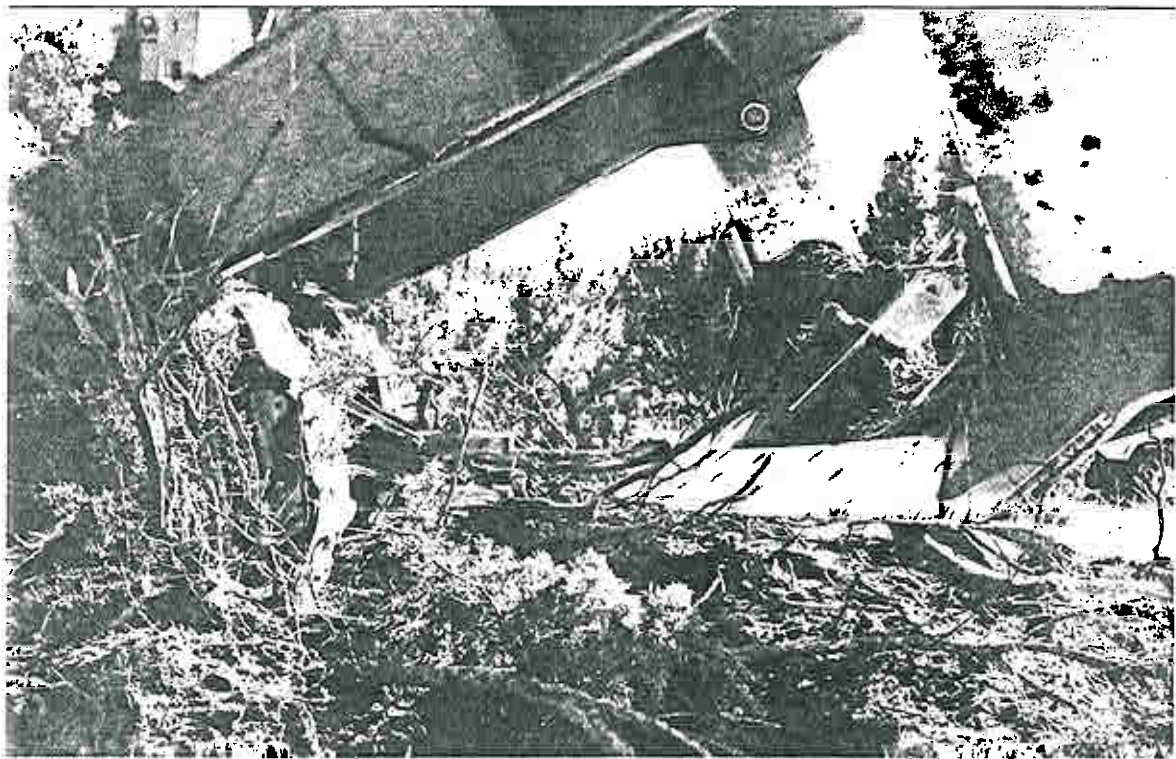
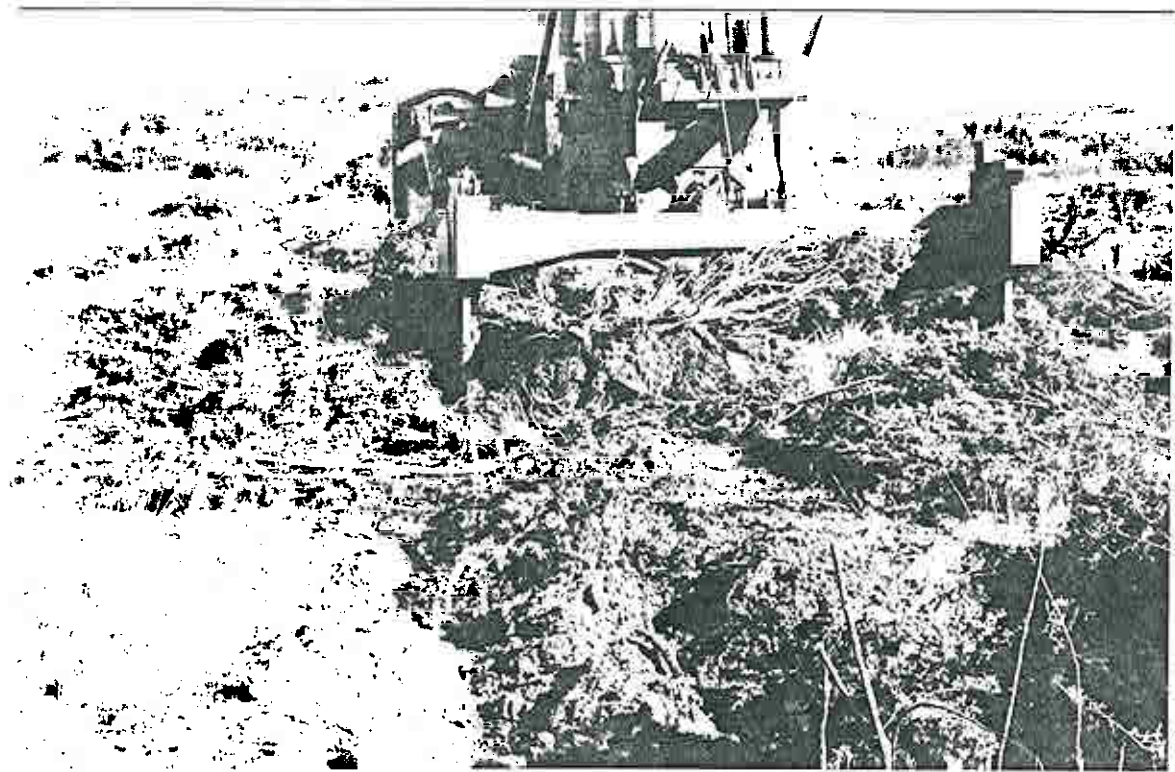
COOPERATING LANDOWNERS

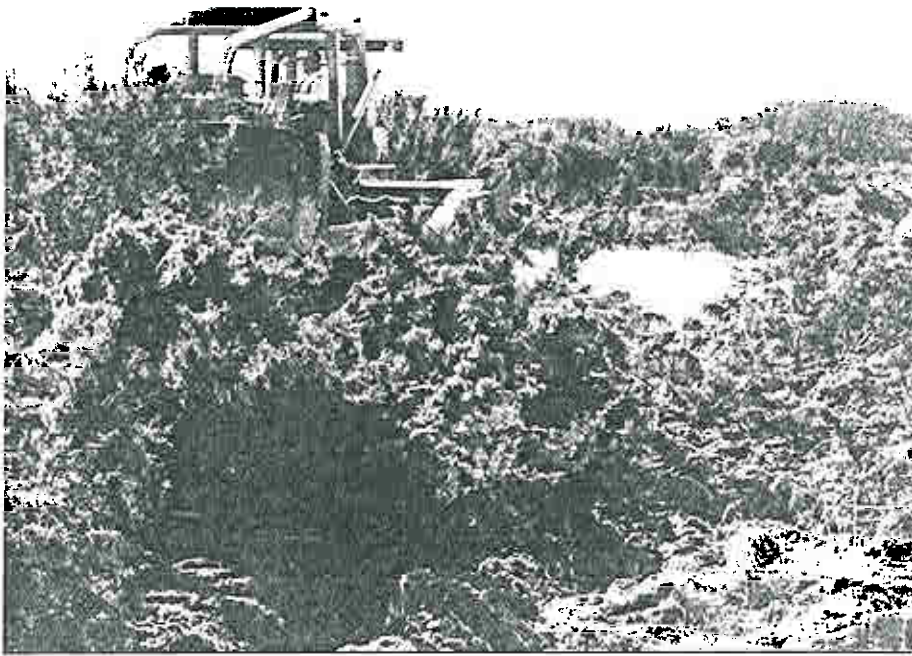
BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION &

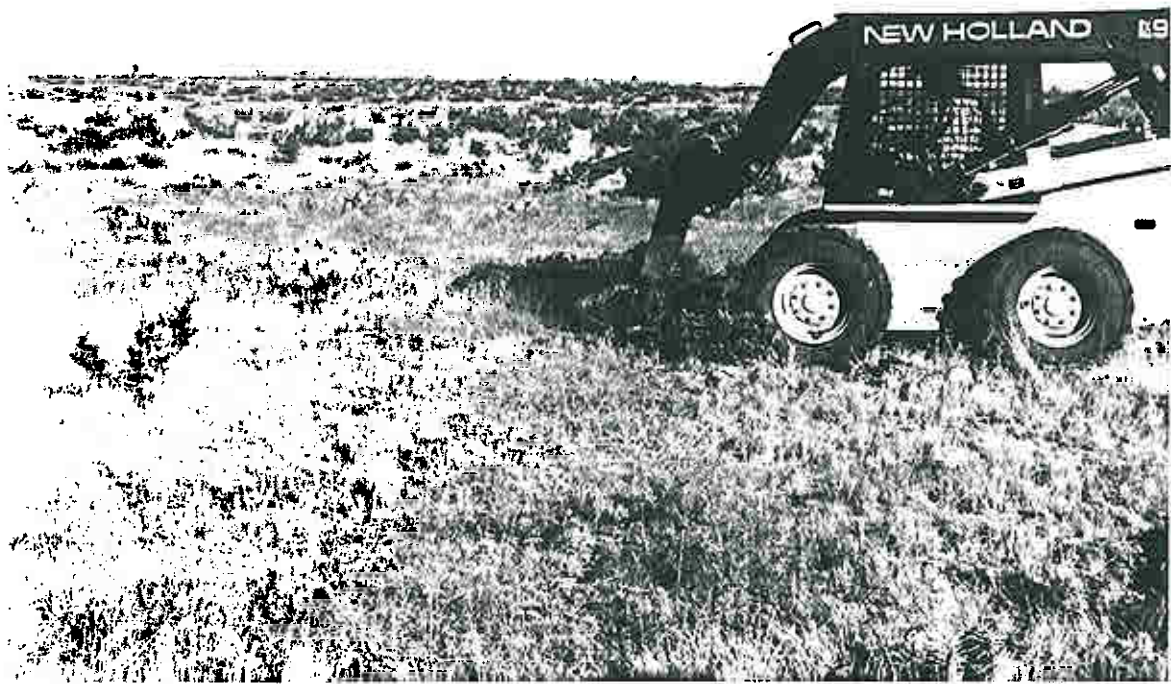
DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

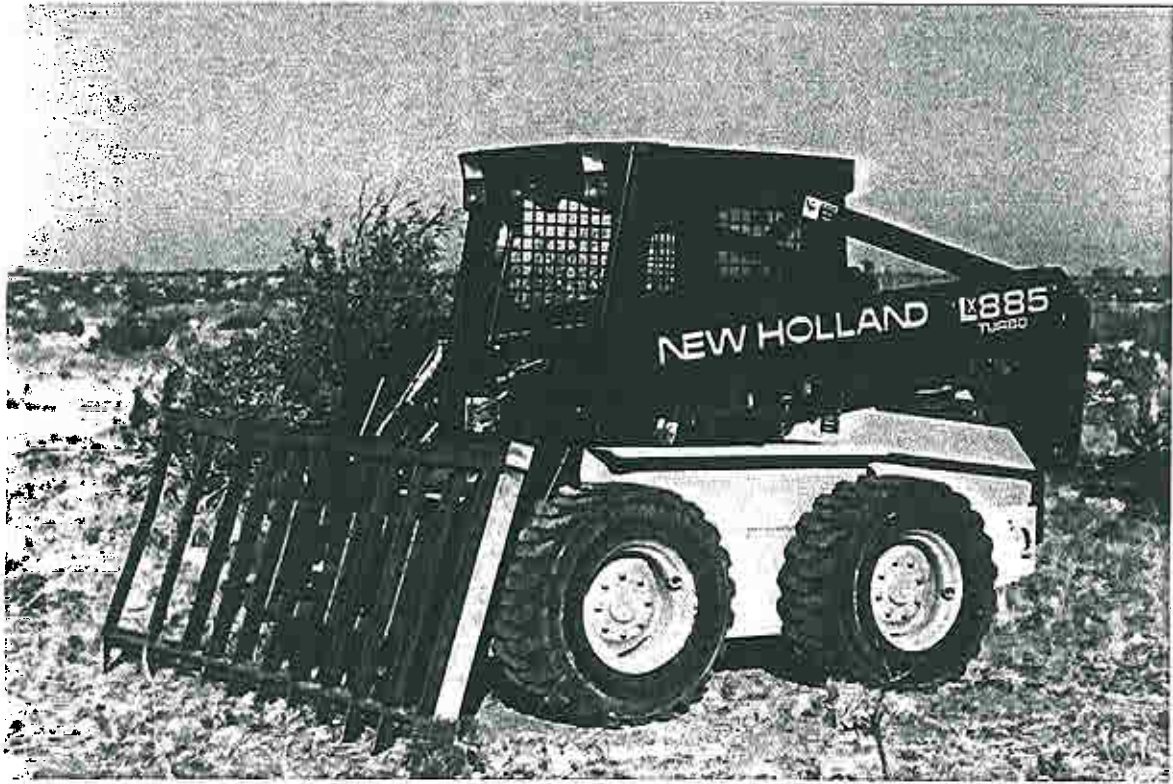
COOPERATOR

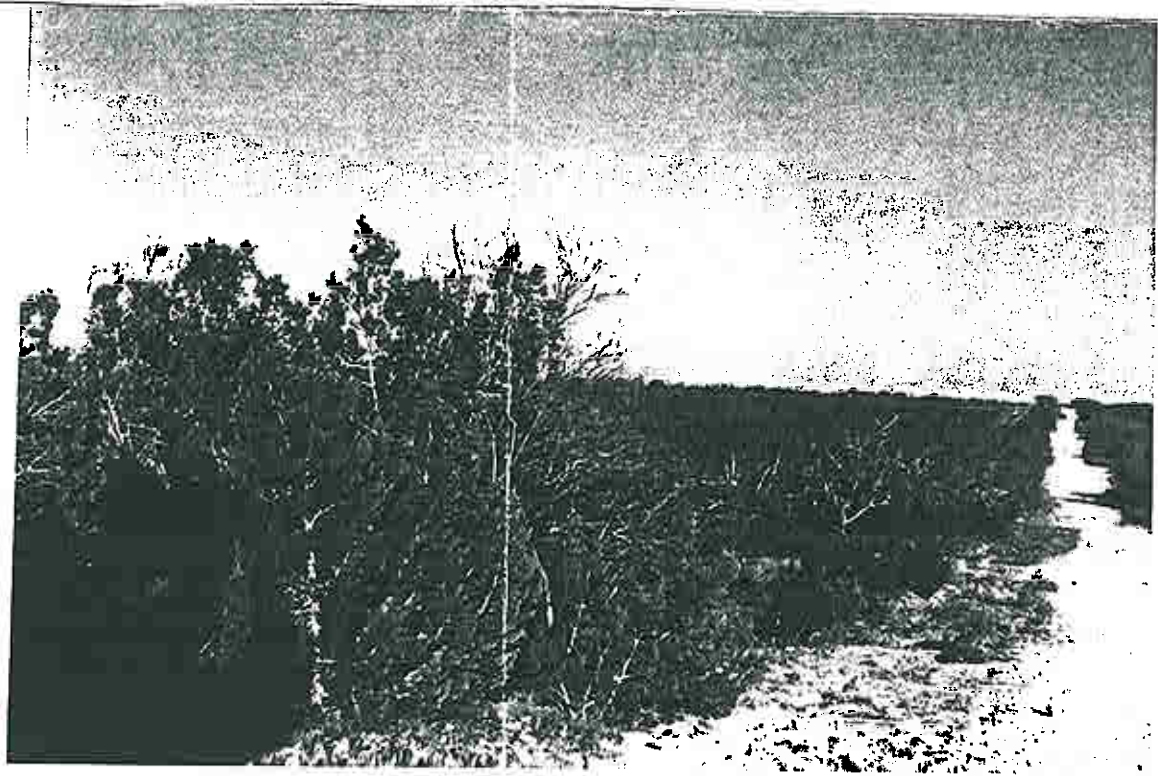
OAK CREEK / LAKE TRAMMELL
WATER QUALITY PROJECT











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

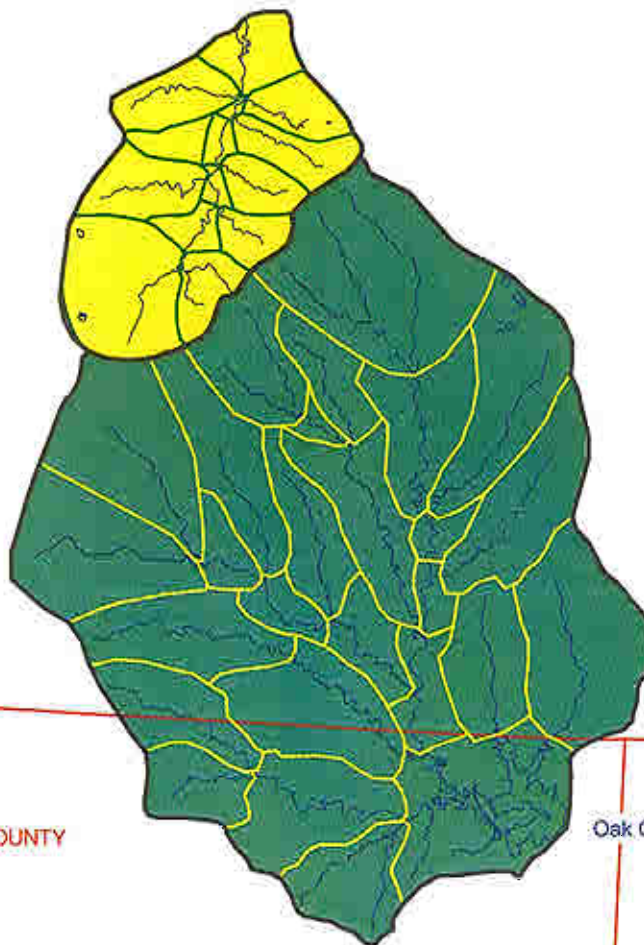
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

BIG COUNTRY R.C. & D. AREA, INC
OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

MITCHELL
COUNTY

NOLAN COUNTY

Lake Trammell



COKE COUNTY

Oak Creek Lake

RUNNELS
COUNTY

SOURCE:
Map Prepared using GRASS 4.1 Software
Albers Equal Area Projection
Water Resource Assessment Team - Temple, TX 1998

OAK CREEK / LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

A project was proposed in FY1997 under the Clean Water Act, Section 319 (h) Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program for the watersheds of Oak Creek and Lake Trammell. The project manager of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area requested assistance in applying the SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) computer model to the watershed assessments.

The project goals and objectives were to actively involve agricultural producers within the project area to develop and implement solutions to the sedimentation problem by educating them about the economic and environmental benefits they will achieve by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). These BMPs would be a part of a tailored whole farm/ranch site specific Water Quality Management Plan. Outreach activities will be used to transfer this knowledge to the other producers in the area.

The SWAT surface hydrology computer model developed by USDA-Agricultural Research Service was selected to be used as a planning and management tool to evaluate non-point source pollution in the watersheds. Use of the SWAT model allows prioritization of areas where BMPs will have greatest impact on erosion and resulting sediment loads. SWAT utilizes a geographic information system (GIS) to provide most of the input values to the model.

Project Setting

The Oak Creek/Lake Trammell watersheds are located primarily in Nolan County, Texas with a portion of Oak Creek extending into Coke County. Average annual precipitation for the area is 22.19 inches. Land cover in the two watersheds is shown in the table below:

Watershed	Land Cover	Acreage *	Percent
Oak Creek	Cropland	17,663	11
	Open Range	60,984	39
	Water	2,165	1
	Urban (barren)	949	<1
	Brushy Range	73,092	47
	Subtotal	154,853	
Trammell	Cropland	1,927	6
	Open Range	11,327	36
	Water	138	<1
	Urban (barren)	257	<1
	Brushy Range	17,425	56
	Subtotal	31,075	
PROJECT TOTAL		185,928	

* Acreages determined from GIS layers.

Over 30,000 people are dependent on their potable water from Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell which receive surface runoff from these watersheds. Both reservoirs also serve the recreation needs of many people.

Sedimentation of the reservoirs over the long term is a concern for the water quality and decreasing storage capacity at the same time that demand is projected to increase. There is a significant need to actively involve the agricultural producers in developing and implementing solutions to the sedimentation problem; to educate them about the economics and environment of benefits they will achieve from implementing and maintaining BMPs that are tailored to reduce the sediment loads in the watershed. This portion of the project deals with simulations of alternative BMPs with the use of the SWAT hydrologic model.

OAK CREEK AND TRAMMELL SWAT MODELING

Model Setup

Each of the watersheds for this study was divided into subbasins to define the major tributaries (Figure 1). The digital elevation model (DEM) and streams GIS layers were used as a guide to define subbasin and watershed boundaries. The Lake Trammell watershed was subdivided into 14 subbasins, and Oak Creek Reservoir watershed into 27 subbasins.

The land use map created from the Landsat-5 image was reclassified to create and lump together some of the landuse categories for modeling (Figure 2 and 3). Modeling category RNGE (open rangeland) includes open rangeland, unclassified rangeland, and light brush. RNGB (brushy rangeland) includes moderate and heavy brush. Modeling category URBN (urban land, roads) includes barren land with little or no vegetation.

The subbasins were further divided into virtual basins based on land use and soils within each subbasin. Each virtual basin is represented by one land use and one soil. Generally, virtual basins were created for each land use category that exceeded three percent of the area of the subbasin. In addition, it was assumed that 25 percent of the cropland was planted to cotton, and the remainder was grain sorghum. It was also assumed that 50 percent of RNGB is cedar brush with 100 percent canopy cover, and the remaining 50 percent is barren land (URBN).

The soils database describes the surface and upper subsurface of a watershed. The SWAT model uses information about each soil horizon. Parameters describing horizon thickness, depth, texture, water holding capacity, dispersion, etc. must be available to the model. These parameters are used to determine a water budget for the soil profile, daily runoff and erosion.

The NRCS (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service) soils database used for this project was a grid cell digital map created from 1:24,000 scale soil sheets with a cell resolution of 250 meters. This database is known as the Computer Based Mapping System (CBMS) or Map Information Assembly Display System (MIADS) (Nichols, 1975) soils data. SWAT uses the soils series name as the data link between the soils GIS layer and the soils properties tabular database. Figure 4 shows the soils layer for the project watersheds.

Soil type for each virtual basin was based on the dominant soil within the selected land use when the dominant soil represented more than 40 percent of the land use area. If the dominant soil was less than 40 percent, two or three additional virtual basins were created using prominent soils within the selected land use area. The virtual basins created for the two watersheds accurately represent more than 95 percent of the land use and about 50 percent of the soils.

After the virtual basins were created for each subbasin, the required inputs (e.g. soils, land use/land cover, topography, and climate) were extracted and formatted using the SWAT/GRASS input interface. The soil properties for each of the selected soils were automatically extracted from the model-supported soils database.

Calibration of Model

Calibration of SWAT for Lake Trammell and Oak Creek Reservoir watersheds is not possible because of lack of measured stream flow and sedimentation data. However, SWAT was recently calibrated for North Concho River Watershed near San Angelo, Texas. It was assumed input parameters for North Concho calibration would be appropriate for use in the Trammell and Oak Creek watersheds since the watersheds are all in the same general area. Following are parameters used for this study:

General Runoff Curve Number adjustment = - 8
Available Soil Water Capacity increased by 0.06 percent
Evaporation Compensation Factor = 0.1
Minimum Aquifer Storage (Shallow Aquifer) = 100 mm before treatment
Minimum Aquifer Storage (Shallow Aquifer) = 1 mm after treatment
Channel Transmission Loss = 1.0 mm/hr
Leaf Area Index RNGB (cedar) = 10
Leaf Area Index RUGE (poor condition) = 0.5
Leaf Area Index RUGE (fair condition) = 1.5
Maximum Crop Height RNGB (cedar) = 3.0 meters
Maximum Crop Height RUGE (poor condition) = 0.1 meters
Maximum Crop Height RUGE (fair condition) = 1.0 meters
Rainfall Interception for RNGB (cedar) = 20 mm
Re-evaporation Coefficient = 0.2 before treatment
Re-evaporation Coefficient = 0.1 after treatment
Potential Heat Units RNGB (cedar) = 3000
Potential Heat Units RUGE (open range land) = 2045
Channel Erosion Factors: SPC = 0.005, SPE = 1.0, PRF = 1.0
Residue Decomposition Factor = 0.1
Stream Channel "K" Factor = 0.28

The years 1960 through 1989 were chosen for simulation because measured climate data is readily available for this period. A 30-year period should provide an appropriate simulation of long term sediment yield.

Model Description

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model is the continuation of a long-term effort of nonpoint source pollution modeling with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) including development of CREAMS (Knisel, 1980), SWRRB (Williams et al., 1985; Arnold et al., 1990), and ROTO (Arnold et al., 1995).

SWAT is a result of the merging of the SWRRB and ROTO models into one basin scale model. The objective in model development was to predict the impact of management (climate and vegetative changes, reservoir management, groundwater withdrawals, and water transfer) on water, sediment, and agricultural chemical yields in large ungauged basins. To satisfy the objective, the model (a) is physically based (calibration is not possible on ungauged basins); (b) uses readily available inputs; (c) is computationally efficient to operate on large basins in a reasonable time; and (d) is continuous time and capable of simulating long periods for computing the effects of management changes. SWAT allows a basin to be divided into hundreds or thousands of grid cells or subwatersheds. It is still a continuous time model (daily time step) that is required to look at long-term impacts of management (i.e., reservoir sedimentation over 50-100 years) and also timing of agricultural practices within a year (i.e., crop rotations, planting and harvest dates, irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticide application rates and timing).

Major enhancements from SWRRB include the following:

- **New Input File Structure** - The previous SWRRB file structure consisted of one large file with data for all subbasins on weather, soils, land use, topography and management. SWAT files are split into separate files by subbasin and data type. This facilitates more subbasins and simplifies GIS linkages.
- **Reach Routing Structure** - SWRRB routed from subbasin outlets directly to the basin outlet for simplicity. The new routing structure allows large basins to be simulated, providing more realistic routing. More subbasins can be easily added and GIS linkages and data base management are simplified. A set of commands is used to control the routing. These commands route and add flows through the watershed through reaches and reservoirs. The model reads each command and performs the given hydrologic command.
- **Groundwater Component** - Total stream flow from large basins is the sum of surface runoff and groundwater flow. Groundwater flow volumes and timing must be simulated to accurately predict stream flow, sediment concentrations, and chemical concentrations in the stream flow. Water percolating past the root zone is assumed to recharge the shallow aquifer. Shallow aquifer components include recharge, revap, flow to the stream, percolation to the deep aquifer, and pumping withdrawals. The shallow aquifer interacts with the stream - channel transmission losses and pond/reservoir seepage replenish it. Once water reaches the deep aquifer it cannot return to the stream.

- Revised Management - SWRRB management files were awkward and only allowed for a three crop rotation. Also, irrigation, nutrient and pesticide application data were in three separate files making cross-checking difficult. Tillage in SWRRB was simplified to handle only four possible options that all occurred at harvest. In SWAT a specific date and specific tillage implement can be selected. SWAT can have an unlimited number of years of rotation.
- Irrigation Water Transfer - SWRRB did not simulate water transfer within a watershed, however, for the large basins simulated by SWAT there may be a need to simulate water transfer. Given the reach routing command structure, it is relatively easy to transfer water within a basin. This can account for irrigation flow paths and could provide a management tool for irrigation management districts and other agencies concerned with irrigation water rights. The algorithm developed here will allow water to be transferred from any reach or reservoir to any other reach or reservoir in the watershed. It will also allow water to be diverted and applied directly to irrigate a subwatershed.

In recent years, there has been considerable effort devoted to utilizing GIS to extract inputs (soils, land use, and topography) for comprehensive simulation models and spatially display model outputs. Much of the initial research was devoted to linking single-event, grid models with raster-based GIS (Srinivasan and Engel, 1991; Rewerts and Engel, 1991). An interface was developed for SWAT (Srinivasan and Arnold, 1993) using the Graphical Resources Analysis Support System (GRASS) (U.S. Army, 1988). The input interface will extract model input data from map layers and associated relational databases for each subbasin. Soils, land use, weather, management, and topographic data are collected and written to appropriate model input files. The output interface allows the user to display output maps and graph output data by selecting a subbasin from a GIS map.

Modeling Scenarios

Planned treatment for the two watersheds includes removing 75 percent of the brush (RNGB category - mechanical removal), re-seeding grass in barren areas and areas disturbed by brush removal, and contouring and terracing the cropland. Appropriate runoff curve numbers were selected to represent the existing and treated conditions.

For the existing condition of the watersheds, it was assumed the open rangeland was poor condition (less than 50 percent ground cover) and the brushy rangeland was good condition (greater than 75 percent ground cover). It was also assumed the required minimum shallow aquifer storage before groundwater flow could occur is 100 millimeters and the re-evaporation coefficient is 0.2 in order to simulate high water use by brush. In addition, the cropland was assumed to be good condition straight-row with USLE "P" factor of 1.0 and slope length (SWAT default values) of 91 meters for slopes of 2 to 5 percent, and 122 meters for slopes of less than 2 percent.

For the treated condition, it was assumed the open rangeland is fair condition (50 to 75 percent ground cover) and the remaining brushy rangeland is still good condition. It was also assumed the barren areas and brush removal areas are re-seeded and, therefore, included in the RNGE (fair condition) category. The minimum required shallow aquifer storage is assumed 1.0 millimeter and the re-evaporation coefficient 0.1 in order to simulate less water use as a result of removing brush. The cropland was assumed to be good condition contoured and terraced, with "P" factor of 0.5 and slope length of 45 meters for slopes of 2 to 5 percent, and 60 meters for slopes of less than 2 percent.

RESULTS

Calibration

Since there was no measured sediment or flow in either watershed, we compared the simulated sediment with measured sediment in nearby lakes with similar size drainage (USDA-NRCS, Texas Reservoir Sedimentation Surveys).

From the 30-year SWAT simulation, the existing condition sediment load for Oak Creek Reservoir is about 0.26 acre-feet per square mile of drainage area per year. For Lake Trammell, the 30-year simulated sediment load for the existing condition is about 0.39 acre-feet/square mile/year. The volumes were calculated from SWAT output in metric tons, assuming a unit weight of sediment (submerged) of 55 pounds per cubic foot.

These values compare reasonably well with measured sediment in the nearby lakes. Values of drainage area (square miles) and average annual sediment load (acre-feet/square mile/year) for these lakes are as follows: Winters Lake, 63 s.m., 0.40 ac-ft/s.m./yr.; Fort Phantom Hill Lake, 330 s.m., 0.54 ac-ft/s.m./yr.; and Ballinger Lake, 210 s.m., 0.17 ac-ft/s.m./yr.

Scenarios

Simulated total sediment load to Oak Creek Reservoir for 1960 through 1989 is about 2,223,887 tons for the existing condition (Figure 5). For the treated condition, the total simulated sediment load is about 1,220,393 tons, or a decrease of about 1,003,494 tons for the 30-year period.

Simulated total sediment load (1960 through 1989) to Lake Trammell is about 685,548 tons for the existing condition (Figure 6). For the treated condition, the simulated total sediment load is about 441,948 tons, or a decrease of about 243,600 tons.

The difference between existing and treated condition simulated flow volumes to the two lakes was negligible (Figures 7 and 8). The average annual flow volume decreased for the treated condition by about 282 acre-feet for Oak Creek Reservoir, and about 81 acre-feet for Lake Trammell.

The simulated sediment load and sediment yield is shown by subbasin for each watershed in Tables 1 and 2. The "Sediment Yield" is only from sheet, rill, and concentrated flow erosion. The "Sediment Load" includes sheet, rill, concentrated flow, and stream channel erosion. "Routed Sediment Load" includes upstream subbasins. "Subbasin Sediment Load" is the sediment load from each individual subbasin. The loads and yields shown are cumulative totals for the entire 30-year simulation. Also shown is the amount of heavy and moderate brush within each subbasin that was removed for simulation of the treated condition. In addition, the area of cropland in each subbasin is shown.

The sediment loads for some of the subbasins are very high. This is because SWAT simulates stream channel erosion in subbasins that drain other subbasins. Stream channel erosion is not simulated by SWAT for exterior subbasins (those that have no upstream subbasins), and therefore, these sediment loads are lower.

Sediment Yield is probably the best indicator of land treatment benefits, and we recommend that these values be used to prioritize treatment. The Sediment Yield in this case is the yield at the subbasin outlet as computed by MUSLE (modified universal soil loss equation). MUSLE calculates concentrated flow erosion and uses a sediment delivery ratio. The sediment yield from MUSLE will normally be lower than the USLE erosion rate because MUSLE uses a delivery ratio to estimate the amount of sediment deposited along the flow path prior to reaching the subbasin outlet. For small subbasins, the sediment yield from MUSLE tends to be higher (approaching the USLE erosion rate) because there is less opportunity for sediment to be deposited along the flow path (shorter flow path).

GLOSSARY of SWAT INPUTS

Channel Transmission Loss	This is the effective hydraulic conductivity (mm/hr) in channel alluvium. The values range from greater than 127 for clean gravel and large sand ($d_{50} > 2$ mm) to less than 1 for consolidated bed material with high silt-clay content.
Evaporation Compensation Factor	This factor allows the soil evaporation routine in SWAT to compensate for moisture deficits in the soil surface layer by extracting additional moisture from lower layers. A low value (0.1) represents maximum allowable compensation from lower layers, and a value of 1.0 represents no compensation (normal evaporation from lower layers).
Leaf Area Index	The surface area of leaves of a plant divided by ground area of the plant canopy.

Minimum Aquifer Storage	The shallow aquifer storage must exceed the Minimum Aquifer Storage before ground water flow can begin. A low value (1.0 mm) represents an aquifer that is full, resulting in immediate groundwater flow when percolation occurs from the soil profile to the shallow aquifer.
Potential Heat Units	The heat units required by a growing plant to reach maturity.
Rain Interception	The amount of initial rainfall that is intercepted by plant canopy or litter under the plant, and does not reach the soil surface.
Re-Evaporation Coefficient	This coefficient controls the amount of evaporation from the shallow aquifer. The amount is determined by multiplying potential evapotranspiration (ET) by the re-evaporation coefficient.
Runoff Curve Number	The runoff curve number is the SCS antecedent moisture condition 2 curve number. SWAT adjusts the curve number up or down depending on soil moisture content at the time precipitation occurs.
Soil Flow Length (m)	The length over which lateral sub-surface soil flow must occur before flow enters the surface runoff.
Soil Available Water Content (%)	Maximum water content that each layer of the soil profile is capable of storing for use by plants.

LITERATURE CITED

- Arnold, J.G., J.R. Williams, A.D. Nicks, and N.B. Sammons. 1990. SWRRB: A Basin Scale Simulation Model for Soil and Water Resources Management. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station
- Arnold, J.G., J.R. Williams, D.R. Maidment. 1995. A Continuous Water and Sediment Routing Model for Large Basins. ASAE, Journal of Hydr. Engr., Feb.
- Knisel, W.G. 1980. CREAMS, A Field scale model for chemicals, runoff, and erosion from agricultural management systems. U.S. Dept. Agric. Conserv. Res. Report No. 26
- Nichols, J.D. 1975. Characteristics of Computerized Soil Maps. Soil Science Society of America Proceedings. Volume 39, No 5.

Rewerts, C.C. and B.A. Engel. 1991. Answers on GRASS: Integrating a watershed simulation with a GIS. ASAE Paper No. 91-2621, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, St. Joseph, MI.

Srinivasan, R. and B.A. Engel. 1991. A knowledge based approach to exact input data from GIS. ASAE Paper No. 91-7045, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, St. Joseph, MI.

Srinivasan, R. and J.G. Arnold. 1993. Integration of a basin scale water quality model with GIS. Water Resources Bulletin (accepted for publication).

U.S. Army. 1988. GRASS Reference manual. USA CERL, Champaign, IL

Williams, J.R., A.D. Nicks, and J.G. Arnold. 1985. Simulator for water resources in rural basins. J. Hydraulic Eng., ASCE, 111(6):970-986.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

OAK CREEK WATERSHED & TRAMMELL WATERSHED Subbasin Locations

TRAMMELL WATERSHED

NOLAN COUNTY

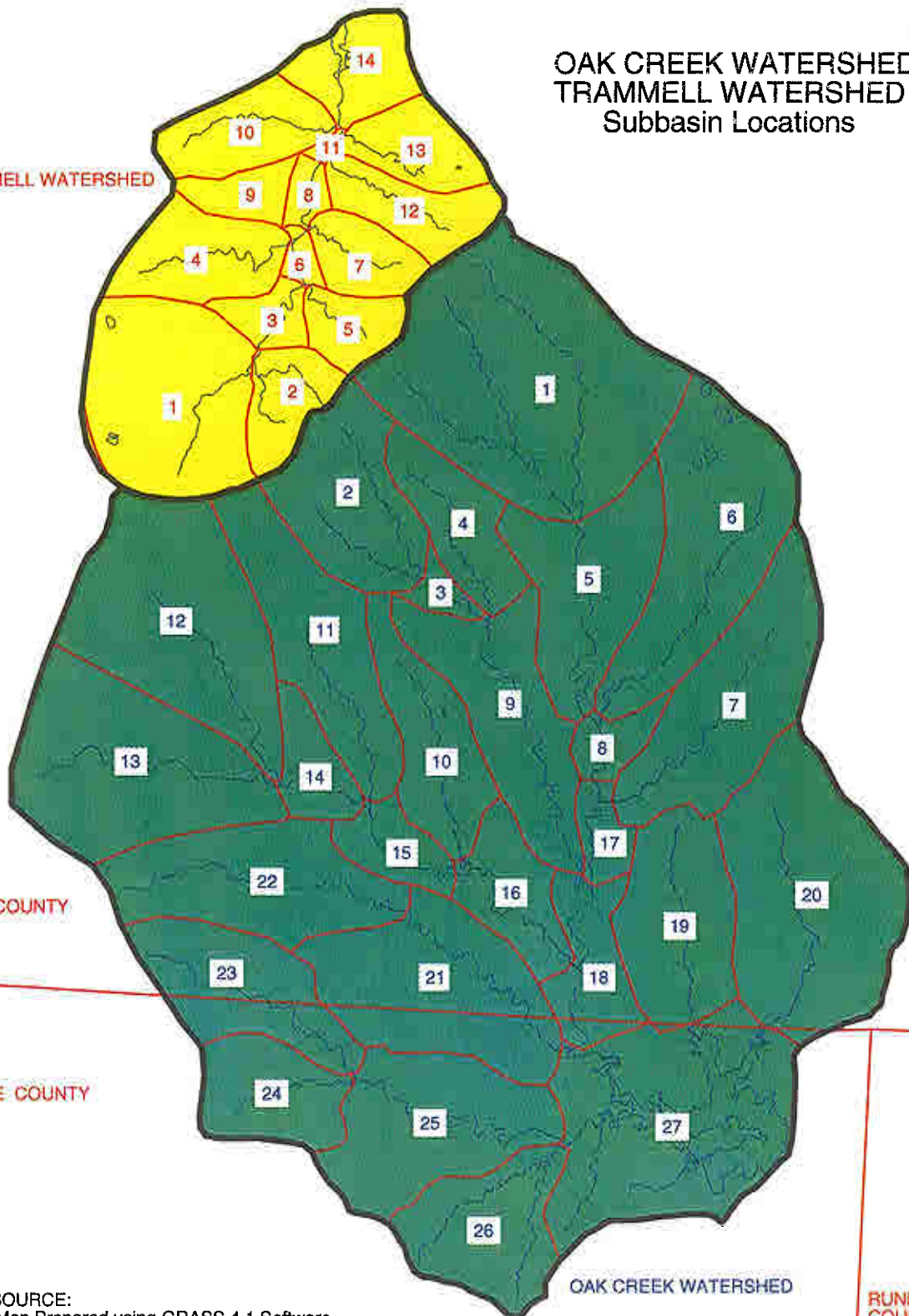
COKE COUNTY

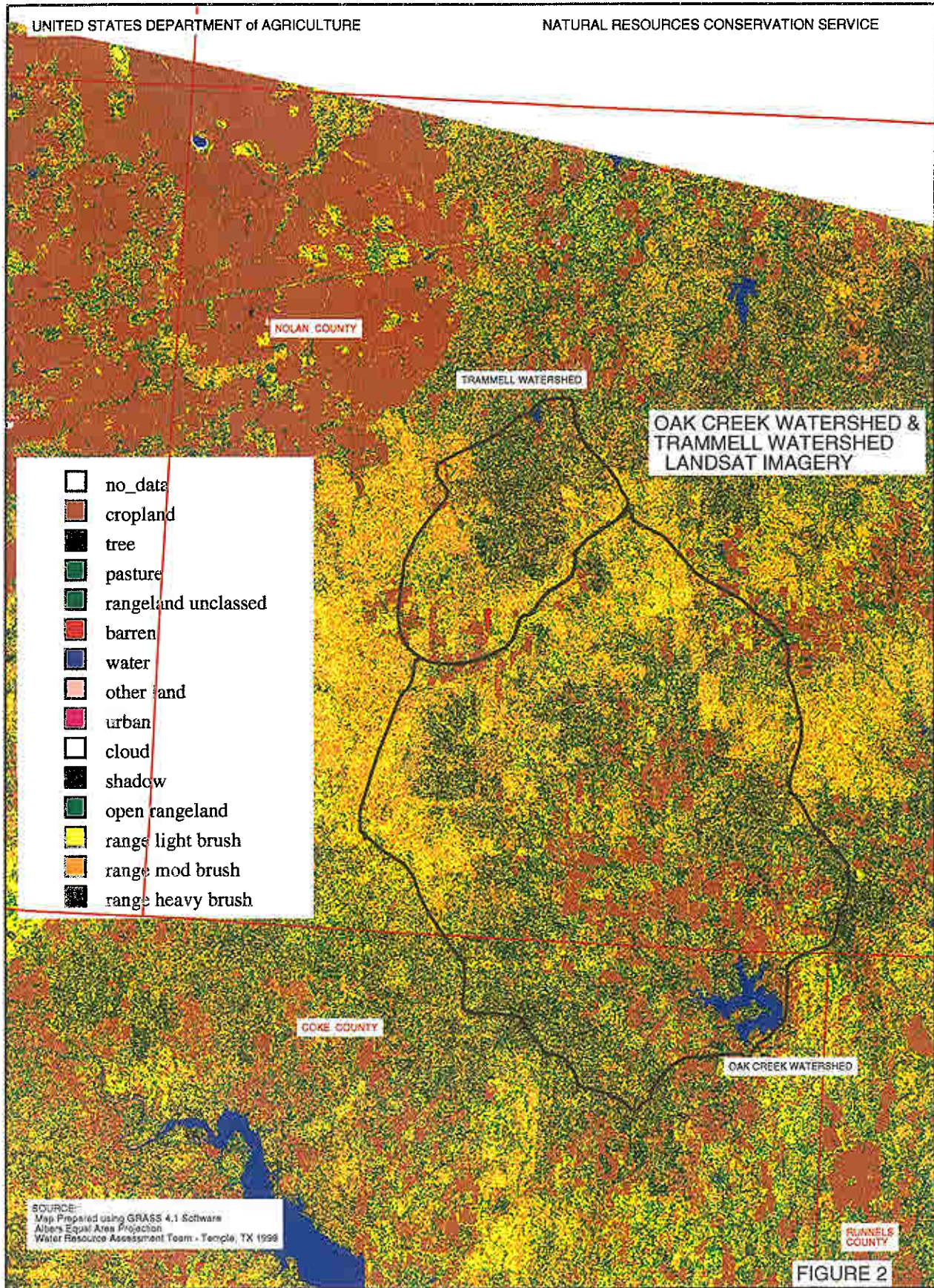
OAK CREEK WATERSHED

RUNNELS COUNTY

SOURCE:
Map Prepared using GRASS 4.1 Software
Albers Equal Area Projection
Water Resource Assessment Team - Temple, TX 1998

FIGURE 1








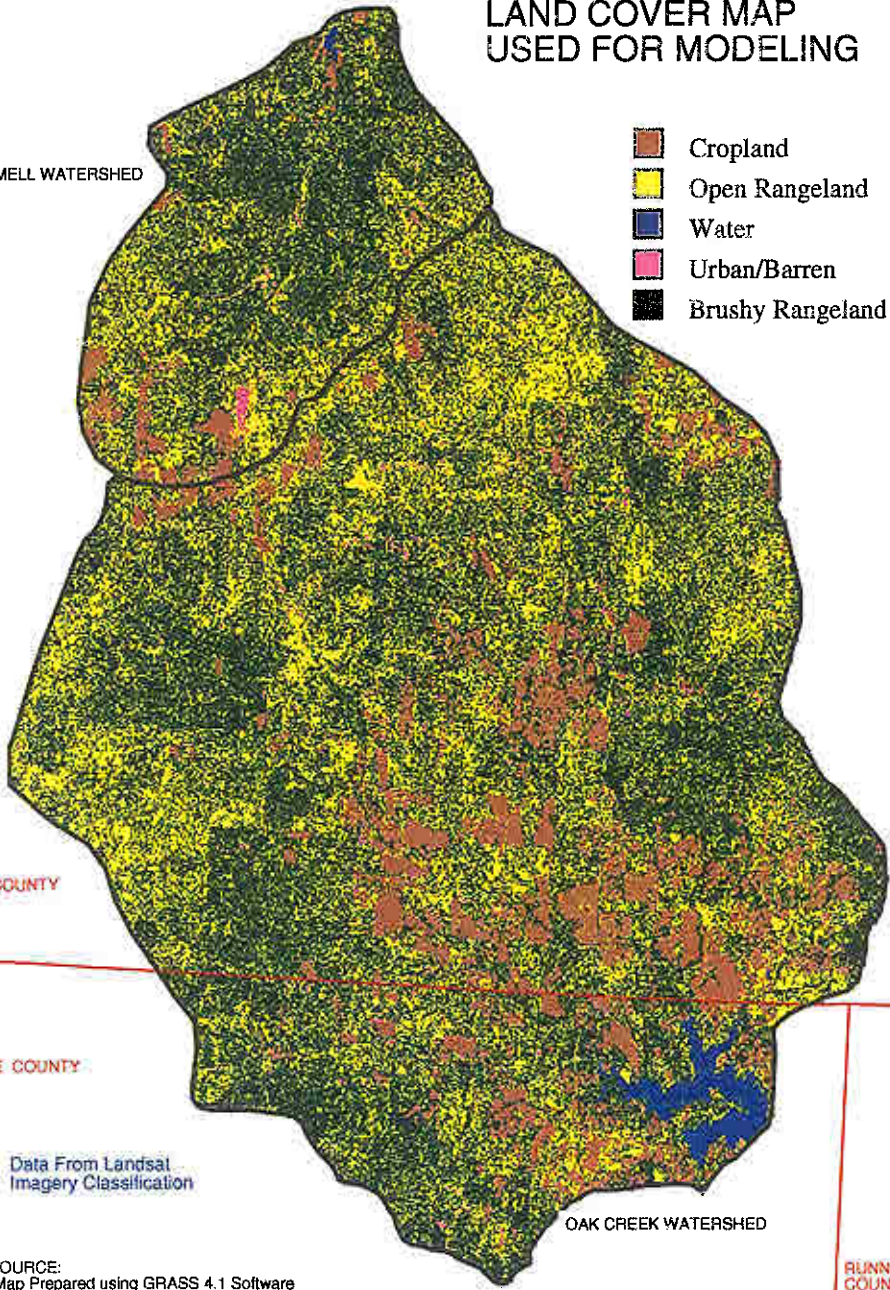
SOURCE:
Map Prepared using GRASS 4.1 Software
Albers Equal Area Projection
Water Resource Assessment Team - Temple, TX 1998

FIGURE 2

LAND COVER MAP USED FOR MODELING

TRAMMELL WATERSHED

-  Cropland
-  Open Rangeland
-  Water
-  Urban/Barren
-  Brushy Rangeland



NOLAN COUNTY

COKE COUNTY

Data From Landsat
Imagery Classification

OAK CREEK WATERSHED

RUNNELS
COUNTY

SOURCE:
Map Prepared using GRASS 4.1 Software
Albers Equal Area Projection
Water Resource Assessment Team - Temple, TX 1998

FIGURE 3

OAK CREEK WATERSHED & TRAMMELL WATERSHED CBMS SOILS DATA

TRAMMELL WATERSHED

NOLAN COUNTY

COKE COUNTY

NOTE: Soil categories too numerous to display a color map legend.

OAK CREEK WATERSHED

SOURCE:
Map Prepared using GRASS 4.1 Software
Albers Equal Area Projection
Water Resource Assessment Team - Temple, TX 1998

RUNNELS COUNTY

FIGURE 4



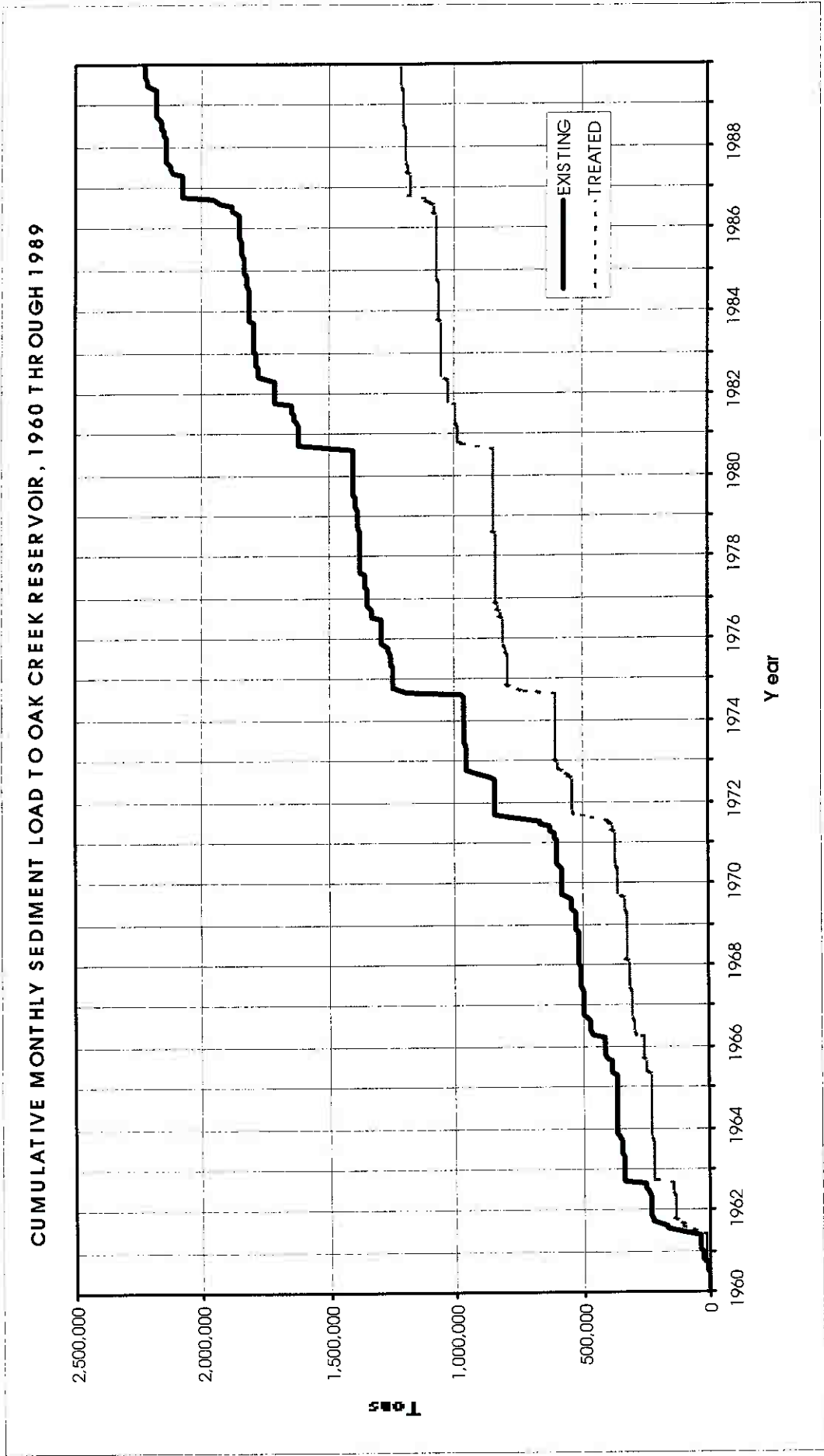


Figure 5. Cumulative Monthly Sediment Load to Oak Creek Reservoir for Existing and Treated Conditions, 1960 through 1989.

CUMULATIVE MONTHLY SEDIMENT LOAD TO LAKE TRAMMELL, 1960 THROUGH 1989

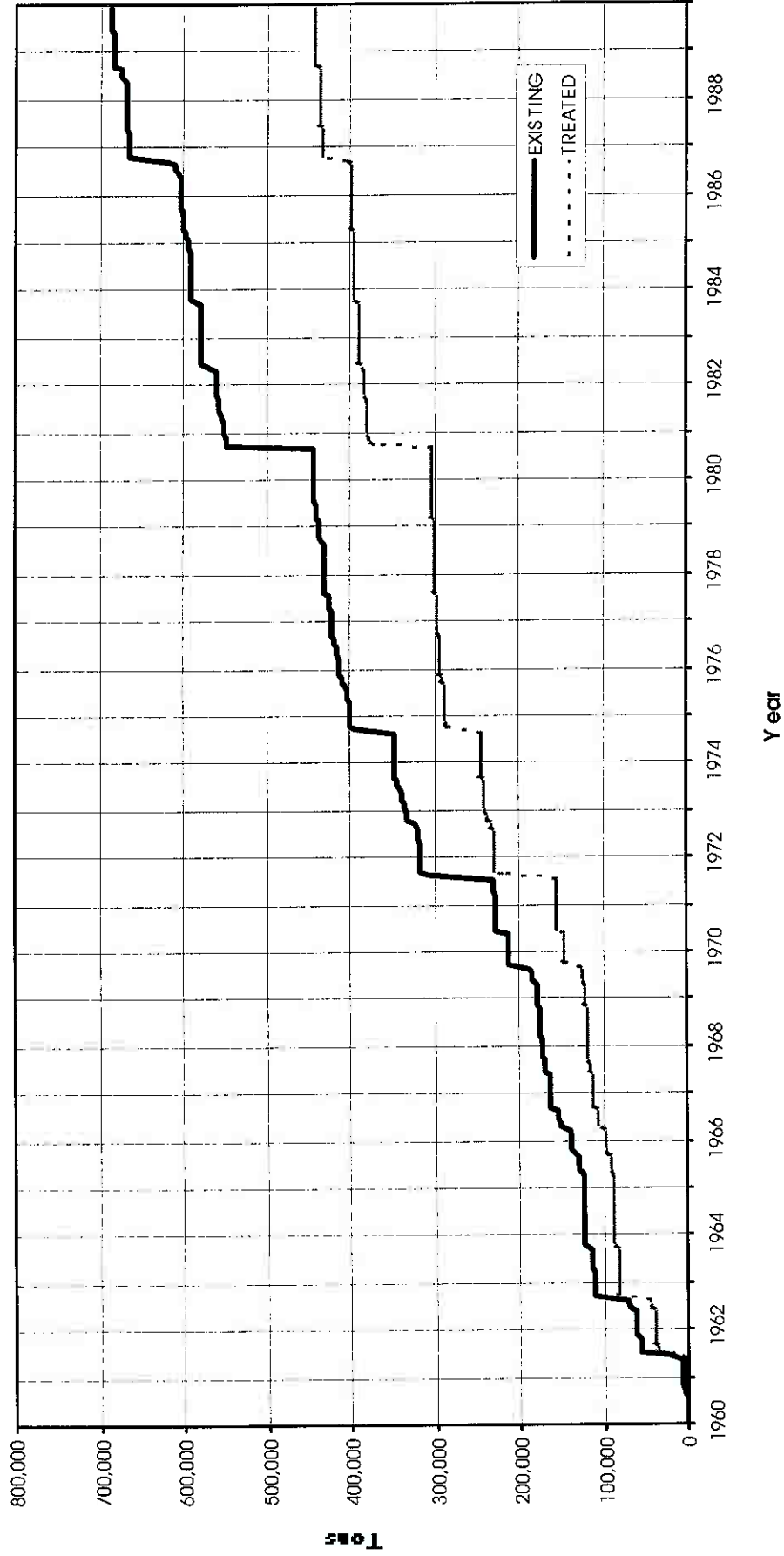


Figure 6. Cumulative Monthly Sediment Load to Lake Trammell for Existing and Treated Conditions, 1960 through 1989.

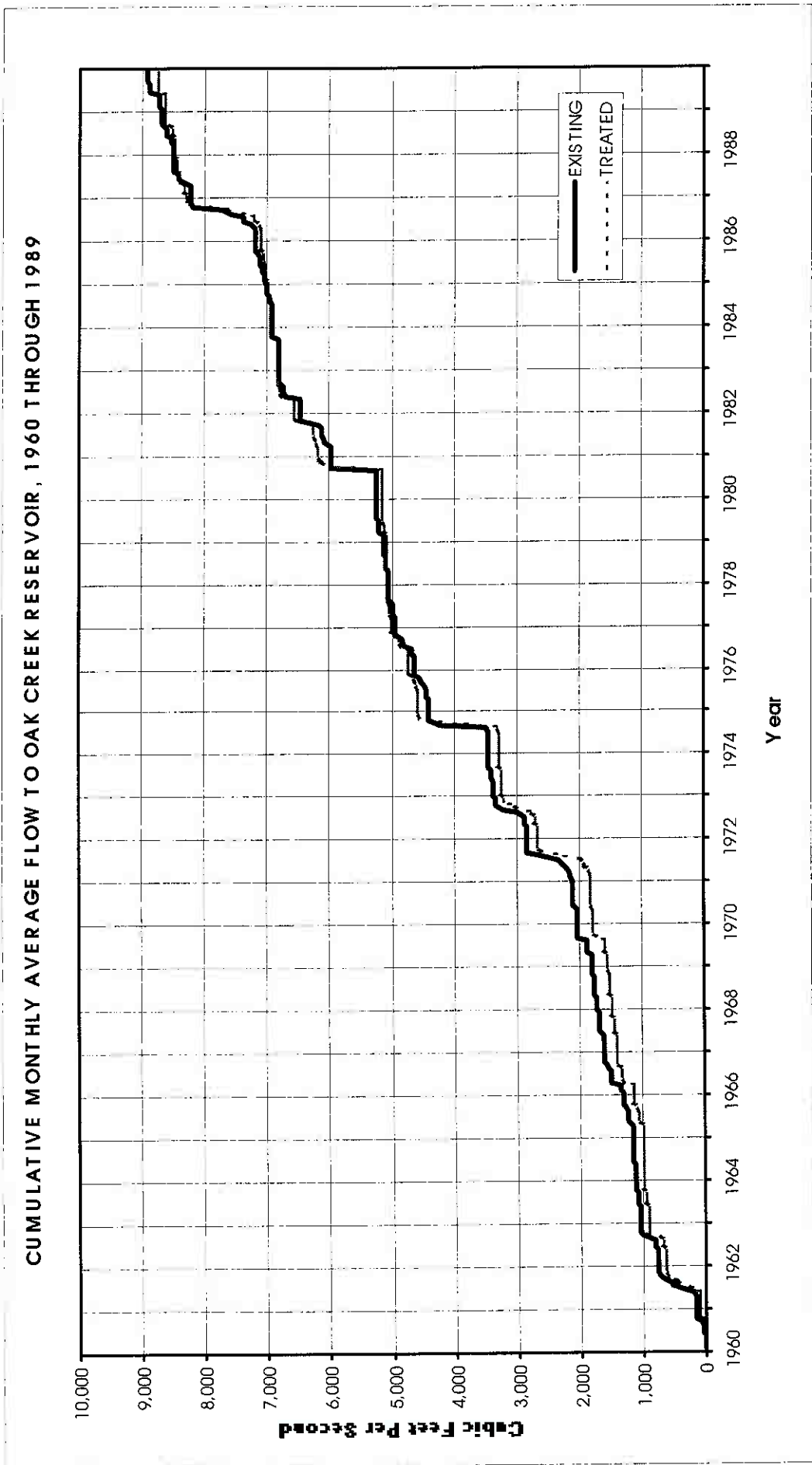


Figure 7. Cumulative Monthly Average Flow to Oak Creek Reservoir for Existing and Treated Conditions, 1960 through 1989.

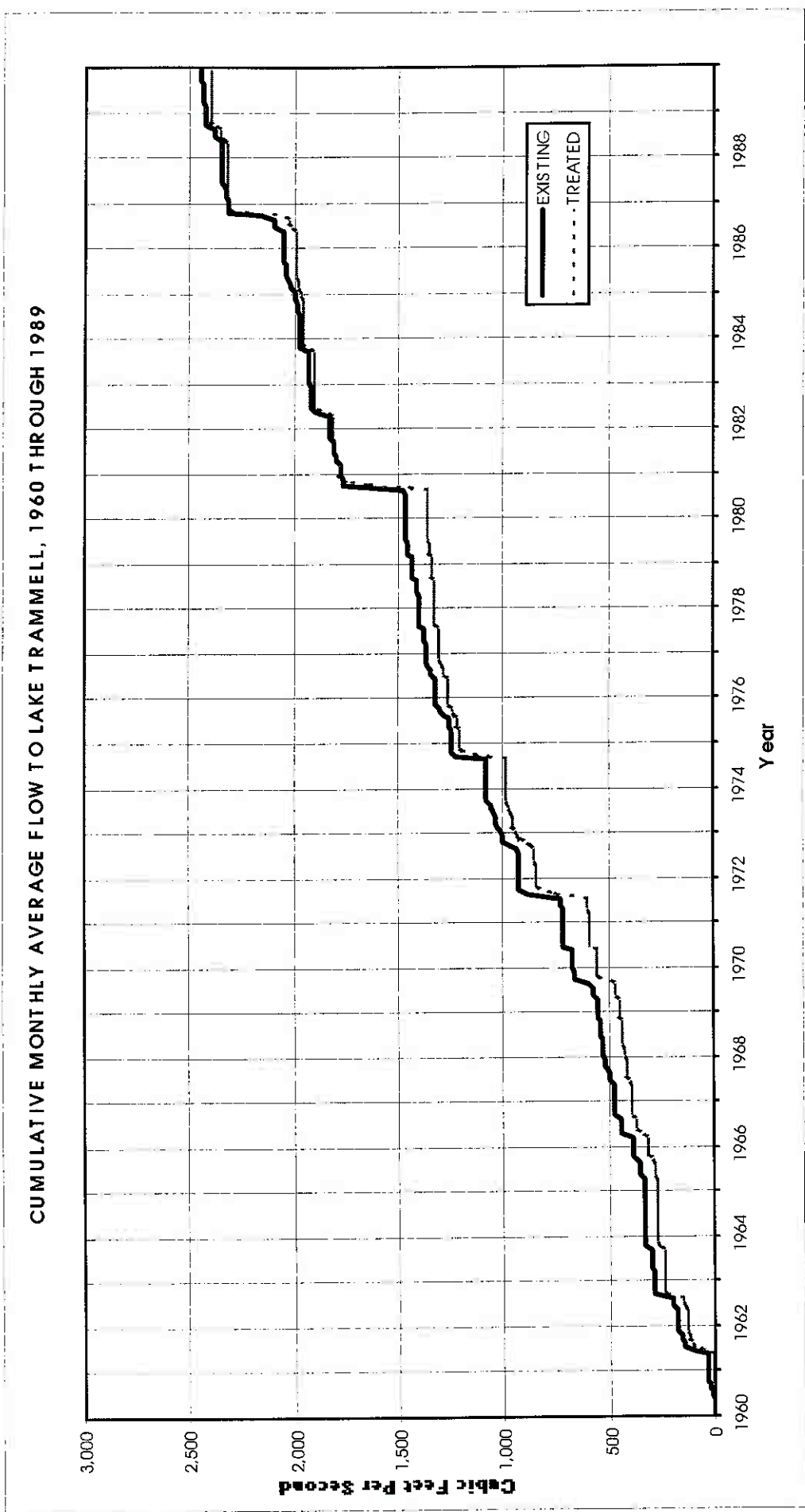


Figure 8. Cumulative Monthly Average Flow to Lake Trammell for Existing and Treated Conditions, 1960 through 1989.

**TABLE 1
1960 THROUGH 1989
CUMULATIVE SEDIMENT LOAD AND YIELD FOR EXISTING AND TREATED CONDITIONS, OAK CREEK WATERSHED**

SUB-BASIN	SUBBASIN AREA (Acres)	BRUSH AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (RNGB) (%)	CROPLAND AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	ROUTED SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SUBBASIN SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons/Acre)		SEDIMENT YIELD (Tons/Acre)	
						EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED
1	14,915	6,632	44.5	564	3.7	19,921	7,069	19,921	7,069	1.34	0.47	1.33	0.47
2	5,446	2,461	45.2	287	3.7	11,075	3,763	11,075	3,763	2.03	0.69	2.03	0.69
3	702	415	59.2	10	5.3	51,377	33,413	40,302	29,650	57.43	42.25	1.57	0.70
4	3,232	1,443	44.6	178	1.4	4,633	1,754	4,633	1,754	1.43	0.54	1.43	0.54
5	5,871	2,708	46.1	702	5.5	182,020	117,284	162,099	110,215	27.61	18.77	6.14	1.82
6	8,629	4,250	49.3	1,008	12.0	16,443	4,776	16,443	4,776	1.91	0.55	1.90	0.55
7	7,275	4,052	55.7	99	11.7	12,353	5,354	12,353	5,354	1.70	0.74	1.70	0.73
8	1,196	395	33.1	346	1.4	338,693	204,568	140,229	82,508	117.25	68.99	11.79	3.43
9	6,168	2,777	45.0	1,236	28.9	145,475	97,025	89,466	61,858	14.51	10.03	3.25	1.22
10	4,260	1,997	46.9	455	20.0	12,192	5,469	12,192	5,469	2.86	1.28	2.86	1.28
11	6,257	2,609	41.7	534	10.7	16,948	5,437	16,948	5,437	2.71	0.87	2.71	0.87
12	9,617	5,288	55.0	385	8.5	13,590	5,029	13,590	5,029	1.41	0.52	1.41	0.52
13	9,083	4,309	47.4	40	4.0	11,398	4,295	11,398	4,295	1.25	0.47	1.25	0.47
14	1,829	890	48.6	49	0.4	146,144	98,202	121,156	88,878	66.26	48.61	2.71	0.92
15	1,819	514	28.3	731	2.7	316,301	208,179	153,208	104,541	84.24	57.48	8.87	2.69
16	2,896	909	31.4	840	40.2	497,659	332,199	169,167	118,551	58.41	40.94	7.90	2.35
17	1,186	425	35.8	178	29.0	512,802	299,959	161,756	90,037	136.38	75.91	21.34	5.51
18	2,906	1,028	35.4	909	15.0	1,550,119	964,558	394,182	235,374	135.65	81.00	7.48	1.71
19	5,436	2,372	43.6	1,641	31.3	138,764	35,979	138,764	35,979	25.53	6.62	25.53	6.58
20	10,487	4,942	47.1	1,848	30.2	152,786	36,920	152,786	36,920	14.57	3.52	14.57	3.52
21	7,907	3,390	42.9	1,769	17.6	98,895	44,668	87,949	40,771	11.12	5.16	6.14	1.45
22	6,711	3,588	53.5	287	22.4	10,946	3,897	10,946	3,897	1.63	0.58	1.63	0.58
23	5,031	3,252	64.6	79	4.3	24,071	8,964	24,071	8,964	4.78	1.78	4.78	1.78
24	3,489	2,026	58.1	59	1.6	28,646	10,581	28,646	10,581	8.21	3.03	8.21	3.03
25	6,761	3,677	54.4	781	1.7	162,816	95,802	110,099	76,257	16.29	11.28	8.26	3.77
26	4,695	2,738	58.3	366	11.5	37,407	12,829	37,407	12,829	7.97	2.73	7.97	2.73
27	11,189	4,082	36.5	2,323	7.8	2,223,887	1,220,393	83,100	29,638	7.43	2.65	7.66	2.75
TOTAL	154,991	73,171		17,692									

**TABLE 2
1960 THROUGH 1989
CUMULATIVE SEDIMENT LOAD AND YIELD FOR EXISTING AND TREATED CONDITIONS, LAKE TRAMMELL WATERSHED**

SUB-BASIN	SUBBASIN AREA (Acres)	BRUSH AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (RNGB) (%)	CROPLAND AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	ROUTED SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SUBBASIN SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons/Acre)		SEDIMENT YIELD (Tons/Acre)	
						EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED
1	7,601	2,926	38.5	1,443	19.0	22,584	11,198	22,584	11,198	2.97	1.47	2.97	1.47
2	2,125	741	34.9	69	3.3	1,459	561	1,459	561	0.69	0.26	0.68	0.26
3	1,127	771	68.4	0	0.0	86,442	55,002	62,399	43,243	55.38	38.38	2.03	0.85
4	3,410	1,997	58.6	40	1.2	4,739	1,865	4,739	1,865	1.39	0.55	1.39	0.54
5	1,661	939	56.5	0	0.0	2,314	956	2,314	956	1.39	0.58	1.39	0.57
6	455	316	69.6	0	0.0	184,077	110,861	90,582	53,038	199.23	116.65	3.99	1.71
7	1,937	1,334	68.9	10	0.5	2,046	896	2,046	896	1.06	0.46	1.05	0.46
8	613	474	77.4	0	0.0	300,759	175,444	111,450	62,386	181.87	101.80	32.65	11.10
9	1,245	919	73.8	0	0.0	3,186	1,301	3,186	1,301	2.56	1.04	2.56	1.04
10	3,044	2,086	68.5	99	3.2	9,933	4,061	9,933	4,061	3.26	1.33	3.26	1.33
11	168	128	76.5	0	0.0	420,045	253,377	114,709	75,578	682.68	449.79	18.08	6.90
12	2,629	1,443	54.9	10	0.4	4,577	2,356	4,577	2,356	1.74	0.90	1.74	0.89
13	2,283	1,670	73.2	0	0.0	3,614	1,495	3,614	1,495	1.58	0.65	1.58	0.65
14	2,679	1,641	61.3	227	8.5	685,548	441,948	251,956	183,015	94.06	68.33	26.45	10.77
TOTAL	30,976	17,386		1,898									

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P.O. BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556-1114

(915) 235-4300 FAX (915) 236-6625

November 18, 1998

«Name»

«Address_Line_1»

«City», «State» «ZIP_Code»

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING

You are invited to a public meeting Monday, November 30, 1998, at the Maryneal Community Center. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM.

Financial assistance is available to agricultural operations within the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds to carry out conservation practices, such as, Brush Management, Range Seeding, Terraces, etc.

\$378,000 in financial assistance is available for this targeted area. Maximum financial assistance available for an eligible operating unit is \$50,000. Incentive payments for installing eligible practices are based on 75% of the actual cost figures established for the county.

To receive financial assistance, a Water Quality management Plan covering the entire farm/ranch operation must be developed.

There will be a one time sign-up for this program beginning immediately following this public meeting and ending December 11, 1998.

If you are unable to attend the public meeting, you can make application prior to December 11, 1998, at the Nolan county SWCD/Natural Resources Conservation Service Office at 103 W Florida in Sweetwater.

Ralph Stirl
Nolan County SWCD

Terry Been
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Jimmy J. Apel
Big Country Resource Conservation
and Development Area, Inc.

BOARD

ell 12
61

Highland 22
Strawn 54

ter orter



Dedicated to delivering local news

Award Winner

3 Sections 34 Pages

Daily 50¢

Sunday 75¢

Meeting to learn about, apply for incentive funds is set for November 30

Interested agricultural producers urged to attend meeting

By **DON ROGERS**

Incentive funds to be used to address water quality concerns may be made available to agriculture producers in the Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell watersheds.

The funding was approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

These incentive funds (a total amount of \$380,000) have been made available through the efforts of the Big Country Resource and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and

(SWCD). These two organizations, in a joint venture, applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the

Funds to be used to address water quality concerns in Oak Creek Lake, Lake Trammell areas

Clean Water Act.

Details regarding the incentive funds (such as who is eligible to apply, how the funds are to be used, and how to apply) will be given in a meeting scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30, 1998. It will be held

Center and will begin at 9 a.m.

Agricultural producers interested in the program are urged to attend the meeting. They will have the opportunity to make application for the program following the meeting.

The one-time sign up period to make application for the program is November 30 through December 11, 1998.

Assistance in developing and implementing individual plans will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service for those applications approved.

Local entities supporting submission of the application for funding include: the City of Sweetwater, the Nolan County

and Bryan Ranson of Marynear, died Wednesday.
Services were Friday at 2 p.m. in Glory Hill Assembly of God Church in Finley. Burial was in Finley Cemetery under the direction of Mills & Coffey Funeral Home in Antlers, Okla.

Funds

From Page A1

Commissioners Court, the Nolan County Extension Program Council, the Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation and the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Non point Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

list for home delivery.
Last year she, her daughter Cindy Ransberger and granddaughters Myka and Andy Ransberger delivered 56 dinners in the Jack Lambert Drive housing area, and they'll use last year's list as a starter.

It's hard to pinpoint a number of Thanksgiving dinners the Jaycees served in



Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond's gift of snow

I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the autumn's gentle rain
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting gush

Of quiet birds in circled flight
I am the soft stars that shine at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there I did not die.

In Loving Memory Of
Efraim Lara

Society

Mrs. Wes Bishop; Leigha Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brandell Campbell; John Castro, son of Mr. Eddie Castro and Ms. Maria Castro; Timothy Coleman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bion Coleman; Elysia Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Edwards; Clifton Forbes, son of Ms.

Melisa Glass; Shaun Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton; Amanda Harger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Harger; Max Harger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Harger; Darron Hefner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hefner; Jimmy Hendrix, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Hendrix; Kristin Herrera, wife of Eric Herrera and daughter of Mrs. Bobby Harris; Chelsea Jackson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Jackson; Audrea Johnson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Clay Johnson; Jenny Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnson; Michael Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jones; Robin Kinney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Kinney; Bri Lambeth, daughter of Ms. Liz Lambeth; Alexis Lara, daughter of Ms. Tommie Lara and Mr. George Lara; Shayla Maberry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Maberry; Mark May, son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry May; Erica Melendez, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Melendez; Timothy Monday, son of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Monday; Tara Monde, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Monde; Natalie Newberry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marlon Newberry; Clint Parks, son of Mr. and Mrs.

Correction for Lenn Reeves obituary

In the obituary of Lenn Reeves in Friday's newspaper, the Cate-Spencer & Trent Funeral Home was inadvertently called the Cate-Spencer & McCoy Funeral Home, due to a computer problem. The newspaper apologizes for the error.

My family and I would like to express our gratefulness to all the many friends who have supported Thomas while he has been in the hospital. All of your prayers, donations, cards, and notes are very appreciated. Thomas is improving little by little. Your continued prayers for his complete recovery will be appreciated.

**Thanks to all of you,
Feather Hurn**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To: Property Owners
Garden Of Memories
Office Address: East Interstate 20, Sweetwater, Texas
If you own property at Garden Of Memories Memorial Park.

NOTICE

If you miss your Sweetwater Reporter you should call

■ **Agribusiness**

Pecan show slated at the mall

It's that nutty holiday time of year. And to get December off to a great start, the Abilene Area Pecan Show is Dec. 1-2 at the Mall of Abilene.

The show will be 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day in the hallway by Luby's Cafeteria.

The Taylor County Extension Service Office began accepting pecan entries this week and will continue to do so until the 8:30 a.m. Nov. 30 deadline.

Nuts can be taken to the new Extension Office at 1982 Lytle Way in Abilene, which is on the south side of the Expo Center grounds.

Each entry must contain 42 nuts, labeled with the grower's name, address, phone number and variety, if known. If you do not know the variety, the judges will make that determination.

Shelling and judging begins at 9 a.m. Nov. 30. (Hence, the 8:30 a.m. entry deadline that date).

Entries will then be transferred to the Mall of Abilene for displaying Dec. 1-2 during the two-day show, said Gary Bomar, Taylor County extension agent.

Food judging

As in past years, a food show will be part of the Abilene Area Pecan Show.

The food category is divided into two divisions — adults 18 and over and youth under 18.

Classes include:

- Pecan pies.
- Cake made from scratch.
- Cake made with mix as base, but with other ingredients.
- Cookies and brownies (six samples).



J. T. Smith
Farm Editor

- Brittle candy (six samples).
- Praline candy (six samples).
- Fudge & other (divinity, toffee, dipped, etc.) candy (six samples).
- Quick loaf bread.
- Muffins (six samples).
- Yeast bread, sweet dough or regular.

Food entries must be delivered to the Mall between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Extension Agent Lynda Fogerson, chairman of the food category, said pecan entries will be accepted from Taylor, Nolan, Jones, Coke, Coleman, Callahan, Runnels, Fisher and Shackelford counties, provided that the exhibitor has not already shown in another county.

To obtain complete rules regarding the nut or food show or for further information in general, please call the Taylor County Extension Service at (915) 672-6048.

Water quality meeting set

A public meeting is slated for 9 a.m. Nov. 30 at the Maryneal Community Center to explain to agricultural producers in two watersheds above Oak Creek/Lake Trammell the financial incentives available to those who participate in this water quality project.

Producers interested in the program will have the opportunity to make application following the meeting.

Some \$380,000 in financial funds are available to agricultural producers within the project area who voluntarily enter into the agreement to carry out "Best Management Practices" through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan.

Topics to be covered at the meeting include eligibility requirements, priority ranking of applications, financial incentives available and background information on the program.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the funds. The funding is made available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for Texas.

The one-time sign-up period to make application for this program is Nov. 30 through Dec. 11.

Assistance in developing and implementing a plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for those applications approved.

Local entities supporting submission of the application for funding include the city of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

■ Millennium bomb

Y2K bug could cause big problems for companies

By RICHARD WATERS
The Financial Times

NEW YORK — The Year 2000 computer problem could cause far-reaching problems for U.S. companies, from shutting down oil wells to forcing microprocessor plants to close, according to disclosures made in recent days.

The warnings, contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, amount to the most detailed picture yet of the possible extent of the Y2K problem, or "millennium bomb," whereby computers risk failing at the end of next year.

Concerned that companies weren't telling their share-

transport facilities it relied on.

Most companies said they expected to fix their own computer systems before the end of next year. Many added, though, that they couldn't tell whether their most important suppliers would be ready, and some expressed worries about utilities and other providers of essential infrastructure.

Motorola, which makes mobile telephones and computer chips, said it was "particularly concerned about energy and transportation suppliers. Many of those suppliers are unwilling to provide assurances that they will be Year 2000-ready."

11-26-98
11-27-98
11-29-98

Sweetwater Record

©cnhi 1998

Volume 101 - Number 70

Sunday, November 29, 1998

n
ig
re

n
f-
e

ly
0
re
e

Community Briefs

Public meeting for agricultural producers in Maryneal, Nov. 30

A public meeting will be held at the Maryneal Community Center at 9 a.m., Monday, Nov. 30, for agricultural producers in the vicinity of the watersheds at Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Financial incentives for developing water quality management plans will be explained.

Parent Learning Network to be at J.P. Cowen Dec. 1

A Parent Learning Network session will be held at J.P. Cowen Elementary School on Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

This month's topic will be "Feeling heard and understood - showing our children we care."

This is a community-

Record crowds

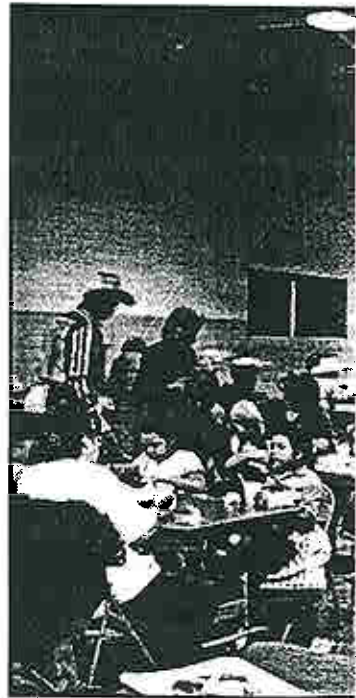
By DON ROGERS

The crowds at Friday night's Christmas Parade and Turn-On Night activities at Newman Park and in the former National Guard Armory were a sight to behold. This was the sixth consecutive year for this special celebration, and last night's crowd was larger than in any previous year. The armory simply could not hold them all.

"It was so exciting to see all the many people who came out this year for the kickoff of our Trail of Lights Celebration," Bette Byrd, chairman of the Trail of Lights Committee, said. "Our committee worked so hard to bring this off. To see the resulting overflow crowd was indeed gratifying. They not only filled the armory, they were everywhere. Many seemed to really enjoy our Walk-Through Town set up amidst the drive-through displays."

Following the completion of the lighted Christmas Parade, it seemed just about everyone

in Sweetwater came on d
for our Turn-On celebrati
Betty Anne Graham, on



Pictured is a portion of former National Guard Armory chili while being entertained by Christmas music.

All winners in parade

Friday night's Christmas Parade was one of the best ever, according to Liz Sande

judges in the parade were:
• Overall Theme Award
Blodgett Matson

Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project Meeting Slated

A public meeting is project area that Conservation District scheduled for Monday voluntarily enter into an (SWCD) in a joint venture for this program is drinking water. November 30, 1998, at the agreement to carry out applied to the Texas State November 30 through Local entities supporting Maryneal Community Best Management Soil and Water December 11, 1998. Center to explain to Practices through an Conservation Board Assistance in developing application for funding agricultural producers in individually tailored whole (TSSWCB) for the funds. and implementing a Plan include the City of the two watersheds above farm/ranch Water Quality The funding is made Environmental Protection U.S. the Nolan County Sweetwater, Nolan County the lakes the financial Management Plan. available from, Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the the Nolan County SWCD Commissioners Court, incentives available to Topics to be covered at the meeting include: Clean Water Act. The TSSWCB is Nolan County Extension those who participate in the meeting include: eligibility requirements; priority ranking of applications; financial incentives available; and responsible for those Bittercreek Water-Supply Corporation, and this water quality project. The meeting will begin at 9:00 A. M. Producers interested in the program will have the opportunity to make application following the meeting.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water producers within the

period to make application of potable (suitable for November 30 through December 11, 1998. Assistance in developing application for funding and implementing a Plan include the City of will be provided through Sweetwater, Nolan County the Nolan County SWCD Commissioners Court, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Program Nolan County Extension Service for those Bittercreek Water-Supply Corporation, and applications approved. The funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply

The funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply



RADIO PROGRAM

KXOX - Sweetwater

319(h) Project Public Meeting
Announcement

Spot announcements

11-24-98

11-25-98

11-26-98

11-27-98

11-28-98

11-29-98

11-30-98

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P.O. BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556-1114

(915) 235-4300 FAX (915) 236-6625

Contact: Jimmy Apel

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OAK CREEK /LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY MEETING

A public meeting will be held at the Maryneal Community Center at 9:00 AM, Monday, November 30, 1998, for agricultural producers in the two watersheds.

Financial incentives for developing Water Quality Management Plans will be explained.



OAK CREEK/LAK TREMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT SIGN IN SHEET

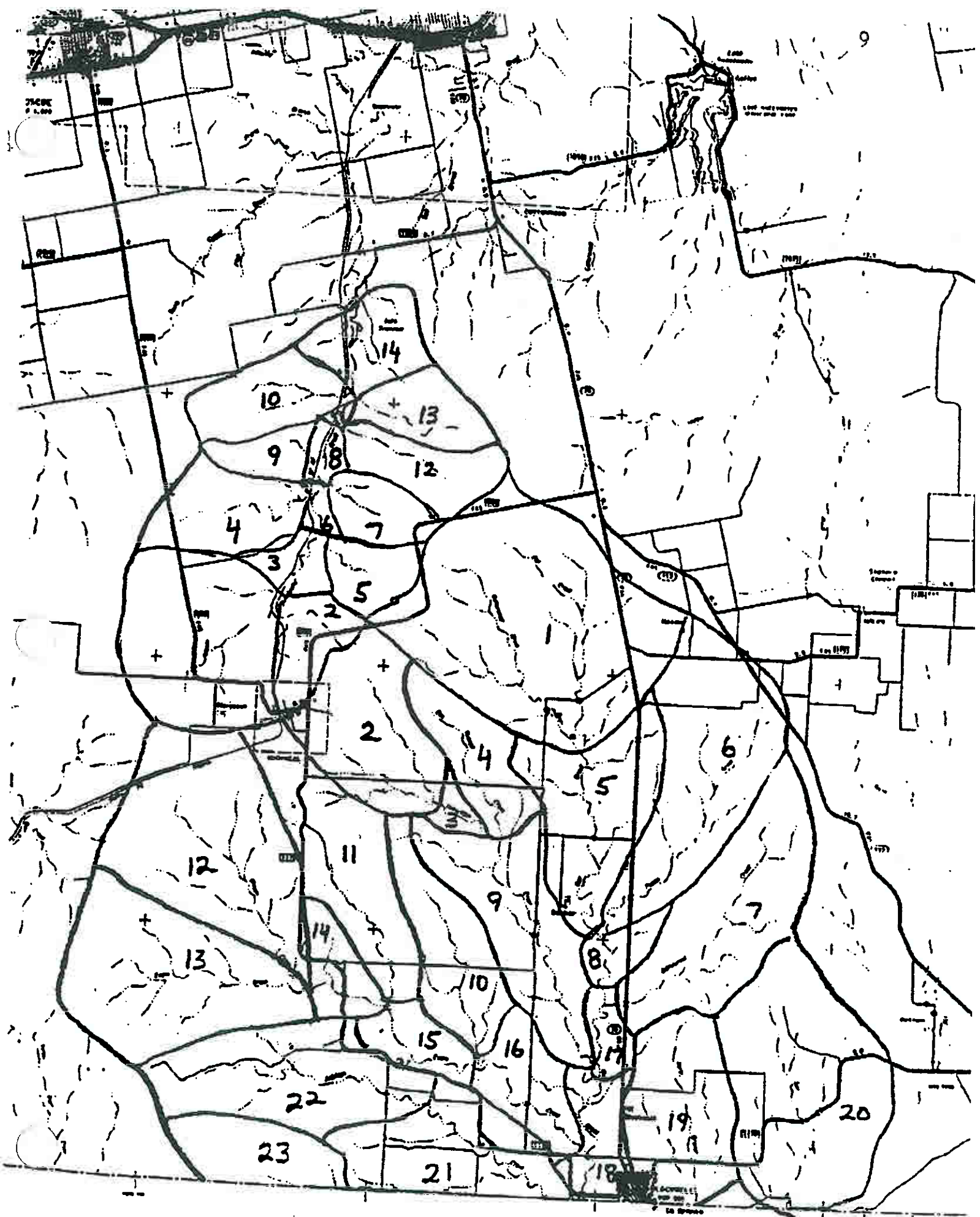
November 30, 1998

Name	Address	Phone #
LARRY SPIVEY		
Buddy Dye's		
Wanda Taylor		
Tommy White		
Ray Williams		
Bryant Anderson		
ELTON MOORE		
Ralph Stirl		
Jim McLaughlin		
Betty Cole		
Santry Sweet		
Shackel Cunningham		
Wes Cunningham		
Paul Smith		
Robert Petty		
Olivia Williamson		
Morgan Wright		
John Wilks		
KEN HILL		
Bobby & Judy Palmer		
Judie Hurn		
Paul Lethard		
R.A. Woodley & Thanda		
[Signature]		
Forrest Thomas		

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Monday, November 30, 1998
Maryneal Community Center
9:00 AM

1. Welcome—Ralph Stirl, Chairman, Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District
2. Water Quality Project General Information—Jimmy Apel, Executive Director, Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
3. Eligibility Requirements—Terry Been, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
4. Priority Ranking for Applications—Apel
5. Financial Incentives—Been
6. Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board—Charlie Rogers and Dan Blockstock
7. Program Sign-up Begins



9

14

10

13

9

12

8

4

3

6

7

5

2

4

5

6

12

11

9

7

13

14

10

8

15

16

22

19

20

23

21

18

1000
1200
1400

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

General Information

- **Goal:** To reduce nonpoint source pollution (sedimentation caused by water erosion) entering Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs by implementing Water Quality Management Plans in the watersheds above the two (2) structures.
- Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.
- The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.
- The funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.
- \$380,000 in financial incentive funds are available to agricultural producers within the project area that voluntarily enter into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan.
- Maximum financial assistance available for an eligible operating unit is \$50,000.
- Incentive payments for installing eligible practices are based on 75% of the actual cost figures established for the county.
- To receive financial assistance, a Water Quality Management Plan covering the entire farm/ranch operation must be developed.
- The one time sign-up period to make application for this program is November 30 through December 11, 1998.
- Assistance in developing and implementing a Plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service for those applications approved.
- **Period of program for financial assistance:** From date of approval of Water Quality Management Plan to 4/30/2001.

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Eligibility Criteria for Financial Assistance

1. The project funds will be obligated to landowners within the targeted watershed boundaries within Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). If the property lies 51% within the targeted watershed boundaries, the entire farm/ranch it is eligible to be included in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP).
2. Only producers who agree to develop and complete whole farm/ranch WQMPs approved by the Nolan County SWCD and certified by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) will be eligible to receive financial assistance.
3. To be eligible to receive financial assistance, the WQMP will have to meet the requirements set forth in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide.
4. The applicant must have control of the operating unit for the length of the program.

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Priority Ranking for Applications

The Directors of the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District will review each eligible application and assign a priority of High, Medium, or Low based on a combination of two factors.

1. Each sub-basin in each watershed has been evaluated as to the existing sediment yield occurring. Applications located within the sub-basins contributing a higher amount of sediment will receive a higher rating.
2. Applications requiring implementation of extensive Best Management Practices to reduce water erosion and associated nonpoint source pollution will receive a higher rating.

Examples of Best Management Practices include:

- Conversion of cropland to grassland through seeding
- Grass seeding on rangeland
- Terraces
- Waterways
- Brush Management
- Water development practices for livestock
- Cross-fencing
- Management practices

**TABLE 1
CUMULATIVE SEDIMENT LOAD AND YIELD FOR EXISTING AND TREATED CONDITIONS, OAK CREEK WATERSHED
1960 THROUGH 1989**

SUB-BASIN	SUBBASIN AREA (Acres)	BRUSH AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	CROPLAND AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	ROUTED SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SUBBASIN SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons/Acre)		SEDIMENT YIELD (Tons/Acre)	
						EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED
1	14,915	6,632	44.5	554	3.7	19,921	7,069	19,921	7,069	1.34	0.47	1.33	0.47
2	5,446	2,461	45.2	287	3.7	11,075	3,763	11,075	3,763	2.03	0.69	2.03	0.69
3	702	415	59.2	10	5.3	51,377	33,413	40,302	29,650	57.43	42.25	1.57	0.70
4	3,232	1,443	44.6	178	1.4	4,633	1,754	4,633	1,754	1.43	0.54	1.43	0.54
5	5,871	2,708	46.1	702	5.5	182,020	117,284	162,099	110,215	27.61	18.77	6.14	1.82
6	8,629	4,250	49.3	1,008	12.0	16,443	4,776	16,443	4,776	1.91	0.55	1.90	0.55
7	7,275	4,052	55.7	99	11.7	12,353	5,354	12,353	5,354	1.70	0.74	1.70	0.73
8	1,196	395	33.1	346	1.4	338,693	204,568	140,229	82,508	117.25	68.99	11.79	3.43
9	6,168	2,777	45.0	1,236	28.9	145,475	97,025	89,466	61,858	14.51	10.03	3.25	1.22
10	4,260	1,997	46.9	455	20.0	12,192	5,469	12,192	5,469	2.86	1.28	2.86	1.28
11	6,257	2,609	41.7	534	10.7	16,948	5,437	16,948	5,437	2.71	0.87	2.71	0.87
12	9,617	5,288	55.0	385	8.5	13,590	5,029	13,590	5,029	1.41	0.52	1.41	0.52
13	9,083	4,309	47.4	40	4.0	11,398	4,295	11,398	4,295	1.25	0.47	1.25	0.47
14	1,829	890	48.6	49	0.4	146,144	98,202	121,156	88,878	66.26	48.61	2.71	0.92
15	1,819	514	28.3	731	2.7	316,301	208,179	153,208	104,541	84.24	57.48	8.87	2.69
16	2,896	909	31.4	840	40.2	497,659	332,199	169,167	118,551	58.41	40.94	7.90	2.35
17	1,186	425	35.8	178	29.0	512,802	299,959	161,756	90,037	136.38	75.91	21.34	5.51
18	2,906	1,028	35.4	909	15.0	1,550,119	964,558	394,182	235,374	135.65	81.00	7.48	1.71
19	5,436	2,372	43.6	1,641	31.3	138,764	35,979	138,764	35,979	25.53	6.62	25.53	6.58
20	10,487	4,942	47.1	1,848	30.2	152,786	36,920	152,786	36,920	14.57	3.52	14.57	3.52
21	7,907	3,390	42.9	1,769	17.6	98,895	44,668	87,949	40,771	11.12	5.16	6.14	1.45
22	6,711	3,588	53.5	287	22.4	10,946	3,897	10,946	3,897	1.63	0.58	1.63	0.58
23	5,031	3,252	64.6	79	4.3	24,071	8,964	24,071	8,964	4.78	1.78	4.78	1.78
24	3,489	2,026	58.1	59	1.6	28,646	10,581	28,646	10,581	8.21	3.03	8.21	3.03
25	6,761	3,677	54.4	781	1.7	162,816	95,802	110,099	76,257	16.29	11.28	8.26	3.77
26	4,695	2,738	58.3	366	11.5	37,407	12,829	37,407	12,829	7.97	2.73	7.97	2.73
27	11,189	4,082	36.5	2,323	7.8	2,223,887	1,220,393	83,100	29,638	7.43	2.65	7.66	2.75
TOTAL	154,991	73,171		17,692									

**TABLE 2
CUMULATIVE SEDIMENT LOAD AND YIELD FOR EXISTING AND TREATED CONDITIONS, LAKE TRAMMELL WATERSHED
1960 THROUGH 1989**

SUB-BASIN	SUBBASIN AREA (Acres)		BRUSH (RNGB) AREA (Acres)		CROPLAND AREA (Acres)		ROUTED SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SUBBASIN SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons)		SEDIMENT LOAD (Tons/Acre)		SEDIMENT YIELD (Tons/Acre)	
	AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	AREA (Acres)	PERCENT (%)	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED	EXISTING	TREATED
1	7,601	2,926	38.5	1,443	19.0	22,584	11,198	22,584	11,198	2.97	1.47	2.97	1.47	
2	2,125	741	34.9	69	3.3	1,459	561	1,459	561	0.69	0.26	0.68	0.26	
3	1,127	771	68.4	0	0.0	86,442	55,002	62,399	43,243	55.38	38.38	2.03	0.85	
4	3,410	1,997	58.6	40	1.2	4,739	1,865	4,739	1,865	1.39	0.55	1.39	0.54	
5	1,661	939	56.5	0	0.0	2,314	956	2,314	956	1.39	0.58	1.39	0.57	
6	455	316	69.6	0	0.0	184,077	110,861	90,582	53,038	199.23	116.65	3.99	1.71	
7	1,937	1,334	68.9	10	0.5	2,046	896	2,046	896	1.06	0.46	1.05	0.46	
8	613	474	77.4	0	0.0	300,759	175,444	111,450	62,386	181.87	101.80	32.65	11.10	
9	1,245	919	73.8	0	0.0	3,186	1,301	3,186	1,301	2.56	1.04	2.56	1.04	
10	3,044	2,086	68.5	99	3.2	9,933	4,061	9,933	4,061	3.26	1.33	3.26	1.33	
11	168	128	76.5	0	0.0	420,045	253,377	114,709	75,578	682.68	449.79	18.08	6.90	
12	2,629	1,443	54.9	10	0.4	4,577	2,356	4,577	2,356	1.74	0.90	1.74	0.89	
13	2,283	1,670	73.2	0	0.0	3,614	1,495	3,614	1,495	1.58	0.65	1.58	0.65	
14	2,679	1,641	61.3	227	8.5	685,548	441,948	251,956	183,015	94.06	68.33	26.45	10.77	
TOTAL	30,976	17,386		1,898										

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Best Management Practices Eligible for Financial Assistance

CODE	PRACTICE NAME & UNIT	MINIMUM LIFE SPAN (in years)
314	Brush management (acre)	5
342	Critical area planting (acre)	5
362	Diversion (ft)	10
382	Fencing (ft-see note 1)	10
410	Grade stabilization structure (no)	10
412	Grassed waterway (acre)	10
512	Pasture & hayland planting (acre-see note 2)	5
516	Pipeline (ft)	10
378	Pond (no-see note 3)	10
550	Range planting (acre-see note 4)	5
606	Subsurface drain (ft)	10
600	Terrace (ft)	10
614	Trough or tank (no)	10
642	Well (no-see note 5)	10

GUIDANCE NOTES

- NOTE 1** Cost sharing of fences for management will be limited only to that needed to install a sound management system for the unit. Property line fences are not eligible for cost share. Cost share will not be allowed for fences between cropland and existing grassland.
- NOTE 2** No cost share assistance will be provided for the conversion of rangeland to pastureland when rangeland is in a high-fair or better condition. Fair condition rangeland in a downward trend or with excessive erosion would be allowed.
- NOTE 3** Ponds are eligible for cost share only when required for sound grazing management.
- NOTE 4** Cost sharing will not be provided for range seeding where 15 percent desirable grasses are present. Desirable grasses are defined as decreasers and good quality increasers. These climax dominant grasses are listed in the technical range site description.
- NOTE 5** Wells are eligible for cost share only when required to provide livestock water for sound grazing management.

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Typical Best Management Practices Eligible-Financial Incentives

Financial incentives for eligible practices are based on 75% of the actual cost or 75% of the cost established for the project—whichever is smaller.

PRACTICE	ESTABLISHED COST	MAXIMUM FINANCIAL INCENTIVE
• Brush Management (treedoze or root plow)	\$50.00/AC	\$37.50/AC
• Range Seeding (seedbed preparation-rake) (seeding operation broadcast) (seed-75% of actual not to exceed the county cost per pound. Grass species will be selected based on soil type.)	\$36.00/AC \$ 7.50/AC	\$27.00/AC \$ 5.62/AC
• Fence (four strand or net)	\$ 1.25/ft	\$.93/ft
• Well (drilling) (casing)	\$ 7.50/ft \$ 4.50/ft	\$ 5.62/ft \$ 3.37/ft
• Trough or tank (concrete 5' x 20')	\$5582.00	\$4186.50
(concrete 5' x 30')	\$5525.96	\$4144.47
(fiberglass 8' x 16')	\$3846.81	\$2885.10
(fiberglass 6' x 25')	\$6963.66	\$5222.74
• Terraces (standard) (parallel)	\$.36/ft \$.44/ft	\$.27/ft \$.33/ft
• Terrace (diversion)	\$.80/cy	\$.60/cy
• Pasture Planting (seedbed preparation-plow) (seeding operation & rollerpack) (nitrogen fertilizer) (phosphorus fertilizer) (seed-same as range seeding)	\$ 8.50/AC \$13.00/AC \$.29/lb \$.29/lb	\$ 6.37/AC \$ 9.75/AC \$.21/lb \$.21/lb
• Grassed Waterways (shaping) (grass planting-same as pasture planting)	\$525/AC	\$393.75/AC

Practices installed must meet specifications of the local NRCS Technical Guide to be eligible for payment.

Life

Agricultural and water issues discussed



A public meeting was held at the Maryneal Community Monday, Nov. 30 at 9 a.m. for agricultural producers in and around the vicinity of the water sheds at OakCreek

Reservoir and Lake Trammell. A welcome given by Ralph Stirl, Chairman of Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District. Jimmy Apel, Executive Director of Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, presented water quality project general information. Terry Been, District Conservationist of Natural Resource Service, presented eligibility requirements and discussed financial incentives for developing water quality management plans. Also attending the meeting was Charlie Rogers and Dr. Blockstock of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, adding their knowledge to some of the questions asked. Some 50 people in and around the Maryneal area attended the well planned meeting.

Questions and Answers

How to deal with mildew in the house

By POPULAR MECHANICS For AP Special Features

Q: Our 16-year-old painted wood house has a terrible mildew problem, even during periods of bright sunshine. The inside of the house seems to sweat and the inside surfaces of the window frames are peeling. We would eventually like to have aluminum siding, but first we must solve the mildew problem. What do you suggest?

A: You have probably overlooked the obvious sources of moisture such as a lack of kitchen and bath fans, or poor exterior landscaping that allow rainwater to flow into your basement and crawl space. Moisture rising in these areas is a common source of this problem. If you do not know the cause of excessive moisture

number of air exchangers on the market that are designed for do-it-yourself installation and are reasonably priced. These units usually have a fan that moves fresh air in, over or through ducts that are heated by heated air from the interior of the house moving out through the same unit.

This is not only a solution for excess interior moisture but an answer to supertight homes that suffer a lack of fresh breathing air.

Q: Our house was built about 1925, with a cypress shingle roof installed on 1-inch-by-4-inch wood strips, 8 inches on center. The attic has no ventilation or insulation. I would like to install a painted sheet metal roof over the wood strips. My concern is condensation

A: Providing ventilation and a vapor barrier in the attic will control the moisture buildup and resulting attic condensation. You should also insulate the attic. Even though your house is located in a warm climate, insulation is cost-effective and will help make the house more comfortable.

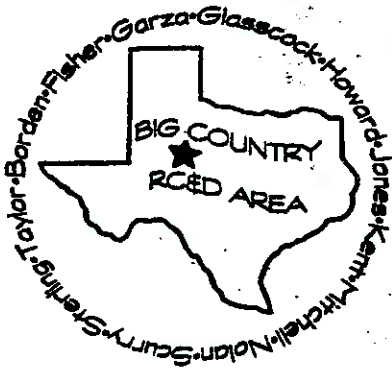
During the summer, it's possible for the attic temperature to reach as high as 150 degrees F. Attic insulation and ventilation helps reduce the heat load on the ceilings of the rooms below. It also helps reduce air conditioning costs.

Check with your local utility company to determine the recommended amount of insulation for your attic. It is more practical to install insulation batts

batts on the attic floor between the joists with the vapor barrier facing toward the rooms below.

You should also use at least two vent openings to allow for air movement. Installing watertight vents in the sheet metal roof may be difficult, so your best bet would probably be to use gable vents. A combination of gable and soffit vents would be even more effective.

Since there will be a vapor barrier in the attic, the size of the vent openings can be less than it would be without a vapor barrier. Remember, the vent's effective area is less than its actual opening. Screens and louvers can reduce airflow through a vent by as much as 50 percent. The effect



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

DECEMBER 1998

SERVING YOU:

- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE:** President
- WANDA MITCHELL:** Vice President
- KEN BECKER:** Secretary/Treasurer
- JIMMY APEL:** Executive Director
- DENNISE HOOVER:** Administrative Assistant

OAK CREEK/LAK TRAMMELL WATER QUALITY PROJECT

A public meeting was held Monday, November 30, 1998, at the Maryneal Community Center to explain to agricultural producers in the two watersheds above the lakes the financial incentives available to those who participate in this water quality project.

\$380,000 in financial incentive funds are available to agricultural producers within the project area that voluntarily enter into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The one time sign-up period to make application for this program was November 30 through December 11, 1998.

Assistance in developing and implementing a Plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service for those applications approved.

The funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

Local entities supporting submission of the application for funding include the City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

**Most people have a desire
to look at the exception
instead of the desire
to become
exceptional.**

JOHN C MAXWELL
(Developing the Leader Within You)

**NOLAN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1998 CONSERVATION TOUR, AWARDS PROGRAM,
DIRECTOR ELECTION**

ANTELOPE SPRINGS RANCH - BILL & BONNIE MCLEOD

**WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS AND BRUSH SCULPTURING - DALE
ROLLINS**

TOUR RANCH HEADQUARTERS - BILL MCLEOD

**OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL SPECIAL PROJECT - JIMMY APEL
MEAL**

DIRECTOR ELECTION - ZONE 1 & 2 - ZACKARY WILCOX

AWARDS PROGRAM -

CONSERVATION FARMER - DON MARTIN

CONSERVATION RANCHER - BUTCH STROMAN

GOODYEAR CONSERVATION AWARD - JONN WILKS

**NOLAN COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM COUNCIL
ELECTED OFFICIALS BREAKFAST
NOVEMBER 26, 1998
EXTENSION OFFICE**

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME - JUDY GULLY AND ZACHARY WILCOX**
- II. INTRODUCE DISTRICT EXTENSION DIRECTORS**
- III. BREAKFAST**
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. RANGE & LIVESTOCK - TERRY BEEN**
 - B. FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES - VIRGINIA RUTTER**
 - C. FIELD CROPS AND 4-H - BRETT CYPERT**
 - D. LAKE TRAMMEL WATERSHED PROJECT - JIMMY
APEL**
- V. ADJOURN**

BIG COUNTRY

14

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

DECEMBER 2, 1998 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Robert Browne
Ken Becker
Charles Hobbs
Hurston Lemons
Judge Tommy Stanaland
Bob Reily
Robert Posey
Michael Hoch
Sid Hardegree
Tom Isbell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Cash
Steve Shrode
John Tate
Terry Hefner
Charlie Morris
Terry Been
Mark Ramirez
Buddy Watson
Dennise Hoover
Melony Sikes
Sandy Carey
Debra Delgado
Allison Bredemeyer
Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Embassy Suites in Abilene, Texas, with 24 present.

Judge Robert Browne called the meeting to order.

Becker reviewed the Minutes of the September 23, 1998, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Hoch and seconded by Posey to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Hoover reviewed the fourteen (14) Project Proposals received since September 23, 1998 (attached).

Motion by Becker and seconded by Lemons to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Hobbs to approve the City of Big Spring and Glasscock County Lions Community & Historical Foundation's request to become Sponsors passed unanimously.

Hoover stated that acting as the Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for Gifts In Kind International, People for Progress, Inc., will receive another donation valued at \$594,432. The shipment is scheduled to be delivered the second week in December for a cost of \$3,500. In the past year, \$596,124.95 in donated goods have been received at a cost of \$1020 to the recipient nonprofit organizations.

* Terry Been, District Conservationist-Sweetwater, informed the Directors that a Public Meeting to explain the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project was held at Maryneal November 30, 1998. Forty-nine (49) were in attendance. Five (5) applications for Water Quality Management Plans were received at the meeting and ten (10) have been received to date. Sign-up will continue through December 11, 1998. \$380,000 in incentive payment funds are available to implement Best Management Practices.

A copy of the Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model developed in support of the project was reviewed by the Directors.

Four Winds RC&D Area coordinated a donation of 96 computers from the Texas Attorney General's Office that will arrive today in Haskell. Big Country RC&D Area will distribute 37 of the computers to nonprofits and government entities in our service area (attachment).

A donation of eighteen (18) two-way radios from the US Forest Service to Coke County, Edwards Plateau, Nolan County, Upper Llanos, Bandera County and Mason County Soil and Water Conservation Districts is being coordinated by the Area. The radios will be used primarily to assist in conducting prescribed burns. The Area ordered the batteries and chargers needed to make the radios operational and the SWCDs will reimburse the Area.

The Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program has met twice. The thirteen (13) participants attended the low element COPE course at Camp Tonkawa in October. The November meeting was held in Aspermont, and Stormy Higgins of Abilene conducted sessions on Communications and Conflict Resolution. The January meeting will be held in Clairemont.

Four Winds RC&D, Kent County Extension Office and Big Country RC&D are coordinating the course for participants from Stonewall and Kent County.

Melony Sikes, Project Leader for the Buffer Strip Education grant funded with EQIP money, thanked the Directors for acting as financial sponsor of the grant.

A living buffer strip was established in Lubbock at the site of the Farmer-Stockman Annual Show. An estimated 35,000 people attended this year's show held in October and had an opportunity to view the exhibit.

A \$6,000 grant from NRCS to provide Administrative Assistance to the Area in the coming year was approved.

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Posey to pay Operating Expenses as shown on the Agenda (attached) passed unanimously.

Motion by Hardegree and seconded by Lemons to hold the Annual Sponsor's Conference and March Board of Directors Meeting at Allen's Family Meals in Sweetwater on March 3, 1998, passed unanimously.

Plans for the 1999 Texas Association of RC&D Annual Conference were discussed. The Conference will be held in Abilene April 20-22, 1998, at the Embassy Suites.

A draft Agenda of the program was reviewed (attached).

Possible Agenda Topics were discussed and rated by the Directors as to their appeal on a statewide basis (attached). Grants from a Foundation's Viewpoint and Exporting for Small Businesses received the highest ratings.

Tom Isbell offered to moderate a panel discussion having Executive Directors for Foundations and a recipient of grants from these Foundations.

Possible Corporate Sponsors for the Conference were reviewed (attached).

Directors having relationships with these organizations will make personal contacts.

Allison Bredemeyer with the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau explained what services her organization would provide for the Conference.

Sandy Carey and Debra Delgado with Embassy Suites discussed arrangements that had been already made and gave a tour of the facilities.

Meeting adjourned.



103 West Florida - Sweetwater, Texas 79556-8209

State \$4,629.71
Trust \$3,827.69

December 8, 1998

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Reading of the Minutes and Treasurers Report - Sheffield
3. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319 Project - Jimmy Apel & Board *phones*
4. Land and Grass Judging Contest - Board
5. State Matching Fund Request - \$3100.00 - Board
6. Request 20% Balance TA Funds - Board
7. Quarterly Report of TA Funds - Board
8. Quarterly Report of SubChapter H Funds - Board
9. Directors Claim for Payment - Board
10. NRCS Activity Report - Been
11. State Board Report - Oswald
12. Operating Expenses:
 - A. Dicie Stovall - TA 42.50 Hrs. - \$277.36*
 - B. Dicie Stovall - TA 59.75 Hrs. - \$377.86
 - C. Tom Chase - TA 51 Hrs. - \$309.68*
 - D. Tom Chase - Supplies - \$15.00
 - E. Internal Revenue Service - Monthly Tax - \$191.06
 - F. Needham Surveyors - Topo Maps - \$33.50
 - G. Purifoy & Company - Liability Ins. - \$316.00
 - H. Postmaster - Postage - \$32.00
 - I. Sweetwater Reporter - Fin. Statement - \$866.88

*Been
Apel*
*Stirl
wright
WJhs
Sanderson
Sheffield*

*cc 12-16-98 BOD
RANKING*

DIRECTORS

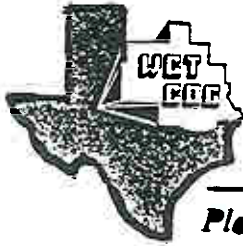
RALPH STIRL
Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

J. MORGAN WRIGHT
Vice Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

DON SHEFFIELD
Secretary-Treasurer
Sweetwater, Texas
79556

W. A. OATMAN
Member
Maryneal, Texas
79535

BOBBY SANDERSON
Member
Blackwell, Texas
79506



WEST CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

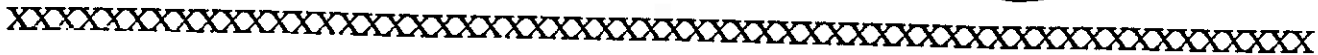
Planning - Training - Community Development - Human Services

To: Solid Waste Task Force Members
From: Wendy Stovall, Solid Waste Programs Specialist
Subject: December 10, 1998 Meeting Agenda
Date: November 17, 1998

W Stovall

MEMORANDUM

23



West Central Texas Council of Governments
Solid Waste Task Force
Agenda

December 10, 1998, WCTCOG Large Conference Room 1:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of September 24, 1998 minutes
- III. Update of Regional Activities: Status of grants, programs, permit applications, and projects
- IV. Discussion by Bill Brock on CFC Reclamation regional project
- V. Discuss Upcoming Workshops and Conferences
- VI. Adjourn

*Ease study / Brochure / Video
 Playgroomed - ~~ground rubber~~ Council rubber
 319(h)*

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

JUNE 15, 1999

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller
 Judge Robert Browne
 Ken Becker
 Charles Hobbs
 Hurston Lemons
 Michael Hoch
 Sid Hardegree
 Mary Collier
 Bob Reily
 Sandia Blake
 Glenn Wortham
 Lynda Apel
 Judge Tim Fambrough

OTHERS PRESENT:

Judy Gully
 Kevin Wright
 Terry Hefner
 Ken Cash
 Steve Shrode
 Mark Ramirez
 Terry Been
 Lacey Been
 Mike Clifton
 Buddy Watson
 Dennise Hoover
 Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Jack's Family Steakhouse in Sweetwater, Texas, with 25 present.

President Windi Fuller called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the March 3, 1999, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Hoch and seconded by Hobbs to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Becker reported on the newly formed Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Association. Founded by Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry counties, it promotes trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.

A bill was passed by the Texas Legislature to allow the six (6) county organization the authority to issue bonds for economic development (information attached).

Hoover reviewed the eight (8) Project Proposals received since March 3, 1999 (attached).

Motion by Becker and seconded by Browne to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Hardegee reported on the request from Tom Isbell, Grant Writer, to become a Sponsor from Jones County.

Motion by Hoch and seconded by Lemons to approve the request passed unanimously.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board have certified fifteen of the twenty Water Quality Management Plans. The remaining Plans are being developed.

Work to install Best Management Practices on the certified plans has begun. Financial incentive payments to producers will total \$380,000.

Been also reported that over \$400,000 has been obligated to install Best Management Practices in the Oak Creek Watershed Geographic Priority Area (GPA) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Kevin Wright reported that the first sign-up for the Colorado Headwaters GPA was complete and seven (7) plans will be funded for \$74,361. A second sign-up will be held soon. First year funding for this GPA is \$100,000.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session and requested Apel and Hoover retire from the room.

Upon reconvening, a motion by Becker and seconded by Hardegee to award a quality incentive bonus of \$250 to Hoover for her efforts in assisting the Area and Board of Directors passed unanimously.

A letter from Joe Cantu, President of the Texas Association of RC&Ds, thanking the Board for hosting the Annual Conference was read.

A total of 181 registered for the Annual Conference that was also supported by 11 Exhibitors and 10 Sponsors.

A copy of the 1999 Urban Forestry Grant Application was provided to the Directors.

The Directors completed a Board Self-Assessment survey to evaluate their effectiveness. The results will be forwarded to the State Conservationist.

A draft copy of the Grazing Records Notebook was presented. Bids for publishing were reviewed. Motion by Hoch and seconded by Collier to accept the low bid from the Insite Group passed unanimously. 17,000 copies will be printed.

Eleven participants graduated from the Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program. Graduation was held at the Capital in Austin. Graduation ceremonies were arranged by Representative David Counts' office. Mary Collier and Buddy Watson present at the meeting were two of the recent graduates.

Copies of the Spring 1999 RC&D Notes and Texas County Progress April 1999 issue which each had an article on the Big Country RC&D Area were provided to those present.

Apel reported that the NRCS State Office indicated that the Administrative Support grant would be funded at \$6,000 for FY 2000.

Two grant proposals have been submitted to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission requesting funding for a Global Positioning Station and water testing equipment.

A copy of the Thank You published in the Sweetwater Reporter recognizing the Area for its assistance in completing the playground at Southeast Elementary was provided (attached).

Apel was recognized at the Small Business Administration Awards ceremony as the Small Business Rural Advocate for the 19-county Abilene District (attached).

The Compost Application Demonstration Project was discussed. Compost and wood chips were applied to a steep slope at the intersection of Highway 87 and I-20 at Big Spring (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Lemons to pay Operating Expenses as shown on the Agenda (attached) passed unanimously.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Hoch to accept Taylor County's offer to hold the September Board Meeting at Perini Steak House in Buffalo Gap passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined closer to the time of the Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

SEPTEMBER 15, 1999 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller
Judge Robert Browne
Ken Becker
Charles Hobbs
Hurston Lemons
Dave Byerly
Mary Collier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nancy Smith
Dr. Rodney Wright
Kevin Wright
Ken Cash
Steve Shrode
Mark Ramirez
Terry Been
Buddy Watson
Melony Sikes
Claude Ross
Dennise Hoover
Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Briarstone Manor in Abilene, Texas, with 19 present.

President Windi Fuller called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker introduced Dave Byerly with the Hamlin Economic Development Corporation as the new Jones County Director.

Becker also announced the arrival of baby Sarah who was born June 20, 1999. The proud parents are Brandon and Windi Fuller (Big Country RC&D President).

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the June 15, 1999, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Browne to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Nancy Smith, Community Relations Coordinator for the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board, discussed the role the Workforce Development Board plays in Small Business Employee Training. A number of small businesses having the need to train only one employee can join together in a consortium and make the training available to their community.

Dr. Wright, Texas State Technical College, stated that they have been able to provide training to employees of small business in rural areas that are needing to provide common training, i.e., basic computer skills.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the nine (9) Project Proposals received since June 16, 1999 (attached).

Motion by Becker and seconded by Byerly to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover presented the final report on the 1999 Texas Association of RC&D Annual Meeting showing that Big Country RC&D earned \$1,488.80 for hosting the meeting. A total of 181 registered for the Annual Conference that was also supported by 11 Exhibitors and 10 Sponsors.

Windi Fuller reported on the request from Women to Women Pregnancy Consultation Services in Plano, Texas, to become a Sponsor from the Area.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Collier to approve the request passed unanimously.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board have certified fifteen of the twenty Water Quality Management Plans. The remaining Plans have been developed.

Work to install Best Management Practices on the certified plans has begun. Financial incentive payments to producers will total \$380,000.

Terry Been, DC-Sweetwater, and Kevin Wright, RTL-Snyder, informed the Board of two Field Days scheduled in October that will demonstrate brush management practices, address grazing management practices, and the importance of record keeping to determine future grazing decisions.

Both of these Field Days will receive funding support from EQIP Educational Grants received by Big Country RC&D Area.

The October 6, 1999, Field Day will be held in the Oak Creek Geographic Priority Area (GPA) in Nolan County.

The Colorado Headwaters GPA Field Day will be held in Scurry and Howard Counties on October 7, 1999.

Three hours of Continuing Education Units that apply to a Private Application Pesticide License will be offered at each Field Day.

Water Quality Management Plans that provide financial assistance to landowners in the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell watersheds will be incorporated into the October 6, 1999, Field Day.

A copy of the Grazing Records Notebook was presented. The RC&D Area received two grants of \$3,000 each from the USDA, NRCS and the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative to develop and print 17,000 copies.

A presentation of the use of the Notebook for keeping accurate grazing records will be incorporated into both Field Days.

A copy of the letter from Swalm Foundation for a \$3,450 grant presented to the Area to help Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater, Texas, to build a "Friendship Garden" was presented (attached).

A Progress Summary of the Area Projects from 1991 to date and for the past year was presented (attached).

Following a review of the Area's three-year Plan of Work, a motion by Browne and seconded by Becker to approve the plan passed unanimously (attached).

The results of the RC&D Council Self Assessment that was completed at the June Board of Director's meeting was discussed.

Apel announced that approximately \$300,000 would be available in grant funds from West Central Texas Council of Governments for the Regional Solid Waste Grant Program (attached).

Copies of the two support letters by Big Country RC&D were presented (attached). A support letter was written for the Mitchell County Commissioner's Court application to the Department of Texas Parks & Wildlife to develop a Sports Complex. A support letter was also written for City of Sterling City's Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program application to provide safe pedestrian sidewalks and landscaping along both sides of US Highway 87 in downtown Sterling City.

Ken Becker invited those present to attend the Texas Midwest Community Network's Sixth Annual Conference in Abilene, Texas, on October 20, 1999 (attached). Texas Midwest Community Network includes seven of the twelve counties in the Big Country RC&D's service area.

The Compost Application Demonstration Project's progress was discussed. Compost and wood chips were applied to a steep slope at the intersection of Highway 87 and I-20 at Big Spring. An article in the *Texas Recycler Market News* and pictures of the progress were presented (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Byerly to pay Operating Expenses as shown on the Agenda (attached) passed unanimously.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Lemons to accept Jones County's offer to hold the December Board Meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined closer to the time of the Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

18

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
September 14, 1999 – 11:30 AM
Abilene, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Windi Fuller
2. Introduction of Dave Byerly—Jones County Director – Ken Becker
3. Reading of the June 15, 1999, Minutes & Financial Report – Ken Becker
4. Nancy Sullivan, Community Relations Coordinator – West Central Texas Workforce Development Board—Small Business Employee Training
5. Review New Proposed Projects – Dennise Hoover
6. Final Report on TX Association of RC&D Annual Meeting – Dennise Hoover
7. Request To Become A Sponsor – Windi Fuller
–Women to Women Pregnancy Consultation Services
(Shannan McEowen—Collin County-Plano, Texas)
8. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – Terry Been
9. Colorado Headwaters & Oak Creek Field Days – Kevin Wright & Terry Been
10. Executive Director's Report – Jimmy Apel
 - A. Grazing Records Notebook Project
 - B. Swalm Foundation Grant – Friendship Garden—\$3,450.00
 - C. Area Progress Report 8/98 to 8/99
 - D. Area Three-Year Plan of Work (POW)
 - E. RC&D Board Self-Assessment Summary
 - F. Solid Waste Grant Funds
 - G. Support Letters for Sterling City and Mitchell County Commissioner's Court
 - H. Sixth Annual Texas Midwest Conference—Abilene, October 20, 1999
 - I. Compost Demonstration—Big Spring
 - J. Activity Report
11. Operating Expenses – Ken Becker

A. US Postmaster	Postage	\$ 66.00
B. US Postmaster	P O Box Fee	\$ 22.00
C. USDA/NRCS	OC/LT NRCS Reimb	\$ 4,930.26
D. USDA/NRCS	OC/LT NRCS Reimb	\$ 1,674.16
E. USDA/NRCS	OC/LT NRCS Reimb	\$ 4,954.19

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

NOVEMBER 30, 1999 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

Members and others present – list attached.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Rath City Steakhouse in Hamlin, Texas, with 28 present.

President Windi Fuller called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the September 14, 1999, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Lemons and seconded by Byerly to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Derek Moore, Sales Manager/Owner Pied Piper Pet Food Mill, stated that the company expanded from standard feed mill products to producing dry dog food in 1976 and currently employees 25 people.

They ship out 5000 bags of dog food daily (approximately six 18-wheeler trucks). The majority of their market is overseas to Pacific Rim countries.

The company is currently expanding its facilities and will hire an additional 15 to 25 people next year.

Fuller announced that the Area had received a \$2400 Southwestern Bell Economic Excellence Grant to develop a web page for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Association (TMACA).

Byerly explained that state legislation was passed allowing contiguous counties to join together to issue bonds for economic development.

TMACA consists of Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Fisher, and Jones counties, has 18 Board Members, and has received its Corporate Charter from the State. Each of the counties agreed to provide \$1 per capita to support the organization.

Byerly stated that the strong support for TMACA was being provided by Federal and State Legislators and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Hoover explained how the web page would be developed and stated that it would be updated monthly. Plans are to publish the web page in five languages.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the ten (10) Project Proposals received since September 14, 1999 (attached).

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Posey to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Danny Lamberth, Four Winds RC&D Coordinator, updated the group on the EQIP Education grant received jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Areas to conduct domestic water well screening and provide education material based on the Tex*A*Syst program.

The project will be carried out in Haskell, Knox, Baylor, Wilbarger, Jones, Fisher, and Kent Counties. Haskell was completed in November. One county will be done each month until the Project is complete.

Fuller reported on the request from the Sterling County Nursing Home in Sterling City, Texas, to become a Sponsor from the Area.

Motion by Posey and seconded by Becker to approve the request passed unanimously.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board has certified all of the twenty Water Quality Management Plans. To date \$120,000 in incentive payments of the \$380,000 allocated has been completed.

Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator provided a National and State RC&D Update.

Freeman stated that the Federal RC&D budget was funded at the same level as last year. The National RC&D Association is working to increase the budget for FY 2001 and has hired a new Executive Director to aid in this process.

The State Association has signed an Agreement with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission to allow funds to be delivered through the RC&D Areas for Supplemental Environmental Projects. The Association is also developing an Agreement with the Texas Department of Economic Development to allow funding of future economic development projects.

The Small Business Administration is transferring 400 computers to the State Association to be distributed through RC&D Areas to rural community organizations.

Freeman stated that the State Association Meeting will be in Amarillo in April 2000 and the National Association Meeting will be held in June 2000 in Ogden, Utah.

Three events were conducted in October supported by EQIP Education Grants the Area received. Educational Field Days were conducted in the Oak Creek and Colorado Headwater Geographic Priority Areas. A Buffer Strip Demonstration was done at the Texas Farmer Stockman Show held in Lubbock (attached).

The Area's request for five donated computers through the Texas Department of Economic Development has been approved.

The Area received a \$6000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for administrative support for the Area.

Information on installing Dry Hydrants on irrigation wells was presented. The cost of the Dry Hydrants is reimbursable through the Texas Forest Service (attached).

Projects that are eligible to receive funding through the TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Project program were discussed (attached).

Brush Management/Water Yield Feasibility Studies are being conducted on eight watersheds in Texas for possible State funding (attached). The Upper Colorado is one of the watersheds being evaluated. NRCS employees are currently conducting brush transects to support the study.

The Area, acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner, secured \$594,432 in donated personal care products, clothing, and educational materials for use in the 19-county area served by People for Progress (PPI). Cost of the donation to PPI was \$4,500 (attached).

A possible Weather Modification Project is being considered for the counties surrounding Taylor County (attached).

Apel informed the Board that he plans to make personal contacts with the Area Sponsors during 2000 to discuss their current needs and concerns.

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Posey to pay Operating Expenses as shown on the Agenda (attached) passed unanimously.

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Posey to hold the Annual Sponsor's Conference and March Board of Director's Meeting in Sweetwater on March 7, 2000, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc's: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PM, Zone 2
Mark Freeman, SRCDC, Temple

Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Jon Weddle, PM, Zone 1

Al Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
Richard Babcock, Temple



NOV/DEC BOD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

19

Board of Directors Meeting
Hamlin, TX - November 30, 1999

Name	Organization	City
Dennise Hoover		
Jimmy Apel		
Marvin Link		
Oneta Gunn		
Winda Fuller		
Jay Bean		
EDDY SPURGIN		
Glen Killough		
L. K. Hordogian		
Bob Reilly		
+ SAMC on CASTRO		
Kay Beckey		
Steve Shrode		
Buddy J. Watson		
Charlie Morris		
Mark Freeman		
Danny Lambert		
Denny DeFury		
Kevin Wright		
Shirley Lemons		
Tom Sebell		
Robert Pasco		
MIKE CLIFTON		
P. Byrd		
Lisa Harris		

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
November 30, 1999 – 11:30 AM
Hamlin, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Windi Fuller
2. Reading of the September 14, 1999, Minutes & Financial Report – Ken Becker
3. Derek Moore, Sales Manager/Owner, Pied Piper Mills
4. Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program Grant – Texas, Mexico, Asian Corridor Corporation Web Page – Dave Byerly/Windi Fuller/Dennise Hoover
5. Review New Proposed Projects – Dennise Hoover
6. EQIP Education Grant – Tex*A*Syst Program – Danny Lamberth
7. Request To Become A Sponsor –
 –Sterling County Nursing Home
 (Pam J Stokes — Sterling County – Sterling City, Texas)
8. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – Terry Been
9. Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator – State and National Update
10. Executive Director's Report – Jimmy Apel
 - A. EQIP Education Grants – Oak Creek, Colorado Headwaters, & Buffer Strip Demonstration
 - B. Computer Donation – Texas Department of Economic Development, Office of Rural Affairs
 - C. NRCS Administrative Grant - \$6,000
 - D. TFS Dry Hydrant Grants – Irrigation Wells
 - E. TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Project
 - F. Brush Management/Water Yield Feasibility Studies
 - G. Gifts In Kind International Program Update
 - H. Weather Modification Project
 - I. Field Visits to RC&D Area Sponsors
 - J. Activity Report
11. Operating Expenses – Ken Becker

A. The Briarstone Group	September BOD Meeting	\$ 68.00
B. TX Midwest Community Network	'99-2000 Dues	\$ 50.00
C. Ricky Linex	EQIP Buffer Strip Supplies	\$ 76.00
D. USDA/NRCS	OC/LT NRCS Reimb	\$ 4,844.29

E. US Postmaster	Postage	\$ 66.00
F. Melony Sikes	Beef Certificate Reimb	\$ 25.00
G. Cesar Caro	Fix Computer	\$ 35.00
H. Texas Farmer-Stockman Show	Exhibit Booth – Buffer Strip (BS)	\$ 200.00
I. Jimmy Apel	Rentals/Supplies – BS Reimb	\$ 3,249.43
J. Jimmy Apel	Film Processing	\$ 18.39
K. Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)	Harris SWCD Software	\$ 29.95
L. Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)	PPI Truckload Donation	\$ 3,500.00
M. Transfers	From TNB MM to TNB	\$ 2,030.00
N. TNB	941 Payroll Taxes	\$ 454.81
O. Dennise Hoover	Payroll	\$ 1,585.18

12. Selection of March Board of Director's Meeting and Annual Sponsor's Conference –
Allen's Family Style Meals – Sweetwater – March 7, 2000

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

MARCH 7, 2000

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Robert Browne
Ken Becker
Charles Hobbs
Hurston Lemons
Mary Collier
Windi Fuller
Robert Posey
Michael Hoch
Sid Hardegree

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright
Claude Ross
Mandi Ligon
Eddy Spurgin
Elisha Kuehn
Terry Been
Mickey Black
Marsha Warden
Dennise Hoover
Melony Sikes
Jon Weddle
Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Allen's Family Style Meals in Sweetwater, Texas, following the Annual Sponsors' Conference with 21 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Becker reviewed the Minutes of the November 30, 1999, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Lemons and seconded by Hobbs to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Fuller presented the nominating committees' recommendations for officers for 2000. Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Hardegree to elect Windi Fuller as President, Judge Robert Browne as Vice President, and Ken Becker as Secretary/Treasurer passed unanimously.

Hoover reviewed the twelve (12) Project Proposals received since November 30, 1999 (attached).

Motion by Becker and seconded by Hoch to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Charles Hobbs pointed out that the National Association of Conservation Districts has proposed \$300,000,000 be budgeted strictly for technical assistance to alleviate the staffing shortage in NRCS Field Offices.

Kuehn informed the Directors about the Upper Colorado Watershed Brush Feasibility Study currently underway to determine if removal of brush in the watershed would increase the quality and quantity of water available for area lakes that provide drinking water to communities.

Motion by Posey and seconded by Hardegee to pay Operating Expenses as shown on the Agenda (attached) passed unanimously.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Collier to accept Fisher County's offer to hold the June Board of Director's meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

JUNE 5, 2000

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Robert Browne
Ken Becker
Dave Byerly
Buddy Baldrige
Oneta Gunn
Windi Fuller
Robert Posey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Randy Martin
Dr. Jerry Marshall	Rodney Dent
Billy Henderson	Bob Reily
Mario Avila	Larry Johnson
Mark Ramirez	Jimmy Counts
Terry Been	Belinda Sepeda
Buddy Watson	Connie Feltner
Mike Clifton	Lynda Apel
Charlie Morris	Frank Cockrell
Perry Thomson	Steve Shrode
Gene Terry	Harvey Everheart
Charlie Meek	Dennise Hoover
Harold Sanders	Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Rotan Lion's Club Building in Rotan, Texas, with 35 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Dr. Jerry Marshall, Mayor of Rotan, welcomed the group to Rotan.

Harvey Everheart, Manager of the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District, gave a presentation on Private Property Rights and Underground Water Issues in Texas.

Everheart explained that there are 20 activities that an underground water conservation district must conduct to meet the State's requirements to be considered a viable organization.

He stated that both surface and underground water will receive a great deal of attention in the next Texas Legislative session.

Becker reviewed the Minutes of the March 7, 2000.

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Browne to approve the Minutes passed unanimously.

Becker presented the Financial Reports (attached) and the IRS 990 for the 1999 Fiscal Year.

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Posey to approve the Financial Reports passed unanimously.

Motion by Browne and seconded by Posey to accept the IRS 990 passed unanimously.

Hoover reviewed the six (6) Project Proposals received since March 7, 2000, (attached).

Motion by Becker and seconded by Byerly to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Becker presented a report on the Annual Meeting of the State RC&D Association held in Amarillo (attached).

Becker reported on a request from Sheffield Enterprises in Sweetwater, Texas, to become a Sponsor of the Area.

Motion by Browne and seconded by Posey to approve the request passed unanimously.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-two applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$168,000 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans.

Apel informed the group that Dave Byerly had been presented with the District Director's Special Appreciation Certificate during the SBA Lubbock District Awards Program last week for his efforts as Executive Director of the Hamlin Economic Development Corporation.

\$146,942 is available for FY 2001 Municipal Solid Waste Grants through the West Central Texas Council of Governments (attached).

It was pointed out that Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Hospital Districts, and Underground Water Conservation Districts are eligible for grant funds along with cities, counties, and public schools.

June 13 and 14, 2000, are the dates for Summit 2000 to be held in Abilene. The meeting will address agriculture, oil and gas, and economic diversification interests (attached).

Information on applying for the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Partners Grants was provided. Local and State government entities, schools, and nonprofit groups are eligible (attached).

A handout summarizing Project activity in the Area since 1991 was provided (attached). This information was included in the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce Newsletter that is mailed to their 300 members.

Information on International Trade transactions that have occurred since October 1999 in our region of Texas was provided (attached).

The Northwest Texas International Trade Center is affiliated with Texas Tech's Small Business Development Center and will assist businesses to export goods.

The group was provided a handout from Wayne Wyatt with two legislative concepts, "Groundwater Management in Texas" and "Junior Surface Water Rights" that were reviewed (attached).

David Counts, Chairman of the House natural Resources Committee is circulating them for comments from the public.

The EQIP Education Grant proposal for the Buffer Strip Demonstration at the Farmer-Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, was approved for \$4,487.

The proposals for EQIP funding for expanding rural well water screening, publishing of the Grazing Records and Livestock References booklet, and an interactive display on conservation subjects were not approved.

Rural well water screening that include the Tex*A*Syst program are scheduled for Nolan County in July and Mitchell County in August.

Thank you letters from Jones County Extension Service and the Texas Association of RC&Ds were presented (attached).

Each NRCS Field Office was provided with a list of contacts made through the RC&D program that can be entered into the Customer Assistance Reporting Program.

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 3/7 to 6/5/00 (attached).

Motion by Byerly and seconded by Posey to accept Mitchell Counties' offer to host the Board Meeting at Colorado City, September 12, 2000, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PM, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Jon Weddle, PM, Zone 1
Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
Richard Babcock, Temple
Mark Freeman, SRC&DC, Temple

BIG COUNTRY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
 P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556
 915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

SEPTEMBER 12, 2000
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Robert Browne
 Ken Becker
 Charles Hobbs
 Gary Fuqua
 Windi Fuller
 Robert Posey
 B L "Shug" Thomas
 Sid Hardegree

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Cash
 Terry Hefner
 Mario Avila
 Steve Shrode
 Stephen Shutt
 Melony Sikes
 Mike Clifton
 Anerta Gunn
 Dennise Hoover

Leo Holloway
 Jay Allen
 Bob Waddell
 Lee Rodriguez
 Elisha Kuehn
 Leigh Corson
 Charlie Morris
 Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Bama's Restaurant in Colorado City, Texas, with 25 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Becker reviewed the Minutes of the June 5, 2000, board meeting. Motion by Browne and seconded by Hobbs to approve the Minutes passed unanimously.

Becker presented the Financial Reports (attached). Motion by Hobbs and seconded by Browne to approve the Financial Reports passed unanimously.

Windi Fuller, one of 31 members of the Future of Groundwater in Texas Committee, reported on the recommendations that will be provided to the Texas Legislature in their next session. The Committee addressed: interbasin transfers; Junior Water Rights; marketing and exporting of underground water; exemptions for wells; funding options for underground water districts; insuring that planning is coordinated among all entities having interest; development of management plans; and that decisions affecting aquifers are made on the basis of science.

Hoover reviewed the nine (9) Project Proposals received since June 5, 2000, (attached). Motion by Posey and seconded by Hardegree to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Becker, the RC&D State Association By-Laws Review Committee Chairman, presented a letter (attached) that was sent to the Texas RC&D Coordinators to be shared with their Directors concerning changes and comments to the current bylaws.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-six applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$194,965.39 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans.

Elisha Kuehn, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Zone II, informed the Directors that it appears there will be a flat budget for the NRCS overall. However, it appears that there will be an increase in RC&D funding. Depending on the amount of increase, new Areas will be authorized and an increase in funds will be made to existing RC&D Areas.

Kuehn stated that the State Technical Committee would be meeting October 26, 2000, at the Blackland Research Center in Temple, to discuss proposed funds for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Counties currently in a Geographic Priority Area (GPA) or having an application requesting to be designated a GPA should plan to attend the meeting.

Kuehn informed the Directors that the reorganization of Field Offices into Resource Teams has been completed statewide. The goal of the reorganization is to free employees from administrative duties to allow more assistance to be provided in the field to landowners.

The date for the final public meeting to review the Upper Colorado Brush Feasibility Study has not been set but will probably occur in mid-October and will be held in Colorado City.

Apel informed the group that the Friendship Garden project for Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater, Texas, was completed.

A flyer for the Texas Midwest Community Network's Seventh Annual Conference in Abilene, Texas, on October 18, 2000, was discussed (attached). The Texas Midwest Community Network includes seven of the twelve counties in the Big Country RC&D's service area.

Apel presented an update on the TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) that included a list of projects that have been approved by TNRCC for Big Country RC&D (attached).

A Progress Summary of the Area Projects from 1991 to date and for the past year and a current listing of the Area Goals were presented (attached).

Following a review of the Area's three-year Plan of Work including the Civil Rights—EEO statement that is a part of the Plan, a motion by Browne and seconded by Posey to approve the plan passed unanimously (attached).

An information sheet was presented concerning Rural Texas EMS Scholarships that were now available for EMT training with matching funds of up to \$2000 (attached).

A summary of the counties that participated in the rural well water screening that included the Tex*A*Syst program was presented (attached). Apel also noted that Scurry, Borden, and Garza Counties were scheduled to participate in September 2000.

An information sheet was presented on the Rural Small Business 504 Loans that are available (attached). This program helps businesses access the federal Small Business Administration 504 loan program: a long-term, fixed asset-financing program that helps small businesses buy land, buildings, and equipment.

Apel informed the Area that a Cooperative Agreement to NRCS requesting \$6000 for FY2001 for administrative assistance to the Area was submitted.

Highlights from the Texas State Dry Hydrant Committee meeting that was held June 27, 2000, were presented (attached). Mario Avila, Resource Team Leader for Garza County, stated that twenty (20) dry hydrants were approved by Garza County and the Texas Forest Service for funding of \$11,200.

A copy of the support letter by Big Country RC&D were presented (attached). The support letter was written for the Mitchell County Commissioner's Court application to the Department of Texas Parks & Wildlife to develop a Sports Complex.

Each NRCS Field Office was provided with a list of contacts made through the RC&D program that can be entered into the Customer Assistance Reporting Program.

A thank you letter from Jetty Ann Tomhave was presented to the Area for its assistance with the Farrar Family Scholarship (attached).

An agenda and reservation form for the Rural Forum: Opportunities for Partnership on October 20, 2000, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, was presented (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 6/6 to 9/12/00 (attached).

Motion by Fuqua and seconded by Posey to accept Howard Counties' offer to host the Board Meeting at Big Spring, December 5, 2000, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

DECEMBER 5, 2000 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Robert Browne
Ken Becker
Hurston Lemons
Bill Crooker
Windi Fuller
Robert Posey
B L "Shug" Thomas
John Shirley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kent Sharp
Terry Hefner
Mario Avila
Steve Shrode
Mickey Black
Jon Weddle
Mike Clifton
Oneta Gunn
Dennise Hoover

Mandy Ligon
Eddie Corse
Buddy Watson
Mark Ramirez
Kevin Wright
Eddy Spurgin
Charlie Morris
Jimmy Apel

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Spanish Inn in Big Spring, Texas, with 26 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Becker reviewed the Minutes of the September 12, 2000, Board Meeting. Motion by Browne and seconded by Lemons to approve the Minutes passed unanimously.

Becker presented the Financial Reports (attached). Motion by Posey and seconded by Lemons to approve the Financial Reports passed unanimously.

Kent Sharp, Executive Director with Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc., presented an oversight on the organization's activities.

Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc., is funded by a one-half cent sales tax referendum and provides incentives based on the number of jobs created or retained in Big Spring and the hourly rate paid.

Big Spring has a diverse industrial base that includes a wind turbine manufacture, manufacturing firm for plastic containers, e-commerce technology and telecommunication services industry, manufactured home industry, steel products manufactured for highway infrastructure, an oil refinery, and others.

Hoover reviewed the twelve (12) Project Proposals received since September 12, 2000, (attached). Motion by Browne and seconded by Posey to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Fuller provided a Legislative Committee update from the Texas Association of RC&D Area and their request for \$300.00 to assist in hiring a lobbyist to represent the RC&D Program needs to the Texas Legislature.

Motion by Posey and seconded by Becker to pay the \$300.00 once a contract is signed between the State Association and a lobbyist passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-six applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$194,965.39 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans. Annual Status Reviews are being conducted on all twenty (20) Plans. Three Plans are scheduled to expire December 31, 2000.

Kevin Wright, Natural Resource Manager in Snyder, explained the method for recording RC&D Assistance to Customers in the NRCS reporting system. Each office was provided with a list of contacts made through the RC&D program since the last Board Meeting.

Apel informed the Board that the NRCS Budget for Technical Assistance was essentially the same as last year. The RC&D Program was increased \$7 million to \$42,015,000 for the nation. This increase is to be used to fund 20 to 25 new RC&D Areas and to provide an additional \$10,000 in Administrative Assistance funds to each of the existing Areas (attached).

This will increase the assistance from NRCS to the Area from \$6,000 to \$16,000 annually.

The Gifts In Kind International Program that the Area administered for a 19-county region has coordinated donated goods to nonprofits this year worth \$1,193,137. Cost of the receiving organizations was \$4,890 (attached).

Becker is Chairman of the By-laws Committee for the State Association. Comments are being gathered from each RC&D Area on possible changes. The Committee will make their recommendations in time for review at the State Association Meeting in 2001 (attached).

The Area received Geographic Information System software with \$3,500 from Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute (attached).

Information of a prescription drug assistance program for individuals with no insurance coverage was presented (attached).

Rural Well Water Screening information with Tex*A*Syst was completed in nine (9) counties this year. This Project was supported by the County Commissioners' Courts, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Extension Offices, and local NRCS offices (attached).

The Brush Feasibility Studies for the Upper Colorado and Main Concho Watersheds has been completed. Stephen Brown with the Upper Colorado River Authority stated he felt that the

Texas Legislature would provide \$10 to 12 million dollars each of the next two (2) years to fund four to five of the eight (8) proposed watershed areas.

Grant and loan funds available through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection were discussed. Funds can be used for anything addressing fire suppression. Only loans are available for fire stations and fire trucks (attached).

The Area received a request from the West Central Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association to have an exhibit at their Annual Conference in Odessa, Texas, on March 21-24, 2001.

Motion by Becker and seconded by Posey to join with Wes-Tex, Pecos Valley, and Four Winds RC&D Areas to jointly fund the exhibit and \$37.50 for each Area passed unanimously.

The proposed funding for EQIP Geographic Priority Areas presented at the State Technical Committee meeting held October 26, 2000, was reviewed (attached).

The State Technical Committee will meet December 13, 2000, in Temple to decide final funding allocations. A majority of the counties in Big Country RC&D Area are located within priority areas.

The registration packet for the Southwestern States RC&D Association Meeting to be held February 25-28, 2001, in Odessa was discussed. The topics to be covered by a one-day registration on either Monday or Tuesday were reviewed. Cost of a one-day registration is \$45.00.

A current list of the Rural Caucus Member in the Texas Legislature was presented (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 9/12 to 10/5/00 (attached).

The Board of Director's went into Executive Session and requested Apel and Hoover retire from the room.

Upon reconvening, a motion by Browne and seconded by Lemons to award a quality incentive bonus of \$250 to Hoover for her efforts in assisting the Area and Board of Directors passed unanimously.

Motion by Browne and seconded by Fuller to accept Nolan Counties' offer to host the Annual Sponsors' Conference and Board of Director's Meeting at Allen Family Style Meals in Sweetwater, March 6, 2001, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

MARCH 6, 2001

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Byerly	Oneta Gunn
Ken Becker	Tommy Stanaland
Hurston Lemons	Charles Hobbs
Sid Hardegree	Robert Posey
Windi Fuller	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Melony Sikes
Terry Hefner	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Tori Dutton
Ken Cash	
Dennise Hoover	

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Allen's Family Style Meals in Sweetwater, Texas, following the Annual Sponsors' Conference with 17 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the December 5, 2000, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Robert Posey and seconded by Dave Byerly to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Fuller presented the nominating committees' recommendations for officers for 2000. Motion by Charles Hobbs and seconded by Dave Byerly to elect Windi Fuller as President, Judge Robert Browne as Vice President, and Ken Becker as Secretary/Treasurer passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the eight (8) Project Proposals received since December 5, 2000 (attached).

Motion by Ken Becker and seconded by Robert Posey to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Robert Posey reported on the requests from Roscoe Volunteer Fire Department in Roscoe, Texas; Anson Preservation League, Inc., in Anson, Texas; and Moore Development for Big Spring in Big Spring, Texas to become a Sponsor from the Area.

Motion by Charles Hobbs and seconded by Sid Hardegree to approve the request passed unanimously.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Cash mentioned the increase in activity due to better weather conditions

this year. Cash also reported that a GPS Unit had been requested for the project to conduct field checks.

Dave Byerly requested a support letter be sent on the behalf of the Anson Preservation League and the City of Anson for a TOP Grant.

Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Ken Becker to send letter of support passed unanimously.

Plans for the 2001 Texas Association of RC&D Annual Conference were discussed. The Conference will be held in Wichita Falls, April 17-19, 2001. Voting Delegates for the Business session are Ken Becker and Windi Fuller with Dave Byerly as alternate.

Motion by Sid Hardegree and seconded by Charles Hobbs to send Becker, Fuller, and Byerly to represent the Area and pay expenses up to \$300.00 per individual passed unanimously.

The proposed amendment to the State By-Laws and the resolution to change the State Charter were reviews by Ken Becker (Attached).

Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Robert Posey to spend up to \$50.00 to purchase an auction item for the State Meeting passed unanimously.

EQIP Funding for Fiscal Year 2001 was reviewed (attached). Two new proposed Geographic Priority Areas that involve Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Fisher, Scurry, Borden, Jones, and Haskell Counties were discussed.

The Area is sponsoring an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting again this year in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Pecos Valley, and Four Winds RC&D.

Thank You letters from Nolan County Extension Service and High Plains RC&D Area were presented (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Information on FEMA financial assistance for fire departments was reviewed (attached).

Melony Sikes, Program Liaison (Zone 2/San Angelo), reviewed proposals submitted by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District to establish the E. V. Spence Reservoir region for a cost share program to address salinity and the Brush Feasibility Study for the Colorado River Basin to address increasing water yield.

Motion by Hurston Lemons and seconded by Dave Byerly to accept Garza County's offer to hold the June Board of Director's meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556
915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

TENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

March 6, 2001
Sweetwater, TX – 11:30 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Tenth Annual Sponsors' Conference was held at Allen's Family Style Meals Banquet Hall in Sweetwater, Texas.

The business meeting was preceded by a buffet meal.

Windi Fuller, President, welcomed those attending (74 present) (list attached).

Fuller introduced: Mark Lundgren and Jason Skaggs, Aides for Congressman Charles Stenholm; Paige Patton O'Dell, Aide for Senator Tom Haywood; Kimberly Gray of the Sweetwater Reporter; Don King of the Roscoe Times; Jim Baum of KVMC AM & KAUM FM in Colorado City; and Jeff Stein of KXOX-Sweetwater.

Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the Minutes of the March 7, 2000, Sponsors' Conference and the Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$25,754.11 as of December 31, 2000.

Motion by Robert Posey and seconded by Hurston Lemons to approve the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report as read passed unanimously.

Dave Byerly, Jones County Director, presented the 2000 Annual Report (attached).

Fuller announced the selection of the representatives of the Board of Directors as follows:

- A. Fisher County – Robert Posey
- B. Garza County – B.L. Thomas
- C. Glasscock County -- Michael Hoch
- D. Mitchell County – Windi Fuller
- E. Kent County – Judge Tommy Stanaland

Fuller introduced G. Till Phillips, National Advocate for Rural Affairs with the US Small Business Administration.

Phillips expressed concern that funds that are targeted at rural areas, such as the Texas Capital Fund, actually goes to metropolitan towns and counties. He also stated that as the permissible vehicular weight limit has increased from 40,000 to 80,000 pounds that the Farm to Market roads are deteriorating and funds are needed for maintenance.

Phillips pointed out that California processes 60% of its food and fiber production, while, Texas is at only 13%. Value added processing in Texas needs to be increased.

Meeting adjourned.

TENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET



ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE & BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Sweetwater, TX - March 6, 2001

Name	Organization	City
Anna Trueler		
Brenda Barloza		
DAVE BUEFLI		
Hayden Cherry		
P. J. Taylor		
Verny Duke		
Harriet Lemmon		
Jan York		
Luis Wytos		
Joe Greenidge		
Nicki Hazel		
Steve Snook		
Jim Tambourg		
Cyril Stamer		
Glena Wootman		
Betty Wootman		
Randall Smith		
JASON SKAGGS		
MARK LUNDERSEN		
Kimberly Gray		
Judy Wilkins		
Shirley Coffman		
J. R. Cooper		
V. H. Stein		

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

JUNE 5, 2001

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Byerly
Windi Fuller
Hurston Lemons
Sid Hardegree
Judge Robert Browne
Judge Tommy Stanaland
BL "Shug" Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Jon Weddle
Terry Hefner	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Buddy Watson
Charlie Morris	Bob Reily
Dennise Hoover	Steve Shrode
Charlie Rogers	Mark Ramirez
Judge Giles Dalby	Oneita Gunn
Shannel Woodard	Glen Killough
Paige Patton O'Dell	John Valdez
Mike Sanchez	Lee Norman
Helen Saldana	Charlie Stice

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Chapa's in Post, Texas with 29 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Fuller recognized Paige Patton O'Dell, Legislative Aide for Senator Tom Haywood and Charlie Rogers with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Garza County Judge Giles Dalby welcomed the group.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the Minutes of the March 6, 2001, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Judge Robert Browne and seconded by Sid Hardegree to approve the Minutes with correction passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover presented the Financial Reports (attached) and the Area's IRS 990 for 2000 was reviewed. Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Hurston Lemons passed unanimously.

Shannel Woodard, Legislative Liaison for Carole Keeton Rylander – Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, presented an overview on the Agency's programs.

Information on the "Texas Tomorrow Fund" which allows college tuition to be locked in at today's cost for future students was provided.

The Comptroller's Office publishes Fiscal Notes monthly that contains economic development information.

Woodard provided several website addresses that can be utilized to access information concerning state government.

Sid Hardegree reviewed the six (6) Project Proposals received since March 6, 2001, (attached).

Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Judge Robert Browne to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Judge Robert Browne stated that there were two (2) requests from organizations wanting to become a Sponsor of the Area.

Motion by Sid Hardegree and seconded by Dave Byerly to approve the requests from Women's Resource Crisis Pregnancy (Sweetwater) and Texas Midwest Community Network (Area) passed unanimously.

Jimmy Apel presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Thirty-four (34) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$233,936.47 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans.

Dave Byerly gave a report on the RC&D State Association Meeting held in Wichita Falls that he and Ken Becker attended.

Dave Byerly stated that the changes to the By-laws recommended by the By-laws Committee chaired by Ken Becker were approved.

Judge Robert Browne and Jimmy Apel reviewed requests for letters of support from the Area for a Texas Department of Transportation grant for Sterling City and establishing the Upper Brazos and Paint/California Creek Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) for EQIP funding.

Motion by Judge Stanaland and seconded by Sid Hardegree to provide letters of support passed unanimously.

There will be a Local Work Group Meeting to review to Upper Brazos GPA application 6/12/01 in Clairemont and on 6/13/01 in Haskell to review the Paint/California Creek GPA application prior to submitting to the State Technical Committee.

The enabling legislation to form underground water conservation districts for Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties has been sent to the Governor.

The Oak Creek 319(h) Project was highlighted in the Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program 2000 Annual Report as a Success Story (attached).

The Directors completed the RC&D Board Self-Assessment Survey as requested by the National Association of RC&D Councils.

Information on funding through the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Partnership Grant, the Dry Hydrant Program, Helping Hands Program, and FEMA Fire Grant Program was presented (attached).

A Thank You letter to the Area from the Fisher County Hospital District was read (attached).

The Area has received the updated version of FC Search which has 55,000 Private Foundation and Corporate funders for use in conducting grant fund searches.

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 3/7/01 to 6/4/01 (attached).

Motion by Judge Robert Browne and seconded by Sid Hardegree to accept Kent County's offer to host the September Board of Director's Meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PL, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Mark Freeman, SRC&DC, Temple

Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
James Tillman, ASC, Temple
Jon Weddle, PL, Zone 1

26

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
June 5, 2001 – 11:30 AM
Post, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Windi Fuller
2. Welcome – Garza County Judge Giles Dalby
3. Reading of the March 6, 2001, Minutes – Ken Becker
4. Financial Reports – Ken Becker
 - A. Financial Statement
 - B. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
 - C. 990 IRS Return
5. Shannell Woodard, Texas State Comptroller's Office – Texas Tomorrow Fund
6. Review New Proposed Projects – Sid Hardegree
7. Request To Become A Sponsor – Judge Robert Browne
 - Women's Resource & Crisis Pregnancy Center/Sweetwater, Texas (Voting Delegate: AdaBelle Clark) ~ Nolan County
 - Texas Midwest Community Network [TMCN]/Abilene, Texas (Voting Delegate: Nicki Harle) ~ Area
8. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – Ken Cash
9. RC&D State Association Meeting – Dave Byerly & Ken Becker
10. Request from Sterling City, Upper Brazos GPA, & Paint/California Creek GPA for a Letter of Support – Judge Robert Browne/Jimmy Apel
11. Executive Director's Report – Jimmy Apel
 - A. Upper Brazos GPA Application
 - B. Status of Wes-Tex, Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, and Lone Wolf UWCDs
 - C. West Texas Judges & Commissioners' Annual Meeting Exhibit Booth - Odessa
 - D. Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution 2000 Annual Report
 - E. National RC&D Council Survey
 - F. RC&D Board Self-Assessment
 - G. Texas Forest Service – Urban Forestry Partnership Grant
 - H. Thank You Letter – Fisher County Hospital District
 - I. RC&D Customer Assistance Report for Field Offices
 - J. FC Search – Version 5.0 Received
 - K. Activity Report
12. Selection of September Board of Director's Meeting – Ken Becker

* Need a MOTION on those highlighted

27

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
September 12, 2001 – 11:30 AM
Jayton, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Windi Fuller
 2. Introduction of Kent Sharp, Howard County RC&D Director – Windi Fuller
 3. Reading of the June 5, 2001, Minutes – Ken Becker
 4. Financial Reports – Ken Becker
 - A. Financial Statement
 - B. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
 5. Review New Proposed Projects – Dennise Hoover
 6. Request To Become A Sponsor – Dave Byerly
–Stamford Community Initiative/Stamford, Texas (Voting Delegate:
Paula Bennett) ~ Jones County
 7. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – Ken Cash
 8. Area Three-Year Plan of Work – Jimmy Apel & Board
 9. National & State RC&D Issues – Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator
 10. RC&D Coordinator's Report – Jimmy Apel
 - A. EQIP Education Grant Approved - \$4318.00
 - B. CD Rewriter Received from NRCS
 - C. Office Depot Retail Donation Project Update
 - D. Upper Brazos & California/Paint Creek EQIP Applications
 - E. Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex UWCD's Update
 - F. Letters of Support – Kent County & City of Colorado City
 - G. RC&D Customer Assistance Report for Field Offices
 - H. Activity Report
 11. Selection of December Board of Director's Meeting – Ken Becker
- * Need a MOTION on those highlighted

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556
915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

SEPTEMBER 12, 2001 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Byerly
Windi Fuller
Ken Becker
Sid Hardegree
Charlie Hobbs
Judge Tommy Stanaland
BL "Shug" Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Melony Sikes
Terry Hefner	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Buddy Watson
Kenneth McCurry	Jeff Groves
Dennise Hoover	Steve Shrode
Buddy Baldrige	Karen Brooks
Linda McCurry	Oneita Gunn
Evelyn Gallagher	Dan Gallagher
LeAnnadra Wallace	Ken Cash
Antonio Rodriguez	Sylvia Sartain
Kimberly Morgan	

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Community Center in Jayton, Texas, with 28 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, reviewed the Minutes of the June 5, 2001, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by Charlie Hobbs and seconded by Sid Hardegree to approve the Minutes passed unanimously.

Becker presented the Financial Reports (attached). Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Charlie Hobbs passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the twelve (12) Project Proposals received since June 5, 2001, (attached).

Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Charlie Hobbs to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Dave Byerly, Jones County Director, stated that there was one (1) request from Stamford Community Initiative of Stamford, Texas, (Jones County) requesting to become a Sponsor of the Area.

Motion by Sid Hardegree and seconded by Charlie Hobbs to approve the request passed unanimously.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Forty-four (44) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$285,872 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans. Both the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Big Country RC&D Area have submitted requests to extend the Project one year through April 30, 2003. The extension was requested due to drought conditions not allowing practices, such as range seeding, to be completed as scheduled.

A Progress Summary of the Area Projects from 1991 to date and for the past year were presented (attached).

A review of the Area's current Goals to insure they were still appropriate was conducted.

Following a review of the Area's Three-Year Plan of Work including the Civil Rights EEO Statement that is a part of the Plan, a motion by Ken Becker and Seconded by Sid Hardegree to approve the Plan passed unanimously (attached).

Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator, was unable to attend due to the events of September 11, 2001.

Apel reported that the Area should receive a \$16,000 grant from NRCS for Fiscal Year 2002 to be used for support of the Area's activities.

An EQIP Educational Grant of \$4,318.00 was approved to conduct a Buffer Strip Demonstration at the Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, October 11, 12, & 13, 2001.

The Area received a CD Rewriter donated by the NRCS valued at \$239.00.

The Office Depot Retail Donation Project coordinated through Big Country RC&D Area has secured over \$8,000 in donated goods that have been distributed to organizations serving youth in Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Taylor Counties. This retail donation project is a program through Gifts In Kind International (attachment).

Applications to establish EQIP Geographic Priority Areas for the Upper Brazos and California/Paint Creek watersheds have been submitted for review by the State Technical Committee. The Upper Brazos request is for \$1,010,000 annually for five (5) years and \$470,000 annually for five (5) years for the California/Paint Creek application. Each application would address nonpoint source pollution including salinity by installing Best Management Practices on agricultural lands.

The enabling legislation to form Groundwater Conservation District for Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties was passed by the State Legislature. A meeting of representatives from each of the District Steering Committees is scheduled for September 19, 2001, in Roby to discuss subjects of mutual interest.

27

Letters of Support were prepared for Projects in Kent County and City of Colorado City (attached).

Each Field Office was presented the RC&D Customer Assistance Report for the period of 6/5/01 to 9/12/01 for entry into the PRMS database (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 6/5/01 to 9/11/01 (attached).

Motion by Dave Byerly and seconded by Windi Fuller to accept Taylor County's offer to host the December Board of Director's Meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

DECEMBER 4, 2001 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dave Byerly
Robert Posey
Ken Becker
Sid Hardegree
Charlie Hobbs
Judge Tommy Stanaland
Oneita Gunn
Hurston Lemons

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Mandi Ligon
Terry Hefner	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Charlie Morris
Joe Bob Watson	Ramon Rea
Dennise Hoover	Steve Shrode
Ricky Linex	Mickey Black
Mark Freeman	Bob Waddell
Mike Clifton	Wendy Stovall
LeAnnedra Wallace	Ken Cash
Antonio Rodriquez	Eddy Spurgin
Kent Sharp	Paul Holloway
Becky Pyburn	Jack Turner
Stanley Egger	Corky Cox
Chuck Statler	Fred Perkins
Judge Victor Carrillo	

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Big Country Hall – Taylor Fairgrounds Center in Abilene, Texas, with 37 present.

Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order.

Mickey Black, Assistant State Conservationist in Lubbock, introduced **Antonio “Tony” Rodriquez**. Black recognized Tony for his volunteer work as part of a disaster relief team that traveled to New York City following the September 11, 2001, tragedy to assist in the recovery operations (attachment).

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the September 12, 2001, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by **Dave Byerly** and seconded by **Charlie Hobbs** to approve the Minutes and the Financial Reports passed unanimously.

Kent Sharp, Executive Committee Member of the newly formed Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), explained that ORCA was created by the 77th Legislature to

develop policy specifically addressing economic and quality of life issues affecting small and rural communities across Texas.

ORCA administers programs supporting rural health care, Federal Community Development Block Grant non-entitlement Program, and leadership programs for rural community leaders (attachment).

Dennise Hoover reviewed the thirteen (13) Project Proposals received since September 12, 2001, (attached).

Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Dave Byerly** to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Hoover gave an Administrative Assistant's Report reviewing the new donations currently available through the Gifts In Kind Program (attached), the status on the Area's application for a credit card, and reminded all those present that requests for the 2002 Sponsor Contributions would be going out the beginning of January 2002.

Sid Hardegree, Scurry County Director, stated that there was one (1) request from North Texas Buckskin Brigade of Hermleigh, Texas, (Scurry County) requesting to become a Sponsor of the Area.

Motion by **Robert Posey** and seconded by **Judge Stanaland** to approve the request passed unanimously.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. A summary of Water Quality Management Practices and Cost Share dollars allocated as of 9/30/01 was discussed (attached). Since 9/30/01, all available funds have been obligated. The program is scheduled to end April 30, 2002.

Dave Byerly, Jones County Director, gave a report on the Double Mountain Regional Water Board. He explained that it was originally created at the request of several citizens in Stonewall County and surrounding counties. State Representative, David Counts, strongly pushed to include the proposed reservoir in the Regional Water Plan.

Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator, presented a highlight report on State and National RC&D budget and activities that the Area plays a part in. Freeman expressed a message from John Burt, State Conservationist that thanked the Area for their efforts. He explained that the Area was instrumental in providing leadership with their efforts throughout the State.

Freeman also stated that the FY01 accomplishments for the State were up 10% from last year. Texas leverages Federal funds in a ratio of 18 to 1. The national average was 15 to 1 this year.

Freeman explained that the RC&D budget for FY02 was looking real good. He pointed out that there was a \$6.1 million increase again this year and the RC&D budget had nearly doubled in the last five years from \$28 million allotted to \$48 million currently. The Area is benefiting from this increase through an increase in administrative support

from \$6000 to \$16000 for the second year in a row. The Area will also receive some type of assistance from USDA with an additional increase of \$6000-7000. The type of assistance has yet to be determined.

Freeman reported that the House had passed their version of the new Farm Bill and the Senate was still currently working on their version. He stated that RC&D was included in both versions and both versions were allowing the RC&D program to receive permanent authorization instead of having to receive it yearly.

Freeman listed a few important meetings he felt might be of interest to the Area: Jan 6-8, 2002, US Mexico Border Meeting in Tuscon, AZ; March 3-6, 2002, Southwest States RC&D Meeting in Hutchinson, KS (attached); April 22-24, 2002, Poverty Forum in MS; April 22-24, 2002, Texas Association of RC&D Meeting in Kerrville, TX; July 20-23, 2003, National Association of RC&D Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

RC&D Progress for Texas and Big Country RC&D for the Fiscal Year 2001 was reviewed (attached).

The EQIP Educational Grant that the Area received to conduct a Buffer Strip Demonstration at the Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, October 11-13, 2001, is now completed (pictures attached). Coverage of the Demonstration was printed in the September issue of the Texas Farmer Stockman Magazine.

Borden and Scurry Counties participated in another rural well water screening that was co-sponsored by Borden and Scurry County Texas Cooperative Extension Agencies, Upper Colorado SWCD, Borden and Scurry County Commissioner Courts, USDA, NRCS, and Big Country RC&D Area. There were 101 participants of the screening 148 samples (attachment).

The Board of Director's positions for Howard, Sterling, Kent, and Taylor Counties are scheduled for election or re-election and will be announced at the March meeting.

The Area is co-sponsoring a SBA Financing and Informational Workshop at The Center - TSTC, in Sweetwater on January 24, 2001. There will be a meal at 5:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The meeting itself will be at no cost to those attending.

The enabling legislation to form Groundwater Conservation Districts for Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties was passed by the State Legislature. Each county has received their enabling legislation and the confirmation election for their districts will be held in the year of 2002.

The State Technical Committee's ranking of new Geographic Priority Areas funded through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program was reviewed. Three of the twenty-six applications listed in the top ten are located within the Big Country RC&D Area (Attachments).

Information from the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse on protecting small water systems from potential threats was provided (attachment).

Municipal Solid Waste Grants are available for FY02. There is \$120,131 available for projects in local enforcement, litter and illegal dumping cleanup, source reduction and recycling, local solid waste management plans, educational and training project, etc. (more information attached).

Wendy Stovall, Natural Resources Coordinator with the West Central Texas Council of Governments was present with grant application information.

A handout (attached) was provided that showed two new funding sources available to volunteer fire departments. The sources are funded from fees on insurance and a fireworks sales tax.

A Thank You Letter from Colorado City ISD was received by the Area for donating items received from the Office Depot Retail Donation Program to their school district (attached).

Each Field Office was presented the RC&D Customer Assistance Report for the period of 9/13/01 to 12/4/01 for entry into the PRMS database (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the period of 9/13/01 to 12/4/01 (attached).

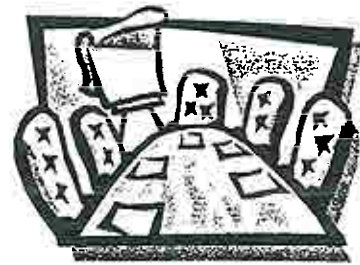
Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Hurston Lemons** to accept Nolan County's offer to host the Annual Sponsor's Conference and the March Board of Director's Meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date has been set for March 12, 2002.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PL, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Mark Freeman, SRC&DC, Temple

Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
James Tillman, ASC, Temple
Jon Weddle, PL, Zone 1

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
December 4, 2001 – 11:30 AM - Abilene, Texas



AGENDA

1. **Call to Order** – *Windi Fuller*
2. **Volunteerism** – *Mickey Black*, Assistant State Conservationist
3. **Reading of the September 12, 2001, Minutes & Financial Reports** – *Ken Becker*
 - A. Financial Statement
 - B. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
4. **Office of Rural Community Affairs** – *Kent Sharp*
5. **Review New Proposed Projects** – *Dennise Hoover*
6. **Administrative Assistant's Report** – *Dennise Hoover*
 - A. Gifts In Kind Program – New Donations Available
 - B. Area Credit Card – Status
 - C. 2002 Sponsor Contribution Requests
7. **Request To Become A Sponsor** – *Sid Hardegree*
–North Texas Buckskin Brigade/Hermleigh, Texas (Voting Delegate: Kent Mills)
~ Scurry County
8. **Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project** – *Ken Cash*
9. **Double Mountain Regional Water Board** – *Dave Byerly*
10. **State & National RC&D Budget and Activities** – *Mark Freeman*
11. **RC&D Coordinator's Report** – *Jimmy Apel*
 - A. RC&D Progress FY2001 (10/1/00 to 9/30/01)
 - B. EQIP Education Grant Completed – Buffer Strip Project
 - C. Borden & Scurry Counties – Well Water Screening
 - D. Director Election: – Howard, Kent, Sterling, & Taylor Counties
 - E. SBA Financing & Informational Workshop – 1/24/01 – TSTC, Sweetwater
 - F. Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex UWCD's Update
 - G. EQIP Geographic Priority Area Applications Update
 - H. Protecting Small Water Systems – National Drinking Water Clearinghouse
 - I. Municipal Solid Waste Grants
 - J. New Funding Sources for Volunteer Fire Departments
 - K. Thank You Letter
 - L. RC&D Customer Assistance Report for Field Offices
 - M. Activity Report
12. **Selection of Annual Sponsor Conference/March Board Meeting (3/12/02)** – *Ken Becker*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SIGN IN SHEET

28

DECEMBER QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Abilene, TX - December 4, 2001



Name	Organization	City
Steve Spade		
Wanda Nixon		
Joe Bolik		
Ken Kea		
RICKY LINER		
ANTONIO R. RODRIGUEZ		
Ken Cash		
MIKE LACK		
Charles Morris		
Ken Boden		
Mark Freeman		
Bob Waldrop		
Tommy Standa		
Jimmy Apel		
Dennise Hoover		
Charles Hubble		
P. D. Hargis		
Robert Posey		
MIKE CLIFOR		
Wendy Stovall		
Dave Greer		
LeAnn Wallace		
Terry Hefner		
Kevin Wright		
Auriston Lemmon		

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

MARCH 13, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller
Ken Becker
Hurston Lemons
Sid Hardegree
Michael Hoch

B L Thomas
Judge Robert Browne
Charles Hobbs
Robert Posey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright
Dennise Hoover
Mario Avila
Glen Killough

Ken Cash
Jimmy Apel
Oneita Gunn

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Allen's Family Style Meals in Sweetwater, Texas, following the Annual Sponsors' Conference with 16 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the December 4, 2001, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by **Judge Browne** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Charlie Hobbs presented the nominating committees' recommendations for officers for 2001. Motion by **Hobbs** and seconded by **Robert Posey** to re-elect **Windi Fuller** as President, **Judge Robert Browne** as Vice President, and **Ken Becker** as Secretary/Treasurer passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the five (5) Project Proposals received since December 4, 2001 (attached).

Motion by **Ken Becker** and seconded by **Robert Posey** to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Ken Becker reported on the requests from First United Methodist Church in Sweetwater, Texas, and 32nd Judicial District CSCD in Sweetwater, Texas, to become Sponsors of the Area.

Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the request passed unanimously.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was explained that the one-year extension had been received until April 30, 2003, but they hope to have all the cost share completed this year. There is approximately \$82,000 in cost share monies left to be applied which is mostly brush work that remains. A 319(h) Tour was conducted for EPA and TSSWCB (Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board) to view work done in the field.

Plans for the 2002 Texas Association of RC&D Annual Conference were discussed. The Conference will be held in Kerrville, April 22-24, 2002 (information & registration attached). Voting Delegates for the Business session are **Ken Becker** and **B L "Shug" Thomas** with **Windi Fuller** as alternate.

Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to send two (2) Directors to represent the Area and pay expenses up to \$494.00 per individual passed unanimously.

The proposed amendments to the State By-Laws was reviewed (Attached).

It was discussed that the Area would locate a donated auction item from one of the local counties for the State Meeting.

EQIP Funding for Fiscal Year 2002 was reviewed (attached). Eighty percent of the funding goes to GPAs (Geographic Priority Areas) and the Area received through RC&D efforts \$1.2 million of the funds accounting for 10% of the total funding giving.

The Area is sponsoring an exhibit booth on March 20-22, 2002, at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting again this year in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Concho Valley, and Four Winds RC&D.

A SBA Financing & Information Workshop was held in **Sweetwater**, Texas, on January 24, 2002. The workshop was co-sponsored by SBA (Small Business Administration) in Lubbock, SBDC (Small Business Development Center) in **Abilene**, and Big Country RC&D. There were 15 present.

An update was given on the Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex UWCDs. Lone Wolf UWCD was confirmed through their election in February. Wes-Tex UWCD will have their election during the general election in November. Clear Fork & Lower Seymour UWCDs have not set election dates.

Information on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Small Community Grants Program was given (attached). The grants program will provide small grants not to exceed \$50,000 in matching funds for the development of public outdoor recreation facilities.

Hill Country & Rio Grande Nueces RC&D Areas were approved for Authorization. All of the state of Texas is now served by a RC&D Area with the exception of six counties in the northeast part of the state.

Upper Colorado River/Twin Buttes Reservoir received funding for the State Brush Program. New funding was given for brush control only. South Taylor County, Lake

Ballinger received \$.5 million in funding and Oak Creek Reservoir received \$1.5 million in funding.

Windi Fuller, Big Country RC&D President, Mitchell County Board of Director, and Mitchell County Economic Development Executive Director, received one of the three awards given by the Texas Rural Leadership Program. **Fuller** was a graduate of the Texas Rural Leadership Program, "Texans in Leadership" in 1997 that the RC&D Area sponsored (news article attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Motion by **Ken Becker** and seconded by **B L Thomas** to accept Scurry County's offer to hold the June Board of Director's meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

29

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 13, 2002 – 1:00 PM - Sweetwater, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – *Windi Fuller*
2. Reading of the Minutes & Financial Reports – *Ken Becker*
 - A. December 4, 2001, Board of Director's Minutes (mailed)
 - B. Financial Statement
 - C. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
3. Election of Officers – *Charlie Hobbs*, Chairman, Nominating Committee
-Nominating Committee Recommendation-
 - President – *Windi Fuller*
 - Vice President – *Judge Robert Browne*
 - Secretary/Treasurer – *Ken Becker*
4. Review New Proposed Projects – *Dennise Hoover*
5. Request To Become A Sponsor – *Ken Becker*
 - First United Methodist Church/Sweetwater, Texas (Voting Delegate: *Daniel Haynes*)
~ Nolan County
 - 32nd Judicial District CSCD/Sweetwater, Texas (Voting Delegate: *Clay M Young*)
~ Fisher, Mitchell, & Nolan Counties
6. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – *Ken Cash*
7. RC&D Coordinator's Report – *Jimmy Apel*
 - A. RC&D State Association Meeting – Kerrville, TX – April 22-24, 2002
 - 1) Voting Delegates
 - 2) Proposed Bylaw Changes
 - 3) Auction Item
 - B. Fiscal Year 2002 EQIP Funding
 - C. Exhibit Booth at West Texas Judges & Commissioners' Annual Meeting in Conjunction with Wes-Tex, Concho Valley, & Four Winds RC&D Areas
 - D. SBA Financing & Informational Workshop held in Sweetwater 1/24/02
 - E. Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex UWCD's Update
 - F. Texas Parks & Wildlife Small Community Grants Program
 - G. Hill Country & Rio Grande Nueces RC&D Areas Approved for Authorization
 - H. State Brush Program – Upper Colorado River/Twin Buttes Reservoir Funded
 - I. Texas Rural Leadership Program State Winner – *Windi Fuller*
 - J. Activity Report
8. Selection of June Board of Director's Meeting – *Sid Hardegree*

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556
915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

March 13, 2002
Sweetwater, TX - 11:30 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Eleventh Annual Sponsors' Conference was held at Allen's Family Style Meals Banquet Hall in Sweetwater, Texas.

The business meeting was preceded by a buffet meal.

Windi Fuller, President, welcomed those attending (87 present) (list attached).

Fuller introduced: Paige O'Dell, Aide for Congressman Charles Stenholm; George Harrill for Rep David Counts; Brandon Lipps & Frances Wheat St Clair, Aides for Senator Robert Duncan; Kimberly Gray of the Sweetwater Reporter; Jim Baum of KVMC AM & KAUM FM in Colorado City; and Jeff Stein of KXOX-Sweetwater.

Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the Minutes of the March 6, 2001, Sponsors' Conference and the Treasurer's Report showing a balance of \$36,107.59 as of December 31, 2001.

Motion by **Robert Posey** and seconded by **Charlie Hobbs** to approve the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report as read passed unanimously.

Judge Robert Browne, Vice-President & Sterling County Director, presented the 2001 Annual Report (attached).

Fuller announced the selection of representatives for the Board of Directors as follows:

- A. Howard County - **Kent Sharp**
- B. Kent County - **Judge Tommy Stanaland**
- C. Sterling County - **Judge Robert Browne**
- D. Taylor County - **Charlie Hobbs**

Melony Sikes, Program Liaison for USDA/NRCS in San Angelo, presented a special award to **Jimmy Apel**, RC&D Coordinator for the Big Country RC&D Area. The USDA Certificate of Appreciation recognized Apel for promoting civil rights and providing programs to underserved and underrepresented groups in the Area.

500
den Fisher-G

B L "Shug" Thomas, Garza County Board of Director, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jimmy Apel on behalf of the Garza SWCD for his assistance in their approval of the Upper Brazos EQIP Geographic Priority Area.

Fuller introduced The Honorable Robert Duncan, Texas State Senator for District 28.

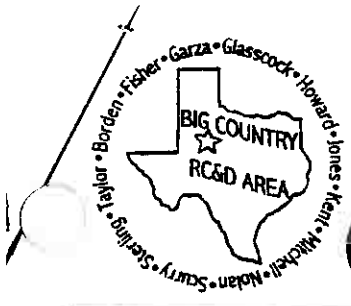
Senator Duncan explained that his service area had been increased from 26 to 46 counties in Texas. He pointed out that although there will be more counties, the change should be more beneficial because all of the counties have similar goals and objectives.

Senator Duncan offered his services to all of those his district serves, even if they are not yet included. He explained that his office is accessible to you, the public and to communicate with his staff and he will be there. He also reminded everyone to speak up and vote for those committed to this area and to ask hard questions to the candidates.

Meeting adjourned.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET

30



ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE & BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Sweetwater, TX - March 13, 2002

Name	Organization	City
Claude Ross	[REDACTED]	
Mickey Black		
DENNISE HOOVER		
JIMMY APEL		
Karl Cash		
LEO HOLLOWAY		
Charles Hopkins		
TOM A. GARCIA JR.		
JAN WEDDLE		
RAUPH TREVELY		
Aurora Jensen		
Kevin W. Winters		
Ray Anderson		
EDDY SPURGIN		
Lynnda Ann		
Belinda Sepala		
Robert Duncan		
Brandon Lipps		
Ayeta Bunn		
B L THOMAS		
Sherry Killough		
William Park		
Nancy Ester		
Mark Moore		
Buddy L. Walker	NKCS	San Antonio



ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

SIGN IN SHEET

30

ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE & BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Sweetwater, TX - March 13, 2002

Name	Organization	City
Belynda Rains		
Charlie Morris		
Mike Clifton		
Brenda Lay		
Robert Brown		
Shirley D. Moore		
Judy Suggs		
Glenn Walker		
Jim Bush		
Jim Jimbrough		
Paige O'Well		
Shanel Woodard		
Brad Kaut		
Ricky Hunt		
Michael Hoch		
Melvin Siker		
L. G. Gardner		
Daniel Haynes		
STEVE MAIKAL		
Kern Becker		
George Herrell		
Will Duff		
Lynn Ann Punier		
Steve Estes		
Edward Brown		



ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET

30

ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE & BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Sweetwater, TX - March 13, 2002

Name	Organization	City
David Maddox		
Harold Sandeen		
B. T. Bennett		
Gary Marshall		
Chloanne Lindsey		
Elizabeth Seaburn		
Robert T. Pacey		
Nicki Haile		
CLARE STONEY		
D. J. Marts		
Kathy Andrews		
RAY KATHERLY		
Wina Seo		
Shirley Mann		
Lali Bradford		
TOM MANN		
DONN. NOLAND		
Sandra Banks		
Wmna Amick		
JATIANA NAIL		
B. Cooper		
Frances H. Post St. Clair		

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA, INC.**ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE****March 13, 2002****Allen Family Style Meals Banquet Hall - 11:30 AM
Sweetwater, TX****AGENDA**

1. Meal
2. Welcome – Windi Fuller, President, Board of Directors (Mitchell Co.)
3. Reading of the March 6, 2001, Minutes and Treasurer's Report – Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Directors (Nolan Co.)
4. Annual Report – Judge Robert Browne, Vice President, Board of Directors (Sterling Co.)
5. Announcement of Representatives to the Board of Directors from:
 - A. Howard County – Kent Sharp
 - B. Kent County – Judge Tommy Stanaland
 - C. Sterling County – Judge Robert Browne
 - D. Taylor County – Charles Hobbs
6. Key Note Address:
 - .. The Honorable Robert Duncan
Texas State Senator, District 28
"Rural Issues and the Texas Legislature"

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

JUNE 4, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller	Dave Byerly
Ken Becker	Judge Robert Browne
Hurston Lemons	Helen Saldana
Sid Hardegree	
Judge Tommy Stanaland	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Terry Hefner
Dennise Hoover	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Justin Corzine
Mark Ramirez	Claude Ross
James Belk	Ronnie Boston
Judge John Hull	Joe McFarland
Dennis Thomas	Bob Reily
James Hubbard	Liz Hubbard
LeAndra Wallace	Mike Clifton
Buddy Watson	Charlie Morris

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Martha Ann's Women Club in Snyder, Texas, as a joint meeting with the Snyder Lion's Club with 28 present representing RC&D.

Dr. Joe McFarland, President of Texas Association of RC&Ds, was the guest speaker for the joint meeting.

The Big Country RC&D Board of Director's held their Business Meeting following the joint meeting.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the March 13, 2002, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached). Motion by **Dave Byerly** and seconded by **Sid Hardegree** to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Ken Becker explained that the Area had decided to update the bank authorized signature cards. It was discussed that the three signatures to be on the card would **Windi Fuller** as President, **Judge Robert Browne** as Vice President, and **Ken Becker** as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Dave Byerly** to approve the updated signature card authorized signers passed unanimously.

Ken Becker discussed the ongoing request to submit an application for a credit card for the Area. Becker explained that this had been rather difficult for the nonprofit

organization but another RC&D had received a credit card from a local bank and suggested we also apply. It was determined that the Big Country RC&D Area would apply for a credit card with a requested limit of \$5000. It was also determined that there would be three (3) authorized signers including **Windi Fuller** as President, **Judge Robert Browne** as Vice President, and **Ken Becker** as Secretary/Treasurer and that other members who should need the card to go out of town for conferences or training for the Area would be allowed to use the card once the bank was notified prior to its use. Motion by **Tommy Stanaland** and seconded by **Dave Byerly** passed unanimously.

Ken Becker reviewed the Big Country RC&D Area's 2001 990 IRS return. Motion by **Dave Byerly** and seconded by **Judge Robert Browne** passed unanimously.

Dennise Hoover reviewed the fifteen (15) Project Proposals received since March 13, 2002 (attached). Motion by **Judge Robert Browne** and seconded by **Sid Hardegree** to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Windi Fuller reported on the requests from A&J Enterprise in Hewitt, Texas; Aim for Success in Plano, Texas; and City National Bank in Colorado City to become Sponsors of the Area. Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Ken Becker** to approve the request passed unanimously.

Kevin Wright, NRM with USDA/NRCS in Snyder, discussed that in conjunction with local SWCD, RC&D, and TSSWCB, a proposal had been submitted through the State Brush Program for 70% funding to aid in controlling Salt Cedar near Lake Thomas. Salt Cedar is a brush invader and uses lots of water. The project covers approximately 1200 acres and would cost around \$240,000 to complete.

Ken Becker reported on the Texas Association of RC&D Meeting held in Kerrville, Texas, on April 22-24, 2002. Becker explained that the meeting was very good and that the hosts did a great job. Becker pointed out that in one of the meetings, he attended an very informational Bylaws session.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was explained that the one-year extension had been received until April 30, 2003, and that this would be the maximum amount of time allowed for this project. Forty-seven payment applications have been submitted and there is approximately \$81,000 in cost share monies left to be applied which is mostly brush work and prickly pear spraying.

The Area sponsored an exhibit booth on March 20-22, 2002, at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting again this year in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Concho Valley, and Four Winds RC&D.

Information on the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Grant was distributed (attached). The grant awards range from \$1000-20,000. The deadline to apply is July 18, 2002.

An update was given on the Clear Fork, Lower Seymour, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex UWCDs. Lone Wolf UWCD was confirmed through their election in February.

Wes-Tex UWCD & Clear Fork UWCD will have their election during the general election in November. Lower Seymour UWCD has decided not to pursue a UWCD at this time.

Apel informed the Board that two (2) EQIP Educational Grants for the Area had been received. A \$3991.03 grant has been received for Grazing Records Publication Reprint, to reprint 15,000 more copies of the book. A \$3946.00 grant has been received for Buffer Strip Field Days held at the Texas Farmer Stockman Show on October 10-12, 2002, in Lubbock, Texas.

A handout from Nonprofit Issues (attached) was distributed that explained how charities needed to be careful about serving as conduits or pass through organizations. The article explained that the best way to resolve this issue is that the intermediate charity must take full control of the funds and have full discretion over the funds.

Information on FY03 Local Project Grant Program through TDH was given (attached). The grants program will provide small grants not to exceed \$50,000 per entity and up to \$35,000 for an ambulance. The deadline is July 12, 2002.

A press release on the RC&D program authorized and proposed FY03 budget was given (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months (attached).

Apel informed the Board that Wednesday, June 5, 2002, would be Dennise Hoover's last day as Big Country RC&D Administrative Assistant. Hoover expressed that she must regretfully leave her position to fulfill her own business full time. Hoover thanked the Board for supporting her.

Motion by Dave Dwyer and seconded by Judge Robert Browne to accept Glasscock County's offer to hold the September Board of Director's meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be determined.

Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

September 10, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller Dave Byerly
Robert Posey Judge Robert Browne
Hurston Lemons Michael Hoch
Bobby Cathey B.L. (Shug) Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright Terry Hefner
Eddy Spurgin Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila Ty Williams
Mark Ramirez D.Hoelscher
Perry Thomson Rick Harston
Judge Bednar Grant Teplicek
Melony Sikes Galen Schwartz
Claudia Risner Linda Cole
Charlotte McNeill Mike Clifton
Buddy Watson Jack Shields
Steve Sturtz John Kinnibrugh
Lynda Apel Ron Perry
Alan Dursclhe

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at the Glasscock County Community Center in Garden City, Texas, with 33 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Glasscock County Judge, **William Bednar**, welcomed the group to Glasscock County.

Steve Sturtz, TCE Agent, gave a brief history on how the county citizens worked to fund construction of the Glasscock County Community Center.

Judge Robert Browne reviewed the Minutes of the June 4, 2002, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached). Motion by **Dave Byerly** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Ron Perry, Texas Forest Service Regional Fire Coordinator, gave a presentation on programs available through the Texas Forest Service for Volunteer Fire Departments.

The new Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, VFD Motor Vehicle Liability Self Insurance Program and the Fire Safe Program were discussed in detail (Attached).

The EQIP Grant of \$3948 to conduct the Buffer Strip Field Days in conjunction with the Texas Farmer Stockman Show October 10-12, 2002, in Lubbock is currently on schedule.

Contacts will be made to organizations in the Area to determine if there is sufficient interest to host a Grant Writing Seminar. The possibility of hosting it jointly with West-Tex and Four Winds RC&D Areas is being considered.

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months. The PRMS report for RC&D Activities was provided the Field Offices (attached).

As part of the activities, **Dr. Jack DeLoach**, ARS, Blackland, and **Dr. Alan Knutson**, TCE, Renner, made presentations to the West Texas Association of SWCDs on August 20, 2002, in Garden City and the South Plains Association of SWCDs August 21, 2002, in Lubbock on biological control of invasive species with an emphasis on control of Salt Cedar.

The presentations were arranged by the Area after interest was expressed in having educational meetings in West Texas during a Salt Cedar Task Force Meeting sponsored by **Colorado River Municipal Water District**.

Motion by **Michael Hoch** and seconded by **Robert Posey** to accept Nolan County's offer to hold the September Board of Director's meeting passed unanimously. The meeting date will be Tuesday, December 3, 2002. Meeting adjourned.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

December 3, 2002

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller	Claudia Risner
Robert Posey	Charles Hobbs
Hurston Lemons	Michael Hoch
Sid Hardegree	Ken Becker

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Terry Hefner
Eddy Spurgin	Jimmy Apel
Mario Avila	Ty Williams
Elisha Kuehn	Mickey Black
Mark Freeman	Cindy Poole
Jon Weddle	Grant Teplicek
C'Jay Jonas	Mike Resser
Dennise Hoover	Steve Shrode
Ken Cash	Charlie Morris
Belinda Zarate	Mike Clifton
Buddy Watson	Shirley Moore
Watson Moore	Glen Killough
Lynda Apel	Bob Riley
Judge Tim Fambrough	

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at "The Center" on the campus of Texas State Technical College (TSTC), Sweetwater, Texas, with 35 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the September 10, 2002, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached). Motion by **Hurston Lemons** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Ken Becker informed the Board that a debit card had been activated instead of a credit card for authorized purchases. Motion by **Bob Reilly** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve use of the debit card passed. The motion was seven for and Sid Hardegree against.

Michael Reeser, Vice President of TSTC, was introduced by **Ken Becker**.

Mr. Reeser stated that TSTC was an agency of the State of Texas that offered 75 varying Associate Degrees and Certificate Programs addressing technical work force needs. Ninety percent job placement within a year of those graduating is achieved.

Robert Posey, reported that the **Rotan ISD** has requested to become a Sponsor of the Area. Motion by **Sid Hardegree** and seconded by **Charles Hobbs** to approve the request passed unanimously.

President Fuller stated that the Director positions for **Borden, Jones, Nolan and Scurry Counties** are up for election. The Director from each County is elected by the Sponsor's within that County. The Directors elected will be announced at the Annual Sponsor's Conference in March 2003.

Claudia Risner reviewed the Two (2) Project Proposals received since September 10, 2002 (attached). Motion by **Ken Becker** and seconded by **Sid Hardegree** to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given by **Ken Cash** to the Board. It was noted that the Project will expire April 30, 2003. Final Status Reviews were conducted on the remaining 12 active Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP).

A Thank You letter from **Hamlin ISD** for the supplies received through the Gifts In Kind International Office Depot Retail Donation Program was reviewed (attached).

The **Clear Fork and Wes-Tex GCDs** were confirmed in the General Election. The maintenance tax for Wes-Tex was not approved. An error on the ballot for Clear Fork GCD resulted in a tax rate of 15/100ths of a cent being passed rather than 1.5 cents.

The **EQIP Grant** of \$3948 to conduct the Buffer Strip Field Days in conjunction with the Texas Farmer Stockman Show October 10-12, 2002, in Lubbock is complete.

Big Country RC&D Area Progress for FY 2002 was reviewed (attached).

Larry Butler is the new Texas State Conservationist for NRCS, **Claude Ross** is the new State RC&D Program Liaison and **Cindy Poole** will assume duties as the Coordinator for Wes-Tex RC&D in January.

The Area's revised Area Plan has been approved by the State Conservationist and forwarded to Washington, DC.

A **Grant Writing Workshop** co-sponsored by Four Winds, Wes-Tex and Big Country RC&D Areas will be held in **Spur, Texas, January 23 & 24, 2003**. The presenter will be **Al Cogburn** and the cost will be \$100 per person.

Information on the **Texas Mezzanine Fund**, a new source of loan funds for underserved communities was discussed (attached).

A copy of the support letter requested by the **City of Sterling City** for their application for **The Safe Routes to School** grant was reviewed (attached).

The **National Association of RC&D Councils Conference** will be held July 20-23, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas. A brief Agenda of activities was presented (attached).

Estimated cost for each Director to attend the Conference is **\$1029** (attached).

Apel presented the Activity Report for the past three months. The PRMS report for RC&D Activities was provided to the Field Offices (attached).

Motion by **Michael Hoch** and seconded by **Robert Posey** to accept Nolan County's offer to hold the **Annual Sponsor's Conference and March Board of Director's Meeting** in Sweetwater, Texas, on **Tuesday, March 11, 2003**, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PL, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Jon Weddle, PL, Zone 1

Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
James Tillman, ASC, Temple
Mark Freeman, PL, Zone 2

Big Country RC&D Area
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
December 3, 2002 – 11:30 AM – Sweetwater, Texas

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – *Windi Fuller*
2. *Reading of Minutes and Financial Report – Ken Becker*
 - A. September 10, 2002, Board of Director's Minutes (mailed)
 - B. Financial Statement
 - C. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
 - D. Debit Card Activated
3. Programs available through TSTC – *Michael Reeser*, Vice President, Texas State Technical College
4. Request to become Sponsor – Rotan ISD – Voting Delegate, David Hargrove – *Robert Posey*
5. Director Elections – *Windi Fuller*
 - A. Borden
 - B. Jones
 - C. Nolan
 - D. Scurry
6. Review New Proposed Projects – *Shug Thomas*
7. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project – *Ken Cash*
8. RC&D Coordinator's Report – *Jimmy Apel*
 - A. Gifts In Kind International – Office Depot Retail Donation – Hamlin ISD
 - B. Clear Fork & Wes-Tex GCD's Update
 - C. EQIP Education Grants Update – Buffer Strip Field Days – Complete
 - D. Big Country RC&D Area FY 2002 Progress Report
 - E. Personnel Changes – Larry Butler, State Conservationist , Texas, Claude Ross, State RC&D Program Liaison & Cindy Poole, Wes-Tex RC&D Coordinator
 - F. Big Country RC&D Area's Revised Area Plan Approved By State Conservationist
 - G. Grant Writing Workshop – January 23 & 24, 2003 – Spur, Texas – Co-sponsored by Four Winds, Wes-Tex and Big Country RC&D Areas
 - H. Texas Mezzanine Fund
 - I. Support Letter- City of Sterling City
 - J. National RC&D Conference – July 20-23, 2003, San Antonio, Texas
 - K. Activity Report
9. Selection of March Board of Director's Meeting & Annual Sponsors' Conference (3/11/03)–
Ken Becker

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

ACTIVITY REPORT

9/11/02 to 12/3/02

1. Programs/Information

- A. 1 Feature Article
- B. 1 Quarterly Newsletter
- C. Conduct Buffer Strip Field Days
- D. 3 Meeting – 41 present

2. Contacts

A. Sam Atwood	Hamlin ISD	9/12/02
B. Mike Ammons	Office Depot Donation Program	9/12/02
C. Missy Coker	Rotan ISD	9/24/02
D. Judge Fambrough	Wes-Tex GCD	9/24/02
E. Steve Estes	Clear Fork GCD	9/24/02
F. Ella Ray Helms	Grant Fund Information	9/27/02
G. Tom Isbell	City of Anson	10/3/02
H. Watson Moore	Clear Fork GCD	10/8/02
I. Gladys Gerst	GIKI Program	10/8/02
J. Barbara Campbell	Grant Library	10/16/02
K. Al Cogburn	Grant Writing Workshop	11/18/02
L. Betty Sims	Abilene United Way	11/19/02
M. C'Jay Jonas	TX Dept Of Agriculture	11/21/02

3. Other

- A. Texas Buckskin Brigade Support – 9/11/02
- B. Submit 319h payment request for RR Ranch – 9/13/02
- C. Office Depot Retail Donation delivery to Hamlin ISD – 9/13/02
- D. Print & Mail Quarterly Newsletter – 9/16 & 17/02
- E. Attend Computer Security Training – San Angelo – 9/18/02
- F. Annual Meeting of TRDC & TDH – Lubbock – 9/19/02
- G. Delivery donated computer equipment to Gateway Services – 9/27/02
- H. Complete RC&D Database Report for FY 02 – 9/27/02
- I. Staff Conference – Lubbock – 9/30/02
- J. Submit 319h Quarterly Report – 10/3/02
- K. ORCA Meeting – Big Spring – 10/4/02
- L. Clear Fork GCD Board Meeting – 10/7/02
- M. Set up Buffer Strip Demonstration Farmer Stockman Show – Lubbock – 10/9/02
- N. Society for Range Management Annual Meeting – Abilene – 10/10/02
- O. Buffer Strip Field Days Farmer Stockman Show – Lubbock – 10/10-12/02
- P. Clear Fork GCD Informational Meeting – Rotan – 10/15/02
- Q. 319h Audit conducted by TSSWCB – 10/18/02
- R. Clear Fork Informational Meeting – Roby – 10/24/02
- S. Wes-Tex GCD Informational Meeting – Sweetwater – 10/24/02

- T. Farm Bill Meeting – Rotan – 10/24/02
- U. Submit Success Story for National RC&D Conference – 10/29/02
- V. DC Conference – Plainview – 10/29/02
- W. Defensive Driving Training – Lubbock – 10/31/02
- X. Final Report on Buffer Strip EQIP Grant submitted – 11/4/02
- Y. Clear Fork GCD Board Meeting – Roby – 11/6/02
- Z. Prepare 319h Status Reviews – 11/7 & 8/02
- AA. National RC&D Conference Planning Meeting – San Antonio – 11/13-15/02
- BB. Conduct 319h Status Reviews with Cash & Watson – 11/19/02
- CC. WASP Museum Planning Meeting – TSTC – 11/19/02
- DD. Annual Meeting WCTCOG – Abilene – 11/21/02

BIG COUNTRY
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556
915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

TWELFTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

March 11, 2003
Sweetwater, TX – 11:30 AM

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Twelfth Annual Sponsors' Conference was held at Allen's Family Style Meals Banquet Hall in Sweetwater, Texas.

The business meeting was preceded by a buffet meal.

Windi Fuller, President, welcomed those attending (53 present - list attached).

Fuller introduced **J. Kyle Martin** of the Sweetwater.

Ken Becker, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the Minutes of the March 11, 2003, Sponsors' Conference and the Treasurer's Report showing a balance of **\$52,431.67** as of December 31, 2002.

Motion by **Robert Posey** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report as read passed unanimously.

Judge Robert Browne, Vice-President & Sterling County Director, presented the 2002 Annual Report (attached).

Fuller announced the selection of representatives for the Board of Directors as follows:

- A. Borden County – **Joe Belew**
- B. Jones County – **Vacant**
- C. Nolan County – **Ken Becker**
- D. Scurry County – **Sid Hardegree**

Fuller introduced **James Tillman**, Assistant State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas.

Mr. Tillman delivered a message from **Dr. Larry Butler**, Texas NRCS State Conservationist, thanking the Sponsors, volunteers and Board of Directors for their efforts and leadership.

Tillman complimented the Big Country RC&D Area for involving other organizations as partners to complete Projects.

Tillman stated that the Area will receive a \$16,000 grant from NRCS to support its activities and that hopefully the vacant RC&D Coordinator position will be filled by April 30, 2003.

Tillman stated that the RC&D Program continues to receive increased funding in the USDA budget as Congress and the Administration recognize the ability of local RC&D Areas to leverage Federal funds to accomplish local community benefit Projects.

Fuller thanked **Dennise Hoover, Lynda Apel and Mark Freeman** for maintaining the Area's activities during this interim period without a full time RC&D Coordinator.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PL, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Jon Weddle, PL, Zone 1
Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
James Tillman, ASC, Temple
Claude Ross, SRC&DC, Temple



ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET

34

TWELFTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE
Sweetwater, TX - March 11, 2003

Name	Organization	City
Angie Key		
Leri Winters		
Glen Killough		
Sherry Thomas		
Mark Black		
Jon Weddle		
Ron Crowley		
Robert Brown		
Mark Panning		
Lynnda Goff		
Dennise Hoover		
Kim White		
Buddy Winters		
Lois Brown		
Ken Becker		
James Tillman		
Walter Felt		
Ralph Lee		
Anna Frouin		
Andia Galvin		
Laticia Nair		
Holly Ellis		
Rod Keller		
J. KYLE MARTIN		
Michael Hoch		



ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET

34

TWELFTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE
Sweetwater, TX - March 11, 2003

Name	Organization	City
Rick Harston		
Riley Kitchens		
Phil Landwehr		
Nancy L. Clark		
Harold Sanders		
Bob Lunn		
Robert T. Pacey		
Mike C. Smith		
Jack Cochran		
Jim Grubbs		
Joe Bohlander		
C. Jay Jones		
David Maddox		
Eddie Brown		
Ron Stewart		
Tom Harris		
John Sisk		
W. W. Smith		
Bob Lunn		
Bill Warren		
Mark Free		
Belinda Zarate		
Chloanna Lindsey		
Jerry House		
Walter Skindler		

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P O BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556

915-235-4300 FAX 915-236-6625

MARCH 11, 2003

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Windi Fuller	B L Thomas
Ken Becker	Judge Robert Browne
Jim White	Michael Hoch
Sid Hardegree	Robert Posey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Wright	Mark Freeman
Dennise Hoover	Jon Weddle
Mario Avila	Mickey Black
Glen Killough	Buddy Watson
Charlie Morris	Mike Clifton
Angie Key	Mark Rameriz
James Tillman	Ron Crumley

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Board of Directors held their meeting at Allen's Family Style Meals in Sweetwater, Texas, following the Annual Sponsors' Conference with 22 present.

Windi Fuller, President, called the meeting to order and introduced **Judge Jim White** who will complete the unexpired term of Director from Kent County.

Ken Becker reviewed the Minutes of the December 3, 2002, meeting and presented the Financial Report (attached).

Motion by **Robert Posey** and seconded by **Michael Hoch** to approve the Minutes and Financial Report passed unanimously.

Sid Hardegree recommended that the Endowment Certificate of Deposit be renewed for 3 months and re-visited at the June Board Meeting.

Shug Thomas presented the nominating committees' recommendations for officers for 2002. Motion by **Hardegree** and seconded by **Hoch** to elect **Ken Becker** as President, **Judge Robert Browne** as Vice President, and **Robert Posey** as Secretary/Treasurer passed unanimously.

Motion by **Fuller** and seconded by **Hoch** to authorize **Becker**, **Judge Browne** and **Posey** to be on updated signature cards for all Area bank accounts passed unanimously.

Dennise Hover reviewed the four (4) Project Proposals received since December 3, 2002 (attached).

Motion by **Posey** and seconded by **Judge Brown** to approve the Project Proposals and include them in the Area Plan and Plan of Work passed unanimously.

Sid Hardegree reported on the request from **TriCounty Children's Advocacy Center** in Sweetwater, Texas, to become a Sponsor of the Area.

Motion by **Posy** and seconded by **Fuller** to approve the request passed unanimously.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was explained that the Project closes April 30, 2003. A 319(h) Final Report for EPA and TSSWCB (Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board) will be submitted after April 30, 2003..

Plans for the 2003 National Association of RC&Ds Conference were discussed. The Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, July 20-23, 2003. Voting Delegate for the Business session is **Ken Becker** with another Delegate to be selected at the June Board Meeting.

Posey will secure a football signed by **Sammy Baugh** as a donated auction item for the Conference.

The Area is sponsoring an exhibit booth in March at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting again this year in conjunction with **Four Winds, Chisholm Trails and Bluebonnett RC&D Areas**.

An update on the Gifts In Kind International Project was given (attachments).

Big Country RC&D Area was recognized in the "Texas Outreach 2002 Publication" for successfully completed Projects.

Motion by **Ken Becker** and seconded by **B L Thomas** to accept Mitchell County's offer to hold the next Board of Director's meeting **June 3, 2003**, in **Colorado City** passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Blind cc: Elisha Kuehn, ASFO, Zone 2
Melony Sikes, PL, Zone 2
Mickey Black, ASFO, Zone 1
Jon Weddle, PL, Zone 1

Alfonso Leal, ASFO, Zone 5
James Tillman, ASC, Temple
Claude Ross, SRC&DC, Temple

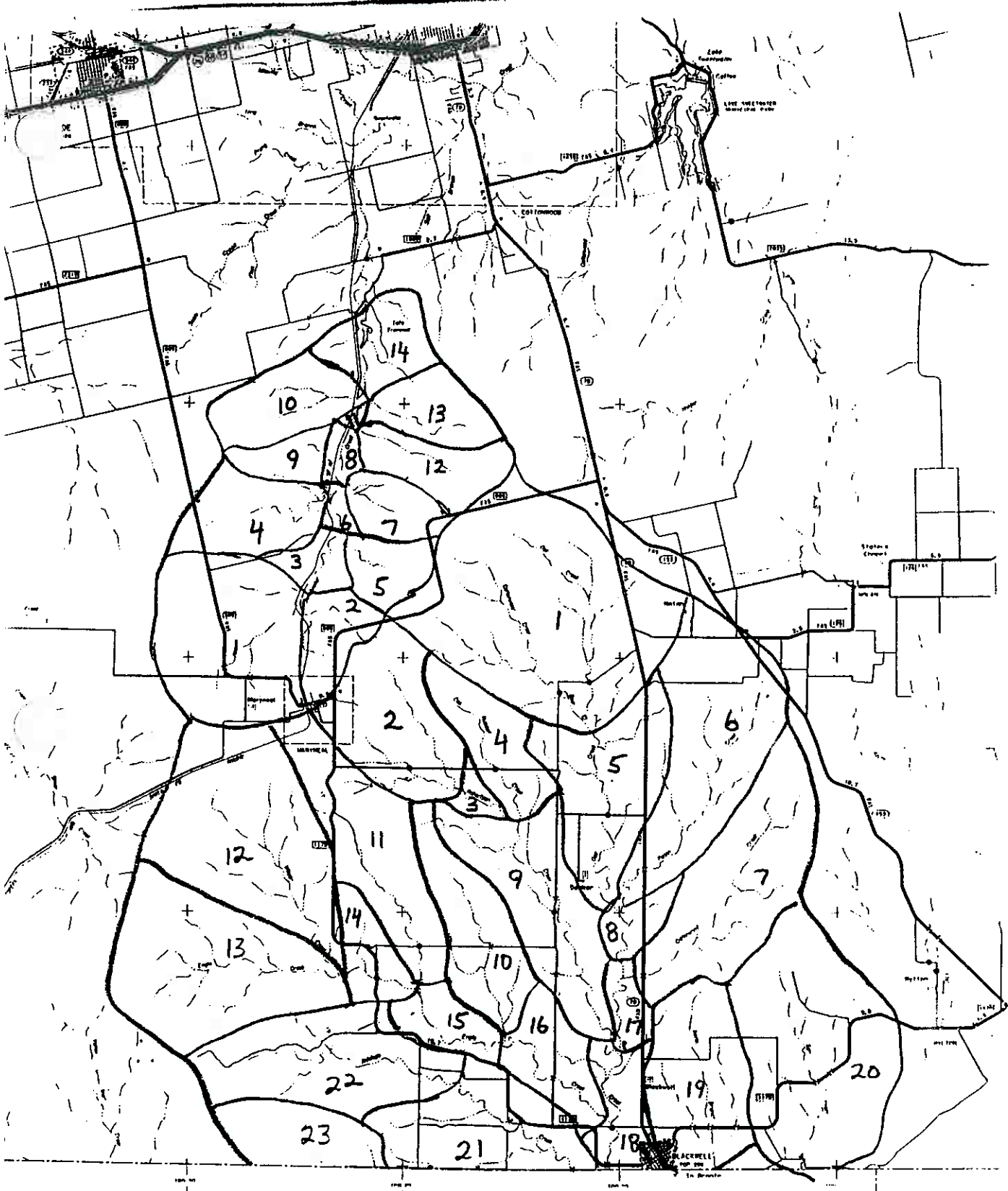
35

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 11, 2003 – 1:00 PM - Sweetwater, Texas



AGENDA

1. Call to Order – *Windi Fuller*
2. Reading of the Minutes & Financial Reports – *Ken Becker*
 - A. December 3, 2002, Board of Director's Minutes (mailed)
 - B. Financial Statement
 - C. Operating Expenses/Income Received/Accounts Receivable (Received & Obligated)
3. Election of Officers – *Shug Thomas*, Chairman, Nominating Committee
-Nominating Committee Recommendation-
 - President – Ken Becker
 - Vice President – Robert Browne
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Robert Posey
4. Review New Proposed Projects – *Dennise Hoover*
5. Request To Become A Sponsor – *Sid Hardegree*
–TriCounty Children's Advocacy Center/Sweetwater, Texas (Voting Delegate: *Peggy Parrott*) ~ Nolan, Fisher, Mitchell, Scurry, & Borden Counties
6. Acting RC&D Coordinator's Report – *Mark Freeman & Dennise Hoover*
 - A. Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Project Update
 - B. National Association of RC&D Conference – San Antonio, TX – July 20-23, 2003
 - 1) Voting Delegates
 - 2) Auction Item
 - 3) Success Story – Gifts In Kind
 - C. Exhibit Booth at West Texas Judges & Commissioners' Annual Meeting in Conjunction with Four Winds, Leon-Bosque, Bluebonnet, & Chisholm Trail RC&D Areas
 - D. Gifts In Kind Update
 - 1) PPI Truckload Donation 9 News Article
 - 2) PPI Thank You Letter
 - 3) Office Depot Donation Update
 - 4) Jayton ISD Thank You Letter
 - E. Success Stories in Texas Outreach 2002 Publication
7. Selection of June Board of Director's Meeting



Oak Creek / Lake Trammell Subbasin Priority Listing

Oak Creek:

19
17
20
8
15
25
24
26
16
27
18
5
21
23
9
10
14
11
2
6
7
22
3
4
12
1
13

Lake Trammell:

8
14
11
6
10
1
9
3
12
13
4
5
7
2

Oak Creek / Lake Trammell Applications

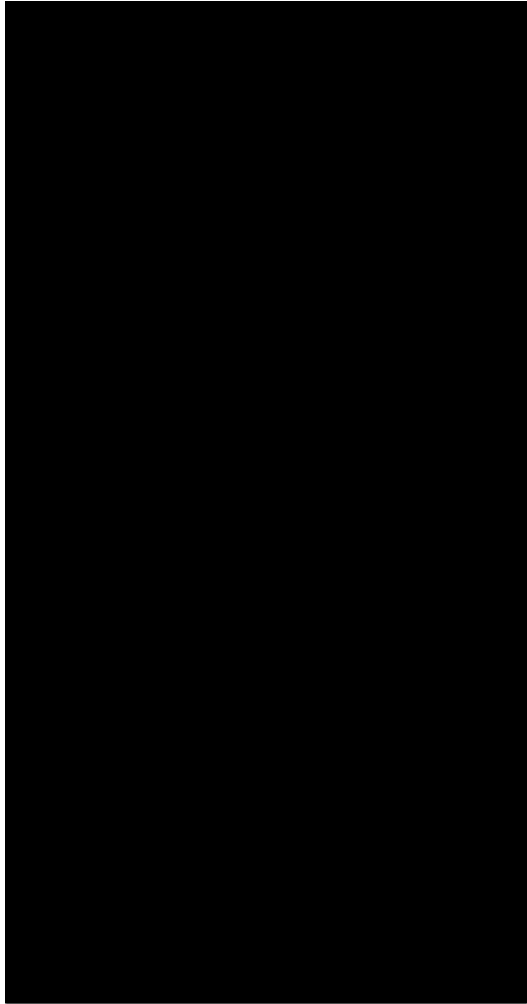
Name	Sub Shed	Distance To Lake	Cost Share	Practices
	O - 21	4	\$3827	CAT, Brush Control, Seeding
	O - 21	6	\$9375	Brush Control - Mechanical & Chemical
	O - 21	5	\$5003	CAT, Brush Control, Seeding
	O - 1, 2	16	\$7292	Brush Control, Seeding, Well, Terraces
	O - 20, 16	5	\$50000	Treedoze & Rootplow, Seeding, Well
	O - 9, 5	10	\$7508	Treedoze, Seeding
	O - 2	20	\$45043	Treedoze, Seeding
	O-11,2,10	17	\$28763	Treedoze & Rootplow, Seeding
	O - 12 T - 1	23	\$5704	Treedoze, Seeding, Well, WSF, Fence
	O - 11, 14	13	\$7088	Brush Control (IPT)
	O - 20, 7	8	\$21821	Treedoze & Rootplow, Seeding, Pipeline, WSF, Fence
	O - 19	7	\$2749	Rake, Seeding
	O - 14, 15, 21, 22, 23	10	\$39994	Treedoze, Seeding, WSF, Terraces, Diversion
	O - 19	5	\$4462	Treedoze, Seeding, Pear Control, IPT
	O - 7, 8	8	\$15000	Treedoze, Pear Control
	O - 19	5	\$9092	Treedoze, Seeding, WSF Well, Rootplow, IPT
	O - 19, 18	4	\$25935	Rootplow, Seeding, 2 Fences
	O - 6, 7	13	\$50000	Treedoze

	T - 12, 13, 7	1	\$39700	Treedoze, Pear Control, Well, WSF
	T - 1	13	\$38141	Treedoze, Seeding, Pear Control
	T - 1,2,3,4, 5,6,7	6	\$50000	Treedoze, Seeding, Pear Control, Fencing, WSF
	T - 4, 9	3	\$38210	Treedoze, Seeding, WSF, Pipeline, Well, Fence

Oak Creek / Lake Trammell Priority Ranking

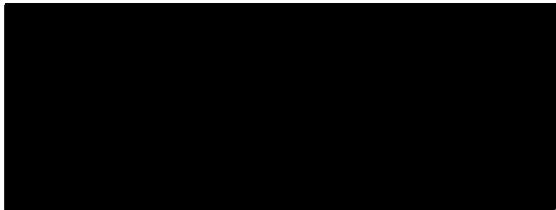
Oak Creek:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.



Lake Trammell:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.





Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District No. 245

103 West Florida - Sweetwater, Texas 79556-8209

December 15, 1998

MEMBERS PRESENT
Ralph Stirl
Morgan Wright
Bobby Sanderson
John Wilks

OTHERS PRESENT
Terry Been
Jimmy Apel
Dicie Stovall

ORDER OF BUSINESS - SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Morgan Wright.

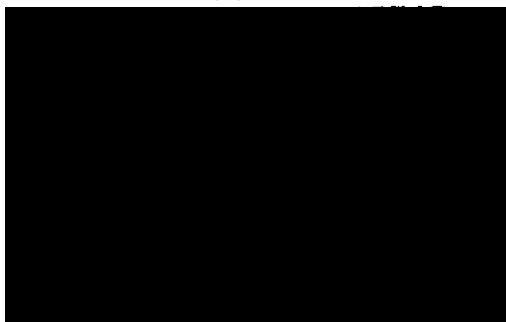
Board discussed the priority ranking for applications for the Oak Creek - Lake Trammell 319 Project. Motion by Wright and seconded by Wilks to set the priority ranking of applications passed. The priority ranking of applications is as follows: The directors of the Nolan County SWCD will review each eligible application and assign a priority of high, medium, or low based on a combination of two factors.

1. Each sub-basin in each watershed has been evaluated as to the existing sediment yield occurring. Applications located within the sub-basins contributing a higher amount of sediment will receive a higher rating.

2. Applications requiring implementation of extensive Best Management Practices to reduce water erosion and associated nonpoint source pollution will receive a higher rating.

Twenty-three applications were received. Nineteen in the Oak Creek Watershed and four in the Lake Trammell Watershed. Motion by Wright and seconded by Wilks to approve the following applications passed. Stirl, Wright, and Wilks voted in favor of the motion. Sanderson abstained from voting due to his application.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



DIRECTORS

RALPH STIRL
Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

J. MORGAN WRIGHT
Vice Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

DON SHEFFIELD
Secretary-Treasurer
Sweetwater, Texas
79556

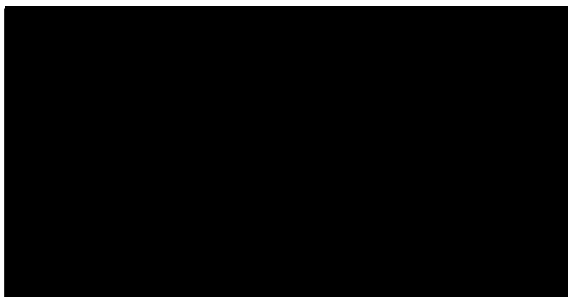
W. A. OATMAN
Member
Maryneal, Texas
79535

BOBBY SANDERSON
Member
Blackwell, Texas
79506



103 West Florida - Sweetwater, Texas 79556-8209

- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.



Motion by Wilks and seconded by Wright to disapprove the following requests for whole farm water quality management plans including financial incentive payments. Stirl, Wright, and Wilks voted in favor of the motion. Sanderson abstained from voting due to his application.

1. [REDACTED] - Lack of funds.
2. [REDACTED] - Lack of funds and low priority ranking.
3. [REDACTED] - Low priority ranking.
4. [REDACTED] - Unit not eligible. Only 17% located in the priority area.

Motion by Sanderson and seconded by Wilks to pay the operating expenses as listed on the agenda passed.

Meeting adjourned.

DIRECTORS

RALPH STIRL
Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

J. MORGAN WRIGHT
Vice Chairman
Roscoe, Texas
79545

DON SHEFFIELD
Secretary-Treasurer
Sweetwater, Texas
79556

W. A. OATMAN
Member
Maryneal, Texas
79535

BOBBY SANDERSON
Member
Blackwell, Texas
79506

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P.O. BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556-1114

(915) 235-4300 FAX (915) 236-6625

December 18, 1998

«First_Name» «Last_Name»
 «Address_Line_1»
 «City», «State» «ZIP_Code»

PROGRAM: Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name»:

Your application for the above program has been approved by the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors for development of a Water Quality Management Plan.

Please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at (915)235-4485 to set an appointment for developing your whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan.

Practices eligible to receive financial incentives cannot be started prior to the Plan being certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Ralph Stirl
 Nolan County SWCD

Terry Been
 Natural Resources
 Conservation Service

Jimmy Apel
 Big Country Resource
 Conservation & Development
 Area, Inc.

BIG COUNTRY

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

P.O. BOX 1114 SWEETWATER, TX 79556-1114

(915) 235-4300 FAX (915) 236-6625

December 18, 1998

«First_Name» «Last_Name»

«Address_Line_1»

«City», «State» «ZIP_Code»

PROGRAM: Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name»:

Your application for the above program was reviewed by the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors on December 16, 1998.

Your request for a whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan including financial incentive payments has been disapproved because of:

- _____ Lack of funds
- _____ Low priority ranking
- _____ Unit not eligible

If you desire to develop a Water Quality Management Plan that does not include financial incentives, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service office at (915)235-4485 to set an appointment.

Ralph Stirl
Nolan County SWCD

Terry Been
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Jimmy Apel
Big Country Resource
Conservation & Development
Area, Inc.

WQMP 245-99-004

WATER EROSION DATA



Cooperator

4

Field Number

5/18/99

Date

Terry Beon

Completed by

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series Cobb Fine sandy loam

Soil loss tolerance 2 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200

Terraced Yes No (check one)

Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - 27% canopy

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~

~~Contour farming (check one)~~

~~Contour stripcropping~~

Cecil L. Smith p. 2

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.18}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 2.42$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

89

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200

~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)

Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - Appreciable brush, avg. 6' height

27% canopy - 20% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~
~~Contour stripcropping~~ (check one)

ALTERNATIVE 2

AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.013}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 0.17$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200

~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)

Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - NO appreciable canopy

80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~
~~Contour stripcropping~~ (check one)

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)

WQMP - 245-99-007

WATER EROSION DATA

Cooperator

5/6/89
Date

6
Field Number

Terry Been
Completed by

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series 9 - Ector very gravelly clay loam
Soil loss tolerance L (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200
Percent slope 3 Terraced Yes No (check one)

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)
Rangeland - 33% canopy

(P) Support practice factor
~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.10}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.34}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 1.9$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - Appreciable canopy, Avg 6' height
33% canopy - 10% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

Up and downhill farming
Contour farming (check one)
Contour stripcropping

ALTERNATIVE 2 AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.10}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.013}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = .07$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - no appreciable canopy
80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management, Treedoze, Fields 1 and 2 and Range Planting, Fields 1 and 2, planned for 1999 have been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management and Range Planting in Fields 3 and 4. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-14-99

Date

Ralph E. Steil
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]
NRCS

1/11/00

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY DATE 12/13/99 WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED] ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Treedoze and Range Planting in Fields 1, 3, and 4 scheduled for 1999 have been completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Trap, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed [REDACTED] 12-15-99
Producer Date

[Signature] 1/11/00
Nolan County SWCD Date

[Signature] 1-12-00
Big Country RC&D Director Date

[Signature] 12/16/99
NRCS Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Well and Trough in Field 6 scheduled for 1999 have been completed. Fence in Field 1 scheduled for 1999 has not been completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management - Treedoing, and Range Planting in Fields 1 and 6. Fence in Field 1. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed [REDACTED]

Producer
[Signature]
Nolan County SWCD

Dec. -16-99
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

1-12-00
Date

1/11/00
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management, Treedoze, and Range Planting, Field 5 (partial - 221.9 acres) planned for 1999 have been satisfactorily completed.

Brush Management, Treedoze, Fields 4 (partial - 196.2 acres) and 7 (partial - 93.8 acres) planned for 2000 have been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Terrace Maintenance, Contour Farming, Nutrient Management, Trap, Otherland, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 4, 5, 7 and 8. Range Planting in Fields 4, 5, and 7. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-15-99

Date

Ralph Steel

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]

NRCS

12/15/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management, Rootplow, planned for 1999 has been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Headquarters, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Fence #1 and Fence #2 and Range Planting in Fields 4 and 5. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-15-99

Date

Ralph E. Steer

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]

NRCS

1/11/00

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Rootplow, in Fields 2 and 3 scheduled for 1999 have been completed. Rootplowing was substituted for treedoing in Field 3. Range Planting scheduled for Fields 2 and 3 were not completed due to dry weather conditions. Trough scheduled for Field 3 was not completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management - IPT, Fields 2 and 3. Range Planting in Fields 2 and 3. Trough in Field 3. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed [REDACTED]

Producer

12.14.99

Date

Ralph Stut

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]

NRCS

12/16/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Treedoze, and Range Planting in Field 6 scheduled for 1999 have been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Otherland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Pest Management - Cropland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management and Range Planting in Field 7. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

Ralph C. Steu

Nolan County SWCD

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

[Signature]

NRCS

Dec. 14, 1999
Date

1/11/00
Date

1-12-00
Date

12/16/99
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - rootplow, and Range Planting, in Field 2 and Brush Management - Treedoze, and Range Planting in Field 1 scheduled for 1999 have been satisfactorily completed. Pipelines and Troughs in Fields 1, 2, and 3 were satisfactorily completed in 1999 under the Emergency Conservation Program.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Headquarters, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Fence in Field 2. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12/15/99

Date

Ralph Steal

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

Jay Baw

NRCS

12/14/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY DATE 12/13/99 WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED] ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Range Planting in Field 2. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed [REDACTED] Producer Date 12/13/99

[Signature] Nolan County SWCD Date 1/11/00

[Signature] Big Country RC&D Director Date 1-12-00

[Signature] NRCS Date 1/11/00

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management, Treedoze, in Fields 1, 3, 4, and 6 have been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Terrace Maintenance, Nutrient Management, Trap, Otherland, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 12 and 14. Well and Trough in Field 12. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-14-99

Date

Robert C. Sturt

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

Jay C. [Signature]

NRCS

12/14/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - IPT, in Fields 1 and 5 scheduled for 1999 has been started but not completed. Brush Management - Aerial spray cactus will not be completed due to dry weather conditions.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management, Headquarters, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 1 and 5. Range Planting in Field 1 and all management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]
Producer

12-14-99
Date

Ralph E. Star
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

12/16/99
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management, Treedoze, Fields 1, 3 and 4 planned for 1999 has been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Field 2. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12/14/99
Date

[Handwritten Signature]

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Handwritten Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Handwritten Signature]

NRCS

12/15/99
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Well scheduled for 1999 in Fields 1 has been started but not completed due to it not being connected to a trough.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Well and Trough in Field 1. Brush Management and Range Planting in Field 1. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-14-99

Date

Ralph E. Stov

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]

NRCS

12/14/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW
319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Terraces in Field 6 scheduled for 1999 have been satisfactorily completed. Well in Field 9 scheduled for 1999 has been satisfactorily completed. Certification has not been completed due to pipelines and troughs not being completed. Diversion in Field 5 is deleted as it is not needed. Pipelines scheduled in Fields 2, 8, 9, 10, and 16 scheduled for 1999 have been started but not completed. Troughs in Fields 2, 9, 12, and 16 scheduled for 1999 have not been completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Terrace Maintenance, Nutrient Management, Trap, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management and Range Planting in Fields 8, 11, and 16. Pipelines in Fields 2, 8, 9, 10, and 16. Troughs in Fields 2, 9, 12, and 16. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[Signature]
[REDACTED]

Producer

12-15-99

Date

[Signature]

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00

Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00

Date

[Signature]

NRCS

12/15/99

Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Treedoze, in Fields 6, 7, and 8 scheduled for 1999 has been started but not completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Headquarters, Trap, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

X [REDACTED]

Producer

12/14/99
Date

Ralph Stur
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

12/15/99
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Treedoze, and Range Planting, in Fields 8, 17, and 18 scheduled for 1999 have not been completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Headquarters, Trap, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management and Range Planting in Fields 8, 17, and 18. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

Dec 15, 1999
Date

[Signature]
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

1/11/00
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Terraces in Fields 1, and 7 scheduled for 1999 have been completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, Otherland, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management - Rootplow, Field 3, Brush Management - IPT, Fields 5 and 10, Fence in Field 5 and 10. Range Planting in Field 3. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed [REDACTED]
Producer

12-18-99
Date

[Signature]
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

1/11/00
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Terrace in Field 3 planned for 1999 has been satisfactorily completed.

Diversion in Field 4 planned for 2000 has been satisfactorily completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management, Otherland, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 2, 5, and 7. Range Planting in Fields 2, 5, and 7. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED Signature]

Producer

12-17-99

Date

[Signature]
Nolan County SWCD

Date

1/11/00

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

Date

1-12-00

[Signature]
NRCS

Date

1/11/00

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Brush Management - Aerial Spray cactus in Fields 3, 7, and 8 scheduled for 1999 have not been completed due to dry weather conditions. Fences in Fields 2 and 11 have been started but are not complete.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Trap, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Brush Management in Fields 3, 7, 8, and 14. Range Planting in Field 14. Fence in Fields 2 and 11. Troughs in Fields 2, 4, 11, and 12. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED Signature]

Producer

1-7-2000
Date

Roger Stul

Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]

Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]

NRCS

1/11/00
Date

STATUS REVIEW

319h - 1999

SWCD NOLAN COUNTY

DATE 12/13/99

WQMP No. [REDACTED]

COUNTY NOLAN

NAME [REDACTED]

ADDRESS [REDACTED]

Progress in applying plan:

Wells scheduled for 2000 in Fields 1, 6, and 7 have been started but not completed.

The following management items planned for 1999 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Terrace Maintenance, Nutrient Management, Trap, Pest Management - Cropland, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2000: Wells in Fields 1, 6, and 7. Pipeline in Fields 7 and 9. Troughs in Fields 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9. All management items.

Is original applicant still in control of WQMP: Yes No

Signed

[REDACTED]

Producer

12-22-99
Date

[Signature]
Nolan County SWCD

1/11/00
Date

[Signature]
Big Country RC&D Director

1-12-00
Date

[Signature]
NRCS

1/11/00
Date

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million (FAO 2001).

There are a number of reasons for this increase. One of the main reasons is the increase in the world population. The world population is expected to increase from 6 billion in 1990 to 9 billion in 2050 (FAO 2001).

Another reason is the increase in the number of people who are living in poverty. The number of people living on less than \$1 per day has increased from 1 billion in 1990 to 1.2 billion in 2000 (FAO 2001).

A third reason is the increase in the number of people who are living in rural areas. The number of people living in rural areas has increased from 3 billion in 1990 to 4 billion in 2000 (FAO 2001).

There are a number of factors that contribute to the increase in the number of people who are undernourished. These factors include:

1. The increase in the world population.

2. The increase in the number of people who are living in poverty.

3. The increase in the number of people who are living in rural areas.

4. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of conflict.

5. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of natural disaster.

6. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of environmental degradation.

7. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of political instability.

8. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of social inequality.

9. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of poor infrastructure.

10. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of poor health care.

11. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of poor education.

12. The increase in the number of people who are living in areas of poor governance.

41

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Fence between Fields 1 & 2 scheduled for 2000 is complete and being maintained. Pipeline (3 No.) in Fields 1, 2, & 3 and Troughs (4 No.) in Fields 1, 2, & 3 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Trough in Field #1; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 11/26/00

DATE

Boyd J. [Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00

DATE

Ken Cash

NRCS

12/12/00

DATE

41

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Well started in 1999 is not complete. Trough scheduled for 2000 is in place but not complete. Brush Management and Range Planting scheduled for 2000 were not carried out due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Well and Trough in Field 1; Brush Management and Range Planting in Field 1; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x Dec-11, 2000

DATE

Morgan Wright

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-2001

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.14.00

DATE

Jan Cash

NRCS

1/9/01

DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in 2, 3, & the remainder of Field 7 is started but not complete due to the drought. Brush Management started in 1999 in Fields 6 & 8 is complete.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Complete Brush management in Fields 2, 3, & 7; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

[Signature]
NRCS

x 11/29/2000
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

12.14.00
DATE

12/22/00
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY **WQMP:** [REDACTED]
COUNTY: NOLAN **DATE:** November 16, 2000
NAME: [REDACTED] **ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management (Treedoze) and Range Planting in Fields 8, 17, & 18 scheduled for 2000 are complete.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management (aerial) in Fields 3, 6, 8, 17, & 18; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x Dec 12, 2000

DATE

27 Bryan Wright

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-2001

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-21-00

DATE

Ken Cash

NRCS

1-1-00

DATE

41

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Fences between Fields 2 & 4 and 11 & 12 started in 1999 are complete. Brush Management in Field 14 scheduled for 2000 is complete. Troughs in Fields 2, 4, 11, & 12 scheduled for 2000 are complete. Brush Management in Fields 3, 7, & 8 and Range Planting in Field 14 scheduled for 2000 were not completed due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in Fields 3, 7, & 8; Range Planting in Field 14; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 11-23-2000
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

12/12/00
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2000

41

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Range Planting in Fields 4 & 5 and Fences between Fields 1 & 3 and 4 & 5 (2 No.) scheduled for 2000 were not completed due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Range Planting in Fields 4 & 5; Fences between Fields 1 & 3 and 4 & 5; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]
PRODUCER

X 12-14-2000
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-2001
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-21-00
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

1-9-01
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Range Planting in Fields 2 & 3 scheduled for 2000 has been started and Brush Management (IPT) in Fields 2 & 3 scheduled for 2000 were not completed due to the drought. Trough in Field 3 scheduled for 2000 was not completed.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Complete Range Planting in Fields 2 & 3; Brush Management (IPT) in Fields 2 & 3; Trough in Field 3; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X 11-24-00

DATE

John Wilks

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00

DATE

Ten Cash

NRCS

12/12/00

DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Range Planting in Field 2 scheduled for 2000 was not carried out due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Range Planting in Field 2; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]
PRODUCER

X 11-29-00
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

12/12/00
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Well, tank, and one trough in Field #9 started in 1999 are completed and being maintained. Pipelines scheduled for 2000 in Fields #2, 8, 9, 10 & 16 are started but not complete. One trough in Field #9 and Troughs in Fields #2, 12 & 16 are not complete. Brush Management in Fields #8, 11 & 16 and Range Planting in Fields #8, 11 & 16 were amended to be carried out in 2001 due to drought in 2000.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

Terraces in Field #6, well, tank, and trough in Field #9 are being maintained.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management and Range Planting in Fields #8, 11 & 16; Pipelines in Fields #2, 8, 9, 10 & 16; and Troughs in Fields #2, 9, 12 & 16; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X

[REDACTED]
PRODUCER

X

12-13-00
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-01
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1-4-01
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

1-9-01
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

8 1

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management, Treedoze, Field #5 (partial 18.4 ac) scheduled for 2000 is complete; Brush Management, Treedoze, Field #7 (partial 18.8 ac) scheduled for 2000 is complete. Range Planting, Field #5 (partial 240.3 ac) and Field #7 (partial 18.8 ac) scheduled for 2000 is complete.

Brush Management, Treedoze, and Field #8 scheduled for 2000 was not carried out due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in #4, 5, 7 & 8; Range Planting in Fields #4, 5 & 8; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP:

YES

NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 12-15-00

DATE

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-01

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1-04-01

DATE

[Signature]

NRCS

1-9-01

DATE

47

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in Fields 12 & 14 scheduled for 2000 are complete. Well and trough in Field 12 scheduled for 2000 are not complete.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Well and Trough in Field 2; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X 11-22-00
DATE

John Willett
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.14.00
DATE

Ken Cash
NRCS

12/12/00
DATE

71

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in Fields 2, 5, & 7 and Range Planting in Fields 2, 5, & 7 scheduled for 2000 were not carried out due to drought. Terraces in Field #3 and Diversion in Field #4 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in Fields 2, 5, & 7; Range Planting in Fields 2, 5, & 7; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]
PRODUCER

x 11-21-00
DATE

John Wilbo
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00
DATE

Ken Cash
NRCS

12/17/00
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2000

41

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in Field 2 scheduled for 2000 has not been completed due to the drought.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in Field 2; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]
PRODUCER

X 11-30-00
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12/12/00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.14.00
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

12/12/00
DATE

21

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management - IPT, in Fields #1 & 5 was started in 1999 but not completed due to drought. Brush Management - Aerial Spray Cactus scheduled for 2000 in Field #5 and Brush Management - Treedoze in Field #1 scheduled for 2000 were not carried out due to drought. *completed 11-1*

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in Field #1 & 5; Range Planting in Field #1; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 12-12-2000

DATE

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

1-9-01

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1-4-01

DATE

[Signature]

NRCS

1-9-01

DATE

41

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in Field #3, 5 & 10 scheduled for 2000 has been started. Range Planting in Field #3 was not carried out due to drought. Fence between Fields 3 & 10 scheduled for 2000 is complete and being maintained. Fence between Fields 5 & 10 scheduled for 2000 is not complete. Terraces in Fields 1 & 7 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Completion of Brush Management in Fields #3, 5 & 10; Range Planting in Field #3; Fence between Fields 5 & 10; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

[Signature]
NRCS

X 12-13-00
DATE

11/9/01
DATE

12-21-00
DATE

1-9-01
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000**

41

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Wells in 1, 6, & 7 (3 No.), Trough or Tank in 1, 6, 7, 8, & 9 (7 No.), Pipeline in 6, 7, 8, & 9 scheduled for 2000 are complete and being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in F#6; Fence (3 No.) in F#1 & 3, 6 & 8, and 7 & 9; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]
PRODUCER

X 12-2-2000
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-12-00
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

12/12/00
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

41

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in Fields 1 & 6, Range Planting in Fields 1 & 6, and Fence between Fields 1 & 6 scheduled for 2000 were not completed due to drought. Well and Trough in Field 6 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2001: Brush Management in Fields 1 & 6; Range Planting in Fields 1 & 6; Fence between Fields 1 & 6; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

[Signature]

NRCS

X 16 Nov 2000
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

12-14-00
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2000.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

Biff J. [Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

Ken Cash

NRCS

X 12-3-00
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

12-14-00
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2000.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X 11-24-2000

DATE

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12/17/00

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12-14-00

DATE

[Signature]

NRCS

DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2000**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 16, 2000

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2000.

The following management items planned for 2000 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

PRODUCER

Boff J. Sanderson

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

Ken Cah

NRCS

x 11-24-00
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

12-14-00
DATE

12/12/00
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2001**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: December 11, 2001

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2001.

Terraces in Field 6 and Well, Tank, & Trough in Field 9 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.


IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

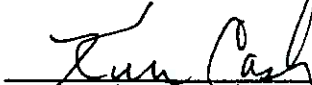
x Dec. 17, 2001
DATE


NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE


BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1.14.02
DATE


NRCS

1-8-02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2001**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: December 11, 2001

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2001.

Range Planting in Field 2 scheduled for 2001 is complete.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED: [REDACTED]

x _____
PRODUCER

x 12-31-01
DATE

Ralph Stul
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1.14.02
DATE

Joe Bolivato
NRCS

1.18.02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2001**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: December 11, 2001

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2001.

Fence between Fields 1 & 2 is being maintained. Pipeline (No. 3) in Fields 1, 2, & 3 and Troughs (4 No.) in Fields 1, 2, & 3 are being maintained. Trough in Field 1 scheduled for 2001 is complete and being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 12/15/01
DATE

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1.14.02
DATE

NRCS

1-8-02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2001**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: December 11, 2001

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2001.

Well started in 1999 is complete. Trough scheduled for 2001 is complete. Brush Management and Range Planting scheduled for 2001 are complete.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

[Signature]

NRCS

x 12-13-01
DATE

DATE

1-14-02
DATE

1-8-02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2001**

FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: December 11, 2001

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan have been carried out.

This 319(h) Water Quality Management Plan will expire 12/31/2001.

Brush Management (aerial) in Fields 3, 6, 8, 17, & 18 scheduled for 2001 is complete.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X 1/10/02

DATE

Ralph Stiel

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

1.14.02

DATE

Joe Belkwater

NRCS

1.18.02

DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management (treedoze) in Field 2 scheduled for 2002 has not been completed due to the drought. Brush Management (chemical) in Fields 1, 3 and 4 has been started but is not complete.

The following management items planned for 2001 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2003 Brush Management (Treedoze) in Field 2; Brush management (chemical) 1, 3 & 4; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 12-6-02
DATE

Ralph E. Steel
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-16-02
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.17.02
DATE

Gene Bobel Watson
NRCS

12-16-02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2001**

42

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management (IPT) in Fields 2, 5, & 7 is started but not complete. Terraces in Field 3 and Diversion in Field 4 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2003: Brush Management (IPT) in Fields 2,5 & 7; all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 11/22/02

DATE

Boyd J. Suckler

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

11-26-02

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02

DATE

Joe Bolkwatn

NRCS

11.25.02

DATE

**FINAL STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items scheduled in this Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) have been carried out.

This 319h WQMP will expire 12/31/02.

Pipeline in Field 5 & Trough in Field 5 scheduled for 2002 are complete and being maintained..

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]
PRODUCER

x 11-27-02
DATE

Donald R. Strickland
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02
DATE

Ken Cook
NRCS

12/9/02
DATE

**FINAL STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items scheduled in this Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) have been carried out.

This 319h WQMP will expire 12/31/02.

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

[Handwritten Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

[Handwritten Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

[Handwritten Signature]

NRCS

x 11-21-02
DATE

DATE

12.11.02

DATE

12/9/02

DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2002

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management - IPT, in Fields 1 & 5 was started in 1999 but not completed due to drought. Brush Management - Treedoze & Range Planting in Field 1 2002, scheduled for 2002 was not carried out due to drought. Completed

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management - Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management - Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2003: Brush Management in Fields 1 & 5; Range Planting in Field 1; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x 11-22-02

DATE

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02

DATE

[Signature]

NRCS

12/9/02

DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in 2 & 3 is started but not complete due to the drought. Brush management in 1 scheduled for 2002 is not complete. Brush Management (aerial) in 1,3,7,8 & 9 scheduled for 2002 in not complete.

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

The following items are scheduled to be completed in 2003: Complete Mechanical Brush Management in Fields 1, 2 & 3; Brush Management (aerial) in Fields 1, 3, 7, 8 & 9; and all management items.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

x [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

x Nov. 29, 2002
DATE

Harold R. Schmitt

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02
DATE

Ken Cash

NRCS

12/9/02
DATE

**FINAL STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) have been carried out.

This 319h WQMP is scheduled to expire 12/31/02.

Fences between Fields 2 & 4 and 11 & 12 are being maintained. Troughs in Fields 2, 4, 11, & 12 are being maintained. Brush Management in Fields 3, 7, & 8 scheduled for 2002 is complete.

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X Dec 3, 2002

DATE

Norman R. Mitchell

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02

DATE

Ken Cash

NRCS

12/9/02

DATE

**FINAL STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2002**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: NOLAN

DATE: November 19, 2002

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

All items in this Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) have been carried out.

This WQMP will expire 12/31/02.

Fences between Fields 1 & 3 and 4 & 5 (2 No.) were deleted. Well and Trough in scheduled for 2002 are complete and being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2002 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

X [REDACTED]

PRODUCER

X Dec. 9-02
DATE

Ralph Steel

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

12-16-02
DATE

[Signature]

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

12.11.02
DATE

Joe Robertson

NRCS

12-16-02
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2003 FINAL**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 30, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: Brush Management in fields 2 & 3 scheduled for 2003 has been completed. The trough planned for field 3 is not needed because the landowner cleaned out a pond and now has adequate water for field 3.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

PRODUCER

4/30/03
DATE

Ralph E. Star
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

5.23.03
DATE

Martin L. [Signature]
NRCS

4/30/03
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) -- 2003 FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 23, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Fences between fields 3, 5, and 10 are being maintained. Terraces in fields 1 and 7 are being maintained. Brush Management in fields 5 and 10 are completed.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management – Cropland, Terrace Maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]
[Signature]
PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

5-27-03
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

4/30/03
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2003 FINAL**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 30, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: Well, trough, and fence in field 6 are being maintained. Chemical brush management in fields 1 & 6 scheduled for 2003 is partially complete. Producer was unable to complete brush treatment due to circumstances beyond his control.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Terrace Maintenance, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCB

5-13-03
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

5.27.03
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

4-30-03
DATE

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2003 FINAL**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 28, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: Scheduled and completed in 2003 are brush management in fields 6,7,9 & 11; troughs (2 No.) in fields 9 & 11; pipeline in 9 & 11. Fences between fields 1 & 3, 7 & 9, 6 & 8, and 10 & 10A are being maintained. Wells in fields 1,6, 7 and 10A and troughs or tanks in fields 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10A and 11 are being maintained. Pipelines in fields 6,7,8,9, 10, 10A, and 11 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Residue Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Terrace Maintenance, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

[Signature]
BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

5-23-03
DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

4-30-03
DATE

copy to zone office 5/13/03 43

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2003 FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 28, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: Chemical treatment of prickly pear in fields 1,3, and 4 is completed. Brush management by treedoing will not be completed in field 2 due to circumstances beyond the producers control.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

Donald R. Sheffield
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

DATE

Martin Spivey
NRCS

4-30-03
DATE

Copy to Zone
Office
5/13/03

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2003 FINAL

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 28, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: Brush Management by treedoing in fields 1,2, and 3, and aerial spraying of prickly pear in fields 1,3,7,8, and 9 has not been done because of the drought, economic hardship and health problems of the producer.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Trap and Headquarters Maintenance, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]
PRODUCER by _____ POA

4-30-03
DATE

[Signature]
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

DATE

[Signature]
NRCS

4-30-03
DATE

copy to [unclear] 43
Hui
5/13/03

**STATUS REVIEW
319(h) – 2003 FINAL**

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 28, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN: The following items scheduled for 2003 have been completed: brush management in fields 3 & 5 and range planting in field 1.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance: Conservation cover, Headquarters maintenance, Pest Management – Rangeland, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED]

PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

[Signature]

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

DATE

[Signature]

NRCS

4-30-03
DATE

STATUS REVIEW
319(h) - 2003 FINAL

*Copy to
zone office for
register
5/13/03*

43

SWCD: NOLAN COUNTY

WQMP: [REDACTED]

COUNTY: Nolan

DATE: April 30, 2003

NAME: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PROGRESS IN APPLYING PLAN:

Brush Management in fields 2,5, & 7 is complete. Terraces in field 3 and the diversion in field 4 are being maintained.

The following management items planned for 2003 are currently in compliance:
Conservation Cover, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Terrace Maintenance,
Prescribed Grazing, and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

IS ORIGINAL APPLICANT STILL IN CONTROL OF WQMP: YES NO

SIGNED:

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

PRODUCER

4-30-03
DATE

Donald R. Sheffield
NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

5-13-03
DATE

BIG COUNTRY RC&D DIRECTOR

DATE

Martin L Powell
NRCS

4/30/03
DATE

WQMP

WATER EROSION DATA

[Redacted]

5/18/99
Date

Terry Beon
Completed by

Cooperator
4
Field Number

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series Cobb fine sandy loam
Soil loss tolerance 2 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200 Terraced Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)
Rangeland - 27% canopy

(P) Support practice factor
~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming (check one)~~
~~Contour stripcropping~~

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.18}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 2.42$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

45

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - Appreciable brush, avg. 6' height
27% canopy - 20% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

ALTERNATIVE 2 AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.013}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 0.17$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - NO appreciable canopy
80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)

WQMP - [REDACTED]

WATER EROSION DATA

[REDACTED]
Cooperator

5/6/99
Date

6
Field Number

Terry Been
Completed by

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series 9 - Ector very gravelly clay loam
Soil loss tolerance 1 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200 Yes No
Percent slope 3 Terraced (check one)

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - 33% canopy

(P) Support practice factor

- ~~Up and downhill farming~~
- ~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
- ~~Contour stripcropping~~

Joe Kilgore

ALTERNATIVE NO. 1

BEFORE

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.10}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.34}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 1.9$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

45

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - appreciable canopy, Avg 6' height
33% canopy - 10% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

Up and downhill farming
Contour farming (check one)
Contour stripcropping

ALTERNATIVE 2

AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.10}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.013}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = .07$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terraced~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

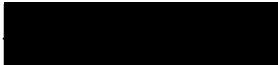
Rangeland - no appreciable canopy
80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)

WQMP



WATER EROSION DATA



Cooperator

5/18/99

Date

4

Field Number

Terry Beon

Completed by

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series Cobb five sandy loam

Soil loss tolerance 2 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200

Terraced Yes No (check one)

Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - 27% canopy

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~

~~Contour farming (check one)~~

~~Contour stripcropping~~

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.18}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 2.42$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terrestrial~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - Appreciable brush, avg. 6' height
27% canopy - 20% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

ALTERNATIVE 2

AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

$\frac{160}{R} \times \frac{.24}{K} \times \frac{.35}{LS} \times \frac{.013}{C} \times \frac{1.0}{P} = 0.17$ (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 ~~Terrestrial~~ Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - NO appreciable canopy
80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

~~Up and downhill farming~~
~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
~~Contour stripcropping~~

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)

WQMP - [REDACTED]

WATER EROSION DATA

[REDACTED]
Cooperator

5/6/99
Date

6
Field Number

Terry Been
Completed by

A = RKLSCP

- A - Soil loss from sheet and rill erosion (Tons/Ac/Yr)
- R - Rainfall factor
- K - Soil erodibility factor
- L - Length of slope
- S - Percent slope
- C - Cover and management factor
- P - Support practice factor

PRESENT SITUATION (as of date shown above)

Explanations

(K) Dominant soil series 9 - Ector very gravelly clay loam
Soil loss tolerance 1 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

(L) Length of slope 200
Percent slope 3 Terraced Yes No (check one)

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - 33% cover

(P) Support practice factor

- ~~Up and downhill farming~~
- ~~Contour farming~~ (check one)
- ~~Contour stripcropping~~

ALTERNATIVE NO. 1

BEFORE

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

160/R x .10/K x .35/LS x .34/C x 1.0/P = 1.9 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 Terraced Yes No (check one)

Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - appreciable canopy, Avg 6' height
33% canopy - 10% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

Up and downhill farming
Contour farming
Contour stripcropping (check one)

ALTERNATIVE 2 AFTER

Date (Complete if and when land user selects this alternative)

160/R x .10/K x .35/LS x .013/C x 1.0/P = .07 (Tons/Ac/Yr)

Explanations

(L) Length of slope 200 Terraced Yes No (check one)
Percent slope 3

(C) Cover and management factor (crops, yields, residue amounts, etc.)

Rangeland - no appreciable canopy
80% ground cover

(P) Support practice factor

Up and downhill farming
Contour farming
Contour stripcropping (check one)

(Additional alternatives may be provided on form TX-TDV-1a.)



**NOLAN COUNTY SWCD CONSERVATION TOUR
OAK CREEK GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREA – EQIP
OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL 319H WATER
QUALITY PROJECT**

October 6, 1999

Bus will leave from the **Roscoe Community Center** at 8:30AM and travel to **Sweetwater Ag Service Center**, 103 W Florida. Bus will leave from **Sweetwater** at 8:45AM to begin tour. People travelling from the south to attend the tour can meet at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00AM if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

1. HARP RANCH

- A. **WELCOME – Ralph Stirl, Chairman, Nolan County SWCD**
- B. **Brush Control Demonstration – Treedoze with Trackhoe Excavator – Carl Beal, Blackwell**
- C. **Brush Control Demonstration – Skid Steer – Loy Storm, New Holland, San Saba**
- D. **Chemical Brush Control Techniques – Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent – Agriculture**
- E. **Excavation Safety – One-call System of Texas – Terry Been, NRCS, Sweetwater**

2. 69 RANCH

- A. **History of the 69 Ranch – Kathy Dickson**



3. FARRAR RANCH

- A. **Brush Control Demonstration – Tree Terminator (shearer & spray unit) – Loy Storm, New Holland, San Saba**
- B. **Grazing Records Reference Handbook – Charles Anderson, NRCS, Menard**
- C. **CEU Completion (3) – Zachary Wilcox**

4. MARYNEAL COMMUNITY CENTER

- A. **Brush Control Demonstration – Skid Loader with Grubber – John Adams, Maryneal**
- B. **Safety Displays – 1)Pesticides & Laundry & 2)TEX*A*SYST, Domestic Water Well Protection – Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent – Family Consumer Sciences**
- C. **Nolan County SWCD Conservation Awards**
CONSERVATION TEACHER – Frances Richburg, Roscoe
CONSERVATION FARMER – Kenny Landfried, Roscoe
CONSERVATION RANCHER – Kathy and Temple Dickson
- D. **Nolan County SWCD Director Election Zone Three – Zachary Wilcox**
- E. **LUNCH – “SHED” – Sponsored by Nolan County SWCD**

Bus will depart **Maryneal Community Center** at 1:00PM to travel back to **Sweetwater** and **Roscoe**.

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL 319h WATER QUALITY PROJECT

Project Goals and Objectives: To actively involve agricultural producers within the project area to develop and implement solutions to the sedimentation problem by educating them about the economic and environmental benefits they will achieve; by implementing Best Management Practices through a tailored whole farm/ranch site specific Water Quality Management Plan; and to transfer this knowledge to the other producers in the project area by outreach activities.

Project Management: Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. and Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) District.

Cooperating Entities: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Supporting Entities: City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

Project Period: 5-12-98 to 4-30-01.

Area of Project: The total area within the two watersheds is 187,712 acres (Lake Trammell - 35,970 acres and Oak Creek - 151,742 acres). Fifty percent of the watershed is classified as either Highly Erodible or Potentially Highly Erodible Soils by the USDA.

About 19,000 acres is used as cropland, 10,000 acres is pastureland/hayland, and 159,000 acres of rangeland. 82%, 131,000 acres, has an excessive amount of brush that not only reduces grass cover, and increases surface runoff, but also inefficiently uses water.

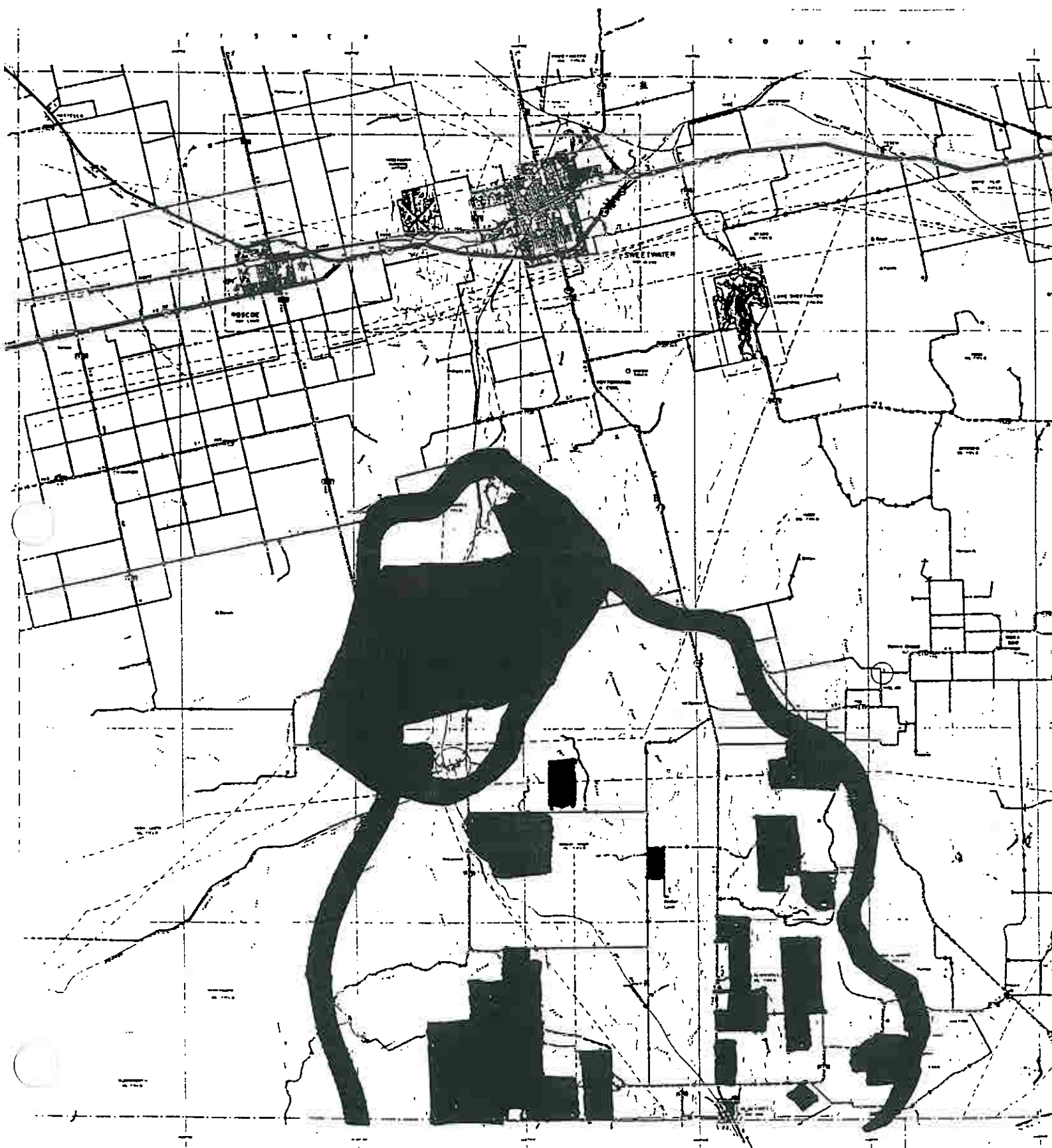
A signup for the program was conducted in November of 1998. There were 23 applications on 69,230 acres requesting \$554,707.00 in assistance. 20 of the 23 applications were approved and funded for a total of \$380,966.00. Best Management Practices (BMP) have been completed on 13 of the Water Quality Management Plans and 1 has completed all the BMP's in their plan.

OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL 319h WATER QUALITY PROJECT



OAK CREEK/LAKE TAMMELL 319h WATER QUALITY PROJECT

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS



1999

ANNUAL REPORT

2000

CALENDAR

**NOLAN COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
#245**

103 West Florida
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
915-235-4485



Ralph E. Stirl
Chairman
 Roscoe, Texas
 79545



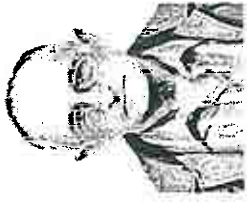
J. Morgan Wright
Vice-Chairman
 Roscoe, Texas
 79545



Don Sheffield
Secretary-Treasurer
 Sweetwater, Texas
 79556



Bobby Sanderson
Member
 Blackwell, Texas
 79506



John Wilks
Member
 Maryneal, Texas
 79535

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This Annual Report covers a portion of the work done in cooperation with the District from September 1, 1998 to August 31, 1999.

The district attempts to focus on long range objectives through the development of a Program and Plan of Work which is broad in scope. Each year an Annual Plan of Work is then decided upon to direct action toward specific goals to be accomplished.

During the past year, over \$3,600,000.00 has entered the Nolan County economy through District sponsored conservation program funds.

All programs administered by the district are on a voluntary basis and are provided without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, marital status, handicap or national origin.

Ralph E. Stirl
 Chairman

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD CONSERVATION PLANNING AND SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Technical Services to Individuals	933 no.
Cooperator Applying a Practice	658 no.
Technical Service Unit of Government	58 no.
Reduced Erosion	174,422 ac.
Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319h Contracts Signed	20-44,879 no. & ac.
EQIP Contracts Signed	5-29,157 no. & ac.
Emergency Conservation Program	867 Practices Applied
Water Quality Management Plans	20-44,879 no. & ac.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

\$6,513.48 in salary was provided by the State through the Technical Assistance Grant Fund. Funds are used to assist operators in implementing engineering practices such as terraces and waterways and grass establishment on highly erodible land. Four hundred landowners or operators were provided assistance.

Two programs were presented to 136 people on Environmental Quality Incentives Programs, EQIP Conservation Reserve Program and District Programs.

Annual Conservation Tour was held in conjunction with the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319h Tour and the Oak Creek GPA EQIP Tour. 172 people attended.

Six news articles and three joint newsletters with FSA were published to inform the public of ongoing programs, problems, needs and actions dealing with soil and water conservation.

Twelve regular and two special meetings were held during the year.

2,200 windbreak trees and 5,800 feet of drip irrigation pipe to water the trees were purchased through the district in 1999.

Many organizations, business and individuals assisted the district in carrying out the essay, poster and range judging contests, and annual tour this past year. Among these are the Nolan County Commissioners Court, Sweetwater Livestock and Fair Association, and the Sweetwater I.S.D. and Roscoe I.S.D.

To stay abreast of changing developments in the field, the Conservation District is a member of . . . the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a sponsor of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

STATE FUND	
Balance Sept. 1, 1998	6,599.74
Income	18,954.31
Expenses	19,321.22
Balance Aug. 31, 1999	6,232.83
TRUST FUND	
Balance Sept. 1, 1998	2,580.73
Income	47,009.73
Expenses	46,178.33
Balance Aug. 31, 1999	3,412.13
GRAND TOTAL	9,644.96

NOLAN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The District was organized December 10, 1974, as a legal subdivision of Texas State Government and was created to administer soil, water, and related resource conservation programs within its boundaries. It is a non-profit organization.

The District is divided into five zones and a director is elected for each zone by agricultural landowners in the district. A director must own and operate land in the zone he represents and must live within the District.

Directors serving during the 1999 year: Ralph E. Stirl, Chairman; J. Morgan Wright, Vice-Chairman; Don Sheffield, Secretary-Treasurer; Bobby Sanderson, Member; and John Wilks, Member.



Temple and Kathy Dickson were selected as the 1999 Outstanding Conservation Ranchers. The Dicksons' 69 Ranch is north of Maryneal. The award was presented by SWCD Vice Chairman, Morgan Wright.



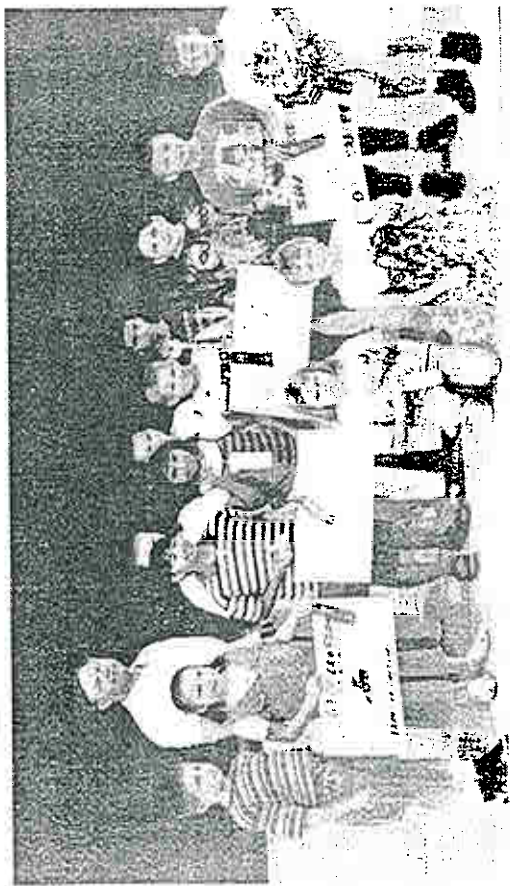
Kenny Landfried of Roscoe was selected as the 1999 Outstanding Conservation Farmer. The award was presented by SWCD Chairman, Ralph Stirl.



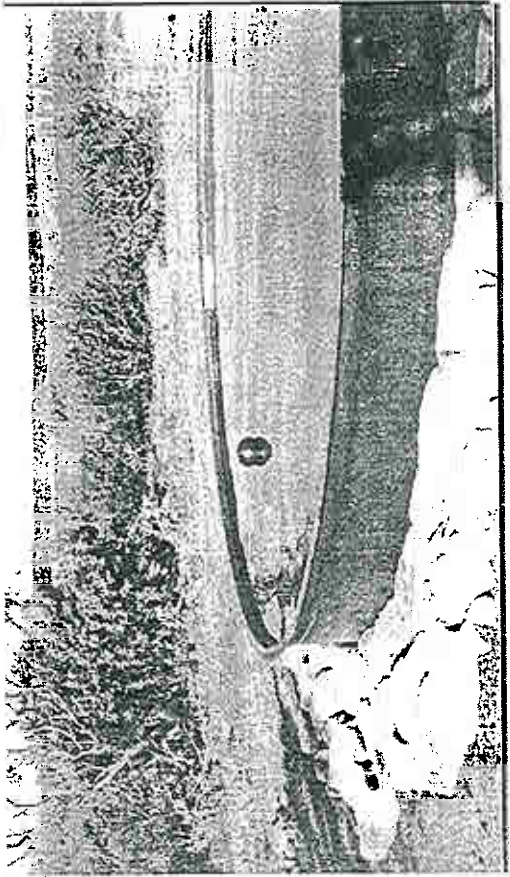
Frances Richburg of Roscoe was selected as the 1999 Outstanding Conservation Teacher. Frances is a teacher at Roscoe Elementary. Frances is shown with her husband, Don, and Ralph Stirl.



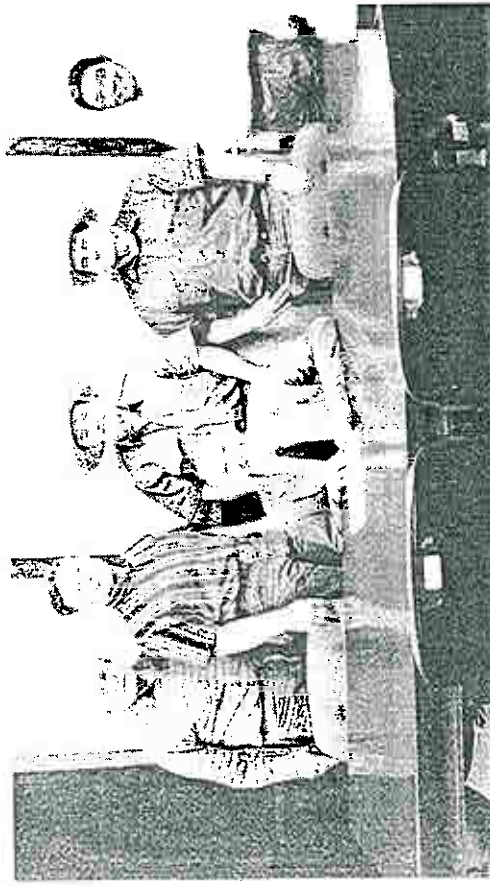
Don Martin was presented an Award of Merit from the Goodyear Tire Conservation Awards Program for the outstanding conservation work carried out on his farm. The award was presented by



The Nolan County SWCD sponsors a Conservation Poster & Essay contest for all county schools. There were 649 entries for 1999. Ciara Dean of Roscoe Elementary had the Grand Champion Poster and Ryan Dean of Sweetwater High School had the Grand Champion Essay.



Fiberglass water troughs and storage tanks were among the 867 practices applied as a part of the Emergency Conservation Program in 1999.



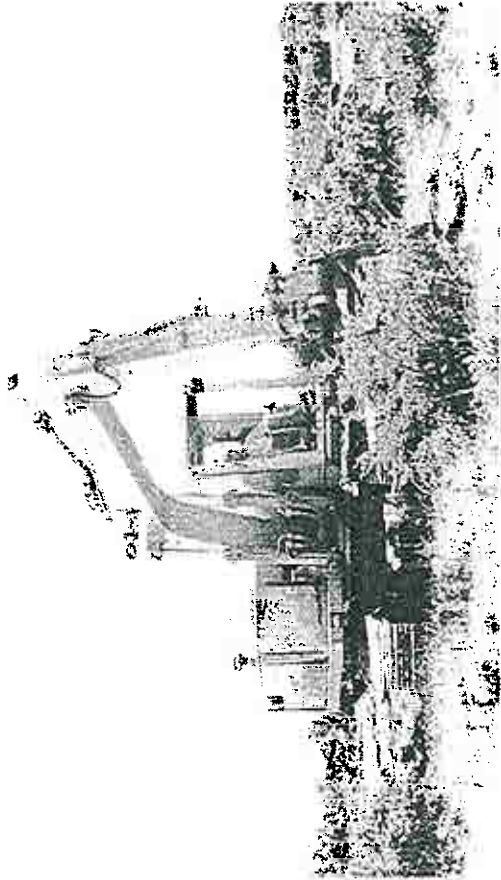
Tim Fambrough, Nolan County Judge, proclaimed April 25 through May 2nd as Soil Stewardship week. 4,500 church bulletin inserts promoting soil stewardship were given to 25 area churches. Also standing from left are Nolan County Commissioner Edsel Bankhead, SWCD Chairman Ralph Stirl, Commissioners Tommy White, Les Bond, and Tony Lara.



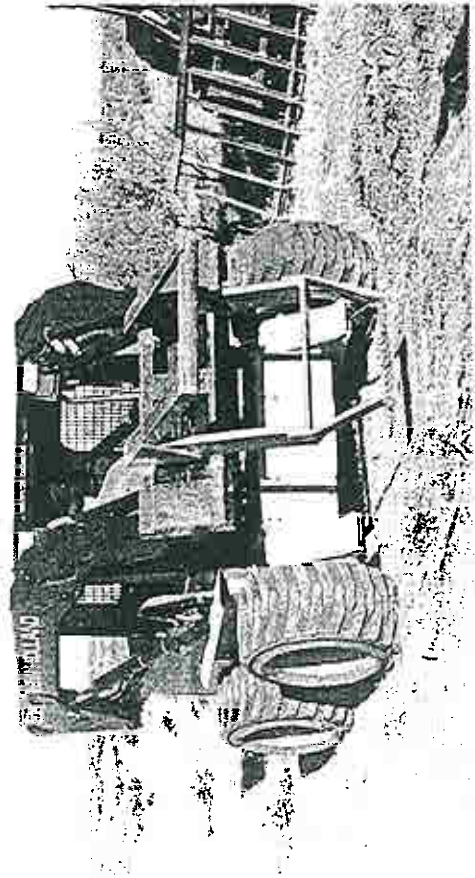
The District's Annual Land, Range and Pasture Judging Contests involve some 250 contestants, 40 coaches, 25 volunteers and a landowner's considerate hospitality on contest day. The contest is held on the third Saturday of March each year.



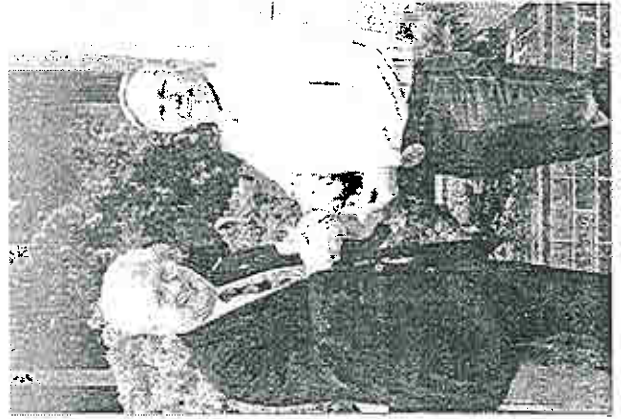
The 1999 SWCD Conservation Tour included stops at the Harp Ranch, 69 Ranch, Farrar Ranch and the Maryneal Community Center. 172 people attended.



Brush control demonstration at the Harp Ranch using trackhoe excavator with grubber attached. The Harp Ranch is one of twenty water quality management plans developed in the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319h Project Area.



Tour included a brush control demonstration with this skid steer loader with grubber attachment.



The Nolan County SWCD was honored at the State Meeting by their selection as an Honor Award District Winner by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Ralph Stirl accepted the award.

WINDBREAK SEEDLING ORDER FORM

Please return to:
 Nolan County SWCD
 103 West Florida
 Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Due to limited availability of some trees, please place your order as soon as possible. Orders must be received by February 1, 2000. You may call 235-4485 to set up an appointment for help in planning your wind break and drip irrigation system.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone No. _____ (H) _____ (W)

Spacing of trees: Spacing in the row should be 8 to 20 feet between trees depending on which tree or trees you plant and about 100 feet from area to be protected. Call for assistance.

EVERGREENS: NO MINIMUM ORDER

			Number	Cost
Tube-Pak				
Afghanistan Pine	6 - 18"	\$2.00	_____	_____
One Gallon Containers				
Afghanistan Pine	18-24"	\$4.75	_____	_____
Arizona Cypress	18-24"	\$4.75	_____	_____

OTHER 1 GALLON CONTAINER EVERGREENS ARE AVAILABLE - PLEASE CALL

WILDLIFE PACKETS - 100 Trees per packet - 4 different species

#1 Quail & Pheasant	\$67.00	_____	_____
#2 Deer	\$67.00	_____	_____
#3 Turkey	\$67.00	_____	_____

DECIDUOUS TREES: Bare Root - Available only in bundles of 50.

Orders may be combined, but all trees in a bundle must be planted promptly after a bundle is opened. Several species available.

Size	Price/Each	Number	Cost
12"	\$1.00	_____	_____

TOTAL DUE WITH ORDERS \$ _____

Order by February 1, 2000. Delivery date on or about 2/10/00. Payment due upon placement of order. Make check payable to Nolan County SWCD. Refunds will be made if delivery not completed. Due to variables in weather conditions and care required by planter, no guarantee of livability is made. Trees are for homesite, field windbreaks, and screen plantings. Rootpruned tube pack evergreens and hardwoods are quality grown by the Texas Forest Service.

DRIP IRRIGATION SUPPLIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH LOCAL DISTRICT.

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.



SERVING: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Glasscock,
Howard, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry,
Sterling, & Taylor counties in Texas

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


Sponsors and friends of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. -- Welcome to the Ninth Annual Sponsors' Conference.

This has been another productive and successful year for the Big Country RC&D Area as shown by the activities highlighted in this Annual Report. . .

Building on past accomplishments, the Big Country RC&D Area continued the Rural Leadership Program and developed Projects to address natural resource concerns including Water Quality Projects, Rural Water Well Screening Programs, Buffer Strip Demonstration, and a Compost Application Demonstration Project. The RC&D also coordinated donations of computers, software, healthcare products, and educational materials to municipalities and nonprofit organizations through a variety of sources. Additionally, the Big Country RC&D administered grants from the USDA, Private Foundations, The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Southwestern Bell; and hosted the Annual Conference for the Texas Association of RC&D Areas.

Each year the Board of Director's reviews and updates their three-year Plan of Work to focus on the Area's Goals. The goals are determined by input from residents in each community, who are vital to the success of this organization. This is an action organization where decisions affecting the Area are made locally by people who understand the West Texas way of life. I am proud to be a member of the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors throughout this past year.

Sincerely,



Windi Fuller, President
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED FROM MARCH 4, 1999 TO MARCH 7, 2000

1. Area Plan contained 466 projects as of March 3, 1999.
 - A. 39 Additional Projects accepted since that date for a total of 505.
 - B. 43 Projects completed since March 4, 1999. Total completed Projects – 400.
 - C. 7 Projects were cancelled in 1999. Total cancelled Projects to date – 49.
 - D. 56 Active Projects.
2. A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the **Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in **Nolan and Fisher County**. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

A long-term concern is sedimentation that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Twenty agricultural producers within the project area voluntarily entered into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management Practices are available to those agricultural producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan was provided through the **Nolan County SWCD** and the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**.

Local entities supporting submission of the application included the **City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.**

- 3. Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI) Program**, the Area secured **\$611,640.00** in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials for **\$5,179.90** this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.

Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$2,171,962.13** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

- 4. A proposal submitted by the Area to **USDA** to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive second year funding of **\$726,640** with the possibility of obligating **\$1,875,000** over a five year period.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to **USDA** to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were approved to continue receiving funding for the third year.

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at **\$172,047** for the third year with the possibility of obligating **\$4,150,330** over a five-year period. **Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity** was funded at **\$344,348** for the third year with a possible five-year funding of **\$2,491,855**.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the three Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables.

The proposals were based on conservation concerns documented at public meetings held by **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** through their **Locally Led Conservation Initiative**.

Of the counties located within the three Priority Areas, portions of **Borden, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties** within the **Big Country RC&D** boundaries are covered.

The funds are available through the **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** administered by the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**.

- 5. The Area was awarded a **\$2,400** grant from **Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program**.

The funds are being used for the design, development, and maintenance of an

Internet Web Site for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Corporation (TMACC).

The TMACC was founded by the counties of **Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry** to promote trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.

The six county alliance sits at the crossroads of the Burlington Northern and Union Pacific Railroads along with the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and State Highways 70 & 84, which extends to Interstate 27 to the North. The Corridor Area is blessed with good transportation facilities, and a dedicated work force. Texas State Technical College, Howard College, and Western Texas College stand ready to offer training, both technical and post-secondary, to employees of any employer or industry.

The Texas, Mexico, & Asian Corridor Corporation has already positioned itself as an unique regional economic development effort.

House Bill 2614 (sponsored by State Representative David Counts) to allow contiguous counties to form a regional economic development corporation having the authority to issue bonds for economic development was signed into law by Governor Bush on June 19, 1999.

The website will provide worldwide access promoting the economic benefits of locating business and industry within the Corridor. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, businesses interested in locating in the Corridor will be able to search for information on transportation advantages, cost of utilities, incentives, and workforce information.

Local businesses within the six counties that have established web sites on the worldwide web will have the opportunity to link their existing web sites to the Corridor's web site and be able to reach additional customers and clients.

The Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Corporation has broad-based support from the six county region. The eighteen member board is made up of three representatives from each of the counties. Membership includes the County Judge from each of the six counties. The remaining members represent economic development corporations and private business owners.

The TMACC's website is located at www.tmacorridor.com

6. **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Education Grants of \$1,950 and \$1,900** to fund Field Days in the Upper Colorado and Oak Creek watersheds were received by the Area.

Educational Field Days attended by 246 participants were held during October in the Colorado Headwaters and Oak Creek designated Environmental Quality Incentive Program Geographic Priority Areas. Demonstrations of mechanical brush control equipment such as the Trackhoe Excavator and the Tree Terminator were conducted on cedar and mesquite. A number of test sites using different herbicide chemicals, mixtures, and rates for mesquite

control were visited. Topics addressing pasture management, nutrient and pest management, and mechanical pasture renovation demonstrations were conducted.

Participants received the new **Grazing Records and Livestock References** publication to aid in making grazing management decisions on rangeland. Certificates for three hours of CEUs towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License were available to those attending.

In addition to seeing a variety of Best Management Practices for improving water quality, grazing conditions, and wildlife habitat, educational exhibits on protecting groundwater from various pollutants were on hand. The Field Days were coordinated by ten Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Big Country RC&D.

Also held in October was a **Buffer Strip Demonstration** as part of the **1999 Farmer-Stockman Show** held in Lubbock. The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted last year on the Farmer-Stockman grounds. Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate buffer strip's value to wildlife. Framed photographs of clean water and buffer strips from several regions of Texas were also placed in the buffer strip.

Supporters of this project included NRCS, Texas Farmer-Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, City of Lubbock, Netafim USA, Bamert Seed Company, and Big Country RC&D.

The Area received a **\$4,055** EQIP Education Grant to conduct this demonstration.

7. The Area received **\$6,000** in grant funds from the **Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)** and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Resource Conservation and Development Program to develop and print 17,000 copies of the **Grazing Records And Livestock References Publication**.

The record book—which will fit in a shirt pocket—was designed to help ranchers record grazing use. By analyzing and interpreting data over a period of time, the rancher will be able to evaluate his management practices to make future grazing decisions.

The record book has tables to record pasture name, size, date grazing started and ended, number of head, and type. Also included are tables to record precipitation received and pesticide application records.

References on animal unit values, average forage intake by class of livestock, livestock nutrient requirements, determining body condition, forage use class, and other information is contained in the publication.

The record book is a product of a partnership between USDA/NRCS, The Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Technical Committee, and the 23 Resource Conservation and

Development Areas of Texas.

Contact your local NRCS office to obtain a copy.

8. A grant of \$3,450 from a Private Foundation has been received by the Area for the **"Friendship Garden" Project at Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater.**

The third grade students, parents, and teachers at **Southeast Elementary** are the Sponsors of this Project. They wanted to provide a safe user-friendly meeting area that is set in natural surroundings.

The open air setting of the garden will provide an informal gathering area that differs from the confines associated with an indoor classroom setting.

Because of the strong student and parental involvement that this Project requires, **"Friendship Garden"** will mark a place of pride for the school community. The efforts of this Project will benefit the youth of Sweetwater for many years for children to safely spend their time developing positive relationships as an alternative to drug experimentation, gang related activities, or simply watching television.

To help fund this project—the third grade classes have conducted a number of fundraisers. A donation of \$100 from the **Sweetwater Kiwanis Club** and \$200 in private donations has been received.

A professional landscape artist donated his time to design the garden.

The **Friendship Garden** is under construction with plans to complete the project this Spring.

9. Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area joined together to successfully request from the **Texas Department of Economic Development**, 10 computers for organizations in their 25-county service area.

Five nonprofit organizations and legal subdivisions of the state within the Big Country RC&D Area will benefit from the computers and monitors donated by the **Texas Department of Economic Development—Office of Rural Affairs.**

A grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service paid for transporting the computers from Austin.

10. The Area coordinated delivery of ten complete computer systems and additional computer hardware to **Webdone.org**, a nonprofit organization, that trains potential job applicants and those needing basic computer skills.

The donated computers were a result of a partnership effort between Health and Human Services – Health Care Finance Agency and Indian Health Service, Small Business Administration – Office of Advocacy, General Services Administration, USDA Natural

Resources Conservation Service, the RC&D Area, and Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government Hassle-Free Communities.

- 11. Eleven citizens from Kent and Stonewall Counties graduated from the Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program on May 5, 1999.

Graduation ceremonies were held in Austin in conjunction with a tour of the Capital and meetings with representatives from a number of State agencies.

State Representative David Counts coordinated the Austin graduation ceremonies.

Graduates from Kent County are: Mary Collier, Jim Guess, Shirley Long, Buddy Watson, and Judge Tommy Stanaland.

Stonewall County graduates are: Martha Jones, Martha McDowell, Roger Parker, Roland Martin, San Flowers, and Lynn Hill.

Curriculum for the program included communications, motivation, leadership skills, team building, problem solving, conflict management, strategic planning, and alliance building.

The Kent County Extension Service Office, West Texas Utilities, and the Four Winds and Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Areas coordinated the nine month long program.

- 12. Four Winds RC&D Area was successful in securing \$8,500 through an EQIP educational grant to help rural residents assess ground water pollution risks and learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the aquifer.

The project is being coordinated jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Areas in Jones, Fisher, Kent, Baylor, Haskell, Knox, and Wilbarger Counties.

Residents of these counties will have the opportunity to have tests for nitrates, salts, and fecal bacteria done for their domestic and irrigation wells.

The educational component of the project will utilize information developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Utilizing the Tex*A*Syst Program, residents will be able to do a self-evaluation of potential risks to the groundwater. The program describes BMPs that will allow the residents to voluntarily reduce pollution risks associated with water wells. Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Agricultural Extension Service Offices, and Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices will be active partners in completing the project.

Jones County was completed in January 2000. Fisher County is scheduled in April and Kent County in May. Nolan, Scurry, Borden, and Howard Counties will be conducted later in the year.

13. The Area acting as Fiscal Sponsor for **"Operation Helping Hands"** received a **\$5,000** grant from **Winn-Dixie, Inc.**, and a **\$1,000** grant from **K-Mart Corporation**.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and teaching staff of **Southeast Elementary School in Sweetwater** constructed a playground for use by the students and surrounding community neighbors.

The PTO conducted fund raising efforts that generated over **\$23,000** towards the project.

The playground was constructed by parents and other volunteers from the community in March 1999, utilizing pre-cut and ready to assemble equipment.

14. A new tool for revegetating steep slopes was demonstrated May 12, in **Big Spring**.

At the junction of Interstate 20 and Highway 87, the Eco-Mulch company demonstrated their equipment to apply compost and wood chips to a slope on the Interstate right of way.

Composted yard trimmings and wood chips produced by the **City of Big Spring** and composted cotton burs supplied by South Plains Composting of Lubbock was blown on to the slope utilizing the Rexius applicator.

Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will evaluate both the method of application and the ability of the compost to aid in revegetation of bare ground.

A new market using compost and wood chips for right of way stabilization will reduce the tonnage placed in sanitary landfills and create additional jobs as the demand for these products increases.

15. The Big Country RC&D Area hosted the **1999 Texas Association of RC&Ds Annual Conference in Abilene, Texas**, on April 20-22, 1999.

The 181 registrants from the 23 RC&D Areas in Texas received State, Regional, and National updates and had the opportunity to attend educational seminars on: community development; IRS requirements for nonprofit organizations; assistance available to rural fire departments; historical preservation, community foundation services; exporting for small businesses; regional economic development; and the Keep Texas Beautiful Program.

Eleven exhibitors displayed their products and services directed at rural communities.

16. Big Country RC&D Area **Grant Research Library**, established in June of 1992, has been updated with the addition of FC Search which is a computer program with a database of the top 47,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. Fourteen grant searches have been completed this year. The library is available for use by the public.

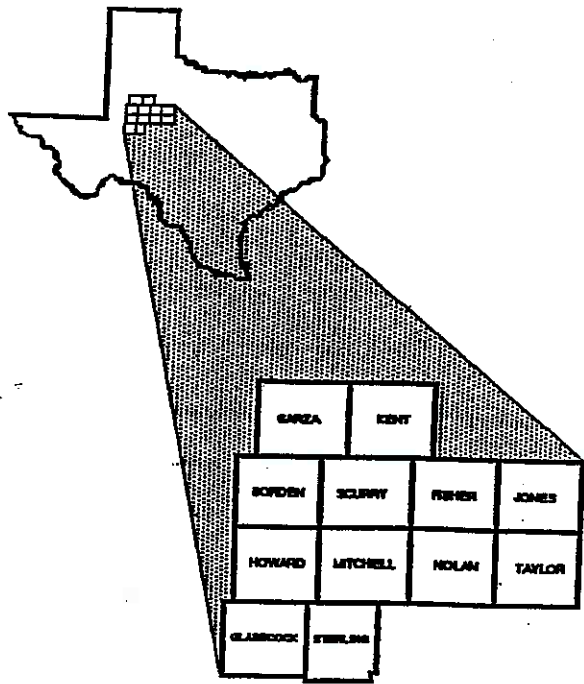
- 49
17. A \$6,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for **administrative assistance** to the Area was received.
 18. The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service** (a nonprofit organization).
 19. Total Sponsors for the area is 76. Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, TU Electric, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.
 20. **Four** quarterly newsletters were printed.
 21. The Board of Directors continued to meet quarterly in various communities within the Area.
 22. To assist in promoting the Area through information and education, the Area is a member of Texas Midwest Community Network, National Association of RC&D Areas, Southwest Association of RC&D Areas, Texas Rural Development Council, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

GOALS OF THE BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA:

- A. Establish Job Opportunities
- B. Developing and Maintaining Water Supplies
- C. Developing Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal
- D. Developing Adequate Health Care
- E. Controlling Erosion and Reducing Saline Problems
- F. Developing Rural and Urban Surface Drainage Systems
- G. Developing Wildlife and Recreational Potential
- H. Improve Low Income, Minority, and Senior Housing
- I. Improving Rural Fire Departments

1999 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Windi Fuller – Mitchell
 Vice President: Judge Robert Browne – Sterling
 Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Becker – Nolan
 Hurston Lemons – Borden
 Robert Posey – Fisher
 Wanda Mitchell – Garza
 Michael Hoch – Glasscock
 Gary Fuqua – Howard
 Dave Byerly – Jones
 Mary Collier – Kent
 Sid Hardegree – Scurry
 Charles Hobbs – Taylor



SPONSORS

County Commissioners Courts

Borden
 Fisher
 Garza
 Glasscock
 Howard
 Jones

Kent
 Mitchell
 Nolan
 Scurry
 Sterling
 Taylor

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Andrew Kent
 California Creek
 Garza County
 Glasscock County
 Howard County
 Middle Clear Fork

Mitchell County
 Mustang
 Nolan County
 North Concho
 Upper Clear Fork
 Upper Colorado

Communities

City of Anson
 City of Big Spring
 City of Colorado City
 City of Hamlin
 City of Jayton
 Merkel City Council

City of Rotan
 City of Snyder
 City of Stamford
 City of Sweetwater
 Sterling City Council

Chambers of Commerce

Anson

Snyder

Sweetwater

Colorado City Area

Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau

At Large

Abilene Small Business Development Center
 American State Bank – Snyder
 Anson Independent School District
 Anson Library Association
 Ben Richey Boy's Ranch – Abilene
 First Presbyterian Church – Sweetwater
 Fisher County Hospital District
 Fund Source Searchers – Sweetwater
 Glasscock County Lions Community & Historical Foundation
 Glasscock County Underground Water District
 Grandfalls-Royalty ISD
 Hamlin Economic Development Corporation
 Hawley Community Development Association
 Historical Rath Trail Association
 Tom Isbell – Grant Writer
 Merkel Economic Development Corporation
 Mitchell County Economic Development Board
 North Runnels Water Supply Corporation – Winters
 Norwest Bank Texas – Post
 Olfen ISD – Rowena
 People for Progress, Inc. (PPI) - Sweetwater
 Post Economic Development Corporation
 Robinson Independent School District – Waco
 Rotan Economic Development Corporation
 Rotan VFD/Ladies Auxiliary
 Scurry County Board of Development
 Scurry County Museum
 Snyder National Bank
 Southeast Elementary School – Sweetwater
 St. Ann's Catholic Church – Colorado City
 Sterling County Nursing Home
 Sterling County Senior Citizens Center
 TU Electric – Snyder
 West Central Texas Council of Governments
 West Texas State Bank – Snyder
 Women to Women Pregnancy Consultation – Plano

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.,
a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development
to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic,
and environmental betterment of the region utilizing volunteers, training, education,
and self-sufficiency through self-help programs.

THEME

“Working to Improve West Texas Life”

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

**Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
119 E Third, Suite 304
P.O. Box 1114
Sweetwater, TX 79556
915-235-4300
fax 915-236-6625
email japel@tx.nrcs.usda.gov**



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SUMMER - JUNE 2000

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

**NORTHWEST TEXAS
INTERNATIONAL
TRADE CENTER**

What do the towns of Dawn, Big Spring, Muleshoe, and Vernon have in common?

They along with 34 other towns in West Texas are origination sites for businesses that export their products worldwide.

Seventy-seven transactions worth \$21,940,716 were completed from October 1, 1999, to May 1, 2000, by businesses assisted by the Northwest Texas International Trade Center.

The Trade Center is affiliated with Texas Tech University and is located in Lubbock.

If your business wants to expand into international markets and needs assistance in locating markets, shipping, etc., contact Pat Helton, Director, at 800/992-7232.

**\$146,942 AVAILABLE FOR
FY 2001 MUNICIPAL
SOLID WASTE GRANTS**

The West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG), in cooperation with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, announces availability of \$146,942 for Municipal Solid Waste Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2001 in their 19-county region. The purpose of the program is to provide grant funding for projects to eligible entities which will provide a direct and measurable effect in nine grant categories: Local Enforcement; Source Reduction and Recycling; Local Solid Waste Management Plans; Household Hazardous Waste Management; Citizen Collection Stations and Small Registered Transfer Stations; Technical Studies; Community Clean Up Events and Educational and Training Projects.

Requests for Application (RFA) packets for each of these grant categories can be obtained by responding by telephone to **Wendy Stovall**, Solid Waste Coordinator, at **915/672-8544** or by mail at P O Box 3195, Abilene TX 79604-3195. WCTCOG will make staff available to assist local entities to complete applications for funding.

RFA's will be available beginning **June 7, 2000**, and are due back in the WCTCOG offices by 5 PM on **July 20, 2000**.

"It's not your blue blood, your pedigree, or your college degree.
It's what you do with your life that counts."

- Millard Fuller -

RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING AVAILABLE

Residents of Nolan and Mitchell Counties have the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salt.

This is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells.

In addition to the water screening, information will be provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as the TEX*A*Syst Program which highlights practices you may want to modify in your operation to reduce the risk of contaminating the ground water supply.

These projects are supported by the Nolan and Mitchell County Agricultural Extension Services, Nolan and Mitchell County SWCDs, Nolan and Mitchell County Commissioners Court, Lone Wolf Underground Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area.

Cost of the screening is \$3.00 to cover testing expense.

Schedule of events:

- Nolan County – July 18-20, 2000
- Mitchell County – August 15-17, 2000

For additional information, contact:

Nolan County Extension – 915/235-3184
NRCS, Sweetwater – 915/235-4485
Mitchell County Extension – 915/728-3111

EQIP EDUCATION GRANT COMPLETED

Four Winds RC&D Area received a \$8,500 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) education grant in 1999 to help rural residents assess ground water pollution risks and learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the aquifer.

The Project was coordinated jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area for residents of Jones, Fisher, Kent, Baylor, Haskell, Knox, and Wilbarger Counties.

409 citizens submitted 485 water samples from domestic and irrigation wells that were tested for nitrates, salts, and bacteria.

The educational component of the project utilized information developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Utilizing the Tex*A*Syst program.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Agricultural Extension Service Offices, and Natural Resources Conservation

Service Field Offices were active partners in completing the project.



TEXAS RC&D FACTS

- The 23 RC&D Areas in Texas adopted 616 Projects in Fiscal Year 1999
- 361 Projects were completed statewide
- \$28,721,000 in grant funds were brought into Texas through the RC&D Area's efforts
- 16:1 ratio of grant dollars versus Federal RC&D program funds for FY 1999



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S JUNE MEETING

The Board of Director's held their quarterly meeting at the Lion's Club Building in Rotan on June 5, 2000, with 35 present.

Harvey Everheart, Manager of the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District, gave a presentation on Private Property Rights and Underground Water Issues in Texas.

Everheart explained that there are 20 activities that an underground water conservation district must conduct to meet the State's requirements to be considered a viable organization. He stated that both surface and underground water will receive a great deal of attention in the next Texas Legislative session.

Six new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 511 Projects that have been approved.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-two applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$168,000 in financial incentive payments.

The EQIP Education Grant proposal for the Buffer Strip Demonstration at the Farmer-Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, was approved for \$4,487. The proposal to expand the rural well water screening program, to publish the *Grazing Records and Livestock References* notebook, and an interactive display on conservation subjects were not approved.

The September Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled to be held in Colorado City, Texas, on September 12, 2000. The place will be announced later.

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Approximately \$400,000 will be distributed to eligible community groups through the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Program.

Urban Forestry Partnership Grants are designed to start or improve a local urban forestry program or to educate the public about the importance of urban trees. Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and must be matched dollar-for-dollar. An exception is an application for a new professional staff position for up to \$20,000.

Eligible applicants include local or state government entities, schools, or nonprofit groups.

Examples of eligible projects are: workshops; youth and volunteer tree programs; long range plans; staff positions; and production of educational materials.

Deadline to apply is **July 6, 2000.**

For additional information contact **Matt Grubisich, Urban Forester** at 915/676-5827 or access the TFS website at <http://txforestservation.tamu.edu>



Decide what your priorities are
and how much time you'll
spend on them.
If you don't, someone else will.

- Harvey Mackay -
quoted in *SAM's Club Source*

FUNDING SOURCES

RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:

During consideration of the FY2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, the House Agriculture Committee adopted an amendment by Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) that provides an additional \$57 million for the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP). Included within the RCAP account is a total of \$10 million for the NADO-support Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program. In FY2000, Congress provided \$3.5 million for the RBOG program, the first significant amount for the program established by the 1996 Farm Bill. The Senate Bill for FY2001 increases RCAP funding by \$55.7 million above the current \$749.3 million level including \$8 million for RBOG as recommended by the President. NADO will provide more details as they become available.

ALA PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFFICE:

This national project, began in 1992 as Writers Live at the Library, is an umbrella initiative of the ALA Public Programs Office that focuses on helping libraries become active centers for live cultural programming in their communities. With major support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the John S and James L Knight Foundation, the initiative offers ongoing resources for adult "live" programming in libraries.

DEADLINE: 6/30/00, 9/30/00, & 4/30/01

WEB: www.ala.org/publicprograms/live.html

PIONEER HI-BRED COMMUNITY GRANT:

To support community-based programs in areas of education, farm safety, rural health, and local community initiatives. Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is interested in supporting projects that demonstrate: cooperation with other community-based programs; broad-based funding; community need; and positive results. It looks favorably

on programs that involve its customers, growers, employees, and sales representatives. Education is their priority consideration focus area.

DEADLINE: 6/30, 9/30, 12/30, & 3/30

CONTACT: Eric Fogg, Hi-Bred International, Inc., 700 Capital Square, 400 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2340

WEB: www.pioneer.com/pioneer_info/

LIVING BUFFER STRIP GRANT APPROVED

The **Big Country RC&D Area** will receive and administer a \$4,487 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, has been invited to make a presentation and have an exhibit booth at the 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock on October 10, 11, and 12, 2000. Sikes will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show. Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

Information will be given on the procedure for signing up for buffer strips through EQIP and the continuous CRP by parties from the cooperating agencies.

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

NONPROFIT RECEIVED \$594,432 DONATION

People for Progress, Inc., headquartered in Sweetwater and serving a nineteen county area, received personal care products, clothing, and educational materials donated by Avon Products, Inc. The donation will assist many needy people in their service area.

Cost to receive the donated goods valued at \$594,432 was \$1750 to pay for transportation and handling.

This is the fourth semi-trailer truckload donation that PPI has received through this program. Total value of the four donations is \$2,337,728 at a cost of \$11,500 to the organization.

The Area has secured \$2,783,582 in donations for receiving nonprofit organizations at a cost of \$19,927.97 for a savings of over \$2,763,654.03 in the past nine years.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

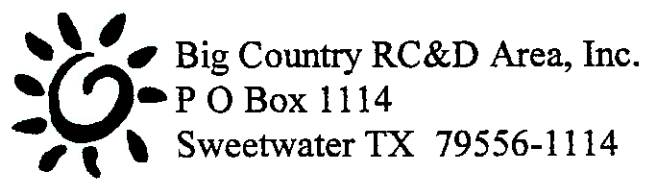
A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.
The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).
To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

- Homer Simpson -
 "If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it—
 Now quiet, they are about to announce the lottery numbers!"

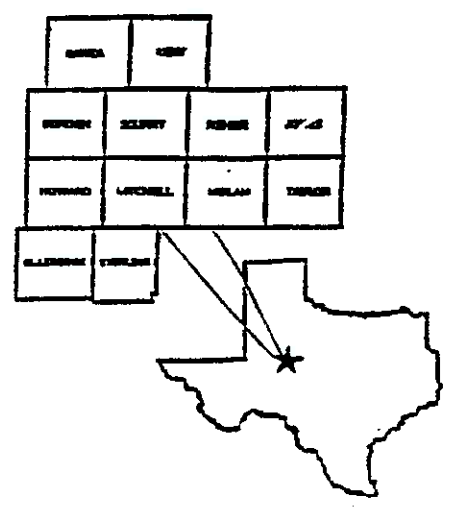
- Mary E Potter -
in Berkshire Eagle
 "You can tell a lot about a town from
 how it treats its visitors."

- Kenneth Tyan -
 (1865-1957)
 "A critic is a man who knows the way
 but can't drive the car."



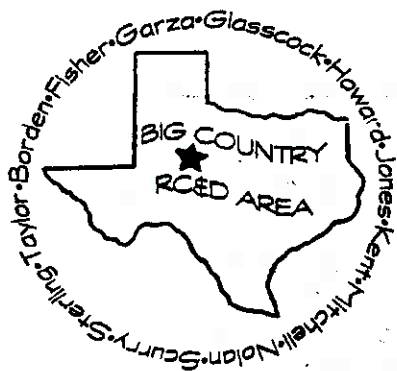
The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- JANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- DAVE BYERLY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller
 Windi Fuller
 President

Jimmy J. Apel
 Jimmy J. Apel
 Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - SEPTEMBER 2000

SERVING YOU:

- WINDI FULLER - President*
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President*
- KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer*
- JIMMY APEL - Executive Director*
- DENNISE HOOVER - Administrative Assistant*

TEXAS STATE DRY HYDRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is from a report by Jimmy Woodard, Texas Rural Fire Protection Committee and Volunteer Fireman at Tahoka, Texas.

DRY HYDRANT FUNDING

Funding for installation of dry hydrants has come from the Oil Overcharge Fund in the Texas Department of Energy. The 2000 fiscal year money has not been made available until now due to the Energy Department requesting a report for energy saved by the use of dry hydrants. The Texas Forest Service (TFS) has now developed a formula to satisfy this requirement if the participating fire department will report the times these new installations are used. The amount of the 2000 and 2001 budget for this program is \$200,000 each year.

All parts and labor for each hydrant is eligible for 50% cost share. New this year is including the cost of culverts in barrow ditches to provide all weather access. Cost share amounts for each dry hydrant has increased from \$500 to \$800. Interested fire departments and counties should contact the TFS for applications.

TFS HELPING HANDS PROGRAM

This program is the legal way of transferring fire department equipment to the TFS and then to the receiving fire department without the donating organization having a possible liability problem. To date \$6 million worth of equipment has gone through this program. Over 50 fire department vehicles are in smaller departments by going through this program. Many fire departments have located the equipment to be donated and worked with TFS to move the equipment through the program.

TFS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

This program began in 1947 as a way of putting surplus TFS and military equipment in rural fire departments. The equipment as stated in the agreement is on loan to the fire department. The equipment stays on the TFS inventory list. The only other requirement is that the rolling equipment be painted and insured. The TFS could request the equipment to be used in an emergency. To date this request has only been made once during the woodland fire that went through the central part of Texas. In that case all requested equipment was on site and being used because of the departments mutual assist agreement before the TFS request was made. Some computers may become available under this program.

REPORTS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO TFS

Work is progressing to allow reports to be made on the internet by using the TFS web site. The site address is <http://ticc.fws.gov/> For additional information contact Stanford's office at the TFS.

RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING

The rural well water screening conducted in six of the twelve Area's counties with three more counties scheduled in September have been successful. The residents of each county have had the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salts.

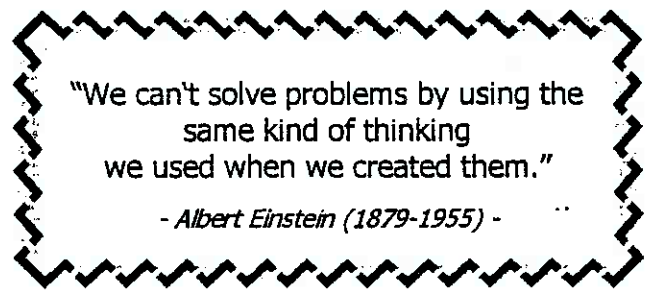
This screening is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells. Information was also provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the TEX*A*Syst Program.

Counties within the Big Country RC&D Area:

	Participants	Samples	
Jones	43	66	Jan 2000
Fisher	31	39	Apr 2000
Kent	23	35	May 2000
Nolan	72	111	July 2000
Mitchell	42	55	Aug 2000
Howard	103	156	Aug 2000
Scurry/Borden			Sept 2000
Garza			Sept 2000*

*Conducted by Extension Service & NRCS

To Date: 6 Counties Completed
 314 Participants
 462 Samples Tested



RURAL TEXAS EMS SCHOLARSHIPS

Responding to the growing need for EMS professionals throughout rural Texas, the Center for Rural Health Initiatives has announced its new Rural EMS Scholarship Incentive Program. The program is designed to partner the State Office of Rural Health with rural Texas communities to assist in the training and recruiting of qualified EMS professionals.

The program matches community commitments up to \$2000 for a scholarship to help EMS students with tuition/other costs associated with training at the EMT (Basic), EMT-I (Intermediate) & EMT-P (Paramedic) levels. In return, the newly-trained EMS professional serves for a period of at least one year in the community.

CONTACT: www.crh.state.tx.us, 877/TEX-CRHI, or crhi@chri.state.tx.us

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Need money for college? At KnowledgeFirst you will find the tools and information to help you:

- Educate yourself about the financial aid process
- Find tips on filling out scholarship applications and recognizing scholarship scams
- Read easy-to-understand explanations of aid sources like student loans, military scholarships, need-based grants, and work-study programs
- Calculate the true cost of your college education using calculators
- Compare various available loan options with a lender chart
- Apply online for college financing
- Browse KnowledgeFirst's guides to the SAT/ACT/FASFA/CSS and much more

To register go to www.knowledgefirst.com

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's held their quarterly meeting at Bama's Restaurant in Colorado City on September 12, 2000, with 25 present.

Windi Fuller, one of 31 members of the Future of Groundwater in Texas Committee, reported on the recommendations that will be provided to the Texas Legislature in their next session.

The Committee addressed: interbasin transfers; Junior Water Rights; marketing and exporting of underground water; exemptions for wells; funding options for underground water districts; insuring that planning is coordinated among all entities having interest; development of management plans; and that decisions affecting aquifers are made on the basis of science.

Nine new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 519 Projects that have been approved.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-six (26) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$194,965 in financial incentive payments.

Elisha Kuehn, Assistant State Conservationist in Zone II, informed the Directors that it appears there will be a flat budget for the NRCS overall. However, it

appears that there will be an increase in RC&D funding. Depending on the amount of increase, new Areas will be authorized and an increase in funds will be made to existing RC&D Areas.

Apel presented information on: the Texas Midwest Community Network's Seventh Annual Conference; an update on the TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) program; the completion of Southeast Elementary's Friendship Garden; Rural Texas EMS Scholarships available for EMT training; a summary of counties who participated in the rural well water screening; Rural Small Business 504 Loans that are now available; and highlights from the Texas State Dry Hydrant Committee.

A Progress Summary of the Area Projects from 1991 to date and for the past year and a current listing of the Area Goals were presented. The Area's three-year Plan of Work including the Civil Rights—EEO statement that is a part of the Plan, was approved.

The Area has submitted a Cooperative Agreement to NRCS requesting \$6000 for FY2001 for administrative assistance to the Area.

A thank you letter from Jetty Ann Tomhave was presented to the Area for its assistance with the Farrar Family Scholarship.

The December Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled to be held in Big Spring, Texas. The date was set tentatively for Tuesday, December 5, 2000. More details will be mailed out closer to the date.

"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

- Scottish Proverb -



"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

- Hannah Moore, English Writer {1745-1833} -

FUNDING SOURCES

J C PENNEY:

JC Penney has targeted pre-K through 12th education as a focus for its corporate giving and associate involvement, particularly dropout prevention and school reform and restructuring efforts.

DEADLINE: Accepted year round.

CONTACT:

Community Relations/Contribution Manager
J C Penney Co.
P O Box 10001
Dallas TX 75301
WEB: www.jcpenney.net/company/commrel/educate.htm

KRAFT FOOD CORPORATE GIVING:

Kraft Foods supports programs that provide direct service, especially in three focus areas: hunger; domestic violence; and the access children, especially at-risk children, to the visual and performing arts.

DEADLINE: None ~ board meets quarterly

CONTACT:

Kraft Foods, Inc.
847/646-2000 or FAX 847/646-5241
WEB: www.kraft.com/corporate/about/ci_index.html

AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION:

Deals with various programs within youth education including job training, math, science, and environmental education. Eligibility includes: nonprofits (K-12 schools & school districts, education institutions, nonprofit scientific and education organizations) and national programs involved with curriculum development that encourage innovative education methods and techniques.

DEADLINE: 11/1/00, 5/1/00, & 8/1/00

GUIDELINES ~ Send a SASE to:

American Honda Foundation
P O Box 2205, Torrance CA 90509

CONTACT:

Kathy Carey
310/781-4090

COCA-COLA FOUNDATION:

Aims to provide youth with the educational opportunities and support systems they need to become knowledgeable about the world in which they live and better able to give back to their communities.

DEADLINE: 12/1/00 & 9/1/00

WEB: www.thecoca-colacompany.com/foundation/index.html

LIVING BUFFER STRIP GRANT APPROVED

The Big Country RC&D Area received a \$4,487 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

The exhibit booth may be viewed at the 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, on **October 10, 11, and 12, 2000.**

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show.

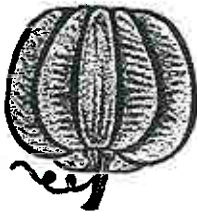
This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels

Continued on Page 5

- Homer Simpson -
 "If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it -
 Now quiet, they are about to announce the lottery!"

- Mary E Potter -
In Berkshire Eagle
 "You can tell a lot about a town from
 how it treats its visitors."



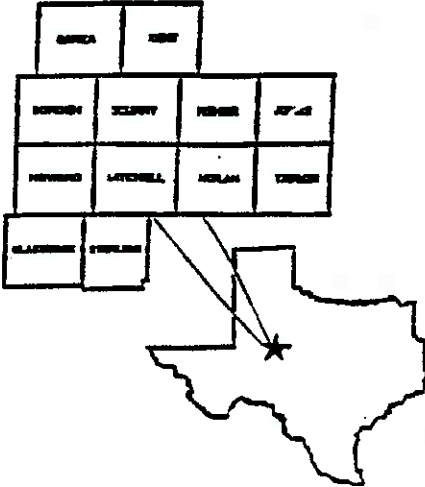
51



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| KEN BECKER | - Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | - Sterling |
| GARY FUQUA | - Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | - Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | - Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | - Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | - Taylor |
| HURSTON LEMONS | - Borden |
| 3 L "SHUG" THOMAS | - Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | - Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | - Jones |
| MARY COLLIER | - Kent |



Windi Fuller
Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director

**2000
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2001
CALENDAR**

**NOLAN COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
#245**

**103 West Florida
Sweetwater, Texas 79556
915-235-4485**



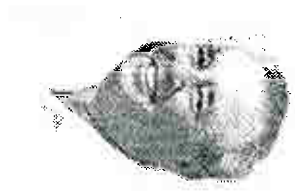
Ralph E. Stirl
 Chairman
 Roscoe, Texas
 79545



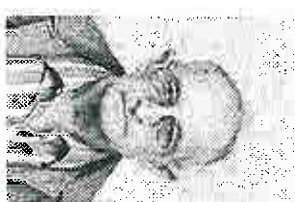
J. Morgan Wright
 Vice-Chairman
 Roscoe, Texas
 79545



Don Sheffield
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Sweetwater, Texas
 79556



Bobby Sanderson
 Member
 Blackwell, Texas
 79506



John Wilks
 Member
 Maryneal, Texas
 79535

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This Annual Report covers a portion of the work done in cooperation with the District from September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2000.

The district attempts to focus on long range objectives through the development of a Program and Plan of Work which is broad in scope. Each year an Annual Plan of Work is then decided upon to direct action toward specific goals to be accomplished.

During the past year, over \$2,089,927.00 has entered the Nolan County economy through District sponsored conservation program funds.

All programs administered by the district are on a voluntary basis and are provided without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, marital status, handicap or national origin.

Ralph E. Stirl
 Chairman

NOLAN COUNTY SWCD CONSERVATION PLANNING AND SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Technical Services to Individuals	1529 no.
Resource Management Systems Planned	30,431 ac.
Technical Service Unit of Government	58 no.
Reduced Erosion On	46,965 ac.
ActiveOak Creek/Lake Trammell 319h Contracts	20-44,879 no. & ac.
New EQIP Contracts Signed	23-46,062 no. & ac.
New Emergency Conservation Program	159 Practices Applied
New Conservation Reserve Program Contracts Signed	31-2,312.7 no. & ac.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF NOLAN COUNTY SWCD

\$6,879.27 in salary was provided by the State through the Technical Assistance Grant Fund. Funds are used to assist cooperators in implementing engineering practices such as terraces and waterways and grass establishment on highly erodible land. Fifteen hundred individuals or operators were provided assistance.

Two programs were presented to 75 people on Environmental Quality Incentives Programs, EQIP Conservation Reserve Program and District Programs.

Annual Conservation Tour consisted of a tour of Ludlum Measurements at Sweetwater.

Six news articles were published to inform the public of ongoing programs, problems, needs and actions dealing with soil and water conservation.

Twelve regular and three special meetings were held during the year.

2,150 windbreak trees and 6,100 feet of drip irrigation pipe to water the trees, and 3211.20 lbs. of grass seed were purchased through the district in 2000.

Many organizations, business and individuals assisted the district in carrying out the essay, poster and range judging contests, and annual tour this past year. Among these are the Nolan County Commissioners Court, Sweetwater Livestock and Fair Association, and the Sweetwater I.S.D. and Roscoe I.S.D.

To stay abreast of changing developments in the field, the Conservation District is a member of. . . . the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and a sponsor of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

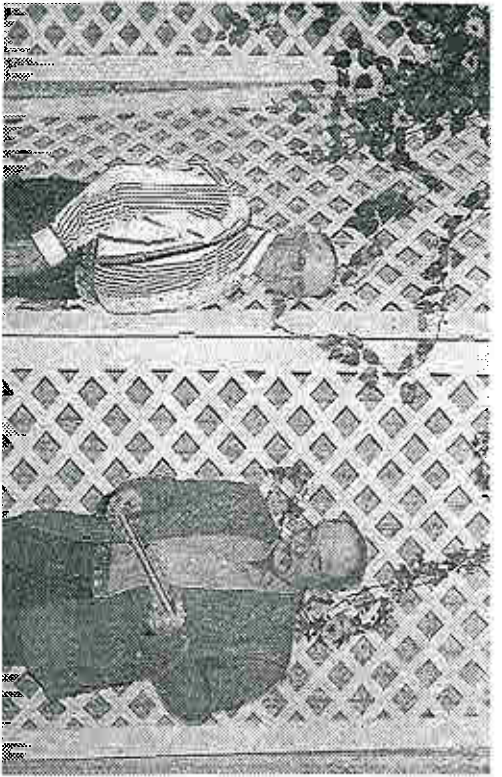
STATE FUND		
Balance Sept. 1, 1999		6,232.83
Income	17,525.09	
Expenses	19,336.35	
Balance Aug. 31, 2000		4,421.57
TRUST FUND		
Balance Sept. 1, 1999		3,412.13
Income	44,074.70	
Expenses	43,122.41	
Balance Aug. 31, 2000		4,364.42
GRAND TOTAL		8,785.99

NOLAN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The District was organized December 10, 1974, as a legal subdivision of Texas State Government and was created to administer soil, water, and related resource conservation programs within its boundaries. It is a non-profit organization.

The District is divided into five zones and a director is elected for each zone by agricultural landowners in the district. A director must own and operate land in the zone he represents and must live within the District.

Directors serving during the 2000 year: Ralph E. Stirl, Chairman; J. Morgan Wright, Vice-Chairman; Don Sheffield, Secretary-Treasurer; Bobby Sanderson, Member; and John Wilks, Member.



Ruth Harp Gibson was selected as the 2000 Outstanding Conservation Rancher. The award was presented by SWCD Director John Wilks. The award was accepted by Tommy White.



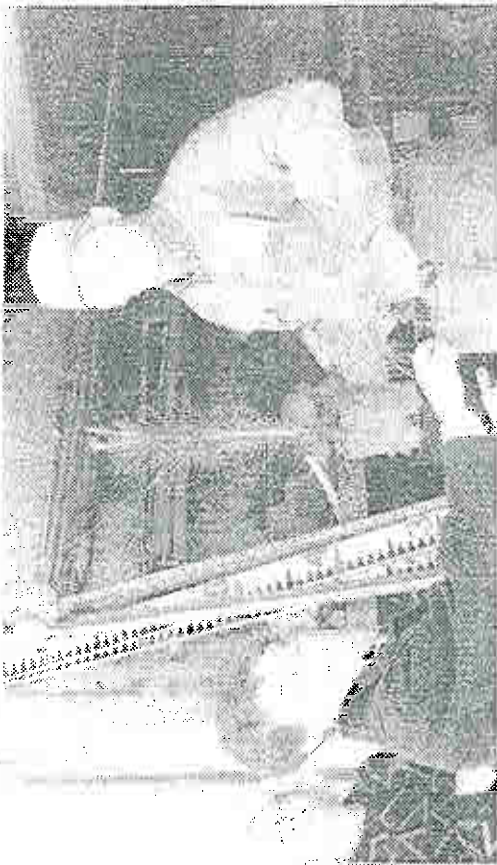
Cecil Smith was selected as the 2000 Outstanding Water Quality Management Participant. Presentation was made by SWCD Director, Bobby Sanderson.



Jim Boston of Roscoe was selected as the 2000 Outstanding Conservation Farmer. The award was presented by SWCD ViceChairman, Morgan Wright.



Ken Cash of Abilene was recently named Resource Team Leader to replace Terry Been who was promoted to resource team leader for Brownwood and Coleman offices.



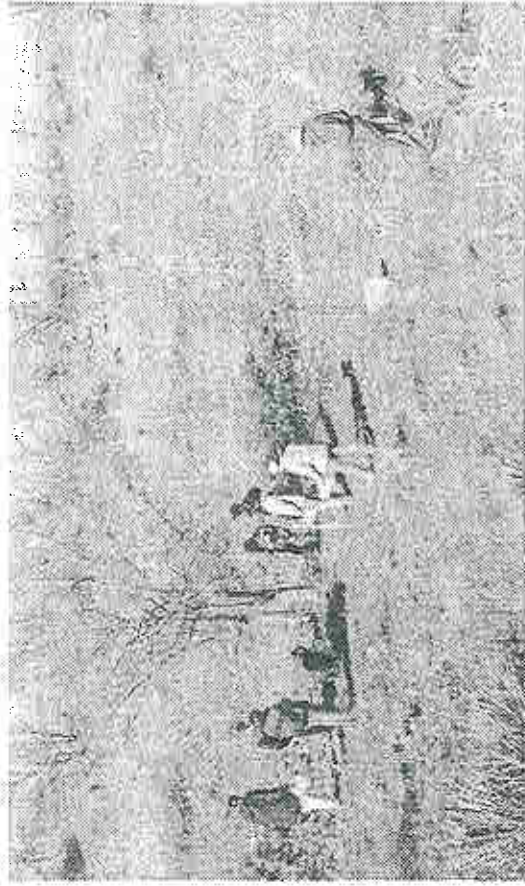
Every fall, the Nolan County SWCD offers windbreak trees to aid residents in the reduction of erosion by wind. In addition, the district has irrigation pipe and supplies. The district also holds a poster and essay contest which includes students from area schools.



Brush control is one of the many conservation programs on going in Nolan County. Programs include Emergency Conservation Program, Water Quality Management, Conservation Resource Program, Environmental Quality Improvement Program and Oak Creek/Lake Trammell (319h) Water Quality Project.



Tim Fambrough, Nolan County Judge, proclaimed the last week of April as Soil Stewardship week.



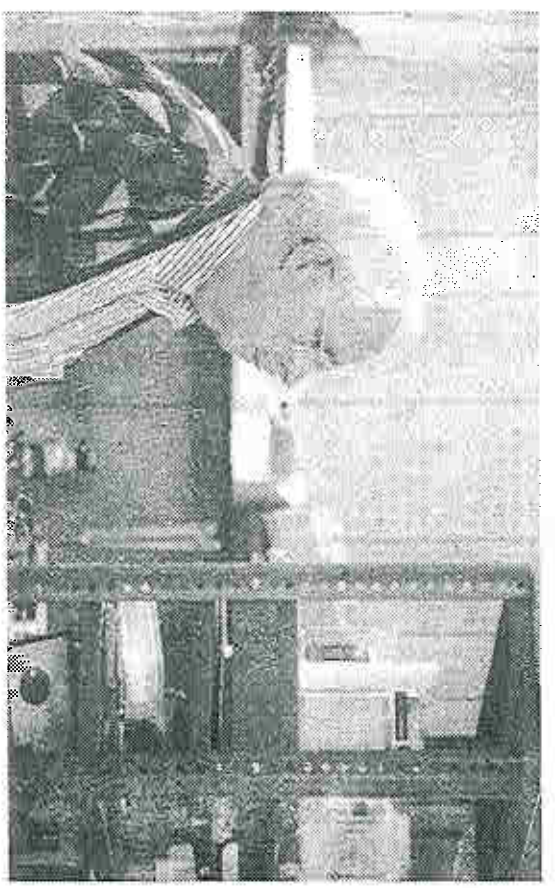
The District's Annual Land, Range and Pasture Judging Contest, held on the third Saturday of March each year, involve some 250 contestants, 40 coaches and 25 volunteers.



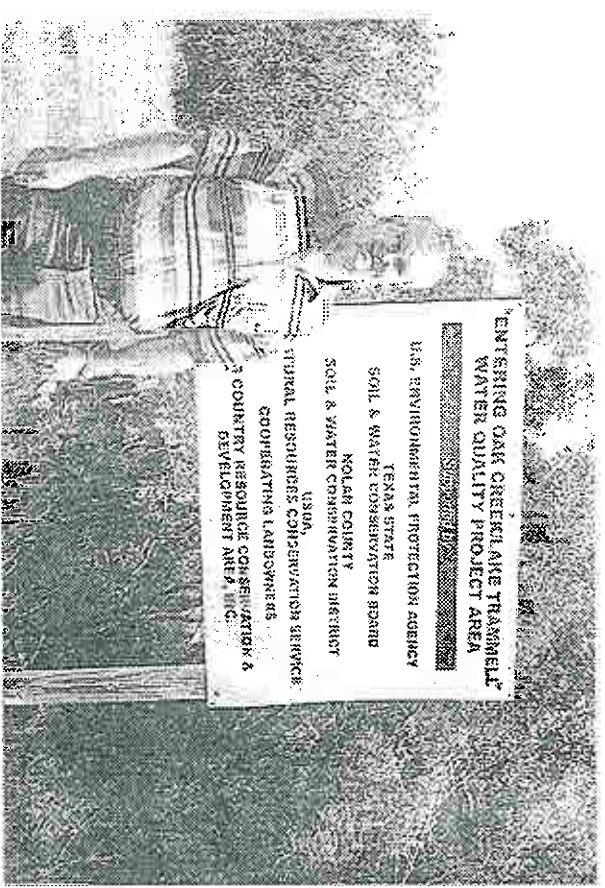
The 2000 SWCD Conservation Tour viewed Ludlum Measurements in Sweetwater. The tour is held each year in conjunction with the district's board of directors election.



The Nolan County SWCD was named Honor Award Winner in the 53rd Annual Goodyear Conservation Awards Program. Ralph Stirl, SWCD Chairman, accepted the award.



Don Ludlum, owner of Ludlum Measurements, Sweetwater provides a history of the plant for tour participants.



Terry Been, former District Conservationist for the SWCD, was recognized by the Texas Section Society for Range Management for his outstanding work in range management.

WINDBREAK SEEDLING ORDER FORM

52

Please return to:
 Nolan County SWCD
 103 West Florida
 Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Due to limited availability of some trees, please place your order as soon as possible. Orders must be received by February 1, 2001. You may call 235-4485 to set up an appointment for help in planning your wind break and drip irrigation system.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone No. _____ (H) _____ (W)

Spacing of trees: Spacing in the row should be 8 to 20 feet between trees depending on which tree or trees you plant and about 100 feet from area to be protected. Call for assistance.

EVERGREENS: NO MINIMUM ORDER

	Number	Cost
Tube-Pak		
Afghanistan Pine 6 - 18"	\$2.00	

WILDLIFE PACKETS - 100 Trees per packet - 4 different species

#1 Quail & Pheasant	\$67.00		
#2 Deer	\$67.00		
#3 Turkey	\$67.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES: Bare Root - Available only in bundles of 50.

Orders may be combined, but all trees in a bundle must be planted promptly after a bundle is opened. Several species available.

	Size	Price/Each	Number	Cost
	12"	\$1.00		

TOTAL DUE WITH ORDERS\$ _____

Order by February 1, 2001., Delivery date on or about 2/10/01. Payment due upon placement of order. Make check payable to Nolan County SWCD. Refunds will be made if delivery not completed. Due to variables in weather conditions and care required by planter, no guarantee of livability is made. Trees are for homesite, field windbreaks, and screen plantings. Rootpruned tube pack evergreens and hardwoods are quality grown by the Texas Forest Service.

DRIP IRRIGATION SUPPLIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH LOCAL DISTRICT.



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - DECEMBER 2000

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA - P O BOX 1114 - SWEETWATER TX 79556 - 915/235-4300 - Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President

KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

SOUTHWESTERN STATES RC&D ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 25-28, 2000
HOLIDAY INN
ODESSA, TEXAS

The Board of Directors' of the Pecos Valley RC&D Area, host for the 2001 Regional Conference, are working to provide participants an enjoyable and informative Conference.

Concurrent sessions and one-day registration options are incorporated into this Conference.

Concurrent session topics include:

- ★ Community Resource Teams
- ★ Decentralized Wastewater Treatment
- ★ Keeping Your 501(c)(3) Out of Trouble
- ★ What You Are Is What You Get
- ★ Team Building (Effective Leadership)
- ★ Understanding Carbon Sequestration
- ★ Economic Opportunities in Nature Tourism
- ★ Making the Grade (Improving Your Funding Chances)

Pre-registration fees available through February 4, 2001. For further information, call 915/943-3888 or access the web at www.pecosvalley.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL GRANT COMPLETE

The 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show held October 10-12, 2000, in Lubbock, Texas, was the site of a living Buffer Strip Demonstration.

The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, were framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Artwork of the Land."

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project was provided by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District, and Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District.

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) GRANT RECEIVED

A GIS is a computer-based system for the storage, management, analysis, and display of geographic and associated data. GIS is a powerful tool designed specifically for integrating, analyzing, and mapping all types of spatial information.

Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute

ESRI has provided the RC&D Areas a program that includes donations of GIS software, data, books, and training. This program will allow the RC&D Areas to help communities gain equal access to the resources necessary to effectively use GIS.

Big Country RC&D received the "Initial RC&D Grant Bundle" including the ArcView GIS software, a Getting to Know ArcView textbook with exercises and tutorials, and an ArcUSA_CD containing digital data for the US. This donation is valued on the open market at \$3,500.

GIFTS IN KIND PROGRAM RECEIVES OVER \$3.3 MILLION IN DONATIONS

The Area, has secured over \$3,378,613 in computer software, equipment, and products for receiving nonprofit organizations for a savings in the past nine years of over \$2,355,770.03 through the Gifts In Kind International program.

Big Country RC&D has been acting as the Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for Gifts In Kind since 1991 for nonprofit organizations in the 12-county service region.

In October, People for Progress, Inc., headquartered in Sweetwater, received their fifth semi-trailer truckload donation through the Gifts In Kind International organization. The total value of the five truckloads is \$2,932,160.

Any nonprofit organization interested in possible donations, please contact **Dennise Hoover** at **915/235-4300**.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION

DEADLINE: March 11, 2001

AVAILABLE: \$600,000 is available.

PROGRAM: Normal fire fighting facilities, apparatus, and equipment are eligible items for assistance in this Program. Funding is also available for scholarships for fire departments. Grants and scholarships are generally limited to training, personal protective clothing, self-contained breathing apparatus, and equipment. Approximately \$1 million per year is available. Funds can be used for anything addressing fire suppression. Usually training, airpacks, equipment, etc. No funding for hazmat equipment. Loans are only for fire stations and fire trucks. Departments can have more than one loan. The grant maximum is \$25,000 a year. The loan maximum is \$35,000 a year (repaid in 10-20 years at 2.5% interest, make one payment annually).

CONTACT: Barbara Jenkins
Program Administrator
512/239-4939



"Ambition is the path to success.
Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in."

- Bill Eardley -

FUNDING SOURCES

TOYOTA TAPESTRY GRANTS (Teachers)

DEADLINE: January 18, 2001

PURPOSE: The 2001 Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each to K-12 science teachers. Interested teachers should propose innovative science projects that can be implemented in their school or school district over a one-year period. If you have a great way to make science come alive, apply for a Toyota TAPESTRY grant.

SUMMARY: Design and plan a one-year long project that centers on either environmental science education or physical science applications (applied physics, chemistry, and technology).

CONTACT: NSTA/Toyota TAPESTRY
1840 Wilson Blvd
Arlington VA 22201-3000

WEB: www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry



COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

DEADLINE: February 12, 2001

PURPOSE: As the largest source of funding in the world exclusively for graduate women, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation each year distributes more than \$3.3 million in fellowships, grants, and awards. This seed money is given to individual women, AAUW branches, AAUW state organizations, as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

CONTACT: AAUW Educational Foundation
Department 60
2201 N Dodge St
Iowa City IA 52243-4030

WEB: www.aauw.org

FREE IS GOOD ...

THE MEDICINE PROGRAM

Many US pharmaceutical companies have a freebie few people know about – they will give free drugs to consumers who cannot pay for them. In general, drug companies will assist people with no private insurance or those not on Medicaid.

About 40 drug companies offer some form of assistance. Each company has its own criteria for participants and its own list of available drugs.

To be approved for enrollment, some of the primary requirements are:

- The applicant has no insurance coverage for outpatient prescription drugs.
- The applicant does not qualify for a government program which provides for prescription medication, e.g. Medicaid.
- The applicant's income is at a level which causes a hardship when the patient is required to purchase the medication at retail. To be accepted into the program, the applicant's income must fall within the limits established by his particular sponsor. The household income limit requirement varies with each program sponsor.

Examples listed in the 2000 report outlining the sponsor's criteria for approval and enrollment relate that individuals with family incomes ranging from below the national poverty level up to \$50,000.00 annually can qualify. Those applicants normally qualifying at the highest income limits are generally AIDS, transplant or cancer patients in need of very expensive drugs. Decisions

Continued on Page 5

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DECEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's held their quarterly meeting at the Spanish Inn Restaurant in Big Spring on December 5, 2000, with 26 present.

Kent Sharp, Executive Director with Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc., presented an oversight on the organization's activities.

Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc., is funded by a one-half cent sales tax referendum and provides incentives based on the number of job created or retained in Big Spring and the hourly rate paid.

Big Spring has a diverse industrial base that includes a wind turbine manufacturer, manufacturing firm for plastic containers, e-commerce technology and telecommunication services industry, manufactured home industry, steel products manufactured for highway infrastructure, an oil refinery, and others.

Twelve new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 531 Projects that have been approved.

Hoover presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The Annual Status Reviews are being conducted on all twenty (20) plans. Three plans will expire as of December 31, 2000.

Apel presented information on:


- The NRCS Budget for technical assistance explaining that each authorized RC&D Area will receive an additional \$10,000 in Administrative Assistance
- The Gifts In Kind International Program (see page 2)
- GIS Software Grant (see page 2)
- Drug Assistance Program (see page 4)
- Rural Well Water Screening was completed in nine counties in the Area with 314 participants submitted 462 water samples that were screened for bacteria, salts, and nitrates
- Upper Colorado and Main Concho Watersheds Water Yield Brush Control Feasibility Studies have been completed
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection Grants/Loans (see page 2)
- The Four Winds, WestTex, Pecos Valley, and Big Country RC&D Areas will have an exhibit at the West Texas Judges & Commissioners' Association Exhibit in Odessa on March 21-24, 2001
- Proposed funding for EQIP for FY2001

The March Board of Director's Meeting and Annual Sponsors' Conference is scheduled to be held in Sweetwater, Texas. The date was set tentatively for Tuesday, March 6, 2001. More details will be mailed out closer to the date.



"If you did not look after today's business then you might as well forget about tomorrow."

- Isaac Mophatlane -



"The truth is that many people set rules to keep from making decisions."

- Mike Kryzyzewski -
Leading With the Heart (Warner)

concerning which medications are provided and which individuals are accepted into the programs are made by the various program sponsors.

There is a \$5.00 (one-time) processing fee for *each* medication requested and is fully refunded by written request if you are denied coverage for any reason.

For more information or to print an application, go to www.themedicineprogram.com or call them at 573/996-7300 (M-F 8-5 CST).



COMPUTERS, PRINTERS & COPIER AVAILABLE!

Big Country RC&D has one donated Apple Macintosh LC 2/40 with Style Writer Printer and one Harris/3M copier available for donation to a nonprofit. The MAC would be perfect for accounting and general word processing. The copier just needs the drum cleaned. If interested, submit a request for the donation on the organization's letterhead to Big Country RC&D. First come, first serve.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

~ B. L. "SHUG" THOMAS ~

B.L. "Shug" Thomas serves as the Area's Board of Director representing Garza County.

He is a farmer and Chairman of the Garza County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Shug and his wife, Helen, live north of Post, where they raised two sons, Kelvin and Kirk.

Shug is a past Director for the Producer's Co-Op Gin and the Producer's Cotton Cooperative Association. He is a Deacon in the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, a member of the Garza County 4-H Planning Committee and Vice-Chairman of the South Plains Association of SWCDs.

"I believe in our rural community and our way of life. My community has been a good place to make a living and raise a family. I want to contribute my time and talents to ensure others have the same opportunities that I received," stated Shug when asked why he is willing to volunteer his time and efforts as a Director.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

"Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer."
 - Muhammad Ali -
 More Than a Hero (Pocket Books)

"It's not the hours you put in your work that counts, it's the work you put in the hours."
 - Sam Ewing -

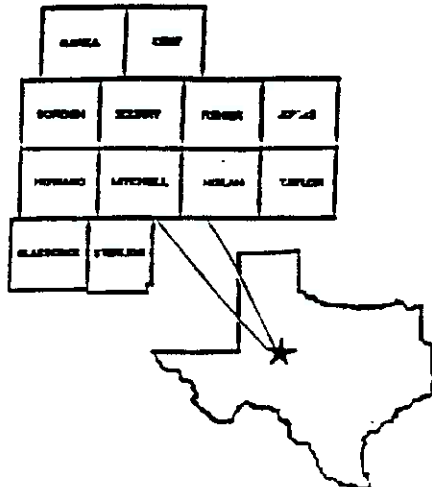
"When you build bridges you can keep crossing them."
 - Rick Pitino -
 Lead to Succeed (Broadway Books)



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

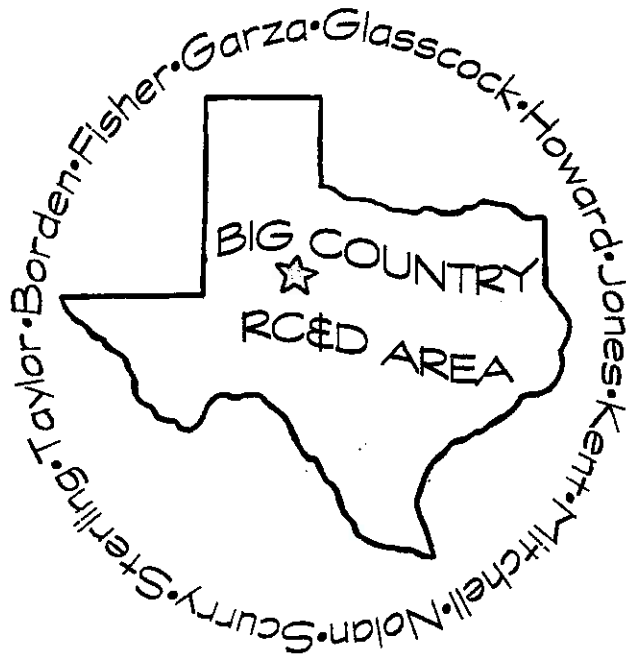
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| KEN BECKER | - Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | - Sterling |
| GARY FUQUA | - Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | - Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | - Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | - Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | - Taylor |
| HURSTON LEMONS | - Borden |
| L "SHUG" THOMAS | - Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | - Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | - Jones |
| ~VACANT~ | - Kent |



Windi Fuller
 Windi Fuller
 President

Jimmy J. Apel
 Jimmy J. Apel
 Executive Director

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.



**SERVING: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Glasscock, Howard,
Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Sterling, & Taylor
Counties in Texas**

2000 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sponsors and friends of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. -- Welcome to the Tenth Annual Sponsors' Conference.

This has been another productive and successful year for the Big Country RC&D Area as shown by the activities highlighted in this Annual Report. . .

As in all of Texas, water was an important issue for the Big Country RC&D Area last year. Projects undertaken to address this issue included: screening of rural well water for bacteria, nitrates, and salts and providing information to correct the problem areas; a Buffer Strip Demonstration; and providing resource information on the powers and responsibilities of Underground Water Conservation Districts.

Projects that the Area continued to carry out included coordinating donations of healthcare products, computers, software, and educational materials to nonprofit organizations and units of government.

Additionally, the Big Country RC&D Area administered grants from USDA, Private Foundations, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Southwestern Bell.

Annually, the Board of Directors review and update their three-year Plan of Work to focus on the Area's Goals. The goals are determined by input from residents in each community, who are vital to the success of this organization. This is an action organization where decisions affecting the Area are made locally by people who understand the West Texas way of life. I am proud to be a member of the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Windi Fuller, President
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED FROM MARCH 8, 2000 TO MARCH 6, 2001

PROJECTS

Area Plan contained 505 projects as of March 7, 2000.



- **31** Additional Projects accepted since that date for a total of **536**.
- **23** Projects completed since March 8, 2000. Total completed Projects – **423**.
- **1** Project was cancelled in 2000/2001. Total cancelled Projects to date – **50**.
- **63** Active Projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive third year funding of **\$578,412** bringing the three-year total to **\$1,401,679**.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were approved to continue receiving funding for the fourth year.

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at **\$276,565** for the fourth year with a four-year total of **\$1,033,750**. **Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity** was funded at **\$278,694** for the fourth year with a total of **\$964,045**.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the three Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables. To date, **\$3,399,474** has been obligated to these three (3) Geographic Priority Areas.

The proposals were based on conservation concerns documented at public meetings held by **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)** through their Locally Led Conservation Initiative.

Portions of **Borden, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties** are included in the three Geographic Priority Areas.

The funds are available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL GRANT COMPLETED

The **\$2,400** grant from **Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program** to the Area to promote economic development is complete.

The funds were used to design, develop, and maintain for one year an Internet Web Site for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Corporation (TMACC).

The TMACC was founded by the counties of **Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry** to promote trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.

The six county alliance sits at the Northern and Union Pacific intersection of Interstate Highway which extends to Interstate 27 to blessed with good transportation force. Texas State Technical Western Texas College stand technical and post-secondary, to employees of any employer or industry.



crossroads of the Burlington Railroads along with the 20 and State Highways 70 & 84, the North. The Corridor Area is facilities, and a dedicated work College, Howard College, and ready to offer training, both

The Texas, Mexico, & Asian Corridor Corporation has already positioned itself as an unique regional economic development effort.

House Bill 2614 (sponsored by State Representative David Counts) to allow contiguous counties to form a regional economic development corporation having the authority to issue bonds for economic development was signed into law by Governor Bush on June 19, 1999.

The website provides worldwide access promoting the economic benefits of locating business and industry within the Corridor. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, businesses interested in locating in the Corridor will be able to search for information on transportation advantages, cost of utilities, incentives, and workforce information.

Local businesses within the six counties that have established web sites on the worldwide web have the opportunity to link their existing web sites to the Corridor's web site and reach additional customers and clients.

The TMACC's website is located at www.tmacorridor.com

EPA CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) PROJECT

A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the **Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.



The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell** in **Nolan County**; **Bronte** in **Coke County**; **Trent** in **Taylor County**; and **Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in **Nolan and Fisher County**. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

A long-term concern is sedimentation that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Twenty agricultural producers within the project area voluntarily entered into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management Practices are available to those agricultural producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan was provided through the **Nolan County SWCD** and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Local entities supporting submission of the application included the **City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.**

FRIENDSHIP GARDEN PROJECT COMPLETED

A grant of **\$3,450** from a Private Foundation was completed by the Area for the **"Friendship Garden" Project at Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater.**



The third grade students, parents, and teachers at **Southeast Elementary** are the Sponsors of this Project. They wanted to provide a safe user-friendly meeting area that is set in natural surroundings.

The open air setting of the garden provides an informal gathering area that differs from the confines associated with an indoor classroom setting.

Because of the strong student and parental involvement that this Project requires, **"Friendship Garden"** will mark a place of pride for the school community. The efforts of this Project will benefit the youth of Sweetwater for many years. The children can safely spend their time developing positive relationships as an alternative to drug experimentation, gang related activities, or simply watching television.



To help fund this project—the third grade classes conducted a number of fundraisers. A donation of **\$100** from the **Sweetwater Kiwanis Club** and **\$200** in private donations has been received.

A professional landscape artist donated his time to design the garden.

The **Friendship Garden** was completed in the Spring of 2000.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) GRANT RECEIVED

A GIS is a computer-based system for the storage, management, analysis, and display of geographic and associated data. GIS is a powerful tool designed specifically for integrating, analyzing, and mapping all types of spatial information.

ESRI (Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute) has provided the RC&D Areas a program that includes donations of GIS software, data, books, and training. This program will allow the RC&D Areas to help communities gain equal access to the resources necessary to effectively use GIS.

Big Country RC&D received the "Initial RC&D Grant Bundle" including the ArcView GIS software, a Getting to Know ArcView textbook with exercises and tutorials, and an ArcUSA CD containing digital data for the US. This donation is valued on the open market at **\$3,500**.

RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING PROJECT COMPLETED

Rural well water screening was conducted in nine of the twelve Area's counties. The residents of each county had the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salts.

This screening is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells. Information was also provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the TEX*A*Syst Program.

Counties within the Big Country RC&D Area:

	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Samples</i>	
Jones	43	66	Jan 2000
Fisher	31	39	Apr 2000
Kent	23	35	May 2000
Nolan	72	111	July 2000
Mitchell	42	55	Aug 2000
Howard	103	156	Aug 2000
Scurry/Borden	66	148	Sept 2000
Garza	40	40	Sept 2000*



*Conducted by Extension Service & NRCS

To Date: **9** Counties Completed
 418 Participants
 650 Samples Tested

GIFTS IN KIND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI) Program**, the Area secured **\$1,800,540.87** in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials at a cost of **\$7,540** to the receiving organizations



this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.



Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$3,935,363.03** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL GRANT COMPLETE

The 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show held October 10-12, 2000, in Lubbock, Texas, was the site of a living Buffer Strip Demonstration.

The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, were framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Artwork of the Land."

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project was provided by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District, and Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District.



Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

The Area received a **\$4,055** grant to conduct this demonstration.

AREA'S GRANT RESEARCH LIBRARY

Big Country RC&D Area **Grant Research Library**, established in June of 1992, has been updated with the addition of FC Search which is a computer program with a database of the top 47,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. Fourteen grant searches have been completed this year. The library is available for use by the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE GRANT

A **\$6,000** grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for **administrative assistance** to the Area was received.



CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OFFICE SPACE

The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service** (a nonprofit organization).

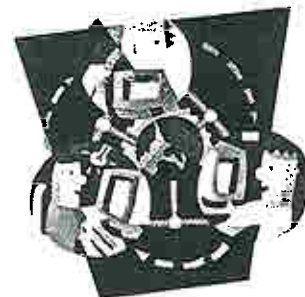
AREA SPONSORS

Total Sponsors for the area are **70**. Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, TU Electric & Gas, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

AREA WEB INFORMATION

The Area has updated their website listings in both **Idealist** and **GuideStar**.

Idealist (Action Without Borders) can be found on the web at www.idealist.org and was founded to build a network of neighborhood Contact Centers that would provide a one-stop shop for volunteer opportunities and nonprofit services in communities around the world. The Area has been listed at the website since August 12, 1997, and was updated this year.



GuideStar can be found on the web at www.guidestar.org and its mission is to revolutionize philanthropy and nonprofit practice with information. The Area has been listed at the website since 1998 and is updated on a regular basis. This listing includes information about who we are, programs/activities, contact information, and financial information, etc.

AREA NEWSLETTERS

Four quarterly newsletters were printed.



AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors continued to meet quarterly in various communities within the Area.

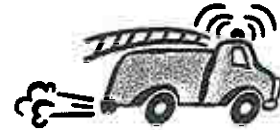
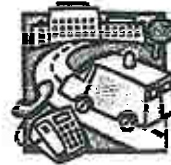
AREA MEMBERSHIPS TO PROMOTE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



To assist in promoting the Area through information and education, the Area is a member of Texas Midwest Community Network, National Association of RC&D Areas, Southwestern States Association of RC&D Areas, Texas Rural Development Council, National Association of Conservation Districts, Texas Association of RC&Ds, and Gifts In Kind International.

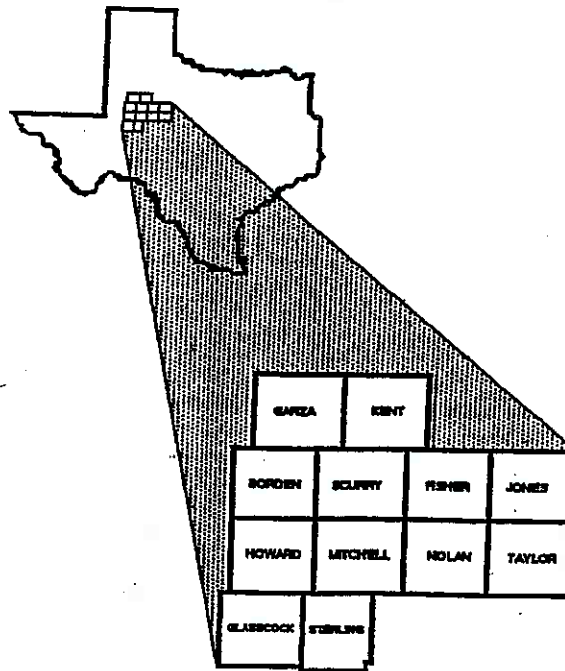
GOALS OF THE BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA:

- A. Establish Job Opportunities
- B. Developing and Maintaining Water Supplies
- C. Developing Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal
- D. Developing Adequate Health Care
- E. Controlling Erosion and Reducing Saline Problems
- F. Developing Rural and Urban Surface Drainage Systems
- G. Developing Wildlife and Recreational Potential
- H. Improve Low Income, Minority, and Senior Housing
- I. Improving Rural Fire Departments



2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Windi Fuller – Mitchell
 Vice President: Judge Robert Browne – Sterl
 Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Becker – Nolan
 Hurston Lemons – Borden
 Robert Posey – Fisher
 B L Thomas – Garza
 Michael Hoch – Glasscock
 Gary Fuqua – Howard
 Dave Byerly – Jones
 Mary Collier – Kent
 Sid Hardegree – Scurry
 Charles Hobbs – Taylor



AREA SPONSORS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS

Borden	Kent
Fisher	Mitchell
Garza	Nolan
Glasscock	Scurry
Howard	Sterling
Jones	Taylor

SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SWCD)

Andrew Kent	Mitchell County
California Creek	Mustang
Garza County	Nolan County
Glasscock County	North Concho
Howard County	Upper Clear Fork
Middle Clear Fork	Upper Colorado

COMMUNITIES

City of Anson	City of Rotan
City of Big Spring	City of Snyder
City of Colorado City	City of Stamford
City of Hamlin	City of Sweetwater
City of Jayton	Sterling City Council
Merkel City Council	

CHAMBERS of COMMERCE

Anson

Snyder

Sweetwater

AT LARGE

Abilene Small Business Development Center
 American State Bank – Snyder
 Anson Independent School District
 Anson Library Association
 Ben Richey Boy's Ranch – Abilene
 Fisher County Hospital District
 Fund Source Searchers – Sweetwater
 Glasscock County Lions Community & Historical Foundation
 Glasscock County Underground Water District
 Hamlin Economic Development Corporation
 Historical Rath Trail Association
 Tom Isbell – Grant Writer
 Merkel Economic Development Corporation
 Mitchell County Economic Development Board
 North Runnels Water Supply Corporation – Winters
 Wells Fargo Bank – Post
 Olfen ISD – Rowena
 People for Progress, Inc. (PPI) - Sweetwater
 Robinson Independent School District – Waco
 Rotan Economic Development Corporation
 Scurry County Board of Development
 Scurry County Museum
 Snyder National Bank
 Southeast Elementary School – Sweetwater
 St. Ann's Catholic Church – Colorado City
 Sterling County Nursing Home
 Sterling County Senior Citizens Center
 TXU Electric & Gas – Snyder
 West Central Texas Council of Governments
 West Texas State Bank – Snyder

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.,
a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development
to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic,
and environmental betterment of the region utilizing volunteers, training, education,
and self-sufficiency through self-help programs.

THEME

"Working to Improve West Texas Life"

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., prohibits
discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion,
age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
119 E Third, Suite 304
PO Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556
915/235-4300
FAX 915/236-6625
EMAIL Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov or bcrd@hotmail.com



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SPRING - MARCH 2001

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA - P O BOX 1114 - SWEETWATER TX 79556 - 915/235-4300 - Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
*JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President*
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
*DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant*

TENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

G. Till Phillips, National Advocate for Rural Affairs with the US Small Business Administration gave the Keynote Address, "Federal and State Rural Policy Issues" at the Annual Sponsors' Conference.

The meeting was held on March 6, 2001, at Allen Family Style Meals Banquet Hall, Sweetwater, and was attended by 74 individuals representing numerous organizations in the Area.

Prior to Mr. Phillip's speech, Dave Byerly, Jones County RC&D Director, presented the 2000 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

~ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ~

A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the Colorado Headwaters Watershed was approved to receive third year funding of \$578,412; bringing the three-year total to \$1,401,679.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were

approved to continue receiving funding for the fourth year.

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at \$276,565 for the fourth year with a four-year total of \$1,033,750. Oak Creek Water Quality/Quantity was funded at \$278,694 for the fourth year with a total of \$964,045.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the three Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables.

Portions of Borden, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties are included in the three Geographic Priority Areas.

~ SOUTHWESTERN BELL GRANT COMPLETED ~
The \$2,400 grant from Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program to the Area to promote economic development is complete.

The funds were used to design, develop, and maintain for one year an Internet Web Site for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Corporation (TMACC).

The TMACC was founded by the counties of Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry to promote trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.

The TMACC's website is located at www.tmacorridor.com

~ EPA CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) PROJECT ~

A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek

Continued from Page 1

Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell** in Nolan County; **Bronte** in Coke County; **Trent** in Taylor County; and **Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in Nolan and Fisher County.

~ FRIENDSHIP GARDEN PROJECT COMPLETED ~

A grant of **\$3,450** from a Private Foundation was completed by the Area for the "Friendship Garden" Project at Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater.

The Friendship Garden was completed in the Spring of 2000.

~ GIS GRANT RECEIVED ~

A **Geographic Information System (GIS)** grant was received by the Area from **ESRI (Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute)** that includes a donation of GIS software, data, books, and training. This program will allow the RC&D Areas to help communities gain equal access to the resources necessary to effectively use GIS.

This donation is valued on the open market at **\$3,500**.

~ RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING PROJECT COMPLETED ~

Rural well water screening was conducted in nine of the twelve Area's counties. The residents of each county had the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salts.

Counties within the Big Country RC&D Area:

	Participants	Samples	
Jones	43	66	Jan 2000
Fisher	31	39	April 2000
Kent	23	35	May 2000
Nolan	72	111	July 2000
Mitchell	42	55	August 2000
Howard	103	156	August 2000
Scurry/Borden	66	148	September 2000
Garza	40	40	September 2000*

*Conducted by Extension Service & NRCS

To Date: 9 Counties Completed
 418 Participants
 650 Samples Tested

~ GIFTS IN KIND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ~

Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)** Program, the Area secured **\$1,800,540.87** in donated computer hardware

and software, healthcare products, and educational materials for **\$7,540** this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.

Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$3,935,363.03** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

~ AREA'S GRANT RESEARCH LIBRARY ~

Big Country RC&D Area **Grant Research Library** has been updated with the addition of **FC Search** which is a computer program with a database of the top 47,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method.

~ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE GRANT ~

A **\$6,000** grant from **USDA/NRCS** for *Administrative Assistance* to the Area was received.

~ CCCS OFFICE SPACE ~

The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS)** - a nonprofit organization.

~ AREA SPONSORS ~

Total Sponsors for the Area is **70**.

Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chambers of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, TXU Electric & Gas, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

~ AREA WEB INFORMATION ~

The Area has updated their website listings in both **Idealist** and **GuideStar**.



31 additional Projects were accepted since March 7, 2000, for a total of **536**. **23** Projects were completed during the year bringing the total accomplished to **423**.

Windi Fuller, President and Mitchell County RC&D Director, announced the Directors elected by the individual RC&D Committees to serve on the area's Board of Directors:
Fisher County -Robert Posey
Garza County -B L Thomas
Glasscock County -Michael Hoch
Mitchell County -Windi Fuller
Kent County -Tommy Stanaland

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MARCH MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held immediately following the Annual Sponsor's Conference at Allen Family Style Meals, March 6, 2001, in Sweetwater.

Election of Officers was determined:
Windi Fuller - President
Judge Robert Browne - Vice President
Ken Becker - Secretary/Treasurer

Eight new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 539 Projects that have been approved.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Cash mentioned the increase in activity due to better weather conditions this year. Cash also reported that a GPS Unit had been requested for the project to conduct field checks.

Voting Delegates from the Area are planning to attend the Texas Association of RC&D Meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas, on April 17-19, 2001.

The Area will have an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting in conjunction with Four Winds, Wes-Tex, and Pecos Valley RC&Ds.

Melony Sikes, Program Liaison (Zone 2/San Angelo), gave an USDA/NRCS Update.

Details of the June Board of Director's Meeting to be held in Post, Texas, will be determined.

Economic Development Authority Funds Water & Wastewater Projects

When local officials think about federal programs that fund water and wastewater projects, they often think of Rural Utilities Service loans and grants or state revolving loan funds administered by the US EPA. But there are other alternatives.

The Public Works and Economic Development Program, housed in the US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), is one such alternative.

EDA provides grants to economically distressed areas for public works and economic development projects so that states, local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations may overcome impediments that prevent economic development in their communities.

EDA grants may be used to:

- Revitalize, expand, and upgrade physical infrastructure to attract new industry
- Encourage business expansion
- Diversify local economies
- Generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment

In FY99, EDA made available approximately \$205 million for public works and economic development projects, and the average grant was \$829,000. Assistance is available to rural and urban areas experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic problems.

For more info: www.doc.gov/eda

.....

COMPUTER, PRINTER & COPIER AVAILABLE!

.....

AVAILABLE: One donated Apple Macintosh LC 2/40 with Style Writer Printer and one Harris/3M copier available for donation to any nonprofit. If interested, submit a request for the donation on the organization's letterhead to Big Country RC&D. First come, first serve.

.....

FUNDING SOURCES

ETHEL LOUISE ARMSTRONG FOUNDATION (ELA) EMPHASIS ON DISABILITY GRANTS

DEADLINE: May 1, 2001 & Nov 1, 2001

PURPOSE: The ELA Foundation seeks to fund programs of organizations that are led by or support the work of people with disabilities with an emphasis on programs for women and girls.

They are interested in programs that are supported by the local community and meet the needs of people with disabilities in that community.

SUMMARY: Grants from the ELA Foundation range from \$1000 to \$5000 per project. Support from other sources in the community must be demonstrated in the grant application before a grant will be considered.

CONTACT: Deborah Lewis, Exec Director
ELA Foundation
2858 N Marengo
Altadena CA 91001
626/398-8840

EMAIL: executivedirector@ela.org

WEB: www.ela.org



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS NAVIGATOR COLLABORATION GRANTS

DEADLINE: May 1, 2001

PURPOSE: The TI-Navigator system is designed to facilitate student-focused learning and empower real-time interaction in the classroom. Grant recipients will work closely with TI personnel to customize the curriculum elements of the Navigator system to best fit their needs.

SUMMARY: Texas Instruments will award up to 100 grants to help implement the recently announced TI-Navigator wireless learning system in school classrooms.



Recipients will be able to purchase the TI-Navigator system for \$5500 (a savings of \$3300). Recipients will also receive network hardware for one classroom, online professional development, and a one-year subscription to the TI-Navigator server resources.

CONTACT: TI-Navigator Collaboration Grants Office
866/846-2844 (toll free)

WEB: www.ti.com.calc/docs/news/news4.html

TOUCH SCIENCE

Hands-On Learning for Kids and Communities

TEXACO FOUNDATION

DEADLINE: May 15, 2001

PURPOSE: In 1997, the Texaco Foundation initiated the Touch Science program to stimulate more effective science learning in early childhood by encouraging partnerships between informal science institutions and schools. Touch Science projects provide strategic support resulting in long-term improvements in early childhood teaching and learning in schools.



SUMMARY: The Texaco Foundation will make 4 to 8 awards at funding levels averaging between \$45,000 and \$85,000 per year over three years. Eligible informal science institutions are encouraged to apply. For info on eligibility and application procedures, visit web site listed below.

CONTACT: Touch Science Proposal Review Panel
Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-5200

EMAIL: touchsci@uclink.berkeley.edu

WEB: www.lawrencehallofscience.org/touchscience



Continued on Page 5

EARTH DAY
APRIL 22nd

Continued from Page 4

FOLGERS WAKIN' UP THE MUSIC PROGRAM

DEADLINE: Prior to upcoming school year

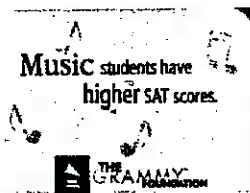
PURPOSE: Folgers, in harmony with the Grammy Foundation, has created "Wakin' Up The Music", an ongoing educational program designed to wake up the full potential in every child. The program is geared to benefit elementary school music education. All you have to do is sign up to receive registration materials.

SUMMARY:

All registered schools receive the "Wakin' up the Music" Education Kit (world-beat rhythm instruments, CD featuring relevant musicians, book that tells the musicians' story, lessons and background information, and an instructional guide for teachers). The top 10 schools will receive a \$2500 cash grant. The top 100 are recognized with certificates as GRAMMY Signature Schools.

CONTACT: Sign Up Online on Folgers

WEB: www.folgers.com/grammys/index.html



THE TEN MOST COMMON REASONS GRANTS ARE DECLINED

- 1 The organization does not meet our priorities.
- 2 The organization is not located in our geographic area of funding.
- 3 The proposal does not follow our prescribed format.
- 4 The proposal is poorly written and difficult to understand.
- 5 The proposed budget/grant request is not within our funding range.
- 6 We don't know these people. Are they credible?
- 7 The proposal doesn't seem urgent. I'm not sure it'll have an impact.
- 8 The objectives and plan of action of the project greatly exceed the budget and timelines for implementation.
- 9 We've allocated all the money for this grant cycle.
- 10 There is not enough evidence that the program will become self-sufficient and sustain itself after the grant is completed.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

NEW FIRE ACT PROGRAM RECEIVES \$100 MILLION FOR GRANTS

On October 30, 2000, the Congress appropriated \$100 million in federal funding for local fire departments for FY01 to fund the Firefighter Investment and Response (FIRE) Act.

The newly established grant funds will be distributed by the US Fire Administration (USFA), which is a division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Fire departments may apply for grants in two of the following six areas; training programs for handling wildfires and hazardous materials; wellness/fitness programs for personnel; firefighting vehicles; firefighting equipment; personal protective equipment; and fire prevention programs. These grant funds are available to both career and volunteer fire departments.

Applicants are required to match a small percentage of the funds they receive. Departments protecting less than 50,000 citizens are required to provide 10% of non-federal dollar matching funds and those over 50,000 citizens must provide 30%. They will also assist in helping write the grant.

55

For more info or to receive an application:

US Fire Administration
16825 S Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg MD 21727 301/447-1608
WEB: www.usfa.fema.gov

For assistance with the grant application process:

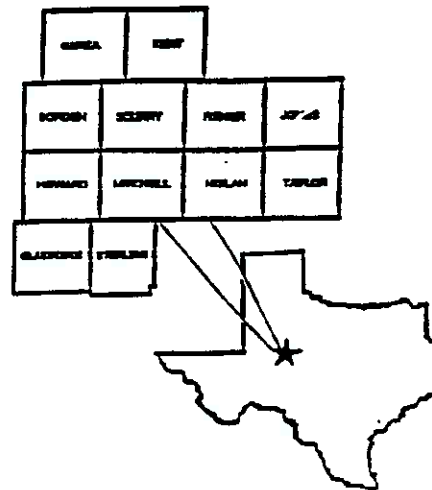
Congressional Fire Services Institute
900 Second St NE Suite 300
Washington DC 20002, 202/371-1277
202/371-1277
WEB: www.cfsi.org



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

KEN BECKER	- Nolan
ROBERT BROWNE	- Sterling
GARY FUQUA	- Howard
WINDI FULLER	- Mitchell
SID HARDEGREE	- Scurry
MICHAEL HOCH	- Glasscock
CHARLES HOBBS	- Taylor
HURSTON LEMONS	- Borden
B L "SHUG" THOMAS	- Garza
ROBERT POSEY	- Fisher
DAVE BYERLY	- Jones
TOMMY STANALAND	- Kent



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

J. J. Apel

Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SUMMER - JUNE 2001

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER - Administrative Assistant

- Each VFD receiving cost share funds from the Texas Forest Service (TFS) under this program have to report every fire call in their coverage area to TFS via telephone, fax, or email every month
- If one VFD gets Dry Hydrant equipment through their Commissioners' Court, then every VFD will have to make the fire call report to TFS each month

TFS Grant/Cost Share Programs ~ for Rural Fire Departments ~

Total funds of \$400,000 for the Dry Fire Hydrant Cost Share Program are available for Fiscal Year 2001. These funds must be expended by August 31, 2001. Highlights of the program are listed below...

ITEMS FOR COST SHARE

- Dry Hydrant Head & Screen Assembly and Floating Dry Hydrants
- Adapters and Accessories
- Suction Hose (hard & soft)
- Pipe – sizes 6 and 8 inches (PVC schedule 40)
- Culvert for turn-a-round



PROGRAMS

- **Helping Hands Program** – provides VFDs with surplus fire equipment such as air packs, fire fighting equipment, clothing, etc. donated to TFS by industries
- **Federal Excess Personal Property** – provides VFD with excess military equipment for fire suppression activities
- **Volunteer Fire Assistance Program** – provides cost-shares for trucks, slip-on units, and county wide communication systems

For more info, contact **Mark Stanford** with TFS at 409/639-8130 or go to <http://txforestservicetamu.edu>

CHANGES IN COST SHARE PROGRAM

- Increase from \$500 to \$800 per VFD
- Added culverts in cost share items

RESTRICTIONS & CHANGE OF POLICY

- State funds from oil overcharge budget (Texas Department of Energy)

The only difference
between
a rut and a grave
is their dimensions.

~Ellen Glasgow

TFS URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) is offering the Fiscal Year 2001 **Urban Forestry Partnership Grants** designed to start or improve a local urban forestry program or to educate the public about the importance of urban trees. Grant awards range from \$1000 to \$10,000 and must be matched dollar-for-dollar. *An exception is an application for a new professional staff position for up to \$20,000.*

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants may include any local or state government entity, schools, or non-profit groups. Projects eligible for funding include staff positions, tree ordinance development, city tree inventories, long-range plans, workshops, and other formal training sessions, youth and volunteer tree programs, and the production of public service announcements, brochures, videos, or other education materials. Funding priority is given to projects that have a long-term impact on the community.

PERFORMANCE

Grants will be awarded in August and successful applicants will have one year to complete the project activities beginning October 1, 2001. Grant payments will be made as reimbursements for project expenses.



HOW TO APPLY

- ◆ Go to <http://txforestservicetamu.edu>
Go to the *Urban Forestry* page
Click on *Challenge Grants*
- ◆ Call your local TFS forester for assistance: **Matt Grubisich** in Abilene at 915/676-5827
- ◆ Send email requesting copy of the guide to pds@tfs.tamu.edu
- ◆ Call TFS Headquarters at 979/458-6655

KNOW RESOURCES ON... THE WEB!

Keep this handy for useful websites on the internet:

Texas Online

www.texasonline.com

Your online portal to almost any site for Texas...from registering to vote, renewing your driver's license, to the Texas Lottery.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

www.window.state.tx.us

Locate Sales Tax info and forms, Web File, Unclaimed Property, etc.

Texas Governor's Office

www.governor.state.tx.us

Locate Grant Alerts from the State Grants Team. Grant Writing Proposal info, Legislative Messages, etc.

Texas Legislature Online

www.capitol.state.tx.us

Review Calendars & Schedules for the House & Senate and any Bill information.

Farming & Ranching Websites

www.localharvest.com

Find Farming information

www.cowzone.com

One stop for all cattle industry professionals

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us

Locate environmental and regulatory info, download publications, permit applications, and other forms & instructions, rules and policies, educational resources, etc.

Do-it-Yourself State Maps

<http://monarch.tamu.edu/~maps2/>

Select a state, use the map utility to color code counties...very neat!



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S JUNE MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held at Chapa's Restaurant, June 5, 2001, in Post, Texas with 29 present.

Shannel Woodard, Legislative Liaison for Carole Keeton Rylander – Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, presented an overview on the Agency's programs.



Information on the "Texas Tomorrow Fund" which allows college tuition to be locked in at today's cost for future students was provided. The Comptroller's Office publishes Fiscal Notes monthly that contains economic development information.

Six new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 545 Projects that have been approved.

Requests from **Women's Resource Crisis Pregnancy Center** (Sweetwater) and **Texas Midwest Community Network** (Area) to become a Sponsor of the Area were received.

Jimmy Apel presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Thirty-four (34) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$233,936.47 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans.

Requests for letters of support from the Area for a Texas Department of Transportation grant for **Sterling City** and establishing the **Upper Brazos and Paint/California Creek Geographic Priority Areas** (GPA) for EQIP funding were approved.

The enabling legislation to form underground water conservation districts for

Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties has been sent to the Governor.

The Oak Creek 319(h) Project was highlighted in the Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program 2000 Annual Report as a Success Story.

The Area received the updated version of FC Search for use in conducting grant fund searches.

Details of the September Board Meeting to be held in Kent County, Texas, will be determined closer to the meeting date.

RC&D HIGHLIGHTED IN TSSWCB ANNUAL REPORT

The Big Country RC&D Area was highlighted in the Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management 2000 Annual Report.

This joint publication by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) highlighted the 319(h) Grant Program success stories.

The Oak Creek Reservoir/Lake Trammell Watershed Project, developed by the Big Country RC&D Area and the Nolan County SWCD was listed in the Watershed Project Highlight of the Annual Report. The project was developed to address the water quality issues on the supply of drinking water through the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs.



Assistance in developing and implementing the Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) is provided through the Nolan County SWCD, Big Country RC&D, and the NRCS.

FUNDING SOURCES

THE ORACLE CORP GIVING PROGRAM

DEADLINE: June 1, 2001 & Dec 1, 2001

PURPOSE: The Oracle tradition of supporting charitable causes to the corporate level...

SUMMARY: Specifically, the Giving Program evaluates requests for monetary support from nonprofit organizations concerned with:

- Medical research in the areas of cancer, AIDS, and neuroscience
- Endangered animal protection
- Environmental protection, specifically for education and the preservation of important open space
- K-12 education, specifically for math, science, and technology programs

CONTACT: Send Proposal to...
Oracle Corporate Giving Program
500 Oracle Parkway
Mail Stop 50P11
Redwood Shores CA 94065

EMAIL: giving@us.oracle.com
WEB: www.oracle.com/corporate/giving/community/index.html?giving.html



MAZDA FOUNDATION

DEADLINE: August 15, 2001

PURPOSE: The Mazda Foundation awards grants to programs promoting:

- ◆ Education and literacy
- ◆ Environmental conservation
- ◆ Cross-cultural understanding
- ◆ Social welfare
- ◆ Scientific research



SUMMARY: Preference is given to nonprofit organizations that are national in scope. The foundation's annual grant-making budget is approximately \$400,000.

WEB: www.mazdafoundation.com

CONTACT: Submit applications to...
Mazda Foundation
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 910
Washington DC 20036
202/467-5088

LEE & RAMONA BASS FOUNDATION

PURPOSE: The Foundation provides assistance to a selected group of nonprofit organizations, primarily within the state of Texas.

SUMMARY: Funds for community programs, projects particularly related to the arts, environment, and national & regional conservation programs are available. The following groups are eligible to apply:

- ▲ Schools, colleges, and universities within Texas, with emphasis placed upon faculty development and liberal arts programs
- ▲ Community programs and projects, particularly related to the arts and the environment, such as museums, zoos, and educational/research institutions
- ▲ National and regional conservation programs

CONTACT: Send inquires in the form of brief letters to...

Lee & Ramona Bass Foundation
Mr. Valleau Wilkie Jr, Exec Director
309 Main St
Fort Worth TX 76102

EMAIL: cjohns@sidrichardson.org
WEB: www.sidrichardson.org/lrbf.htm

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DISTANCE LEARNING & TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM

DEADLINE: September 30, 2001

PURPOSE: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is accepting applications for grants/loans for telecommunications projects that will improve education and medical services to rural areas.

SUMMARY: \$110 million in grant/loan combination funds (10:1 ratio) are available. Applications will be processed on a first-come first-serve basis.

Continued from Page 4

CONTACT: Program Advisor
202/720-8427

WEB: www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.html

PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION

PURPOSE: Public Welfare Foundation is dedicated to supporting organizations that provide services to disadvantaged populations, and to those working for lasting improvements in the delivery of services that meet basic human needs.

SUMMARY: Funding focused in 8 areas:

- * Criminal Justice
- * Disadvantaged Elderly
- * Disadvantaged Youth
- * Population & Reproductive Health
- * Community Economic Development and Participation
- * Human Rights & Global Security
- * Health
- * Environment

CONTACT: Send inquiry letter to...

Public Welfare Foundation
1200 U Street, NW
Washington DC 20009-4443

EMAIL: general@publicwelfare.org

WEB: www.publicwelfare.org/funding/index.html

JUMPSTART.ORG

SUMMARY: The JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy seeks to improve the personal financial literacy of young adults.

PURPOSE: To evaluate the financial literacy of young adults; develop, disseminate, and encourage the use of standards for grades K-12; and promote the teaching of personal finance.

CONTACT: info@jumpstartcoalition.org

WEB: www.jumpstart.org

GIFTS IN KIND'S OFFICE DEPOT DONATION

As a Coordinating Agency Partner with Gifts In Kind, the Big Country RC&D Area has partnered with **Office Depot** in **Abilene, Texas**, through the Retail Donation Program.



The ongoing yearly project has contributed over \$6,000 in donations to date. These donations have been used by **Develop Me DayCare**, **WIC Program**, **Head Start Program**, **Early Head Start** (teen parenting), etc. Donations of office products are made on a monthly basis.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.
 ~Hubert Humphrey

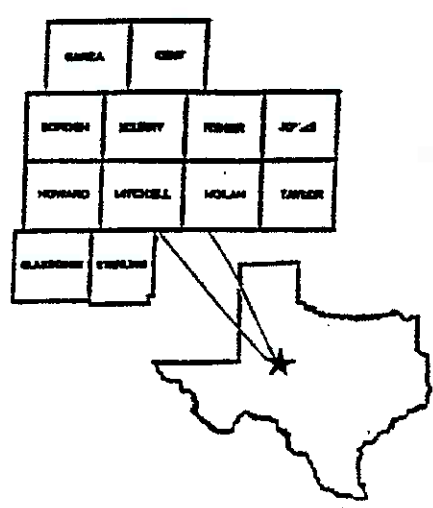
If you do what you have always done, you'll get what you have always gotten.
 ~Unknown



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
 P O Box 1114
 Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| KEN BECKER | - Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | - Sterling |
| GARY FUQUA | - Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | - Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | - Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | - Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | - Taylor |
| HURSTON LEMONS | - Borden |
| L "SHUG" THOMAS | - Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | - Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | - Jones |
| TOMMY STANALAND | - Kent |



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
 President

Jimmy J. Apel
 Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - SEPTEMBER 2001

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

LIVING BUFFER STRIP

~ Grant Approved ~

The Big Country RC&D Area will receive and administer a \$4,318 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Liaison in San Angelo, has been invited to make a presentation and have an exhibit booth at the 2001 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock on October 11, 12, & 13, 2001. Sikes will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer

strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show. Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

Information will be given on the procedure for signing up for buffer strips through EQIP and the continuous CRP by parties from the cooperating agencies.

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show and the Texas Wildlife Association.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's Meeting was held at the Community Center, September 12, 2001, in **Jayton**, Texas with **28** present.

Twelve new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of **557** Projects that have been approved.

A request from **Stamford Community Initiative** (Stamford) to become a Sponsor of the Area was approved.



Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Forty-four (44) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$285,872 in financial incentive payments for installing Best Management Practices on their individual Water Quality Management Plans. Both the Nolan County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Big Country RC&D Area have submitted requests to extend the Project one year through April 30, 2003. The extension was requested due to drought conditions not allowing practices, such as range seeding, to be completed as scheduled.

From August 2000 through August 2001, **38** new Projects were approved, **34** were completed, and **14** were cancelled.

A Progress Summary of Project activity from June 1991 through August 2001 shows **557** Projects approved, **443** completed, and **62** cancelled. There are **52** active Projects currently.

Applications to establish EQIP Geographic Priority Areas for the **Upper Brazos** and **California/Paint Creek** watersheds have been submitted for review by the State Technical Committee. The Upper Brazos

request is for \$1,010,000 annually for five (5) years and \$470,000 annually for five (5) years for the California/Paint Creek application. Each application would address nonpoint source pollution including salinity by installing Best Management Practices on agricultural lands.

The enabling legislation to form individual Groundwater Conservation Districts for **Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan** Counties was passed by the State Legislature. The temporary Directors within each proposed District will be providing information to the public on the duties and responsibilities of a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD). The purpose of a GCD is to preserve and protect groundwater resources.

The Area received a CD Rewriter donated by the **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** valued at **\$239.00**.

Details of the December Board Meeting to be held in **Taylor County**, Texas, will be determined closer to the meeting date.

THE VALUE OF . . . VOLUNTEERS

According to the Independent Sector's *Giving and Volunteering in the United States*, the hourly value of volunteer time has jumped for the sixth year in a row. **In 2000, the value was \$15.39 an hour.**

The bad news is that volunteers are committing less time ~ average volunteer time went down from 4.2 hours a week to 3.5 hours.

Volunteer time is calculated by taking the hourly wage of nonagricultural workers (published in the President's Economic Report) and adding 12 percent to estimate fringe benefits.

AMONG THE 50 STATES,
TEXAS IS . . .

- #1 Population in non-metropolitan counties in 1999 (3,084,018)
- #8 Percent change in population, 1990-2000 (22.8%)
- #20 Per capita disposable personal income (income minus taxes, fees, & fines) in 2000 (\$24,248)
- #29 Percentage of population graduated from college as of 2000 (23.9%)
- #34 Expenditures per pupil in elementary and secondary schools in 2000 (\$5,870)
- #44 Change in state and local tax burden, fiscal 1992-97 (7.5% decrease in state & local taxes as a percentage of personal income)
- #48 Cost of living in 1999 (0.909 of national average)
- #50 Per capita state government expenditures in 1998 (\$2,584)

Published in Texas Where We Stand by Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

"The first law of ecology is that everything is related to Everything else."
~ Barry Commoner, US Biologist/Environmentalist

"If everyone is thinking alike Then somebody isn't thinking."
~ George S Patton, Jr.

**GIFTS IN KIND'S
OFFICE DEPOT DONATION**

As a Coordinating Agency Partner with Gifts In Kind, the Big Country RC&D Area has partnered with **Office Depot** in **Abilene, Texas**, through the Retail Donation Program.



The ongoing yearly project has contributed over **\$8,000** in donations to date. The donated goods have been distributed to organizations serving youth in **Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Taylor** Counties. Donations of office products are made on a monthly basis.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



"...Justice will be done."
~President George W Bush (9/20/01)

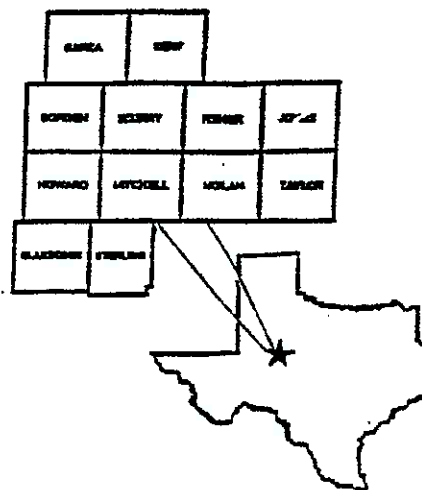
Our Thoughts
& Prayers
Go out to all those
directly & indirectly
involved in the recent
tragic events!



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| KEN BECKER | - Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | - Sterling |
| KENT SHARP | - Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | - Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | - Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | - Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | - Taylor |
| MURSTON LEMONS | - Borden |
| L "SHUG" THOMAS | - Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | - Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | - Jones |
| TOMMY STANALAND | - Kent |



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS WINTER - DECEMBER 2001

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

- WINDI FULLER - President*
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President*
- KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer*
- JIMMY APEL - RC&D Coordinator*
- DENNISE HOOVER - Administrative Assistant*

LIVING BUFFER STRIP ~ Completed ~

The 2001 Texas Farmer Stockman Show held October 11-13, 2001, in Lubbock, Texas, was the site of a living Buffer Strip Demonstration.

The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, were framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration was "Conservation Keeps America Growing."

Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife.



Over 35,000 people attended the show. Producers came from all over Texas, the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project was provided by USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District, Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District, and Big Country RC&D.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Liaison in San Angelo, made a presentation and coordinated the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.



"The best way to prepare for life is to begin to live."
~ Elbert Hubbard

"A hard beginning makes a good ending."
~ John Heywood

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DECEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's Meeting was held at the Taylor County Fairgrounds, December 4, 2001, in Abilene, Texas with 37 present.

Kent Sharp, Executive Committee member of the newly formed Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA), explained that ORCA was created by the 77th Legislature to develop policy specifically addressing economic and quality of life issues affecting small and rural communities across Texas.



ORCA administers programs supporting rural health care, Federal Community Development Block Grant Non-Entitlement Program, and leadership programs for rural community leaders.

Thirteen new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work.

A request from **North Texas Buckskin Brigade** (Hermleigh - Scurry County) to become a Sponsor of the Area was approved.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. A summary of Water Quality Management Practices and Cost Share dollars allocated as of 9/30/01 was discussed. Since 9/30/01, all available funds have been obligated. The program is scheduled to end April 30, 2002.

Dave Byerly, Jones County Director, gave a report on the Double Mountain Regional Water Board. He explained that it was originally created at the request of several citizens in Stonewall County and surrounding

counties. State Representative, David Counts, strongly pushed to include the proposed reservoir in the Regional Water Plan.

Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator, presented a highlight report on State and National RC&D budget and activities that the Area plays a part in. Freeman expressed a message from John Burt, State Conservationist, that thanked the Area for their efforts. He explained that the Area was instrumental in providing leadership with their efforts throughout the State.

Freeman also stated that the FY01 accomplishments for the State were up 10% from last year. Texas leverages Federal funds in a ratio of 18 to 1. The national average was 15 to 1 this year.

Freeman also explained that the RC&D budget for FY02 was looking real good. He pointed out that there was a \$6.1 million increase again this year and the RC&D budget had nearly doubled in the last five years from \$28 million allotted to \$48 million currently. The Area is benefiting from this increase through an increase in administrative support from \$6,000 to \$16,000 for the second year in a row.

Wendy Stovall, Natural Resources Coordinator with the West Central Texas COG was present and explained that Municipal Solid Waste Grants are now available for FY02. There is \$120,131 available for: local enforcement, litter & illegal dumping cleanup, source reduction & recycling, local solid waste management plans, educational & training projects, etc.

The Annual Sponsors' Conference & March Board of Director's Meeting will be held in **Sweetwater**, on Tuesday, **March 12, 2002**.

BORDEN/SCURRY COUNTIES WATER WELL SCREENING

A second rural well water screening was conducted for **Borden & Scurry** counties. The screening was held in **Snyder** on November 13-15, 2001.

There were **101** participants with **148** samples tested for nitrates, salts, and bacteria (including Fecal & E.Coli). Information was provided on how to reduce salts and nitrates and how to utilize shock chlorination to eliminate Fecal and E.Coli bacteria.

The rural well water screening for the two counties was conducted and co-sponsored by Borden & Scurry County Texas Cooperative Extension offices, Upper Colorado SWCD, Borden & Scurry County Commissioners Courts, USDA, NRCS, and Big Country RC&D Area.



NATIONAL DRINKING WATER CLEARINGHOUSE NEWS

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse has assembled a body of information about protecting small water systems from potential threats in lieu of the recent attacks against the US.



Their intent is to educate governing boards and system personnel by helping them prepare emergency plans and to find sources of more information.

Their collection of articles, checklists, phone #s, & web sites can be assessed at www.ndwc.wvu.edu or you can call 800/624-8301 for a packet of information.

NEW VFD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) receives federal funds for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. These funds are used to provide cost-share assistance to eligible fire departments. Cost-shares are available for the purchase of trucks and slip-on units.

House Bill 2604 allows TFS to assist rural volunteer fire departments by placing fees on insurance. The funds will be for the purpose of paying for equipment and training of personnel. These funds are collected from insurers and will be assessed by the comptroller every 12 months at a total fee of \$15 million.

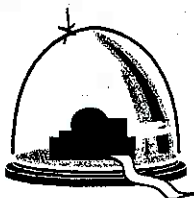
House Bill 3667 allows TFS to assist rural volunteer fire departments by placing sales tax on fireworks. These funds will be for payment of worker's compensation insurance and accidental death and disability insurance for the volunteer fire departments.

TFS has also received a limited amount of state funding for the purpose of the Rural Water Delivery Program to assist in purchasing those types of equipment necessary to develop or improve water delivery capabilities in rural areas, enabling more rapid and effective fire suppression. Cost-shares are available for the purchase of rural water delivery components such as portable pumps, folding tanks, floating pumps, countywide communications systems, and dry hydrants.

For additional information on any of these programs, contact **Kelly Scott** with TFS at 936/639-8100.



SBA Financing and Informational Workshop



Looking for financing and need some answers, then this workshop is for you!

The following topics will be discussed by SBA and SBDC:

- All about SBA Guaranty Loans
- What a business owner should have before applying for a loan
- What the banker is looking for in a loan
- Information in a business plan
- Other programs and services available from the SBA, the SBDC
- Questions & Answers – representatives will be available to visit one-on-one

WHEN: January 24, 2002 (Thursday)

TIME: MEAL - 5:30 pm - \$5.00*

WORKSHOP – 6:30 pm – No Charge

WHERE: TSTC – The Center

300 College Dr - Sweetwater

*Meal is optional. RSVP is required for meal. RSVP to SBDC 915/670-0300 or 888/670-0300 by Tuesday, 1/22/02

Sponsored by:

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc., The Texas Tech University Small Business Development Center @ Abilene, & the U.S. Small Business Administration

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED DUE TO LIMITED SEATING

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE ~ CALL BETTY ANDERSON, TTU SBDC @ ABILENE
915/670-0300, 500 CHESTNUT, SUITE 601, ABILENE



The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) operates in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The support given by the SBA through such funding does not constitute an express or implied endorsement of the co-sponsor(s) or participants' opinions, products or services.

All SBA programs are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made, if requested at least two weeks in advance.

Co-op #: 2-7620-0048-16

BOARD OF DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHT:

Kent Sharp, Howard County RC&D Board Member, is the Executive Director of Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc.



Sharp is also a board member of: the newly created Office of Community & Rural Affairs (ORCA); the Big Spring Independent School District; the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board; and the Energas Customer Advisory Board. He is also a member of the Texas Economic Development Council.

Kent and his wife, Kendra, have two children, Austin & Bailey.

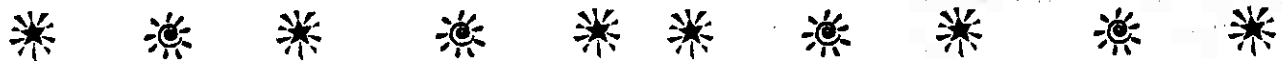
Sharp believes that "education of individuals and organizations about federal, state, and regional programs of assistance" are the strong points of the RC&D Program.

"RC&D provides a valuable service to rural communities in West Texas that may not have the extended professional and financial resources available in more metropolitan areas of our state" explains Sharp when asked what he felt the most important aspect of the RC&D program is.

Sharp volunteers his time as a board member to RC&D because he "believes that volunteering for any effort which furthers the cause of survivability for rural America is a responsibility, not a privilege."

.....
"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."
~ Harry Truman
.....

.....
"In the long run the pessimist may be proved right, but the optimist has a better time on the trip."
~ Daniel L Reardon
.....



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

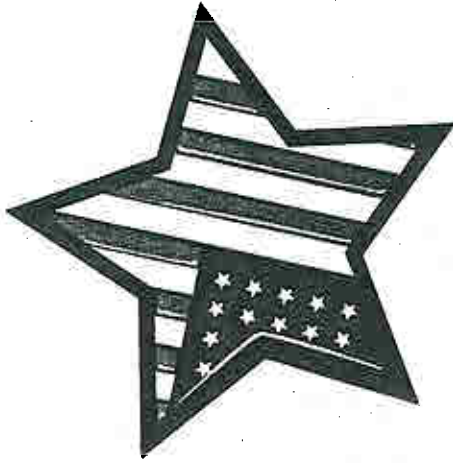
To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

More info will be mailed!
11:30 AM @ Allen's in Sweetwater
Tuesday, March 12, 2002

ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE &
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

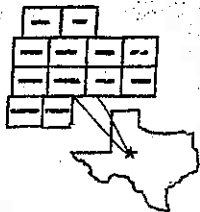
SBA FINANCING WORKSHOP
Thursday, January 24, 2002
6:30 PM @ TSTC "The Center"
See Page 4 for more details!



BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556

The current Board of Directors
serving the Big Country RC&D
Area, Inc. are:

KEN BECKER	Nolan
ROBERT BROWNE	Sterling
KENT SHARP	Howard
WINDI FULLER	Mitchell
SID HARDEGREE	Scurry
MICHAEL HOCH	Glasscock
CHARLES HOBBS	Taylor
BUCK LEMONS	Borden
SHUG THOMAS	Garza
ROBERT POSEY	Fisher
DAVE BYERLY	Jones
JUDGE STANALAND	Kent





NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SPRING - MARCH/APRIL 2002

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - RC&D Coordinator
DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

Honorable Robert Duncan, Texas State Senator for District 28, gave the keynote address, "Rural Issues and the Texas Legislature" at the Annual Sponsors' Conference.

The Meeting was held on **March 13, 2002**, at Allen Family Style Meals Banquet Hall, Sweetwater, and was attended by **87** individuals representing numerous organizations in the Area.

Prior to Senator Duncan's speech, **Judge Robert Browne, Sterling County RC&D Director**, presented the 2001 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

~ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE~

Two new proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work were approved for funding. First year funding for the **Upper Brazos Geographic Priority Area (GPA)** is set at **\$505,750**. The **Paint/California Creek GPA** was developed and submitted jointly by **Four Winds Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and Big Country RC&D Area**. Funding of **\$206,191** is available for the first year.

A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive fourth year funding of **\$420,632** bringing the four-year total to **\$1,822,311**.

Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity was funded at **\$139,368** for the fifth year with a total of **\$1,103,413**.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the four Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables. To date, **\$3,637,665** has been obligated to these four (4) Geographic Priority Areas.

The **Sandyland Resource Initiative GPA** which was submitted by **Big Country RC&D** was closed out after receiving **\$1,033,750** in funds. Portions of **Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, and Sterling Counties** were included in this Project area.

~BORDEN/SCURRY COUNTIES RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING PROJECT~

A second rural well water screening was conducted for **Borden and Scurry Counties**. The screening was held in **Snyder** on November 13-15, 2001.

There were **101** participants with **148** samples tested for nitrates, salts, and bacteria (including Fecal & E.Coli).

The rural well water screening for the two (2) counties was conducted and co-sponsored by **Borden & Scurry County Texas Cooperative Extension Agencies, Upper Colorado SWCD, Borden & Scurry County Commissioners Courts, USDA/NRCS, and Big Country RC&D Area**.

Continued on Page 2

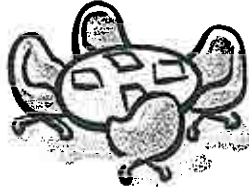
Continued from Page 1

~GIFTS IN KIND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS~

Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI) Program**, the Area secured **\$1,396,764** in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials at a cost of **\$10,159.95** to receiving organizations this past year.

Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$4,742,032.05** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program. The Area along with Gifts In Kind has donated approximately **\$4.8 million** in donated products.

As a CAP with Gifts In Kind, the Area was able to partner with **Office Depot in Abilene, Texas**, through the Retail Donation Program (RDP). The ongoing yearly project contributed over **\$9,600** in donations for 2001.



The Area was also able to partner with **Avon** to provide a seventh truckload of personal care items to programs of **People for Progress, Inc. (PPI)** in **Sweetwater, Texas**.

~EPA CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) PROJECT ~

The **Big Country RC&D Area** was highlighted in the **Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management 2000 Annual Report**.

This joint publication by Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) highlighted the 319(h) Grant Program success stories.

A **half-million dollars (\$500,000)** in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The **Oak Creek and Lake Trammell** reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell** in **Nolan County**; **Bronte** in **Coke County**; **Trent** in **Taylor County**; and **Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in **Nolan and Fisher**

County. Water captured in **Oak Creek Reservoir** is pumped to **Lake Trammell**, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan was provided through the **Nolan County SWCD** and the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**.

~ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL GRANT~

The 2001 Texas Farmer Stockman Show held October 11-13, 2001, in **Lubbock, Texas**, was the site of a living **Buffer Strip Demonstration**.

The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, were framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration was **"Conservation Keeps America Growing."** Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife.

Over 35,000 people attended the show. Producers come from all over Texas, the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

The Area received a **\$4,318** grant to conduct this demonstration.

~GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATION PROGRAM~

Public informational meetings were held in **Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties** to determine if there was sufficient interest to consider forming Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) in each county.

Steering Committees were formed in each of the Counties to request enabling legislation during the 77th Texas Legislation Session. This legislation calls for a confirmation election to be held in each of the four counties that allows the registered voters to decide whether or not to create a GCD.

The purpose of a GCD is to preserve and protect groundwater resources.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

~AREA'S GRANT RESEARCH LIBRARY~

Big Country RC&D Area **Grant Research Library** has been updated with the newest version (5.0) of FC Search with a database of the top 57,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. **Twenty-one** grant searches have been completed this year.

~ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE GRANT~

A **\$16,000** grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for **administrative assistance** to the Area was received.

~CCCS OFFICE SPACE~

The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS)** - a nonprofit organization.

~AREA SPONSORS~

Total Sponsors in the Area for 2001 were **69**.

39 additional Projects were accepted since March 7, 2001, for a total of **575**. **40** Projects were completed during the year bringing the total accomplished to **471**.

Windi Fuller, President & **Mitchell County** RC&D Director, announced the Directors elected by the individual RC&D Committees to serve on the Area's Board of Directors:

Howard County	-Kent Sharp
Kent County	-Tommy Stanaland
Sterling County	-Robert Browne
Taylor County	-Charlie Hobbs

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S
MARCH MEETING**

The Board of Director's Meeting was held immediately following the Annual Sponsors' Conference at Allen Family Style Meals, March 13, 2002, in **Sweetwater**.

Election of Officers was determined:

Windi Fuller - President
Judge Robert Browne - Vice President
Ken Becker - Secretary/Treasurer

Five new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of

Work. This makes a total of **575** Projects that have been approved.

First United Methodist Church and 32nd Judicial CSCD in **Sweetwater** were approved to become Sponsors of the Area.

A status report of the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. A one year extension due to the drought has been received and the Project will close April 30, 2003. There is \$82,000 in financial assistance monies left to be applied for which is primarily brush control. A Tour of the Project was conducted for EPA and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board representatives to view work completed in the field.

EQIP Funding for Fiscal Year 2002 was reviewed. Eighty percent of the funding goes to GPAs (Geographic Priority Areas) and counties within the **Big Country RC&D** boundaries received through RC&D efforts \$1.2 million of the funds accounting for 10% of the total funding given in Texas.

The Area in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Four Winds & Concho Valley RC&D Areas will sponsor an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges & Commissioner's Annual Meeting .

Ken Becker and **Shug Thomas** will attend the Texas Association of RC&D Annual Conference in Kerrville, Texas, on **April 22-24, 2002**, as Voting Delegates for the Area.

Upper Colorado River/Twin Buttes Reservoir received funding for the State Brush Program. Funding was given for brush control only. South Taylor County/Lake Ballinger received \$.5 million in funding and Oak Creek Reservoir received \$1.5 million in funding.

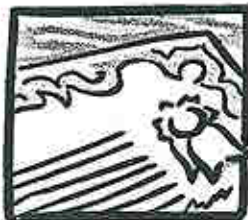
The June Board of Director's Meeting will be held in **Snyder**, on Tuesday, **June 4, 2002**, at 11:30 AM. Details will be mailed out closer to the meeting date.

WINDI FULLER WINS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Mitchell County's Windi Fuller was selected as a recipient for a statewide Leadership Award.

Fuller, one of three individuals recognized in Texas, received her award during the Annual Meeting of the Texas Rural Leadership Program recently held in Austin.

As a graduate of the Texas Rural Leadership Program, "Texans In Leadership", she is recognized as an outstanding Texan who has provided public service to her community.



Fuller was instrumental in founding the Mitchell County Mentoring Program that also provided funding for the Mitchell County Abstinence Program. With her collaborative efforts the schools, churches, community and the economic development board have seen a dramatic 47 percent decrease in teen-age pregnancy in the Mitchell County school system.

Fuller, Executive Director of the Mitchell County Board of Economic Development, is involved in many other community benefit programs and projects. A grant proposal prepared by her, received \$482,000 from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department towards the construction of the Mitchell County Sports Complex. She is currently Interim Director of the Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District that was recently approved to be created by Mitchell County voters. Fuller also serves as President of Big Country RC&D and is a Member of the Occupational Therapy Examiners Board serving under appointment by Governor George W. Bush.

Windi and her husband, Brandon, have one daughter, Sarah, and live in Colorado City.

SBA FINANCIAL & INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Big Country RC&D hosted a SBA Financing and Informational Workshop in Sweetwater at TSTC-The Center on January 24, 2002.

The workshop provided information about: SBA Guaranty Loans; a business plan; other programs & services available from SBA (Small Business Administration), SBDC (Small Business Development Center), & WCTCOG (West Central Texas Council of Governments); and preparations that a business owner should make before applying for a loan.



The workshop was sponsored by Big Country RC&D, The Texas Tech University Small Business Development Center @ Abilene, & the US Small Business Administration.

COMPUTER DONATIONS AVAILABLE

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE AN OLYMPIC WINNER

Gateway was a sponsor of the Olympics providing 4500 computers that were used to track official event results, statistics, etc.

In support of Gateway's commitment to socially responsible corporate citizenship, they will donate the computers to eligible organizations recognized by the IRS. Priority will be given to schools & community centers whose programs help enhance access to technology for traditionally under-served communities.

An application will be posted on Gateway's website from April 2 to July 31, 2002. Only online applications will be accepted. For additional info in the interim, go to www.gateway.com/olympics/donations.shtml

FUNDING INFORMATION:

WALMART ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS:

Each WalMart store has an allocation of money for environmental grants to nonprofit organizations & schools to support environmental efforts & education in communities where stores are located. Grants are in the **\$2500** range. More than \$1.5 million will be granted nationwide.



Grants given in the categories of community programs, health care, & social services. Must be an IRS designated 501(c)(3) organization.

Deadline: On-going
Contact: Procedure Contact Person
 702 SW 8th St
 Bentonville AR 72716-8071
 501/273-4000
 501/273-6850 FAX
Fund ID#: 1248

Categories include community, children, & education. Grants are available and submitted through the local store.

Deadline: Accepted On-going
Website: www.walmartfoundation.org

WALMART MATCHING GRANTS

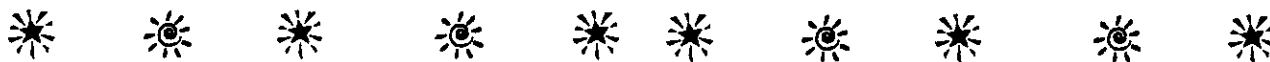
The WalMart Foundation, through individual stores, sponsors local projects with matching grant funds from the company. Applicants must have a feasible fundraising activity in mind & should involve WalMart employees.

ORACLE CORPORATE GIVING

Oracle Giving invests in the future of our global community through its tradition of supporting charitable causes.

Specifically evaluates requests from nonprofits concerned with: medical research; endangered animal protection; environmental protection; & K-12 education.

Deadline: June 1 & December 1
Website: www.oracle.com/corporate/giving/community/index.html?content.html



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
More info will be mailed!
11:30 AM in Snyder
Tuesday, June 4, 2002
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING



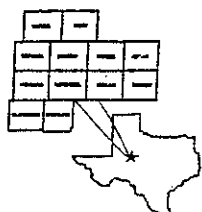
**BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556**

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| KEN BECKER | Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | Sterling |
| KENT SHARP | Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | Taylor |
| BUCK LEMONS | Borden |
| SHUG THOMAS | Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | Jones |
| JUDGE STANALAND | Kent |



**Roger Roewe
Honorable Charles Stenholm
P O Box 1237
Stamford TX 79553-1237**



*

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE, CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.



SERVING: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Glasscock,
Howard, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry,
Sterling, & Taylor Counties in Texas

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sponsors and friends of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. -- Welcome to the Eleventh Annual Sponsors' Conference.

The Board of Directors are pleased to provide you with this Annual Report highlighting activities accomplished in 2001.

Water quality and quantity continued to be a major emphasis item for the Area. Projects addressing this concern included: securing funds to install Best Management Practices in watersheds above public drinking reservoirs; screening of rural well water for bacteria, nitrates, and salts and presenting educational programs to address problem areas; conducting a Buffer Strip Demonstration; and providing resource information on the powers and responsibilities of Groundwater Conservation Districts.

The Area continued to act as a Coordinating Agent to secure, receive, and distribute educational products, computers, and software to nonprofit organizations and units of government.

The Big Country RC&D Area also administered grants from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, USDA, and Private Foundations.

The Board of Directors reviewed and updated their three-year Plan of Work to insure that efforts are focused on the Area's Goals. These goals are determined from input by the residents of each community within the Area's twelve-county boundaries.

The Board of Directors worked to insure that their decisions and actions addressed the needs and desires of the West Texas residents of the Big Country RC&D Area.

Sincerely,

Windi Fuller, President
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.**ACTIVITIES COMPLETED FROM MARCH 7, 2001 TO MARCH 13, 2002****PROJECTS**

Area Plan contained 536 projects as of March 7, 2001.

- **39** Additional Projects accepted since that date for a total of **575**.
- **40** Projects completed since March 7, 2001. Total completed Projects – **471**.
- **10** Projects were cancelled in 2001. Total cancelled Projects to date – **60**.
- **44** Active Projects.

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Two new proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work were approved for funding.

First year funding for the **Upper Brazos Geographic Priority Area (GPA)** is set at **\$505,750**.

The **Paint/California Creek GPA** was developed and submitted jointly by **Four Winds Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area** and **Big Country RC&D Area**. Funding of **\$206,191** is available for the first year.

A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive fourth year funding of **\$420,632** bringing the four-year total to **\$1,822,311**.

One (1) proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within a sub-watershed was approved to continue receiving funding for the fifth year.

Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity was funded at **\$139,368** for the fifth year with a total of **\$1,103,413**.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the four Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables. To date, **\$3,637,665** has been obligated to these four (4) Geographic Priority Areas.

The proposals were based on conservation concerns documented at public meetings held by **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)** through their **Locally Led Conservation Initiative**.

Portions of **Borden, Garza, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry Counties** are included in the four **Geographic Priority Areas**.

The **Sandyland Resource Initiative GPA** which was submitted by **Big Country RC&D** was closed out after receiving **\$1,033,750** in funds. Portions of **Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, and Sterling Counties** were included in this Project area.

The funds are available through the **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)** administered by the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**.

BORDEN/SCURRY COUNTIES RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING PROJECT

A second rural well water screening was conducted for **Borden and Scurry Counties**. The screening was held in **Snyder** on November 13-15, 2001.

This screening is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells. Information was also provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the **Texas Agricultural Extension Service** and the **TEX*A*Syst Program**.



There were **101** participants with **148** samples tested for nitrates, salts, and bacteria (including **Fecal & E.Coli**). Information was provided on how to utilize shock chlorination to eliminate **Fecal and E.Coli** bacteria.

The rural well water screening for the two (2) counties was conducted and co-sponsored by **Borden & Scurry County Texas Cooperative Extension Agencies, Upper Colorado SWCD, Borden & Scurry County Commissioners Courts, USDA, NRCS, and Big Country RC&D Area**.

GIFTS IN KIND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Acting as a **Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP)** for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI) Program**, the Area secured **\$1,396,764** in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials at a cost of **\$10,159.95** to the receiving organizations this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.



Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$4,742,032.05** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program. The Area along with Gifts In Kind has donated approximately **\$4.8 million** in donated products.

As a CAP with Gifts In Kind, the Area was able to partner with **Office Depot in Abilene, Texas**, through the Retail Donation Program (RDP). The ongoing yearly project contributed over **\$9,600** in donations for 2001. The donated goods were distributed to organizations serving youth in **Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Taylor Counties**. Donations of office products were made on a monthly basis.

The Area was also able to partner with **Avon** to provide a seventh truckload of personal care items to programs of **People for Progress, Inc. (PPI) in Sweetwater, Texas**.

The Area also provided donated computer software to PPI, Gonzales SWCD, and the Big Country RC&D Area. The Area also provided donated computers, printers, and software to California Creek SWCD, Sweetwater Jaycees, and the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce for technology upgrades.

EPA CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) PROJECT

The **Big Country RC&D Area** was highlighted in the **Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management 2000 Annual Report**.

This joint publication by Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) highlighted the 319(h) Grant Program success stories.

The **Big Country RC&D Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

A **half-million dollars (\$500,000)** in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.



The **Oak Creek and Lake Trammell** reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in **Nolan and Fisher County**. Water

captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

A long-term concern is sedimentation that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Twenty agricultural producers within the project area voluntarily entered into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management Practices are available to those agricultural producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan was provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Local entities supporting submission of the application included the City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL GRANT

The 2001 Texas Farmer Stockman Show held October 11-13, 2001, in Lubbock, Texas, was the site of a living Buffer Strip Demonstration.

The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, were framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration was "Conservation Keeps America Growing." Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife.

Over 35,000 people attended the show. Producers come from all over Texas, the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.



Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

The Area received a \$4,318 grant to conduct this demonstration.

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Public informational meetings were held in Fisher, Jones, Mitchell, and Nolan Counties to determine if there was sufficient interest to consider forming Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) in each county. The local offices of the Texas Cooperative Extension and Big Country RC&D assisted with speaker arrangements and meeting plans.

Steering Committees were formed in each of the Counties to request enabling legislation during the 77th Texas Legislation Session. This legislation calls for a confirmation election to be held in each of the four counties that allows the registered voters to decide whether or not to create a GCD.

The purpose of a GCD is to preserve and protect groundwater resources.

AREA'S GRANT RESEARCH LIBRARY

Big Country RC&D Area Grant Research Library, established in June of 1992, has been updated with the newest version (5.0) of FC Search which is a computer program with a database of the top 57,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. Twenty-one grant searches have been completed this year. The library is available for use by the public.

Dart Cedar to Border

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE GRANT

A \$16,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for administrative assistance to the Area was received.



CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OFFICE SPACE

The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to Consumer Credit Counseling Service (a nonprofit organization).

AREA SPONSORS

Total Sponsors for the area for 2001 were 69. Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, TU Electric & Gas, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

AREA WEB INFORMATION

The Area has updated their website listings for 2001 in both **Idealist** and **GuideStar**.

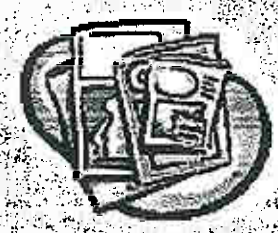
Idealist (Action Without Borders) can be found on the web at www.idealist.org. The Area has been listed at the website since August 12, 1997, and is updated yearly.

GuideStar can be found on the web at www.guidestar.org. The Area has been listed at the website since 1998 and is updated on a regular basis. This listing includes information about who we are, programs/activities, contact information, and financial information including a copy of our 990, etc.



AREA NEWSLETTERS

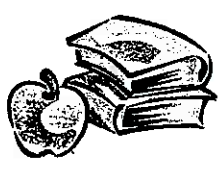
Four quarterly newsletters were printed including projects the Area was involved in and important information for our readers.



AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors continued to meet quarterly in various communities within the Area. The 2001 Meetings were held in **Sweetwater** (Nolan County), **Post** (Garza County), **Jayton** (Kent County), and **Abilene** (Taylor County).

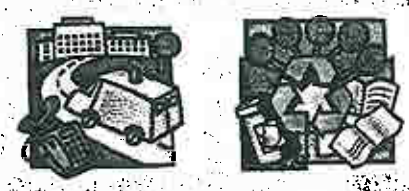
AREA MEMBERSHIPS TO PROMOTE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



To assist in promoting the Area through information and education, the Area is a member of Texas Midwest Community Network, National Association of RC&D Areas, Southwestern States Association of RC&D Areas, Texas Rural Development Council, National Association of Conservation Districts, Texas Association of RC&Ds, and Gifts In Kind International.

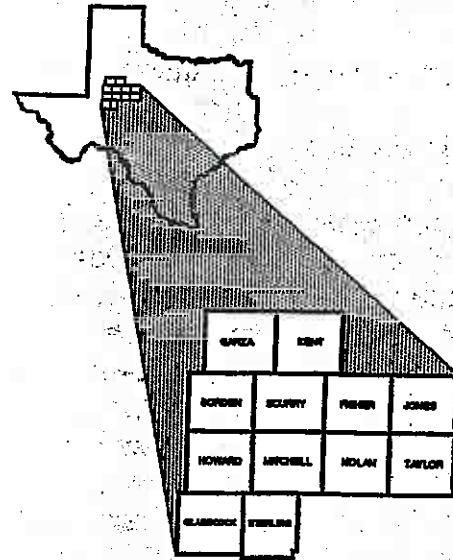
GOALS OF THE BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA:

- A. Establish Job Opportunities
- B. Developing and Maintaining Water Supplies
- C. Developing Sewage and Solid Waste Disposal
- D. Developing Adequate Health Care
- E. Controlling Erosion and Reducing Saline Problems
- F. Developing Rural and Urban Surface Drainage Systems
- G. Developing Wildlife and Recreational Potential
- H. Improve Low Income, Minority, and Senior Housing
- I. Improving Rural Fire Departments



2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Windi Fuller – Mitchell
 Vice President: Judge Robert Browne – Sterling
 Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Becker – Nolan
 Hurston Lemons – Borden
 Robert Posey – Fisher
 B L Thomas – Garza
 Michael Hoch – Glasscock
 Kent Sharp – Howard
 Dave Byerly – Jones
 Judge Tommy Stanaland – Kent
 Sid Hardegree – Scurry
 Charles Hobbs – Taylor



2001 AREA SPONSORS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS

Borden
 Fisher
 Garza
 Glasscock
 Howard
 Jones

Kent
 Mitchell
 Nolan
 Scurry
 Sterling
 Taylor

SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (SWCD)

Andrew Kent
 California Creek
 Garza County
 Glasscock County
 Howard County
 Middle Clear Fork

Mitchell County
 Mustang
 Nolan County
 North Concho
 Upper Clear Fork
 Upper Colorado

COMMUNITIES

City of Anson
 City of Big Spring
 City of Colorado City
 City of Hamlin
 City of Jayton
 Merkel City Council

City of Rotan
 City of Snyder
 City of Stamford
 City of Sweetwater
 Sterling City Council

CHAMBERS of COMMERCE

Anson

Snyder

Sweetwater

AT LARGE

- Abilene Small Business Development Center (Area)
- American State Bank – Snyder
- Anson Independent School District
- Anson Preservation League
- Ben Richey Boy's Ranch – Abilene
- Fisher County Hospital District – Roby/Rotan
- Fund Source Searchers w/ Sweetwater Credit Bureau – Sweetwater
- Glasscock County Underground Water District – Garden City
- Hamlin Economic Development Corporation
- Tom Isbell, Grant Writer - Anson
- Mitchell County Economic Development Board – Colorado City
- Moore Development for Big Spring
- North Runnels Water Supply Corporation – Winters
- North Texas Buckskin Brigade - Hermleigh
- People for Progress, Inc. (PPI) - Sweetwater
- Post Economic Development Corporation
- Roscoe Volunteer Fire Department
- Rotan Economic Development Corporation
- Scurry County Board of Development - Snyder
- Scurry County Museum - Snyder
- Snyder National Bank
- Southeast Elementary School – Sweetwater
- Stamford Community Initiatives
- Sterling County Nursing Home
- Sterling County Senior Citizens Center
- Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) – Abilene (Area)
- TXU Electric & Gas – Snyder
- Wells Fargo Bank – Post
- West Central Texas Council of Governments – Abilene (Area)
- West Texas State Bank – Snyder
- Women's Resource Center - Sweetwater

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.,
a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development
to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic,
and environmental betterment of the region utilizing volunteers, training, education,
and self-sufficiency through self-help programs.

THEME

"Working to Improve West Texas Life"

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., prohibits
discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion,
age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status.

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

119 E Third, Suite 304

PO Box 1114

Sweetwater TX 79556

915/235-4300

FAX 915/236-6625

EMAIL Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov or bcrd@wtconnect.com



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SUMMER - JUNE 2002

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - RC&D Coordinator
DENNISE HOOVER - Newsletter Editor

FARM BILL PERMANENTLY AUTHORIZES RC&D PROGRAM

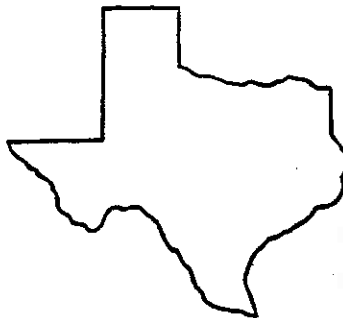
Washington, DC

President Bush Signs Farm Bill

On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Farm Bill that permanently authorizes the RC&D Program. The Farm Bill provides USDA the authority to assist RC&D Councils.

The National Association of RC&D Council (NARC&DC) President, Mr. Cantu noted, "The NARC&DC expresses our thanks to the President and to the Agriculture Committees of the House and Senate for the permanent authorization of our program and for updating our authorizing language."

"Our highest priority was continuation of the RC&D Program," President Cantu stated. The first 10 council areas were authorized in 1964 and the program presently has 368 authorized council areas.



GRAZING RECORDS AND LIVESTOCK REFERENCES NOTEBOOK TO BE PUBLISHED

The Area received **\$3,991.03** in grant funds to reprint 15,000 copies.

The record book—which will fit in a shirt pocket—is designed to help ranchers record grazing use. By analyzing and interpreting data over a period of time, the rancher will be able to evaluate his management practices to make future grazing decisions.

The record book has tables to record pasture name, size, date grazing started and ended, number of head, and type. Also included are tables to record precipitation received and pesticide application records.

References on animal unit values, average forage intake by class of livestock, livestock nutrient requirements, determining body condition, forage use class, and other information is contained in the publication.

The record book is a product of a partnership between USDA/NRCS, The Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Technical Committee, and the 23 Resource Conservation and Development Areas of Texas.

The grant is funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

LIVING BUFFER STRIP FIELD DAYS SCHEDULED October 10, 11, & 12, 2002

The **2002 Texas Farmer Stockman Show** in Lubbock on October 10-12, 2002, includes the Living Buffer Strip as one of the many tours available to the 35,000 people that attend annually.

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The tours include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show.

Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a live planting.

The **Big Country RC&D Area** received a **\$3,946** Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Support of this project in addition to USDA, NRCS includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, the Texas Wildlife Association, Sutton County Underground Water District, & Plateau Underground Water Conservation & Supply District.

WELFARE STATISTICS IN TEXAS

- In Texas, 1 of every 5 children lives in poverty.
- The average welfare family is a single mother with 2 dependent children. These families comprise most of the nation's poor.
- Texas welfare plans pay only \$201/month to a single mother with 2 children.
- By law, welfare recipients can collect just 60 monthly welfare payments during their lifetime.
- The biggest barriers to employment for mothers trying to work themselves off welfare are:
 - * Lack of reliable, affordable child care
 - * Lack of reliable transportation
 - * Low literacy levels
 - * Limited skills
 - * Lack of affordable housing

Republished from: *Nonprofit Resource Center, Abilene TX (Flashpoint)*
Source: *The Women's Center News, Fort Worth TX*

TEXAS BRUSH CONTROL PROJECT FUNDED

The Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) held a meeting of the Board of Directors in April to discuss funding allocations for the \$11 million in cost share funds for the Upper Colorado/Twin Buttes Watershed Brush Control Project & the \$3.2 million cost share funds for the Pedernales Watershed Project.

The top 3 ranked lakes in the Upper Colorado/Twin Buttes Watershed were Twin Buttes Lake, Oak Creek Lake, & Lake Ballinger. The Twin Buttes Watershed was allocated \$6.75 million, Oak Creek Lake Watershed was allocated \$1 million, & Lake Ballinger Watershed was allocated \$.5 million.

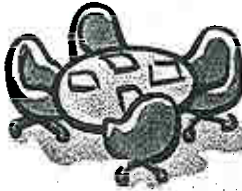
Sign up for these projects is tentatively scheduled to begin mid-July. For more info on the projects & landowner eligibility, contact your local Soil & Water Conservation District.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S JUNE MEETING

The Board of Director's Meeting was held at Martha Ann's Women's Club, June 4, 2002, in Snyder. The meeting was held jointly with the Snyder Lion's Club with 28 present representing RC&D.

Dr. Joe McFarland, President of Texas Association of RC&Ds, gave an update on the activities of the RC&D program in the state of Texas.

Fifteen new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 590 Projects that have been approved.



A&J Enterprise in Hewitt, **Aim for Success** in Plano, and **City National Bank** in Colorado City were approved to become Sponsors of the Area.

Kevin Wright, DC with USDA/NRCS in Snyder, discussed that in conjunction with local SWCD, RC&D, & TSSWCB, a proposal had been submitted through the State Brush Program for 70% funding to aid in controlling Salt Cedar near Lake Thomas.

Ken Becker reported on the Texas Association of RC&D Meeting held in Kerrville on April 22-24, 2002. Becker explained that the meeting was very good and that the hosts did a great job. Becker pointed out that in one of the meetings, he attended a very informational By-laws session.

A status report of the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was explained that the one-year extension had been received until April 30, 2003, & that this would be the maximum amount of time allowed for this project. 47 payment applications have been submitted & there is approximately \$81,000 in cost share monies left to be applied which is mostly brush work & prickly pear spraying.

The Area in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Four Winds & Concho Valley RC&D Areas sponsored an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges & Commissioner's Annual Meeting.

Information on the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Grant was distributed (see page 4).

An update on the Groundwater Districts (GWDs) was given. Lone Wolf GWD (**Mitchell County**) was confirmed through their election in February. Wes-Tex GWD (**Nolan County**) & Clear Fork GWD (**Fisher County**) will have their election during the general election in November. Lower Seymour GWD (**Jones County**) has decided not to pursue a GWD at this time.

Jimmy Apel informed the Board that 2 EQIP Educational Grants for the Area had been received. A \$3991.03 grant was received for the Grazing Records Publication Reprint (see page 1). A \$3946 grant was received for the Buffer Strip Field Days in Lubbock (see page 2).

A handout from Nonprofit Issues was distributed that explained how charities needed to be careful about serving as conduits or pass through organizations. The article explained that the best way to resolve this issue is that the intermediate charity must take full control of the funds and have complete discretionary power over it.

A press release on the RC&D program authorized was given (see page 1).

Apel informed the Board that Wednesday, June 5, 2002, would be **Dennise Hoover's** last day as Big Country RC&D Administrative Assistant. Hoover expressed that she must regretfully leave her position to fulfill her own business needs full time. Hoover thanked the Board for supporting her.

The September Board of Director's Meeting will be held in **Glasscock County**. Details will be mailed out closer to the meeting date.

TX DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LOCAL PROJECT GRANTS

The Texas Department of Health (TDH), Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM), has established the Local Projects Grants (LPG) program. Proposals will be accepted from qualified EMS organizations involved with the provision of emergency pre-hospital care.

Submissions for FY 2003 must be postmarked by midnight **July 12, 2002**. All funds awarded must be spent by August 31, 2003.

The purpose of the LPG program is to support and improve the development of the Texas Emergency Health Care System. The program supplies money and technical assistance to licensed EMS providers providing 911 services to registered First Responder Organizations (FROs) and to other approved EMS organizations.

Projects that are acceptable for funding include: EMS personnel certification training, specialty training related to pre-hospital health management, purchase of EMS equipment, EMS supplies funding prevention projects, continuing education programs, and the purchase of an ambulance.

The maximum LPG program awards are as follows:

- Award total will not exceed \$50,000 per entity
- Award total for purchase of a new ambulance will not exceed \$35,000
- Computer, printer, or computer-related equipment will not exceed \$1500
- Reasonable market value for equipment/training

Matching funds may come from sources such as local funds, private donations, other state grants, federal grants, etc. In-kind matching is not acceptable.

Application is available at:
www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/ems/emshome.htm

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS

Urban Forestry Partnership Grants are designed to start or improve a local urban forestry program or to educate the public about the importance of urban trees. Grant awards range from **\$1000 - \$10,000** and must be matched dollar-for-dollar. *An exception is an application for a new professional staff position, for up to \$20,000.*



Applicants may include any local or state government entity, schools, or nonprofit groups. Projects eligible for funding include staff positions, tree ordinance development, city tree inventories, long-range plans, workshops & other formal training sessions, youth & volunteer tree programs, and the production of public service announcements, brochures, videos, or other educational materials. Funding priority is given to projects that have a long-term impact on the community.

Grants will be awarded in August and successful applicants will have 1 year to complete the project activities, beginning October 1. Grant payments will be made as reimbursement for project expenses following a review of grant and matching costs.

DEADLINE: July 18, 2002

To apply, go to <http://txforestservicetamu.edu>, click on Urban Forestry, click on Challenge Grants.

COMPUTER DONATIONS AVAILABLE

Gateway will be donating 4500 computers to eligible organizations. An application will be posted on Gateway's website until **July 31, 2002**. Only online applications will be accepted. Go to www.gateway.com/olympics/donations.shtml

WALMART ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

Each WalMart store has an allocation of money for environmental grants to nonprofit organizations & schools to support environmental efforts & education in communities where stores are located. Grants are in the **\$2500** range. More than \$1.5 million will be granted nationwide.



Categories include community, children, & education. Grants are available and submitted through the local store.

Deadline: Accepted On-going
Website: www.walmartfoundation.org

NEW GRANT SEARCH FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

The Big Country RC&D Area has updated their Grant Search Request Forms to help make the grant search process more efficient to perform a search using FC Search software.

The new forms may be picked up at the Big Country RC&D office or emailed in Microsoft Excel format to anyone requesting a Grant Search Request Form. The forms may also be returned by email.

To request a form, please call the office (915/235-4300) or send an email to bcrd@wtconnect.com.

**"You can't build a
reputation on what you
intend to do."**

~Liz Smith

**"Reason and judgment
are the qualities
of a leader."**

~Tacitus



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



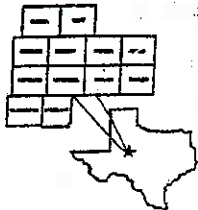
"Choice, Not Chance,
Determines Destiny."
-Unknown

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556

The current Board of Directors
serving the Big Country RC&D
Area, Inc. are:

KEN BECKER	Nolan
ROBERT BROWNE	Sterling
KENT SHARP	Howard
WINDI FULLER	Mitchell
SID HARDEGREE	Scurry
MICHAEL HOCH	Glasscock
CHARLES HOBBS	Taylor
BUCK LEMONS	Borden
SHUG THOMAS	Garza
ROBERT POSEY	Fisher
DAVE BYERLY	Jones
JUDGE STANALAND	Kent

W A Oatman
HCR 74 Box 120
Maryneal TX 79535





NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - SEPTEMBER 2002

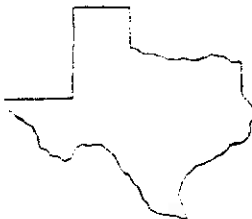
BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

- WINDI FULLER - President*
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President*
- KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer*
- JIMMY APEL - RC&D Coordinator*
- DENNISE HOOVER - Newsletter Editor*

DID YOU KNOW?...

- One out of every 5 Texans owes his job to the agricultural industry.
- Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Texas.
- Texas has more cattle & calves than the entire human population of Florida.
- Texas leads the nation in the number of farms, ranches, & other types of land used for agricultural production.
- Each year, Texas harvests the first bale of cotton, the first fresh peaches, & the first fresh apples in the nation.
- Texas' agribusiness industry is so diverse that 98% of the jobs are not on a farm or ranch.
- The agriculture industry in Texas has an annual value of \$18 billion.
- More than 20 million acres in the state are used for agriculture-related production.



RURAL VFD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Texas Forest Service (TFS) is pleased to announce the early start-up of the new Rural Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) Assistance Program, also known as HB2604. Applications are now being accepted for participation in the program.

The Texas Rural VFD Assistance Program is a cost-share program funded by the Texas State Legislature. It provides funding to rural VFDs for the acquisition of fire fighting vehicles, fire and rescue equipment, protective clothing, county fire radio systems, dry hydrants, computer systems & firefighter training. Approximately \$14 million will be distributed annually under the program.

Any chartered, non-profit VFD operated by its members is eligible. Any part-paid/part-VFD is also eligible provided the number of paid members is 20 or less. Cost share rates range from 75% for rescue and personal protective equipment to 100% for training tuition and dry hydrants.

Complete a TFS Application For Rural Fire Defense Assistance (Form FO-400) and send to: Texas Forest Service, Emergency Services Grants Division, P.O. Box 310, Lufkin TX 75901. Acquire the Application Form at <http://txforestservicetamu.edu/> or contact TFS in Lufkin at 936/639-8100. The Big Country RC&D office also has applications.

Excerpt from the *Windmill Monthly* (August 2002 - 15)

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's Meeting was held at the Glasscock County Community Center, September 10, 2002, in **Garden City**. There were **33** present.

Steve Sturtz, TCE Agent, gave a brief history on how the county citizens worked to fund construction of the Glasscock County Community Center.

Ron Perry, Texas Forest Service (TFS) Regional Fire Coordinator, gave a presentation on programs available through the TFS for Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs). The new Rural VFD Assistance Program, VFD Motor Vehicle Liability Self Insurance Program, and the Fire Safe Program were discussed in detail.



Eight new Project Proposals were reviewed for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work.

Dave Byerly reviewed the Revised Area Plan noting that the Goals originally established when the Area was officially authorized in 1991 still remain viable following input solicited from the Area Sponsors, Agencies, and organizations.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was explained that the one-year extension had been received until April 30, 2003, and that this would be the maximum amount of time allowed for this project. Forty-eight payment applications have been submitted and there is approximately \$72,000 in cost share monies left to be requested which is mostly brush work and prickly pear spraying.

A letter from **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)** stated that during the last year \$1,062,190 in product donations and services were received in the Big Country RC&D service area for a cost of \$3,765 paid in administrative fees by the organizations receiving the donations. The Area pays a

\$100 Annual Fee to act as coordinating agent for the donation program to provide aid to youth, elderly, and the ill. The Area also pays a \$150 GIKI Annual Fee to receive donated goods from Office Depot that are distributed to youth organizations. To date, \$11,145 in donated goods have distributed this year.

An update was given on the Clear Fork, Lone Wolf, & Wes-Tex Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). Lone Wolf GCD is currently developing their Management Plan. Wes-Tex UWCD & Clear Fork UWCD have prepared informational brochures for distribution to the public on the advantages and disadvantages of forming a GCD prior to the confirmation election in November.

Apel informed the Board that the EQIP Educational Grant to reprint and distribute the Grazing Records and Livestock References booklet to NRCS Zone Offices is complete. A Grant of \$3991 was received to fund this Project. The EQIP Grant of \$3948 to conduct the Buffer Strip Field Days in conjunction with the Texas Farmer Stockman Show October 10-12, 2002, in Lubbock is currently on schedule.

Contacts will be made to organizations in the Area to determine if there is sufficient interest to host a Grant Writing Seminar. The possibility of hosting it jointly with Wes-Tex and Four Winds RC&D Areas is being considered.

Presentations by **Dr. Jack DeLoach**, ARS, Blackland, and **Dr. Alan Knutson**, TCE, Renner, were made August 20 & 21, 2002, in Garden City and Lubbock on biological control of invasive species with an emphasis on control of Salt Cedar. They were arranged by the Area after interest was expressed in having educational meetings in West Texas during a Salt Cedar Task Force Meeting.

The December Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2002. More info to follow closer to date. Additional info on page 4.

INTERNET GRAB BAG for GRANT WRITERS

FirstGov

www.firstgov.com

Excellent first stop if you are searching for Federal funds & for supporting data.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

www.cfda.gov

The CFDA is the main directory for federal grants. Website has everything to get started.

Census Bureau Online

www.census.gov

Maps, profiles, statistics, etc.

Federal Register Online

www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html

Announcements of all Federal funding opportunities & deadlines must be listed in the Federal Register.

Grantsmanship Center Online

www.tgci.com/resources/federal/ffed.html

Where the latest announcements and kept and archived.

Federal Commons Project Online

www.cfda.gov/federalcommons/

An Internet grants management portal serving the grantee organization community as part of the federal governments e-government initiative.

USDA EZ/EC Community Toolbox

<http://ocd.usda.gov/nofa.htm>

Good example of a resource built for a particular audience that we can all use! Site generates lists of Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA's) by publication or by deadline, for a specific agency or for all government agencies.

Health & Human Services Grantsnet

www.hhs.gov/grantsnet/roadmap/index.html

Includes directories for other agencies as well as a guide to writing & administering HHS grants.

Nonprofit Gateway

www.nonprofit.gov

This site features a listing of links to federal government resources.

Nonprofit Resource Center of Texas

www2.austin.cc.tx.us/npo

State Grants Team

www.governor.state.tx.us/stategrants/index.html

Use this site to connect to Texas Register, Federal grant links, & to find contact information for the State Grants team.



Hogg Foundation Regional Foundation Library

<http://hogg1.lac.utexas.edu/RFL/Default.html>

For other Foundation Center Cooperating Collections in Texas, see <http://fdncenter.org/collections/cctx.html>

Texas Register Online

<http://lamb.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.html>

Texas Economic Development

www.marketplace.state.tx.us

This site has procurement opportunities & community profiles that are useful when writing grants.

Texas Nonprofit Management Assistance Network

www.texasnetwork.org/index.html

A listing of all the nonprofit resource centers in Texas, publications, & learning opportunities.

Foundation Center

<http://fdncenter.org>

An excellent place to start when you are looking for funding.

Guidestar

www.guidestar.org

Has a comprehensive database of nonprofit organizations. You can review IRS filings.

General Guide to Writing Federal Grants

www.cfda.gov/public/cat-writing.htm

Contains good advice for novices & good reminders for the rest of us!

GRANTS FUNDING WATCH

Leland Fikes Foundation (Texas)

Areas of Interest: Arts & Humanities, Civic & Public Affairs, Education, Environment, Health, International, Religion, Science, Social Services

Deadline: None

Restrictions: Gives primarily in Dallas area; no loans or grants to individuals

Initial Approach: Letter Proposal

Contact: Nancy J Solana, VP
3050 Lincoln Plaza
500 N Akard, Suite 3050
Dallas TX 75201-6696
214/754-0144

Kresge Foundation (Michigan)

Areas of Interest: Arts & Humanities, Civic & Public Affairs, Education, Environment, Health, International, Religion, Science, Social Services

Deadline: None

Restrictions: No support for religious organizations, community colleges, private foundations, or elementary/secondary schools unless they predominantly serve individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities.

Initial Approach: Letter or Telephone Call requesting application

Contact: John E Marshall III, President
P O Box 3151
Troy MI 48007-3151
248/643-9630
www.kresge.org

Potts & Sibley Foundation (Texas)

Areas of Interest: Arts & Humanities, Civic & Public Affairs, Education, Environment, Health, International, Religion, Science, Social Services

Deadline: None

Restrictions: Gives primarily in Texas. No support for private foundations or individuals.

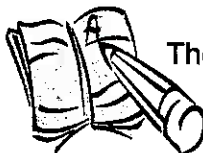
Initial Approach: Application

Contact: Robert W Bechtel, Mgr & Director
P O Box 8907
Midland TX 79708
915/686-8636

TMCN Annual Texas Midwest Conference

The Texas Midwest Community Network (TMCN) will be holding their Annual Texas Midwest Conference on **October 16, 2002**, at the Abilene Civic Center.

Registration begins at 9 AM. Conference ends at 3 PM.



The focus of the Conference is "Growing the Region" and the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Ray Perryman, The Perryman Group, from Waco, Texas.

For more information, please contact:

Nicki Harle
Texas Midwest Community Network
1025 E. North 10th - Abilene, TX 79601
office 915/676-0329 ~ fax 915/627-0652
tmcn@tmcn.org ~ www.tmcn.org

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR

Big Country RC&D along with Wes-Tex and Four Winds RC&D Areas are planning a 2-day grant writing seminar in early January 2003.

If you desire to attend a Grant Writing Seminar to enhance your grant writing ability, let us know your interest by contacting this office at 915/235-4300 or email us at bcrd@wtconnect.com

DECEMBER BOD MEETING UPDATE

Big Country RC&D's Board of Director's Meeting will be held **Tuesday, December 3, 2002**, at 11:30 PM at TSTC~The Center in Sweetwater, Texas.

Meal will be chicken fried steak & all the goodies for \$8.50 per person. **GREAT FOOD!**

GIFTS IN KIND OFFICE DEPOT DONATION

As a Coordinating Agency Partner with Gifts In Kind International, the Big Country RC&D Area has partnered with Office Depot in Abilene, Texas, through the Retail Donation Program.

The ongoing yearly project has contributed \$11,145 in donations to date this year.

These donations are being used by Anson ISD, Ben Richey Boys Ranch, Cooper High School (Abilene), Hamlin ISD, the Abilene Classical Youth Chorus, and Abilene Junior Achievement.

**"The talk you hear about
adapting to change is not only
stupid, it's dangerous.
The only way you can manage
change is to create it."**

~Peter Drucker



THANK YOU OFFICE DEPOT DONATION

Dear Mike Ammons, Office Depot:

Hamlin Independent School District was recently the recipient of a large quantity of office supplies donated by *Office Depot*, and presented through the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. We have found these supplies to be most useful & want to express to you our appreciation for your donation.

Please rest assured that we will inform our teachers and district constituents of your generosity. It appears that almost every item donated will be utilized in the campus offices or classrooms. This, I am happy to report, will provide direct assistance to the instructional process.

I want to express my appreciation to *Office Depot*, as well as Big Country RC&D for the gifts presented. We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness.

Sam Atwood, Hamlin ISD Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

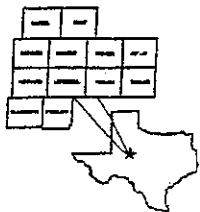
"Life is too short to
drink the house wine."
-Helen Thomas

"It's easy to get a reputation for
wisdom. It's only necessary to live long,
speak little, and do less."
-P D James

**BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556**

The current Board of Directors
serving the Big Country RC&D
Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| KEN BECKER | Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | Sterling |
| KENT SHARP | Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | Taylor |
| BUCK LEMONS | Borden |
| SHUG THOMAS | Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | Jones |
| JUDGE STANALAND | Kent |





NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

WINTER - DECEMBER 2002

BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA ~ P O BOX 1114 ~ SWEETWATER TX 79556 ~ 915/235-4300 ~ Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov

Serving You:

- WINDI FULLER - President*
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President*
- KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer*
- JIMMY APEL - RC&D Coordinator*
- DENNISE HOOVER - Newsletter Editor*

Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

This provided an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a live planting.

The **Big Country RC&D Area** received a **\$3,946** Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

EQIP EDUCATION GRANT ~ Completed ~

The **2002 Texas Farmer Stockman Show** in Lubbock on October 10-12, 2002, included the Living Buffer Strip as one of the many tours available to the 35,000 people that attend annually.

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, coordinated the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The tours included an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway is along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, NRCS includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, the Texas Wildlife Association, Sutton County Underground Water District, & Plateau Underground Water Conservation & Supply District.



**"Responsible, who wants to be responsible?
Whenever something bad happens, it's always, who's responsible for this?"**
~ Jerry Seinfeld

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DECEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's Meeting was held at TSTC The Center, December 3, 2002, in Sweetwater. There were 35 present.

Michael Reeser, Vice President of Texas State Technical College (TSTC), stated that TSTC was an agency of the State of Texas that offered 75 varying Associate Degrees & Certificate Programs addressing technical workforce needs.

Two new Project Proposals were reviewed for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work.

A status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project was given to the Board. It was noted that the project would expire April 30, 2003. Final Status Reviews were conducted on the remaining 12 active Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP)

A Thank You letter from Hamlin ISD for the supplies received through the Gifts In Kind International Office Depot Retail Donation Program was reviewed.

An update was given on the Clear Fork & Wes-Tex Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). They were confirmed in the general election. The maintenance tax for Wes-Tex was not approved. An error on the ballot for Clear Fork resulted in a tax rate of 15/100ths of a cent being passed rather than 1.5 cents.

The EQIP Grant of \$3948 to conduct the Buffer Strip Field Days in conjunction with the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, October 10-12, 2002, in Lubbock is complete. (See story on page 1)

The progress for FY 2002 by Big Country RC&D was reviewed.

It was noted that Larry Butler is the new Texas State Conservationist for NRCS, Claude Ross is the new State RC&D

Program Liaison, & Cindy Poole will assume duties as the Coordinator for Wes-Tex RC&D in January.

The Area's revised Area Plan has been approved by the State Conservationist & forwarded to Washington, DC.

A Grant Writing Workshop co-sponsored by Four Winds, Wes-Tex, & Big Country RC&D Area will be held in Spur, Texas, January 22 & 23, 2003. The presenter will be Al Cogburn & the cost will be \$100 per person. (See page 3 for more information)

Information on the Texas Mezzanine Fund, a new source of loan funds for underserved communities, was discussed.

A copy of the support letter requested by the City of Sterling City for their application for the Safe Routes to School grant was presented.

The National Association of RC&D Councils Conference will be held July 20-23, 2003, in San Antonio, Texas. Estimated cost for each Director to attend the Conference is \$1029. (See story below)

The March Board of Director's Meeting & Annual Sponsors' Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2003. More info to follow closer to date.

NARC&D CONFERENCE

The National Association of RC&D (NARC&D) Councils will meet in San Antonio at the Gonzalez Convention Center on July 20-23, 2003. Several thousand reps from RC&D Councils throughout America are expected in San Antonio for the "Bigger Than Texas" Annual Conference. Events will include exhibits, keynote speakers, training sessions, area tours, & a rodeo.

The NARC&D Conference is open to all RC&D members & supporters. Anyone interested in additional info may contact their local RC&D office or on the web at www.narcdconference.org

GRANT PROPOSAL WORKSHOP

A Grant Writing Workshop will be held on January 22-23, 2003, in Spur, Texas. The workshop is co-sponsored by Four Winds, Big Country, & Wes-Tex RC&D Areas.

The instructor for the course is Al Cogburn. A 29-year veteran in public education, including 24 years of administration. Al has written & managed 4-7 federal block grants per year for amounts ranging from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. Since 1990, he has written 43 successful competitive federal, state, & foundation applications totaling more than \$17,000,000.



Participants will receive:

- A manual of course information to use as a resource guide
- 2 days of professional grant writing & administration instruction
- An opportunity to bond with other grant seekers for support & assistance

Course Outline:

- Grant Writing Simplified
- Grant Writing Basics
- Developing the Grant Writing Team
- Analysis of Critical Data (RFA/RFP/Subject Specific Demographics)
- Researching Potential Resources of Funding
- Grant Law, Funding Principles & Criteria
- Positioning Yourself to Win
- Analysis of Recent Application Formats
- Planning the Application
- Writing, Editing & Submitting the Application
- Grant Management
- Grant Evaluation & Required Reporting
- Subsequent & Additional Grant Development
- Review of 2 Funded Projects
- Application of Skills

Pre-registration is \$100 per person & \$115 after January 15th. The workshop is limited to the first 25 registered. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Big Country RC&D at 915/235-4300.

PPI TRUCKLOAD DONATIONS

People for Progress, Inc., (PPI) headquartered in Sweetwater, Texas, has received eight semi-trailer truckload donations through the Gifts In Kind International organization and Big Country RC&D. The total value of the eight truckloads is \$4,315,824.

Personal care products, clothing, and educational materials were donated by Avon Products, Inc., and office furnishings were donated by 3M Office Products, Inc., to People for Progress for distribution in their nineteen county service area.

These donations are used by PPI to support their programs and assist their needy and/or indigent clients. The programs these products provide to are: Child Care Management Services (CCMS); Adult Basic Education; Adult Day Care & Health Services; Women, Infants, Children (WIC); Develop Me Day Care; New Discoveries Day Care; Clothing Room; Housing; Head Start; Homeless Shelter Program; Senior Nutrition Program; STAGE Transportation Program. These programs serve more than 24,000 individuals in the nineteen county area of West Texas.



This program has worked out so well for PPI that they are currently on the waiting list for another truckload donation through gifts In Kind & Avon. Expected delivery is right before the Christmas holidays. "The diversity and abundance of the donations help provide many benefits to our programs," stated Gladys Gerst, PPI Director.

Big Country RC&D, acting as the Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for Gifts In Kind International arranged the donations. The Area has secured over \$4,774,598 in computer software, equipment, & products for receiving nonprofit organizations at a cost of \$32,928 for a savings of over \$4,741,670 in the past ten year.

NEW WILDLIFE CONSERVATION GRANT

Building on the success of a grant program started last year with money from horned lizard license plate sales, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is expanding its wildlife diversity & rare species grant program, to be known from now on as the Conservation Action Grant Program.

In 2003, the agency will make available up to \$700,000 in grant funds for projects that benefit rare species and other wildlife species in need of conservation. Priority will be given to those species and associated ecosystems with the greatest needs.

Grant applications are due by 5 PM, 1/13/03. Any public or private organizations, including government organizations, with relevant projects may apply (Individual landowners seeking financial assistance for similar needs should ask about TPWD's Landowner Incentive Program). Grants will be awarded in February.

Funding for the new grant program is coming partly from the State Wildlife Grants, a federal funding source started in 2001 and administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. These dollars are awarded to state wildlife agencies "for the conservation of wildlife species of greatest conservation need." The intent is to focus on species that are rare or seriously declining to try to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered.

The other funding source is the horned lizard automobile license plate. Begun in 1999, the plate has generated more than \$600,000 in gross revenue since inception. The plate raises money to conserve Texas non-game species & habitat, including habitat enhancement, interpretation, & applied research.

Past grants have ranged from \$10,000-\$35,000 per project. But with additional funding this year, there is no funding limit, and larger requests will be considered.

The grants require a 50/50 match, meaning that applicants must pay half the cost of the project. An outside advisory committee will review grant applications & make recommendations to TPWD, which will make the final project approval decisions.

Grant applications must address 1 or more of 3 topical categories:

- Improve habitat for non-game species in special need of conservation
- Encourage wildlife education directly related to improving conservation
- Conduct applied research

For complete eligibility requirements and grant applications, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/grants/conservation/ or call the TPWD Wildlife Diversity program office at 512/912-7011.

TDA Accepting Nominations for Rural Heroism Award

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that the Texas Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for TDA's 2002 Rural Heroism Award.

Candidates must have performed a heroic, lifesaving act within Texas during 2002. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching and occur in a rural area. Automobile accidents or accidents caused by negligence will not be considered.

Nominations should include a written account of the incident and the names, addresses, & phone numbers of everyone involved. If available, newspaper clippings and photographs should accompany all nominations.

Nominations must be postmarked by 2/1/03 and mailed to Lola Lemmon, TDA Safety Coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture, PO Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711. For additional information on qualifications, contact Lemmon at 512/475-1611.

FREE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHES ON INTERNET

Spend just a few minutes & create a FastWeb profile. When you're finished, you will be instantly matched with scholarships, grants, loans, & fellowships for a database of over 400,000 scholarships.

You also get up-to-the minute financial aid information, application suggestions, preformatted application letters, & much, much more!

Over 20,000 students, parents, & educators access FastWeb daily, making it the popular site of its kind.

Go to www.fastweb.com
It takes just a few minutes & best of all ~
IT'S FREE!

"It isn't life that weighs us down~ it's the way we carry it."

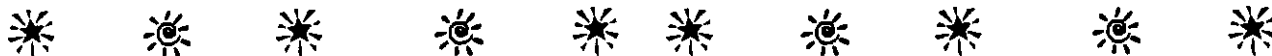
~Elizabeth Potier



BEST SOURCES FOR STATE GRANTS

The best source for information on state grants is the state agency that is issuing the grant. Some of those agencies are listed below:

- Texas Commission on Alcohol/Drug Abuse*
www.tcada.state.tx.us/providernews/
- Texas Department of Transportation*
www.txdot.state.tx.us/trafficsafety/grants/grants.htm
- Texas Department of Health*
www.tdh.state.tx.us/funds.htm
- Texas Department of Health Funding Information Center*
www.crhi.state.tx.us
- Office of Rural and Community Affairs*
www.orca.state.tx.us
- TX Health & Human Services Commission*
www.hhsc.state.tx.us
- Texas Dept of Housing & Community Affairs*
www.tdhca.state.tx.us
- Texas Commission on Fire Protection*
www.tcfp.state.tx.us



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

"Anybody who's really successful has doubts."
-Jerry Bruckheimer

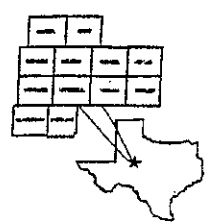
"The problem with people who have no vices is that they're pretty sure to have some annoying virtues."
-Elizabeth Taylor



BIG COUNTRY RC&D AREA
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| KEN BECKER | Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | Sterling |
| KENT SHARP | Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | Taylor |
| BUCK LEMONS | Borden |
| SHUG THOMAS | Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | Fisher |
| VACANT | Jones |
| JUDGE STANALAND | Kent |



Sweetwater Report

©cnhi 1999

Dedicated to d

Volume 101 - Number 133

Friday, February 12, 1999

1 Section 10 Page

Community Briefs

Public hearing on possible grant to be held on Friday

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12. The public hearing will be held to solicit comments regarding a possible \$250,000 community development grant for replacement of aging and overloaded water lines in Sweetwater.

If approved, the federal funds would be administered by the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs.

An account set up for Acosta family at Texas Nat'l Bank

Belen and Armondo Acosta lost their home Wednesday, Feb. 10 due to a fire. The family has set up a Trust Fund at Texas National Bank. The number is 527033. All help is greatly needed and appreciated.

Special meal Friday



Water quality project to begin soon

Holding one of the signs to be installed when a \$380,000 water quality project begins at Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell are (from left): Ralph Stirl, chairman of the Nolan County Soil & Water Conservation District; David Counts, state representative for District 70; and Ken Becker, one of the directors of the Big Country RC&I Area. Note the "water-thirsty" mesquite and brush in the background.

Photo by Dan Roper

Funding is approved for watershed repair at water supply lakes

Result of project should be more and cleaner water supply

By **DON ROGERS**

The quality of the water that area residents use from Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell will soon be improved, thanks to funding that is being made available by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

A total of \$380,000 has been allotted by the EPA to be used to address water quality concerns of the more than 30,000 people who are dependent on surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The project will involve the removal of mesquite and brush from the watersheds surrounding the two lakes and replanting grass in those areas.

"This should vastly improve the quality of the

runoff as well as providing more water in the lakes." David Counts, state representative for District 70 of Texas, said last night. "Most people do not realize just how much water mesquite trees and brush use until experts and specialists inform them. A full-grown mesquite tree uses one-half acre-feet of water (20,000 gallons) per year. The removal of all mesquite from the watersheds should save a lot of water."

Counts said this is the first project of its kind in the state. "I am excited about seeing this get done," Counts said.

Jimmy Apel, head of the Big Country RC&D, said he too was excited about the project.

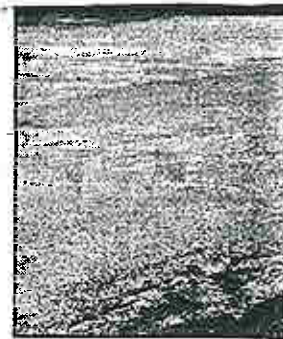
"Not only will there be more runoff water available after the removal of the mesquite and brush, but the

new and better grasses will make the water that runs into the lake cleaner," Apel said. He also said that the new grasses should do a better job of preventing soil from washing into the lakes.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the funds.

Local entities which supported the funding application include: the City of Sweetwater, the Nolan County Commissioners Court, the Nolan County Extension Program Council, the Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

This project is expected to begin soon.



Street p

Roscoe Public Worl
sides of the issue as
allow giant cotton n
field. Watts and City
in the middle of a c
local industry, und
avoid taking a "deac

Candi for Ma begins

By **OTIS FRANCIS**

Candidates for a nu
area elections may be
Monday.

By now the four
County school boar
county cities and th
County Hospital Distr
officially declared the
elections, or soon will.
they must begin ac
candidate filings by 1

Local basketball official chosen for st

By **RON HOWELL**

Texas high school basketball players aren't the only ones who have to be at the top of their game to qualify for the state tournament held each year at the University of Texas' Erwin Center in Austin.

The officials do, too.

And Jose Villafranca of Sweetwater has made the final 15-man cut for this year's boys tournament, which is scheduled for March 11-13.

Villafranca said he has been going to the state tournament as a spectator for the past 12

Interscholastic League, which is the state's governing body for athletics, receive a three-year term. That means Villafranca will be returning to Austin to call tournament games in 2000 and 2001.

Villafranca, who has refereed basketball games for 16 years, learned on Jan. 23 he had been chosen for the honor.

"It was a total surprise to me," he said. "I knew I'd been working pretty hard (to be chosen). But I didn't expect it. It's the Super Bowl of high school officiating."

tournament are roughly 1 in 333.

Actually, the odds are smaller than that. According to Villafranca, a referee has to have worked in a regional tournament before he or she can be chosen to call at a state



tournament. Villafranca called games at regional tournaments from Class A five of the past six years.

"You have got to call als at one time or ar be considered," he sai are really more intens. It's a more relaxed atr at the state tourname.

Villafranca may be referee at the tournar lives west of the Me. The vast majority of cials are from the stat populous areas: Dal Worth, Houston, San and Austin, he said.

7079
0E1Z
2130
TO LEAVE A NEWS TIP
LOCAL WEATHER

Area

Area Digest

Commissioners discuss jail overcrowding

BROWNWOOD — Brown County Sheriff Glen Smith has just 17 days left to respond to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards about overcrowding in the county jail.

The capacity of the jail is 60, but it currently holds 72 prisoners. TCJS cited the jail for having too many inmates in January. The state officials have told Smith that prisoners may have to be transferred to other facilities, which could cost the county about \$40 per day per prisoner.

Smith asked county commissioners Tuesday to help him with a response to the agency.

Commissioners and the city council have been negotiating for months on a plan to build a joint law enforcement center.

Smith suggested that if the city and county can not agree on the facility, maybe it's time for the county to act alone. Commissioners said they would consider that possibility.

Students suspected in school fires

BROWNWOOD — Students are suspected of setting two fires that caused at least \$6,000 in damage at Brownwood High School, said Principal Bruce Davis.

Both fires were discovered about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in separate bathrooms. One fire was in a toilet paper dispenser and the other was in a trash can.

The city and the school district are offering a \$250 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

Comanche commissioners enact burn ban

COMANCHE — Comanche County commissioners have enacted a restrictive burn ban that still allows controlled burns under certain conditions.

Persons wishing to burn must call their local fire department and the 911 dispatch office in Comanche first. If there is no rain soon, a full burn ban may be issued, commissioners said.

Erath County grand jury indicts nine

STEPHENVILLE — An Erath County grand jury indicted nine people Tuesday on felony charges ranging from aggravated sexual assault to theft.

Russell Lee Hadley, 42, is accused of sexually assaulting a girl younger than 3.

Leesa Marie Parrack, 18, was indicted on a charge of injury to a child. She is accused of hitting and kicking a 13-year-old girl.

Richard Wayne Dunn, 44, was indicted on two charges of unlawful possession of a firearm. On one of the occasions, Dunn was arrested for violating a protective order when he went to his former wife's busi-

ness and created a disturbance.

Santa Anna band director resigns

SANTAANNA — Santa Anna school trustees accepted the resignation of band director David Powell and called a school election for May 8.

Teams of Roddy Dean and Billie Gay Abernathy expire this year.

The board granted one-year contract extensions to elementary principal Debbie Bacon, business manager Judy Hartman, counselor Montie Guthrie and technology coordinator Mike Wetsel.

Superintendent Lee Coffman informed the board that the elementary school had received exemplary status on the TAAS reading and math tests.

City council awards contract

STEPHENVILLE — The Stephenville City Council awarded a \$2.1 million contract to Gilco Contracting Inc. for paving, drainage and utility improvements on Wolfe Nursery Road and West Frey St.

The 6-2 vote came after a local contractor, Jay Mills, asked the council to reject the recommendation of the planning and development committee and reconsider building concrete streets. Councilors declined.

In other business, the council hired Welspec Company to rehabilitate the Taylor-Brown water well and waived landfill fees for Tarleton State University's Big Event, a student-sponsored project to provide cleanup services to local residents.

EPA approves Nolan Count water project

SWEETWATER — The quality of water that area residents receive from Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell should be improved later this year, thanks to approval of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding for a new state program.

The EPA recently allotted \$380,000 to address the water quality concerns of more than 30,000 people who depend on surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell for their potable water.

Mesquite and brush from the watersheds surrounding the two lakes will be removed and grass replanted in those areas, said state Rep. David Counts.

The program is the first of its kind in the state, he added.

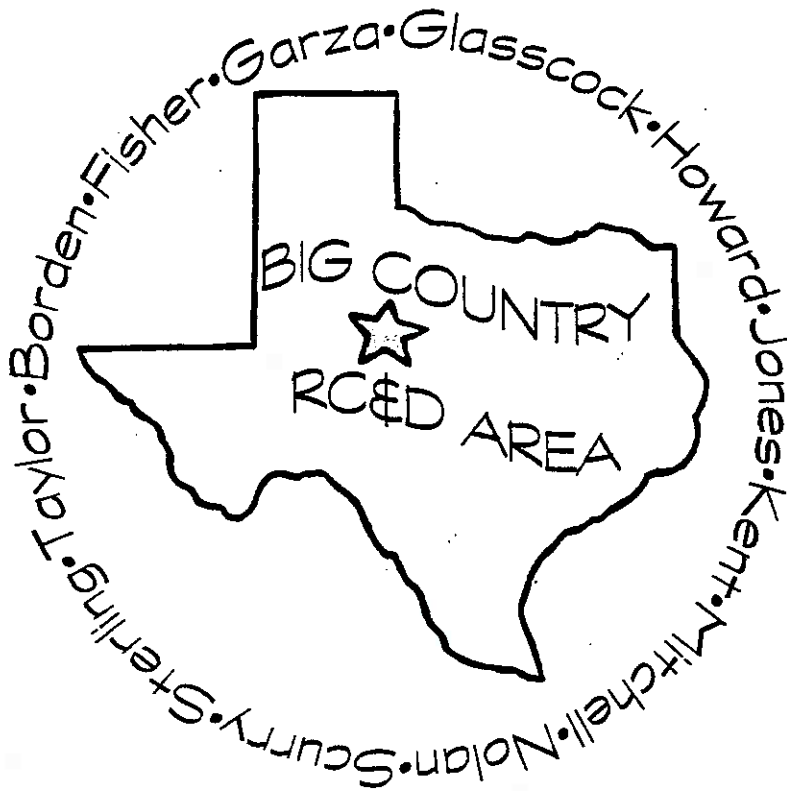
Jimmy Apel, head of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, said the new and better grasses will prevent soil from washing into the lakes, making the water cleaner.

The Big Country RC&D and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the EPA funds.

We deliver! Call 673-4284 today!
Abilene Reporter-News

BIG COUNTRY

**RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
AREA, INC.**



1998 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and friends of the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.:

Welcome to the 1999 Annual Sponsors' Conference. This has been another productive year as shown by the activities highlighted in this Annual Report.

Building on past accomplishments, the Area continued the Rural Leadership Program; developed Projects to address natural resources concerns; and coordinated donations of computers, software, healthcare products, and educational materials to municipalities and nonprofit organizations such as fire and emergency medical services, churches, schools, and soil and water conservation districts.

Each year the Board of Director's reviews and updates their three-year Plan of Work to focus on the Area's Goals that were decided following input from the residents within the Area.

It has been a privilege to serve as your President for the past year. I enjoy working in an organization that is led by decisions made at the local level.

Sincerely,



Judge Robert Browne, President
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.

BIG COUNTRY RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.**ACTIVITIES COMPLETED FROM MARCH 3, 1998 TO MARCH 3, 1999**

1. Area Plan contained 424 projects as of March 3, 1998.
 - A. 42 Additional Projects accepted since that date for a total of 466.
 - B. 34 Projects completed since March 3, 1998. Total completed Projects – 357.
 - C. No Projects were cancelled in 1998. Total cancelled Projects to date – 42.
 - D. 67 Active Projects.
2. A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation that serves rural customers in Nolan and Fisher County. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

A long-term concern is sedimentation that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Agricultural producers within the project area can voluntarily enter into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management Practices will be available to those agricultural producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Local entities supporting submission of the application include the City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

- 3. Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)** Program, the Area secured \$1,194,695.95 in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials for \$2,418.33 this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.

Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of \$1,565,502.03 to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

- 4. A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive first year funding of \$100,000 with the possibility of obligating \$1,875,000 over a five year period.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were approved to continue receiving funding.

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at \$107,856 for the second year with the possibility of obligating \$4,150,330 over a five-year period. **Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity** was funded at \$96,480 for the second year with a possible five-year funding of \$2,491,855.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the two Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables.

The proposals were based on conservation concerns documented at public meetings held by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) through their Locally Led Conservation Initiative.

Of the 15 counties located within the two Priority Areas, portions of Borden, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties are covered.

The funds are available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- 5. Each year over 35,000 people attend the **Texas Farmer-Stockman Show** held during October in Lubbock, Texas.

To promote the benefits of buffer strips, an actual planting was done on the Farmer-Stockman Show grounds.

Visitors to the exhibit tent were able to see live plants of Illinois Bundleflower, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Maximillian Sunflower, Sideoats Grama, Big Bluestem, and Eastern Gammagrass planted in a mixture.

A walkway through the center of the planting allowed visitors to easily view the growing plants.

The theme of the demonstration was "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land." Framed aerial photographs of established Buffer Strips in Texas lined the walls of the tent to give the visitors a better understanding of the placement of Buffer Strips on a ranch or farm.

The Big Country RC&D Area received a USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program education grant of \$4,500 to help fund the demonstration.

Melony Sikes, Program manager for the Natural Resources Conservation Services, served as Project Leader for the demonstration.

To complete the project, Sikes enlisted help from a number of organizations. Donated and in-kind assistance was provided by the Texas Farmer-Stockman Show, City of Lubbock Farms, Netafim—Jerry Funk, Bamert Seed Company, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- 6. Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area joined together to successfully request from the **Office of the Texas Attorney General**, 96 computers for organizations in their 25-county service area.

Twenty-five nonprofit organizations and legal subdivisions of the state within the Big Country RC&D Area will benefit from the 38 computers and monitors donated by the Texas Office of Attorney General.

A grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service paid for transporting the computers from Austin.

- 7. The Big Country and Four Winds RC&D Areas, Kent County Extension Office, and TU Electric are jointly coordinating the **Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program for Kent and Stonewall Counties**.

Based on the curriculum developed by the Texas Rural Leadership consortium, seventeen individuals from the two counties are participating in a nine-month leadership development program.

- 8. The Area acting as Fiscal Sponsor for "**Operation Helping Hands**" has received a \$5000 grant from Winn-Dixie, Inc., and a \$1000 grant from K-Mart Corporation.

66

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and teaching staff of Southeast Elementary School in Sweetwater plan to construct a playground for use by the students and surrounding community neighbors.

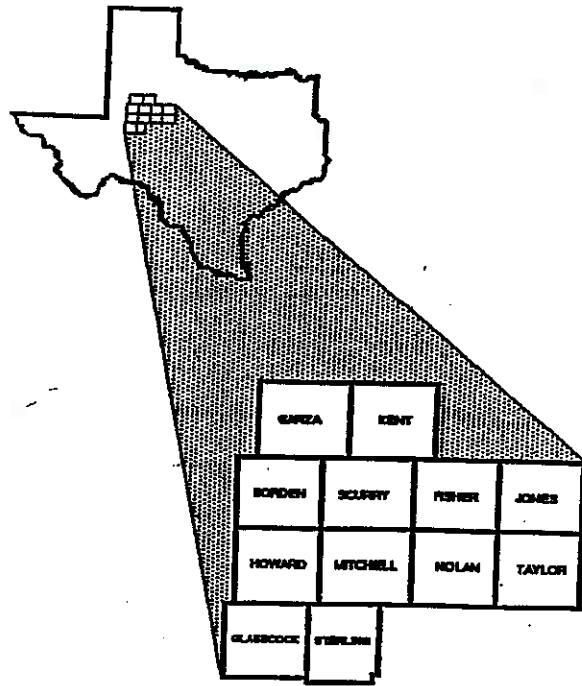
The PTO has conducted fund raising efforts that generated over \$23,000 towards the project.

The playground is scheduled to be constructed by parents and other volunteers from the community in March 1999, utilizing pre-cut and ready to assemble equipment.

9. **Big Country RC&D Area Grant Research Library**, established in June of 1992, has been updated with the addition of FC Search which is a computer program with a database of the top 47,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. Fourteen grant searches have been completed this year. The library is available for use by the public.
10. A \$6,000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for **administrative assistance** to the Area has been approved.
11. The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service** (a nonprofit organization).
12. Sponsors increased by 8 for a total of 79. Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, TU Electric, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.
13. Four quarterly newsletters were printed.
14. The Board of Directors continued to meet quarterly in various communities within the Area.
15. To assist in promoting the Area through information and education, the Area is a member of Texas Midwest Community Network, National Association of RC&D Areas, Southwest Association of RC&D Areas, Southwest Public Recycling Association, Texas Rural Development Council, and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Judge Robert Browne – Sterling
 Vice President: Wanda Mitchell – Garza
 Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Becker – Nolan
 Hurston Lemons – Borden
 Robert Posey – Fisher
 Michael Hoch – Glasscock
 Gary Fuqua – Howard
 Jim Bob Haley – Jones
 Tommy D. Wilson – Kent
 Windi Fuller – Mitchell
 Sid Hardegree – Scurry
 Charles Hobbs – Taylor



SPONSORS

County Commissioners Courts

Borden
 Fisher
 Garza
 Glasscock
 Howard
 Jones

Kent
 Mitchell
 Nolan
 Scurry
 Sterling
 Taylor

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Andrew Kent
 California Creek
 Garza County
 Glasscock County
 Howard County
 Middle Clear Fork

Mitchell County
 Mustang
 Nolan County
 North Concho
 Upper Clear Fork
 Upper Colorado

Communities

City of Anson
 City of Big Spring
 City of Colorado City
 City of Hamlin
 City of Jayton
 Merkel City Council

City of Rotan
 City of Snyder
 City of Stamford
 City of Sweetwater
 Sterling City Council

Chambers of Commerce

Anson

Snyder

Sweetwater

Colorado City Area
Post Commerce & Tourism Bureau

At Large

Abilene Small Business Development Center
American State Bank – Snyder
Anson Independent School District
Anson Library Association
Ben Richey Boy's Ranch – Abilene
Claude A. Day – Rotan
First Presbyterian Church – Sweetwater
First United Methodist Church Preschool – Sterling City
Fisher County Hospital District
Frontier Neighbor's Clinic – Rowena
Fund Source Searchers – Sweetwater
Glasscock County Lions Community & Historical Foundation
Glasscock County Underground Water District
Grandfalls-Royalty ISD
Hamlin Economic Development Corporation
Hawley Community Development Association
Highland Heights United Methodist Church – Sweetwater
Historical Rath Trail Association
Kent County Economic Development Corporation
Merkel Economic Development Corporation
Mitchell County Economic Development Board
Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc.
North Runnels Water Supply Corporation – Winters
Norwest Bank Texas – Post
People for Progress, Inc. (PPI) - Sweetwater
Post Economic Development Corporation
Robinson Independent School District – Waco
Rotan Economic Development Corporation
Rotan VFD/Ladies Auxiliary
Safety Services & Training – Abilene
Scurry County Board of Development
Scurry County Museum
Snyder National Bank
Southeast Elementary School – Sweetwater
St. Ann's Catholic Church – Colorado City
Sterling County Senior Citizens Center
TU Electric – Snyder
West Central Texas Council of Governments
West Texas State Bank – Snyder

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.,
a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development
to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic,
and environmental betterment of the region utilizing volunteers, training, education,
and self-sufficiency through self-help programs.

THEME

“Working to Improve West Texas Life”

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., prohibits discrimination in
all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political
beliefs, and marital or family status.

Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
119 E Third, Suite 304
P.O. Box 1114
Sweetwater, TX 79556
915-235-4300
fax 915-236-6625
email japel@tx.nrcs.usda.gov

ANNUAL SPONSOR'S CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET



Annual Sponsor's & Board of Directors Meeting
Sweetwater, TX - March 3, 1999

Name	Organization	City
Danny Lambert		
Windi Fuller		
Bob Kelly		
Steve Skrode		
Budd L. Watson		
Jim Lambrough		
Walter		
Wendy Lundgren		
Raymond Strick		
A.J. Henson		
Rick Rhoder		
Alan Watt		
Michael Beck		
Peter Island		
Bryan Gomez		
Carol		
Paul W. Smith		
Nancy Smith		
Charlie Morris		
Sean Australia		
John Boyd		
Dwan Gaddard		
Ray S. Howell		
Gordy Shelby		

ANNUAL SPONSOR'S CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET



Annual Sponsor's & Board of Directors Meeting
Sweetwater, TX - March 3, 1999

Name	Organization	City
Bill [unclear]		
Don [unclear]		
Marla [unclear]		
John McKelvy		
Charles [unclear]		
Harold Sanders		
EDDY SPUGN		
Kenny [unclear]		
Leigh Colson		
Dennis [unclear]		
Melonyll [unclear]		
Kandi [unclear]		
Robert Pasco		
marcial Reemer		
Charles "		
Tom Mann		
Larry Sanders		
MIKE CLIFTON		
Lizzie [unclear]		
[unclear]		
Billy & Haley		
DENNIS GWINN		
Don Rogers		
Bob WADDELL		
Ruth [unclear]		

ANNUAL SPONSOR'S CONFERENCE SIGN IN SHEET



Annual Sponsor's & Board of Directors Meeting
Sweetwater, TX - March 3, 1999

Name	Organization	City
Dennise Hoover		
Jimmy Apel		
Jon Weddle		
Mike Black		
Tracey Eguera		
Lynnda Apel		
Ja Ben		
Brenda Handler		
Mark Parings		
Robert Brown		
Earl Kuyper		
Jody Gregsley		
Jan Cash		
Charles Hobbs		
Amber Haley		
Donna Truen		
Candice Barboza		
Mary Collier		
Dee Howell		
Sara Wilkware		
Terri Wynne		
Hunter Lemons		
Anne Roberts		
Stephanie Baker	JSD - Sweetwater	Sweetwater

Sweetwater Reporter

March 1999

Dedicated to delivering local news

Volume 101 - Number 150

Thursday, March 4, 1999

1 Section 10 Pages

Daily 50¢

S

Community Briefs

Meeting for parents of current juniors
Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

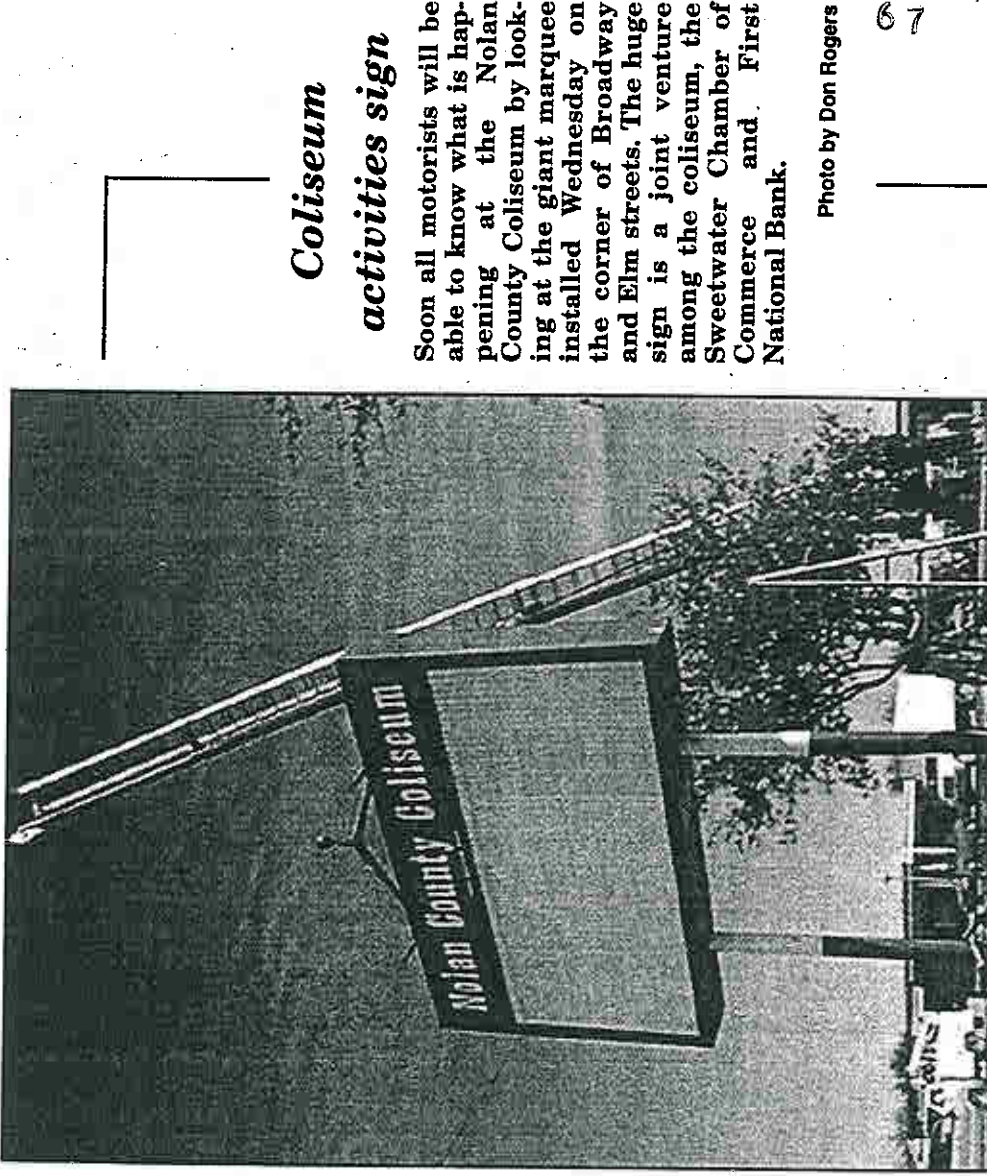
The SHS auditorium will be pre-

pared by the SHS Learning Department for planning a senior year, college scholarships, and financial aid.

A meeting that is most helpful to parents in planning for the year ahead.

Land Heights
Artist to hold
on March 5, 6

Land Heights



Coliseum

activities sign

Soon all motorists will be able to know what is happening at the Nolan County Coliseum by looking at the giant marquee installed Wednesday on the corner of Broadway and Elm streets. The huge sign is a joint venture among the coliseum, the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce and First National Bank.

Photo by Don Rogers

Bond set Worth fug

Two bonds of \$100,000 each

By DON KING

Twenty-three-year-old Jimmy Wayne Miller remains in the Nolan County jail after being arraigned on charges connected to a weekend crime spree that started in Tarrant County last Friday and ended two days later in Sweetwater.

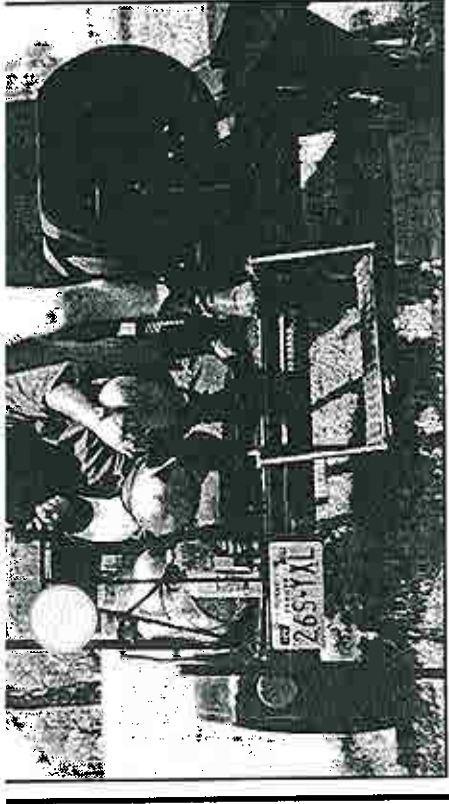
Miller was taken into custody early Sunday after struggling with police who were compelled to shoot him in the leg after he attempted to take an officer's revolver.

Because of the leg injury, Miller was arraigned in his jail cell by Nolan County Judge Tim Fambrough who set bond at \$100,000 on each of two charges.

Miller is being held in Ft. Worth. He is being held in the Nolan County Jail after being arraigned on charges connected to a weekend crime spree that started in Tarrant County last Friday and ended two days later in Sweetwater. Miller was taken into custody early Sunday after struggling with police who were compelled to shoot him in the leg after he attempted to take an officer's revolver. Because of the leg injury, Miller was arraigned in his jail cell by Nolan County Judge Tim Fambrough who set bond at \$100,000 on each of two charges.

with Hoss (the pit). This group's an' are a must-see at th lattlesnake Round-Up, and their food's not too shabby either. The inset shows just a few of their prizes from previous Round-Ups and other cook-offs.

Courtesy photos



graduating seniors. He received a Certificate of Merit from the program for his accomplishment.

Only about one-half of the students named finalists will receive a Merit Scholarship Award. The process of selected those who will receive the awards is now underway.

Musgrove will learn whether he has been selected as an award winner by late

See **Musgrove** on Page 2

Alex Musgrove, a senior at Sweetwater School, has been named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Named a semi-finalist in the program in Sept. 1998, he received official notice from National Merit Scholarship headquarters in Evanston, Ill. on Feb. 8, that he had been chosen as a finalist. This places him among the top one percent of all U.S. high school

Big Country RC&D luncheon meeting draws capacity crowd

By DON ROGERS

The Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. did its usual outstanding job of hosting the annual RC&D Sponsors lun-

cheon/conference Wednesday. Held at Allens banquet hall on Broadway, a capacity crowd was present to enjoy the wonderful food and hear guest speaker Brenda

Hansler, field representative for the John Ben Sheppard Public Leadership Institute, speak.

Hansler, who was present on Tuesday to lead a leader-

ship forum for students on the campus of TSTC-Sweetwater, told the crowd that the John Ben Sheppard Leadership Institute and the Big Country RC&D have a common goal.

Both seek to develop and train young people to be the country's leaders of tomorrow.

The meeting was chaired by Judge Robert Browne, president of the board of directors of the RC&D.



Good food, big crowd, great speaker

Yesterday's RC&D annual conference/luncheon drew a capacity crowd. Brenda Hansler (inset), field representative for the John Ben Sheppard Public Leadership Institute, was the guest speaker.

Photos by Don Rogers

Windi Fuller, Mitchell County RC&D director, briefly discussed the accomplishments of the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. She said the organization completed 34 projects since March 3, 1998.

One of the major accomplishments Fuller discussed was getting approval of funding in the amount \$500,000 to address water quality concerns of people who are dependent on surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of

See **RC&D** on Page 2

He was preceded in death by his father, Lynn Marshal Shaw in 1998.

Charles Lee Brazil

ROSCOE — Charles Lee Brazil, 42, died in his home in Roscoe Wednesday.

Services are pending at McCoy Funeral Home.

Mr. Brazil was born Sept. 25, 1956 in Houston. He was a Baptist, and a graduate of Roscoe High School. He graduated from the University of Texas at Permian Basin in Odessa with honors. He was a chemist working for Halliburton Co. and lived in the Midland and Odessa area for the last few years.

He is survived by Ina McFaul Mealer of Abilene and a brother, Gerald Brazil of Midland. He was preceded in death by his father, George Herman Brazil.

RC&D

From Page 1

potable water. The funding is being made available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for Sweetwater and Blackwell in Nolan County, Trent in Taylor County, Bronte in Coke County and the Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation that serves rural customers in Nolan and Fisher counties. They also serve portions of the Roscoe area.

Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior

to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

Another accomplishment was gaining approval of funding for the Oak Creek water quality/quantity. These funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in two priority areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion and address declining underground water tables.

Brown said he was proud of the numerous accomplishments of the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. in the past year.

Jimmy Apel is executive director of the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. The office is located in Sweetwater.

NOTICE

If you miss your Sweetwater Reporter you should call evenings from 6:00 to 6:30 Monday thru Friday. If you miss your Sunday Paper please call from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m., and we will contact your carrier.

236-6677

Sweetwater Reporter

The SWEETWATER REPORTER (USPS 5300-860) is published daily except Saturdays and holidays by cnhl. (Periodical Postage Paid) 112 W. 3rd, Sweetwater, Texas. 79556

Postmaster: Send address changes to SWEETWATER REPORTER P.O. BOX 750, SWEETWATER, TEXAS 79556

City Delivery \$7.25 per month, \$84.00 per year, 6-months \$42.00, 3-months \$21.00. By mail \$63 per year in our retail trading zone. Other rates available on request.

Mr. & Mr. & N.B. T & far honor

Loc Coffee

Gir order leave

J.P gram a stu 10:15 235-4

KX ly pre to be and Marc avail \$7 at Don

Hi havir Satu Every

Th schol rent Scur scho may 573-

Th strat girls try o out i Time 10 & a lat

TI Harr prep

A



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SPRING - MARCH 1999

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER: President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE:
 Vice President
KEN BECKER: Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL: Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER:
 Administrative Assistant

1999 TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 20, 21, & 22, 1999
 EMBASSY SUITES - ABILENE, TEXAS

The Board of Directors of the Big Country RC&D Area, host for the 1999 Annual Conference, are working to provide participants an enjoyable and informative Conference.

The concurrent sessions and one-day registration that proved popular last year are incorporated into this year's Conference.



Concurrent session topics being developed include:

- Community Foundation Endowments and services
- Nonprofit Centers-Services
- Exporting for Small Businesses
- Historical Preservation Programs
- Small Community Self-help Programs
- Resources for Volunteer Fire Departments
- and more . . .

A Conference Agenda, Registration Form and lodging information is enclosed (see pages 5&6).

EIGHTH ANNUAL SPONSOR'S CONFERENCE

Brenda Hansler, with the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute, gave the Keynote Address at the Annual Sponsors' Conference.

The meeting was held on March 3, 1999, at Allen Family Style Meals Banquet Hall, Sweetwater, and was attended by 74 individuals representing numerous organizations in the Area.

Prior to Hansler's speech, Windi Fuller, Mitchell County RC&D Director, presented the 1998 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

1. A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

Continued from Page 1

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation that serves rural customers in Nolan and Fisher County. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to Lake Trammell, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

A long-term concern is sedimentation that has and is continuing to reduce the quality of water captured by these structures, as well as, reducing the storage capacity of Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell.

Agricultural producers within the project area can voluntarily enter into an agreement to carry out Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management Practices will be available to those agricultural producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and implementing the Plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Local entities supporting submission of the application include the City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

- Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)** Program, the Area secured \$1,194,695.95 in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials for \$2,418.33 this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.

Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of \$1,565,502.03 to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

- A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive first year funding of \$100,000 with the possibility of obligating \$1,875,000 over a five year period.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were approved to continue receiving funding.

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at \$107,856 for the second year with the possibility of obligating \$4,150,330 over a five-year period. **Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity** was funded at \$96,480 for the second year with a possible five-year funding of \$2,491,855.

The funds provide financial assistance to private landowners in the two Priority Areas to install conservation practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution, reduce sediment from entering reservoirs that provide public drinking water, reduce wind erosion, and address declining underground water tables.

The proposals were based on conservation concerns documented at public meetings held by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) through their Locally Led Conservation Initiative.

Of the 15 counties located within the three Priority Areas, portions of Borden, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, and Sterling Counties are covered.

The funds are available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Each year over 35,000 people attend the **Texas Farmer-Stockman Show** held during October in Lubbock, Texas.

To promote the benefits of buffer strips, an actual planting was done on the Farmer-Stockman Show grounds.

Visitors to the exhibit tent were able to see live plants of Illinois Bundtflower, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Maximillian Sunflower, Sideoats Grama, Big Bluestem, and Eastern Gammagrass planted in a mixture.

A walkway through the center of the planting allowed visitors to easily view the growing plants.

The theme of the demonstration was "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land." Framed aerial photographs of established Buffer Strips in Texas lined the walls of the tent to give the visitors a better understanding of the placement of Buffer Strips on a ranch or farm.

The Big Country RC&D Area received a USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Continued from Page 2

education grant of \$4,500 to help fund the demonstration.

Melony Sikes, Program Manager for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, served as Project Leader for the demonstration.

To complete the project, Sikes enlisted help from a number of organizations. Donated and in-kind assistance was provided by the Texas Farmer-Stockman Show, City of Lubbock Farms, Netafim—Jerry Funk, Bamert Seed Company, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area joined together to successfully request from the **Office of the Texas Attorney General**, 96 computers for organizations in their 25-county service area.

Twenty-five nonprofit organizations and legal subdivisions of the state within the Big Country RC&D Area will benefit from the 38 computers and monitors donated by the Texas Office of Attorney General.

A grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service paid for transporting the computers from Austin.

- The Area acting as Fiscal Sponsor for "**Operation Helping Hands**" has received a \$5000 grant from Winn-Dixie, Inc., and a \$1000 grant from K-Mart Corporation.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and teaching staff of Southeast Elementary School in Sweetwater plan to construct a playground for use by the students and surrounding community neighbors.

The PTO has conducted fund raising efforts that generated over \$23,000 towards the project.

The playground is scheduled to be constructed by parents and other volunteers from the community in March 1999, utilizing pre-cut and ready to assemble equipment.

- Sponsors increased by 8 for a total of 79.

Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chambers of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, TU Electric, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

Forty-two additional Projects were accepted since the last Annual Conference. Thirty-four Projects were completed during the year bringing the total accomplished to 357.

Judge Robert Browne, President and Sterling County RC&D Director, announced the Directors elected by the individual RC&D Committees to serve on the area's Board of Directors:

Howard County	-Gary Fuqua
Kent County	-Mary Collier
Sterling County	-Judge Browne
Taylor County	-Charles Hobbs

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MARCH MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held immediately following the Annual Sponsor's Conference at Allen's Family Style Meals, March 3, 1999, in Sweetwater.

Election of Officers was determined:
Windi Fuller - President
Judge Robert Browne - Vice President
Ken Becker - Secretary/Treasurer



Nine new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 466 Projects that have been approved.

Plans for the 1999 Texas Association of RC&Ds Annual Conference which Big Country RC&D Area will host were discussed.

The Area will have an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting in conjunction with West-Tex, Four Winds, and Pecos Valley RC&Ds.

Assistant State Conservationist, Mickey Black, gave an USDA/NRCS Update.

Details of the June Board of Director's Meeting will be determined.

FREEBIES FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Corporations, foundations, and nonprofit organizations across the country offer top-notch resources for students, but often those resources go untapped because schools don't know where to even begin to look for them.

THE DETWILER FOUNDATION

WHAT: Refurbished 486 & Pentium computers

FOR: Elementary, middle, & high schools

HITCH: Schools must apply

Not all will receive computers

HOW: Call 800-939-6000 or www.detwiler.org

NASA

WHAT: Information on how airplanes work, space travel & more

FOR: K-12 teachers

HITCH: Materials are available ONLY online

HOW: Visit <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/>

INTEL DIGITAL EDUCATION & ARTS PROGRAM

WHAT: *The Journey Inside: The Computer*, a model kit of a computer that teaches students how computer hardware works, plus a teacher instruction video & a detailed 8 unit lesson plan

FOR: Students in grades 4-9 & their teachers

HITCH: None

HOW: Call 800-346-3029

FUNDING SOURCES

PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION

Disadvantaged Youth Initiative-Average award is \$36,150. General range is from \$25,000 to \$50,000, but can range from zero up to \$100,000.

The Foundation is committed to supporting programs that focus on the most disadvantaged children, youths, and families in communities.

THE ITTLESON FOUNDATION

The Foundation has grant opportunities to support pilot and model projects that will test new approaches to solving environmental problems, bring about changes through policy research or add to working knowledge through applied research.

The Foundation funds several program areas including the environment. Although pollution prevention is not an explicit focus of the program, it falls within the bounds of the Foundation's descriptions of current areas of interest. The Foundation is very interested in programs that provide new opportunities to recruit young people and new constituencies into the environmental field. DEADLINE-April 1, 1999.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 18-24, 1999

2000 volunteers in Texas support the RC&D Program.

Volunteers serve on the 23 individual RC&D Area Board of Directors providing a focal point of local leadership.

RC&D Volunteers come from all segments of Texas to complete projects in an effort to improve our social, economic, and environmental well being. These Projects range from acting as facilitators for Youth Leadership Forums to hands-on help of building community centers, playgrounds, and preserving historical buildings.



For every dollar appropriated by the Congress for the RC&D Program, the RC&D Areas have leveraged an average of \$14 from other sources nationwide.

The ratio is 28 to 1 in Texas.

"ON THE EDGE"

SPEAKERS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

DONNA ALBUS
Regional Governor-Keep Texas Beautiful

STERLING BROOKS
Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

JODY GRIGSBY
Abilene Nonprofit Resource Center

RICHE HEIDENREICH
Internat. Revenue Service

PAT HELTON
International Trade Center

DR NANCY JONES
Abilene Community Foundation

RON MERTENS
Wichita Falls Board of Commerce and Industry

RUBY PEREZ
Abilene Preservation League

MARK STANFORD
Texas Forest Service

OTHERS:
JOHN BURT
State Conservationist, NRCS

JOE CANTU
Southwest States RC&D

JAMES GIBSON
Texas Association of RC&Ds

REGGIE SKAINS
National Association of RC&Ds

MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH:

HEADQUARTER HOTEL

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

4250 RIDGEMONT DRIVE
ABILENE TX 79606
915-698-1234

SINGLE \$70
DOUBLE \$80

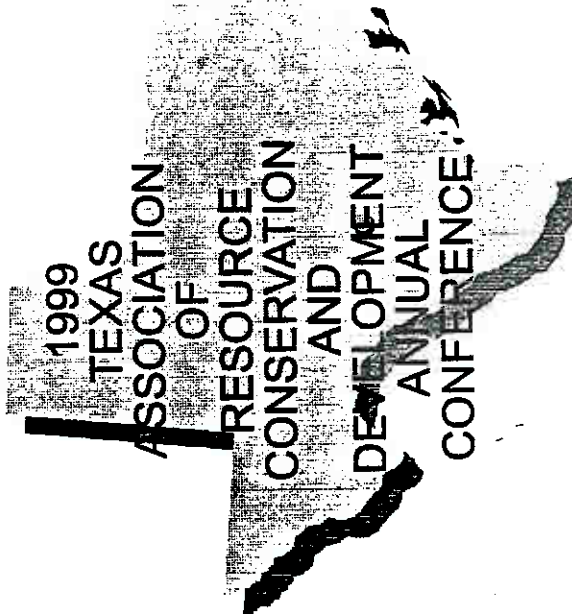
ROOM RATES GOOD UNTIL
MARCH 31, 1999

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY
WITH

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS PLEASE
STATE YOU ARE WITH

TX ASSOCIATION OF RC&D's



APRIL 20, 21, & 22, 1999

RC&D
"Making Things Happen"

"ON THE EDGE"

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF RC&DS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1999

8:00 - 5:00 EXHIBITORS SET UP

11:00 - 5:00 REGISTRATION

1:00 - 3:00 RC&D COORDINATORS MEETING

2:00 - 3:00 SPOUSE'S EVENT

3:00 - 5:00 STATE ASSOCIATION DELEGATES MEETING

7:30 - 9:00 RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1999

7:00 - 4:00 REGISTRATION

8:00 - 8:20 WELCOME

8:30 - 9:15 CONCURRENT SESSION #1

- * HISTORICAL PRESERVATION DEPARTMENTS
- * ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- * NONPROFIT CENTER SERVICES

9:25 - 10:10 CONCURRENT SESSION #2

- * ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- * COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT/SERVICES
- * SECRET OF MS&Ms

10:10-10:25 BREAK

10:25-11:10

CONCL. SESSION #3

- * HIST. PRESERVATION
- * COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT/SERVICES
- * SECRET OF MS&Ms

11:15-NOON

CONCURRENT SESSION #4

- * 501(c)(3)—HOW TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
- * KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL
- * NONPROFIT CENTER SERVICES

NOON-1:30

LUNCHEON/EXHIBIT VISITATION

1:30 - 2:15

CONCURRENT SESSION #5

- * 501(c)(3)—HOW TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE
- * REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- * EXPORTING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

2:20 - 3:05

CONCURRENT SESSION #6

- * KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL
- * REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- * EXPORTING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

3:05 - 3:20

BREAK

3:20 - 3:40

TEXAS UPDATE

3:40 - 4:20

NATIONAL & REGIONAL UPDATES

4:20 - 4:30

QUESTION TIME

4:30 - 7:00

EXHIBITS WILL BE OPEN

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1999

8:30 - 10:00

STATE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

10:00

ADDRESS BY US REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES STENHOLM - INVITED

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____

RC&D/ORGANIZATION: _____

SPOUSE OR GUEST: _____

PRE-REGISTRATION (\$55 EACH)

- INCLUDES: 1 RECEPTION TICKET
- 1 LUNCHEON TICKET

1 DAY REGISTRATION (4/21- \$30 EACH)

- INCLUDES: 1 LUNCHEON TICKET

EXTRA LUNCHEON TICKETS _____ X \$17 = _____

***** AFTER APRIL 9, 1999 *****

- LATE REGISTRATION IS \$40 (1 DAY) EACH
- LATE REGISTRATION IS \$70 (FULL) EACH

SPOUSE'S EVENT - APRIL 20, 1999

FRIENDZE'S JEWELRY WORKSHOP
(KITS \$5.00 PER KIT)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
BIG COUNTRY RC&D

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:
BIG COUNTRY RC&D
P O BOX 1114
SWEETWATER TX 79556-1114
915/235-4300



TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM

Citizens in all 254 counties in Texas will have an opportunity to be involved in the Texas Community Futures Forum process being undertaken by county Extension agents of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The process is not new to Texas Extension, an agency which has successfully conducted long-range program planning with local citizen involvement since 1985. Citizens in their respective counties will be invited to identify, discuss, and define their community's current and future needs at open forums in February and March. The process allows equal input from all citizens who participate.



Diplomacy is the art of knowing what NOT to say.

-Matthew Trump
Mother Earth News

The broader the representation at the open forum, the broader the concerns which will be brought before the group.

Needs identified during the open forum will be prioritized during focus forums in March and April with participants exploring how to respond to the identified needs of the people.

Local issue teams will continue to work on strategies to address the needs and concerns with an action plan. Each county's action plan will direct educational programming in that county for 2000-2003.

Dates of Open Forums in the area are:

March 15 - Fisher County
March 22 - Taylor County
March 25 - Callahan County
March 30 - Shackelford County
March 30 - Nolan County

Focus Forums will be held:

April 13 - Fisher County
April 20 - Taylor County
April 20 - Nolan County
April 27 - Callahan County
April 29 - Shackelford County

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

EARTH DAY
April 22



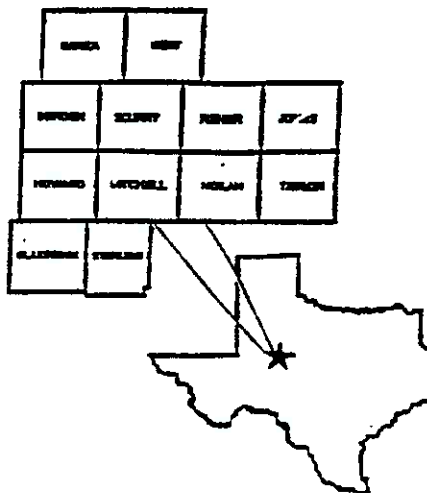
Happy
St. Patrick's Day



Big Country RC&D Area, inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- ANNA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- JIM BOB HALEY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel

Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director

RC&D Sweetwater Reporter

Dedicated to delivering local news

WWW.

April 1999

Volume 101 - Number 189

Monday, April 19, 1999

1 Section 12 Pages

Daily 50¢

RC&D vital to community

By DON ROGERS

The Big Country RC&D, whose offices are located in Sweetwater, is an organization of great value to Nolan County and surrounding counties. Among the goals of the area RC&D are: establishing job opportunities, developing rural and urban drainage systems, developing and main-

taining water supplies, developing sewage and solid waste disposal systems, developing wildlife and recreational potential, improving low income, minority and senior housing and improving rural fire departments. The organization has been responsible for a number of grants and services coming to the Big Country area since its

inception in 1991.

One of the latest is a plan which has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is in the process of addressing water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent upon the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek

See RC&D on Page 2

RC&D

Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their potable (suitable for drinking) water.

Jimmy Apel of Sweetwater is executive director of the Big Country RC&D which will hold its annual Conference of Texas Association of RC&Ds at the Embassy Suites in Abilene on April 20-22.

Planning to attend the conference from Nolan County are Jimmy Apel, Lynda Apel and Ken Becker, who is the Nolan County representative on the organization's board.

More than 175 delegates rep-

resenting the 21,000 volunteers who support the RC&D programs in Texas are expected to be present for the conference.

The conference will coincide with National Volunteer Week and Earth Day.

Wednesday of the conference will be highlighted by information and educational sessions to help the volunteers increase their effectiveness.

Each year, RC&D volunteers complete approximately 160 projects ranging from small local projects to multi-million-dollar regional projects.

From Page 1

The Oak Creek watershed water quality concerns being addressed

By DON ROGERS

Funds to be used in addressing area water quality concerns which were approved in May of this year by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are being put to good use, according to Terry Been, Nolan County District conservationist.

Been reported to the Big Country RC&D at its meeting on June 15 that over \$400,000 has been obligated to install Best Management Practices in the Oak Creek Watershed Geographic Priority Area (GPA) through the Environmental Quality

Incentives Program.

Been told the Big Country RC&D Board of Directors on June 15, in presenting a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319 (h) Water Quality Project, that the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has certified 15 of the 20 water quality management plans. The remaining plans are still being developed.

The approved funds are to be used to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell

See Water on Page 2

Water

From Page 1

as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

Work to install best management practices on the certified plans has begun.

The Big Country RC&D Area and the Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the funds.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Non-Point Source Program of

the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The Big Country RC&D Board of Directors learned that its Executive Director Jimmy Apel was recognized at the recent meeting of the Small Business Association (SBA) as the Small Business Rural Advocate for the 19-county Abilene District. Apel was presented with his award by Tom Dowell, district director for the SBA Lubbock District. U.S. Congressman Charles Stenholm was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

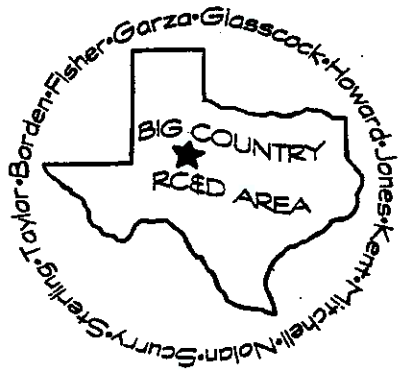
1999
Dedicated to delivering local news
www.fox.com

101 - Number 242

Monday, June 21, 1999

1 Section 10 Pages

Daily 50¢



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SUMMER - JUNE 1999

SERVING YOU:

- WINDI FULLER:** President
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE:**
Vice President
- KEN BECKER:** Secretary/Treasurer
- JIMMY APEL:** Executive Director
- DENNISE HOOVER:**
Administrative Assistant

RURAL WELL WATER ASSESSMENT PROJECT FUNDED

Four Winds RC&D Area was successful in securing \$8,500 through an EQIP educational grant to help rural residents assess ground water pollution risks and learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the aquifer.

The project will be coordinated jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Areas in Jones, Fisher, Kent, Baylor, Haskell, Knox, and Wilbarger Counties.

Residents of these counties will have the opportunity to have tests for nitrates, salts, and fecal bacteria done for their domestic and irrigation wells.

The educational component of the project will utilize information developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Utilizing the Tex*A*Syst program, residents will be able to do a self evaluation of potential risks to the groundwater. The program describes BMPs that will allow the residents to voluntarily reduce pollution risks associated with water wells.



SWCDs, Texas Agricultural Extension Service Offices, and NRCS Field Offices will be active partners in completing the project.

LIVING BUFFER STRIP DEMONSTRATION GRANT APPROVED

The Big Country RC&D Area will receive and administer a \$4,055 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, has been invited to make a presentation and have an exhibit booth at the 1999 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock on October 12, 13, and 14, 1999. Sikes will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted last year on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show. Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip

Continued from Page 1

and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

A presentation on the benefits of buffer strips incorporated with Best Management Practices will be given daily over the three-day event. Information will be given on the procedure for signing up for buffer strips through EQIP and the continuous CRP. The presentation will be given by parties from the cooperating agencies.

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S JUNE MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held at Jack's Steakhouse, June 15, 1999, in Sweetwater, Texas, with 25 present.

Eight new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and POW. This makes a total of 474 Projects that have been approved.



Tom Isbell, Grant Writer, was welcomed as a new Sponsor from Jones County.

Terry Been, Sweetwater (Nolan County) District Conservationist, presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has certified 15 of the 20 Water Quality Management Plans. The remaining Plans are being developed.

Work to install Best Management Practices on the certified plans has begun. Financial incentive payments to producers will total \$380,000.

Been also reported that over \$400,000 has been obligated to install Best Management Practices in the Oak Creek Watershed Geographic Priority Area (GPA) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Kevin Wright, Snyder Resource Team Leader, reported that the first sign-up for the Colorado Headwaters GPA was complete and seven (7) plans will be funded for \$74,361. A second sign-up will be held soon. First year funding for this GPA is \$100,000.

The Directors completed a Board Self-Assessment survey to evaluate their effectiveness.

Jimmy Apel was recognized at the SBA Awards ceremony as the Small Business Rural Advocate for the 19-county Abilene District.

Congressman Charles Stenholm was the Keynote Speaker at the ceremony. Congressman Stenholm and Tom Dowell, District Director for the SBA Lubbock District Office, presented the awards.

The September Board Meeting will be held at Perini Ranch in Buffalo Gap, Texas.

COLORADO HEADWATERS & OAK CREEK GRANTS APPROVED

Environmental education grants funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be used in the Colorado Headwaters and Oak Creek Geographic Priority Areas (GPAs) to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address nonpoint source pollution.

A consortium of 23 organizations and agencies in the Colorado Headwaters GPA and a like consortium numbering 29 in the Oak Creek GPA will each conduct a Field Day/Tour in their respective watersheds.

Field Day plans include: a tour of BMPs installed on an EQIP contract; demo of a new mechanical brush management tool; education on the proper use of herbicides for brush management and weed control (CEUs available); and information on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

To reach as large a number of agricultural producers as possible, the events will be jointly promoted by the SWCDs, USDA/ Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices, Texas Agricultural Extension Offices, and RC&D Areas serving the two watersheds. Additional partners that will be invited to be actively involved include the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Funding of \$1,950 and \$1,900 for the respective watershed GPAs was approved to conduct the Field Days.

Big Country RC&D Area will provide overall coordination of the events.

COMPOST APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

A new tool for revegetating steep slopes was demonstrated May 12, in Big Spring.

At the junction of Interstate 20 and Highway 87, the Eco-Mulch company demonstrated their equipment to apply compost and wood chips to a slope on the Interstate right of way.

Composted yard trimmings and wood chips produced by the City of Big Spring and composted cotton burs supplied by South Plains Composting of Lubbock was blown on to the slope utilizing the Rexus applicator.

Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission will evaluate both the method of application and the ability of the compost to aid in revegetation of bare ground.

A new market using compost and wood chips for right of way stabilization will reduce the tonnage placed in sanitary landfills and create additional jobs as the demand for these products increases.

Instead of giving money to found colleges
to promote learning,
why don't they pass a constitutional
amendment prohibiting anybody from
learning anything?
If it works as good as the
Prohibition one did, why,
in five years we would have
the smartest race of people on earth.

-Will Rogers

FUNDING SOURCES

FOR ALL KIDS FOUNDATION

The For All Kids Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that provide childcare, healthcare, education, and housing programs for at-risk children, with a focus on childcare. Proposals are reviewed throughout the year. Those submitted after 8/1/99, may not be funded until January 2000. Applicants should submit letters of intent first. The Foundation will invite formal proposals.

CONTACT:

FOR ALL KIDS FOUNDATION
P O BOX 225

ALLENDALE NJ 07401

www.rosieo.warnerbros.com/cmp/allkids/allkids.htm

COCA-COLA FOUNDATION

The Coca-Cola Foundation focuses on helping others through education, by offering scholarships, helping build schools and libraries, and donating books. Organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status (public and private colleges and universities, elementary and secondary schools, teacher-training programs, education programs for minority students and global education programs) may apply. The Foundation's three main areas are: higher education, classroom teaching & learning, and global education.



NO DEADLINES

CONTACT:

COCA-COLA - 800/438-2653

www.thecoca-colacompany.com/foundation/index.htm

RGK FOUNDATION

Awards grants in three main categories: community, education, and medical. The Foundation reviews and awards proposals throughout the year. Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are eligible to apply. NO DEADLINE

CONTACT:

RGK FOUNDATION

1301 W 25TH ST, SUITE 300

AUSTIN TX 78705-4236

512/474-9298

512/474-6389 FAX

EMAIL jhampton@rgkfdn.org

www.rgkfoundation.org

1999 URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS

\$1,000 to \$10,000 Challenge Grants are available through the Texas Forest Service for projects. Also an application for a professional staff position will be considered for up to \$18,000.

Eligible applicants include any unit of local or state government, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other tax exempt groups.

DUE: July 1, 1999

CONTACT: Nick Harrison at 915/676-5827

ISELL AVAILABLE AS GRANT WRITER

Tom Isbell of Anson in Jones County is now offering his services to communities and organizations as a grant writer.

Isbell states that the initial contact will be at no cost and will be to evaluate the project with suggestions regarding its viability as a project for funding.

Isbell said that in addition to proposal writing he will include all follow-up reports that are required by the entity providing the funding.

CONTACT:

Tom Isbell (taxisbell@aol.com)

P O Box 586 - Anson TX 79501

915/823-4341 FAX 915/823-2029

LEADERSHIP GRADUATES

Eleven citizens from Kent and Stonewall Counties graduated from the Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program on May 5, 1999.

Graduation ceremonies were held in Austin in conjunction with a tour of the Capital and meetings with representatives from a number of State agencies.

State Representative David Counts coordinated the Austin graduation ceremonies.


Graduates from Kent County are: Mary Collier, Jim Guess, Shirley Long, Buddy Watson, and Judge Tommy Stanaland.

Stonewall County graduates are: Martha Jones, Martha McDowell, Roger Parker, Roland Martin, San Flowers, and Lynn Hill.

Curriculum for the program included communications, motivation, leadership skills, team building, problem solving, conflict management, strategic planning, and alliance building.

The Kent County Extension Service Office and the Four Winds and Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Areas coordinated the nine month long program.

WCS
"Wise men don't need advice and fools don't take it."
-Ben Franklin

.....
"You got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there."
.....

-Yogi Berra
.....

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

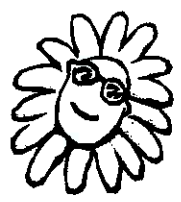
This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.



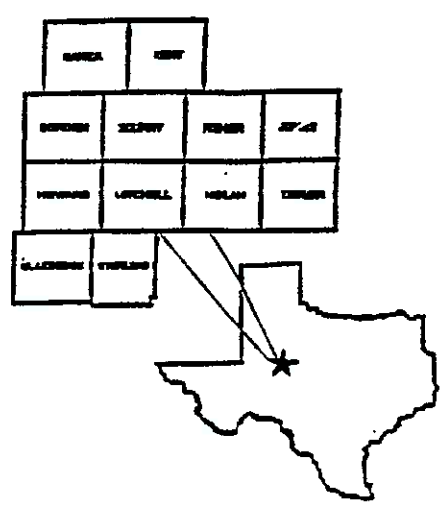
HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- VANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- JIM BOB HALEY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller
Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director

!SIIDBI UPDCCO mortality. So stay alert

BIG COUNTRY RC&D WATER PROJECT

Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Water Quality Project. A Half-million dollars has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people. These people are dependent on the surface runoff from the water sheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of potable drinking water. The Big Country RC&D Area and the Nolan County SWCD applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board for the funds. The funding is made available from EPA under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

Agricultural producers within the project area can voluntarily enter into an agreement to carry out

Best Management Practices through an individually tailored whole farm/ranch Water Quality Management Plan. Financial incentives to implement Best Management practices will be available to producers who participate in the program.

Assistance in developing and the Plan will be provided through the Nolan County SWCD and the USDA-NRCS.

Local entities supporting submission of the application include the City of Sweetwater, Nolan County Commissioners Court, Nolan County Extension Program Council, Bittercreek Water Supply Corporation, and Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

Volume 9, Number 33 August 13, 1999 Every Week - Delivered To Every Roscoe Home 8 Pages

Sweetwater Credit Bureau
P. O. Box 217
Sweetwater, Texas 79556

"GROWING WITH ROSCOE AND NOLAN COUNTY"

BRANDS THE TIMES

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BULK RATE
CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT POSTAL PATRON
LOCAL PERMIT NO. 20
ROSCOE, TEXAS

SCHOOL RACK
id True
review
August 19
.m.
Football
ld.
reet and

CONTACT: Jimmy J Apel, Big Country RC&D Executive Director
915/235-4300

NOLAN COUNTY CONSERVATION TOUR

The Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a tour October 6, 1999, in the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds highlighting Best Management Practices installed on area ranches.

A bus will leave from the Roscoe Community Center at 8:30 AM and travel to the Sweetwater Ag Service Center at 103 W Florida. The bus will leave Sweetwater at 8:45 AM to begin the tour. People traveling from the south to attend the tour can meet the bus at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00 AM, if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

The Harp Ranch will be the first stop where Carl Beal of Blackwell will demonstrate juniper removal with a Trackhoe Excavator.

Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent, will discuss various chemical brush control techniques. Terry Been, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will discuss the One-call System of Texas that should be used when excavation including mechanical brush control practices are used.

The 69 Ranch is the next stop where Kathy Dickson will present the history of this long established ranch.

At the Farrar Ranch, Loy Storm with New Holland, will demonstrate the Tree Terminator which shears the tree and applies herbicide and Skid Steer.

Charles Anderson, NRCS Range Management Specialist, will discuss management practices and introduce a new publication, Grazing Records and Livestock References, to aid ranchers in making grazing management decisions.

Certificates for three hours of Continuing Education Units towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License will be available to those attending.

The tour will move to the Maryneal Community Center for a demonstration by John Adams of Maryneal using a Skid Loader with grubber for brush control.

Safety displays provided by Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent, addressing pesticides and laundry practices and the Tex*A*Syst Program for domestic water well protection will be on-site.

Conservation Awards will be presented by the Nolan County SWCD Board to: Frances Richburg of Roscoe for Conservation Teacher; Kenny Lanfried of Roscoe for Conservation Farmer; and Kathy and Temple Dickson of Maryneal for Conservation Rancher.

Election of Director for Zone 3 of the Nolan County SWCD will be held. The election will be followed by a sponsored lunch catered by the Shed. The bus will depart Maryneal at 1:00 PM back to Sweetwater and Roscoe. For additional information, contact Terry Been, 915/235-4485.



**NOLAN COUNTY SWCD CONSERVATION TOUR
OAK CREEK GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREA – EQIP
OAK CREEK/LAKE TRAMMELL 319H WATER
QUALITY PROJECT**

October 6, 1999

Bus will leave from the **Roscoe Community Center** at 8:30AM and travel to **Sweetwater Ag Service Center**, 103 W Florida. Bus will leave from **Sweetwater** at 8:45AM to begin tour. People travelling from the south to attend the tour can meet at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00AM if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

1. HARP RANCH

- A. WELCOME – **Ralph Stirl, Chairman, Nolan County SWCD**
- B. Brush Control Demonstration – Treedoze with Trackhoe Excavator – **Carl Beal, Blackwell**
- C. Brush Control Demonstration – Skid Steer – **Loy Storm, New Holland, San Saba**
- D. Chemical Brush Control Techniques – **Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent – Agriculture**
- E. Excavation Safety – One-call System of Texas – **Terry Been, NRCS, Sweetwater**

2. 69 RANCH

- A. History of the 69 Ranch – **Kathy Dickson**



3. FARRAR RANCH

- A. Brush Control Demonstration – Tree Terminator (shearer & spray unit) – **Loy Storm, New Holland, San Saba**
- B. Grazing Records Reference Handbook – **Charles Anderson, NRCS, Menard**
- C. CEU Completion (3) – **Zachary Wilcox**

4. MARYNEAL COMMUNITY CENTER

- A. Brush Control Demonstration – Skid Loader with Grubber – **John Adams, Maryneal**
- B. Safety Displays – 1)Pesticides & Laundry & 2)TEX*A*SYST, Domestic Water Well Protection – **Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent – Family Consumer Sciences**
- C. Nolan County SWCD Conservation Awards
 - CONSERVATION TEACHER – **Frances Richburg, Roscoe**
 - CONSERVATION FARMER – **Kenny Landfried, Roscoe**
 - CONSERVATION RANCHER – **Kathy and Temple Dickson**
- D. Nolan County SWCD Director Election Zone Three – **Zachary Wilcox**
- E. LUNCH – “SHED” – Sponsored by Nolan County SWCD

Bus will depart **Maryneal Community Center** at 1:00PM to travel back to **Sweetwater and Roscoe**.



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - SEPTEMBER 1999

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
 Vice President
KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER -
 Administrative Assistant

**NOLAN COUNTY
 CONSERVATION TOUR**

The Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a tour October 6, 1999, in the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds highlighting Best Management Practices installed on area ranches.

A bus will leave from the Roscoe Community Center at 8:30 AM and travel to the Sweetwater Ag Service Center at 103 W Florida. The bus will leave Sweetwater at 8:45 AM to begin the tour. People traveling from the south to attend the tour can meet the bus at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00 AM, if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

The Harp Ranch will be the first stop where Carl Beal of Blackwell will demonstrate juniper removal with a Tractor Excavator.

Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent, will discuss various chemical brush control techniques. Terry Been, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will discuss the One-Call System of Texas that should be used when excavation including mechanical brush control practices are used.

The 69 Ranch is the next stop where Kathy Dickson will present the history of this long established ranch.

At the Farrar Ranch, Loy Storm with New Holland, will demonstrate the Tree Terminator which shears the tree and applies herbicide and Skid Steer.

Charles Anderson, NRCS Range Management Specialist, will discuss management practices and introduce a new publication, Grazing Records and Livestock References, to aid ranchers in making grazing management decisions.

Certificates for three hours of Continuing Education Units towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License will be available to those attending.

The tour will move to the Maryneal Community Center for a demonstration by John Adams of Maryneal using a Skid Loader with grubber for brush control.

Safety displays provided by Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent, addressing pesticides and laundry practices and the Tex*A*Syst Program for domestic water well protection will be on-site.

Conservation Awards will be presented by the Nolan County SWCD Board to: Frances Richburg of Roscoe for Conservation Teacher; Kenny Lanfried of Roscoe for Conservation Farmer; and Kathy and Temple Dickson of Maryneal for Conservation Rancher.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Election of a Director for Zone 3 of the Nolan County SWCD will be held. The election will be followed by a sponsored lunch catered by the Shed. The bus will depart Maryneal at 1:00 PM back to Sweetwater and Roscoe. For additional information, contact Terry Been, 915/235-4485.

COLORADO HEADWATERS WATERSHED FIELD DAY

A tour coordinated by the **Upper Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District** (SWCD) is scheduled for October 7, 1999.

The tour will begin at 9:00 AM from the Knapp Community Center and include stops in **Scurry** and **Howard** Counties within the Colorado Headwaters Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) geographic priority area.

The Sterling Ranch is the first stop to see various chemical brush control plots. Charles Hart, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, will discuss the various herbicides used and safety techniques during application.

Loy Storm with New Holland will demonstrate the Tree Terminator that shears the tree and applies herbicide and Skid Steer.

At the Conrad Ranch, Jimmy Sterling, rancher, will discuss brush control and proper grazing use practices.

Jim Lionberger, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Biologist, will explain how to conduct wildlife population census.

J.R. Bell, NRCS Range Management Specialist, will discuss management practices and introduce a new publication, Grazing Records and Livestock References, to aid ranchers in making grazing management decisions.

The Brent Murphy Ranch will be the site of topics addressing pasture management, nutrient and pest management, and a pasture renovation demonstration will be conducted. The tour will return to the Knapp Community Center for a sponsored lunch.

Certificates for three hours of Continuing Education Units towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License will be available to those attending.

To reach the Knapp Community Center from Snyder, go 22 miles south on Highway 350 and 9 miles north on FM 1298. From Big Spring, travel 27 miles north on Highway 350 and 9 miles north on FM 1298.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held at Briarstone Manor, September 14, 1999, in Sweetwater, Texas, with 25 present.

Ken Becker introduced **Dave Byerly**, Executive Director of the Hamlin Economic Development Corporation, as the new RC&D Director representing **Jones County**.

Nine new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and POW. This makes a total of 483 Projects that have been approved.



Women to Women Pregnancy Consultation Services, was welcomed as a new Sponsor.

Nancy Smith, Community Relations Coordinator for the West Central Texas Workforce Development Board, discussed the role the Workforce Development Board plays in Small Business Employee Training. A number of small businesses having the need to train only one employee can join together in a consortium and make the training available to their community.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Dr. Wright, Texas State Technical College, stated that they have been able to provide training to employees of small business in rural areas that are needing to provide common training, i.e., basic computer skills.

Terry Been, Sweetwater (Nolan County) District Conservationist (DC), presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has certified 15 of the 20 Water Quality Management Plans. The remaining Plans have been developed.

Work to install Best Management Practices on the certified plans has begun. Financial incentive payments to producers will total \$380,000.

Terry Been, DC-Sweetwater, and Kevin Wright, Resource Team Leader-Snyder, informed the Board of two Field Days scheduled in October that will demonstrate brush management practices, address grazing management practices, and the importance of record keeping to determine future grazing decisions (see page 1).

Both of these Field Days will receive funding support from EQIP Educational Grants received by Big Country RC&D Area.

The Directors approved the Area's Three-Year Plan of Work that schedules completion dates for current Projects and activities.

The December Board Meeting will be held in Jones County, Texas.

LIVING BUFFER STRIP DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED October 12, 13, & 14, 1999

The 1999 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock on October 12-14, 1999, includes the Living Buffer Strip as one of the many exhibits available to the 35,000 people that attend annually.

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The demonstration includes an actual buffer strip planted last year on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show.

Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

Information will be provided on the procedure for signing up for buffer strips through EQIP and the continuous CRP.

The Big Country RC&D Area received a \$4,055 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Support of this project in addition to USDA, NRCS includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, and the Texas Wildlife Association.

FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

A grant of **\$3,450** from a Private Foundation has been received by the Area for the "Friendship Garden" Project at Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater.

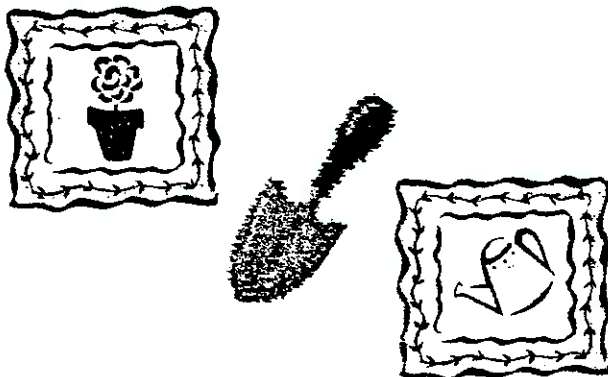
The third grade students, parents, and teachers at Southeast Elementary are the Sponsors of this Project. They wanted to provide a safe user-friendly meeting area that is set in natural surroundings.

The open air setting of the garden will provide an informal gathering area that differs from the confines associated with an indoor classroom setting.

Because of the strong student and parental involvement that this Project requires, "Friendship Garden" will mark a place of pride for the school community. The efforts of this Project will benefit the youth of Sweetwater for many years for children to safely spend their time developing positive relationships as an alternative to drug experimentation, gang related activities, or simply watching television.

To help fund this project—the third grade classes have conducted a number of fundraisers. A donation of \$100 from the Sweetwater Kiwanis Club and \$200 in private donations has been received.

A professional landscape artist donated his time to design the garden.



GIFTS IN KIND DONATION PROGRAM

The Area has provided **\$16,618** in donated goods through the Gifts In Kind International (GIKI) Program in 1999 for a cost of \$1295.

Since 1991, the Area has served as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP). For the eight year period, the Area has provided over **\$1.58 million** in donated products for a cost of \$12,800. This has provided a savings to the Area and their Sponsors of over \$1.5 million.

Gifts In Kind has donations such as **Office Professional '97** for \$125 (Retail \$599), **FrontPage 98** for \$55 (Retail \$100), **Assorted Cosmetics** for \$500 (Retail \$4000), **Toy Pallet** for \$1100 (Retail \$23,610), **Assorted Personal Care Pallet** for \$1000 (Retail \$6000), and **Personal Care/Cosmetic Shipment** for approx. \$3000 (Retail \$594,432).

Please call Dennise @ 915/235-4300.

GRANT FUNDS SEARCH SERVICE AVAILABLE

Big Country RC&D provides Grant Searches for FREE to all Area Sponsors and \$25 each for those that are not Sponsors.

Grant searches are entered by using a query. A customized prospect list is created and mailed with the completed grant search.

The Area uses FC Search which covers over 47,000 grantmakers. The software also contains the names of more than 200,000 trustees, officers, and donors of these foundations and corporate funders.

To request a Grant Search Request Form, please contact **Dennise Hoover** @ 915/235-4300.

GRAZING RECORDS AND LIVESTOCK REFERENCES NOTEBOOK PUBLISHED

The Area received \$6,000 in grant funds from the Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) and the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Resource Conservation and Development Service to develop and print 17,000 copies.

The record book—which will fit in a shirt pocket—was designed to help ranchers record grazing use. By analyzing and interpreting data over a period of time, the rancher will be able to evaluate his management practices to make future grazing decisions.

The record book has tables to record pasture name, size, date grazing started and ended, number of head, and type. Also included are tables to record precipitation received and pesticide application records.

References on animal unit values, average forage intake by class of livestock, livestock nutrient requirements, determining body condition, forage use class, and other information is contained in the publication.

The record book is a product of a partnership between USDA/NRCS, The Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Technical Committee, and the 23 Resource Conservation and Development Areas of Texas.

Contact your local NRCS office to obtain a copy.



BIG COUNTRY RC&D RC&D DATABASE PROGRESS SUMMARY

NUMBER OF PROJECTS - By Area AUGUST 1998 - AUGUST 1999

Approved	42
Completed	37
Cancelled	05



NUMBER OF PROJECTS - By Area JUNE 1991 - AUGUST 1999

Approved	480
Completed	380
Cancelled	46
ACTIVE	54



TEXAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Eighth Annual TRDC Meeting and Rural Issues Conference is scheduled for October 26-27, 1999, at the Stage Coach Inn, Salado, Texas.

This meeting provides an opportunity for leaders in Rural Texas to network with Federal, State, and Regional Governments along with private sector organizations that have a vested interest in economic and community development in rural Texas.

CONTACT:
Cheryl Hinckley @ 512/323-6515 for further information.

FUNDING SOURCES

ALBERTSON'S, INC.

Albertson's is one of the largest food & drug chains in the US. Corporate giving is direct and totaled \$2.9 million in 1998. The company gives cash & in-kind donations for nonprofits and programs that benefit youth, education, the arts, and senior citizens. In-kind giving benefits community groups, such as youth athletic leagues and local PTAs. On the web @ www.alberstons.com

SOLID WASTE GRANT FUNDS

The West Central Texas Council of Governments is accepting grant proposals that support the goals of their regional solid waste management plan.

Types of projects include:

- ◆ Household Hazardous Waste Collection Programs
- ◆ Backyard/Regional Composting
- ◆ Public Education Materials
- ◆ Citizens Convenience Centers
- ◆ Local Enforcement Projects
- ◆ Lake Community Cleanups

Proposals must be submitted by **October 15, 1999**, to be considered. Approximately \$300,000 is available for Fiscal Years 2000 & 2001.

To obtain the application or additional information — **CONTACT: Wendy Stovall @ 915/672-8544.**

Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong.

-Charles Handy in *Across the Board*

TEXAS MIDWEST SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN: October 20, 1999

WHERE: Abilene Civic Center

SEMINAR TOPICS:

- ★ Affordable Housing for the Workforce
- ★ Effective Marketing—Billboards, Print, Media Coverage
- ★ Stratmapping—The Ultimate Economic Development Tool
- ★ Tips for Business Expansion and Retention
- ★ Is Your Community Ready for Economic Development Leads?

COST: **\$20** (pre-registered) includes luncheon, Information Expo, Seminars, & Silent Auction

CONTACT: **TMCN @ 915/893-2099**

GRANT PROPOSAL WORKSHOP November 8-10, 1999 Monahans Community Center

Pecos Valley RC&D is sponsoring a Grant Proposal Workshop that will be conducted by the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning State Grants Team.

Topics to be covered include: Proposal Planning and Development; Identify and Access Funding; Components of a Proposal; and a Proposal Writing Exercise.

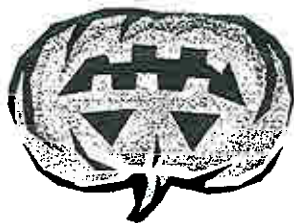
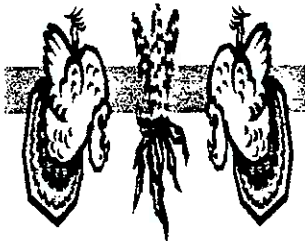
COST:

Pre-registration **\$60.00**
Full registration **\$75.00**

CONTACT:

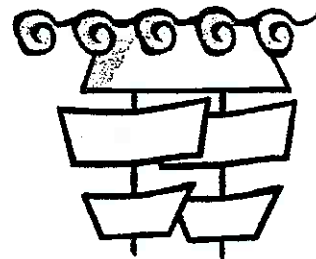
Darren Clark - Pecos Valley RC&D
915/943-3888

THANKSGIVING DAY - NOVEMBER 25



HALLOWEEN - OCTOBER 31

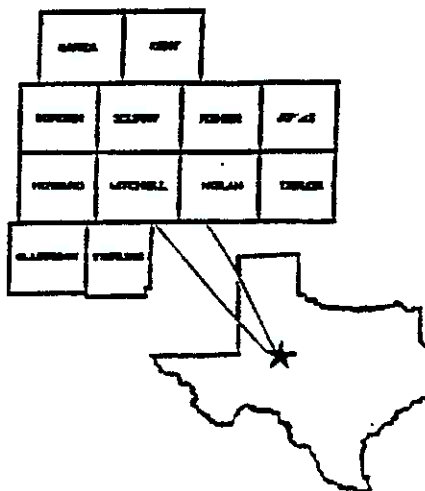
COLUMBUS DAY - OCTOBER 11



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- WANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- DAVE BYERLY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director

Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District Tour Set for October 6.

The Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a tour October 6, 1999, in the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds highlighting Best Management Practices installed on area ranches.

A bus will leave from the Roscoe Community Center a 8:30 AM and travel to Sweetwater Ag Service Center at 103 W Florida. The bus will leave Sweetwater at 8:45 to begin the tour. People traveling from the south to attend the tour can meet the bus at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00 AM, if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

The Harp Ranch Will be the first stop where Carl Beal of Blackwell will demonstrate juniper removal with a Trackhoe Excavator

Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent, will discuss various chemical brush control techniques. Terry Been, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS),

will discuss the One call System of Texas that should be used when excavation including mechanical brush control practices are used.

The 69 Ranch is the next stop where Kathy Dickson will present the history of this long established ranch.

At the Farrar Ranch, Loy Storm with New Holland, will demonstrate the Tree Terminator with Skid Steer, which shears the tree and applies herbicide.

Charles Anderson, NRCS Range Management Specialist, will discuss management practices and introduce a new publication, Grazing Records and Livestock References, to aid ranchers in making grazing management decisions.

Certificates for three hours of continuing Education Units towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License will be available to those attending.

The tour will move to the Maryneal Community

Center for a demonstration by John Adams of Maryneal using a Skid Loader with grubber for a brush control.

Safety displays provided by Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent, addressing pesticides and laundry practices and the Tex*A*Syst Program for domestic water well protection will be on site.

Conservation Awards will be presented by the Nolan County SWCD Board to: Frances Richburg of Roscoe for Conservation Teacher; Kenny Lanfried of Roscoe for Conservation Farmer; and Kathy and Temple Dickson of Maryneal for Conservation Rancher.

Election of Director for Zone 3 of the Nolan County SWCD will be held. The election will be followed by a sponsored lunch catered by the Shed. The bus will depart Maryneal at 1:00 PM back to Sweetwater and Roscoe. For additional information, contact Terry Been, (915)235-4485.

77

Nolan County Conservation tour

The Nolan County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hosting a tour October 6, 1999, in the Oak Creek and Lake Trammell Watersheds highlighting Best Management Practices installed on area ranches.

A bus will leave from the Roscoe Community Center at 8:30 a.m. and travel to the Sweetwater Ag Service Center at 103 W. Florida. The bus will leave Sweetwater at 8:45 a.m. to begin the tour. People traveling from the south to attend the tour can meet the bus at the intersection of Highway 70 and FM 608 at 9:00 a.m., if they do not want to come into Sweetwater.

The Harp Ranch will be the first stop where Carl Beal of Blackwell will demonstrate juniper removal with a Trackhoe Excavator.

Zachary Wilcox, Nolan County Extension Agent, will discuss various chemical brush control techniques. Terry Been, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), will discuss the One-call System of Texas

that should be used when excavation including mechanical brush control practices are used.

The 69 Ranch is the next stop where Kathy Dickson will present the history of this long established ranch.

At the Farrar Ranch, Loy Storm with New Holland, will demonstrate the Tree Terminator which shears the tree and applies herbicide and Skid Steer.

Charles Anderson, NRCS Range Management Specialist, will discuss management practices and introduce a new publication, Grazing Records and Livestock References, to aid ranchers in making grazing management decisions.

Certificates for three hours of Continuing Education Units towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License will be available to those attending.

The tour will move to the Maryneal Community Center for a demonstration by John Adams of Maryneal using Skid Loader with grubber for brush control.

Safety displays provided by Judy Gully, Nolan County Extension Agent, addressing

pesticides and laundry practices and the Tex*A*Syst Program for domestic water well protection will be on-site.

Conservation Awards will be presented by the Nolan County SWCD Board to: Frances Richburg of Roscoe for Conservation Teacher; Kenny Lanfried of Roscoe for Conservation farmer; and Kathy and Temple Dickson of Maryneal for Conservation Rancher.

Election of Director for Zone 3 of the Nolan County SWCD will be held. The election will be followed by a sponsored lunch catered by the Shed. The bus will depart Maryneal at 1:00 p.m. back to Sweetwater and Roscoe. For additional information, contact Terry Been, (915) 235-4485.

The Observer / Enterprise
Coke Co
10/1/99

Sweetwater Reporter



©cnhi 1999

Dedicated to delivering local news

www.sweetwater

Daily 50¢

1 Section 10 Pages

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Number 331

Annual Nolan County range tour announced

by DON KING

Nolan County Range Tour is scheduled to take place Wednesday according to Nolan County Extension Agent Gary Wilcox.

The Conservation Tour is hosted jointly by the extension office and the Nolan County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Besides Nolan County this year's tour will cover parts of

Runnels, Coke, Sterling and Mitchell Counties.

Two buses will be used to transport those taking the tour.

"A bus will leave from the Roscoe Community Center at 8:30 am while a second bus will depart the Ag Service Center on West Florida in Sweetwater at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday," Wilcox said.

The first stop on the tour is scheduled to take place at

9:15 a.m. and will give members of the tour an opportunity to see the latest methods being used in Mechanical and Chemical Brush Control.

"That demonstration will take place on the Harpo Ranch which is located near Maryneal."

The second scheduled stop on Wednesday's tour will provide interesting historical insight into one of the regions most historic ranches.

"Kathy Dickson has agreed to give us a history of the ranch which everybody will enjoy hearing, then we'll head out to the Farrar Ranch," Wilcox added.

Participants will witness a Terminator Demonstration, receive information on the Grazing Rewards Reference Handbook, and have a chance to not only observe but get some hands on experience with new equip-

ment according to Range Management Specialist Joe Bob Watson.

"We will have some really unique and unusual kinds of equipment to demonstrate that people haven't seen before," Watson said.

The tour will proceed to the Maryneal Community Center where a number of safety displays will be viewed and three annual awards given following

See Tour on Page

Tour

lunch.

Nolan County SWCD awards will be given to a teacher, a farmer and a rancher."

The annual event will conclude around 1 p.m. with busses transporting tour members back to Roscoe and

From Page

Sweetwater.

During previous years excess of 100 people have taken part in the event with

more expected to participate this year due to its extension into parts of neighboring counties, according to Watson

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S NOVEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's held their meeting at the Rath City Steakhouse in Hamlin, Texas, with 28 present on November 30, 1999.

Dave Byerly, Jones County Director, introduced Derek Moore, Sales Manager/ Owner of the Pet Food Division of Pied Piper Mills. Moore stated that the company expanded from standard feed mill products to producing dry dog food in 1976 and currently employees 25 people.

They ship out 5000 bags of dog food daily (approximately six 18-wheeler trucks). The majority of their market is overseas to Pacific Rim countries.

The company is currently expanding its facilities and will hire an additional 15 to 25 people next year.

Fuller announced that the Area had received a \$2400 Southwestern Bell Economic Excellence Grant to develop a web page for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Association (TMACA).

Ten new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and POW. This makes a total of 493 Projects that have been approved.

Sterling County Nursing Home in Sterling City was welcomed as a new Sponsor.

Danny Lamberth, Four Winds RC&D Coordinator, updated the group on the EQIP Education grant received jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Areas to conduct domestic water well screening and provide education material based on the Tex*A*Syst program.

The project will be carried out in Haskell, Knox, Baylor, Wilbarger, Jones, Fisher, and

Kent Counties. Haskell was completed in November. One county will be done each month until the Project is complete.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board has certified all of the twenty Water Quality Management Plans. To date \$120,000 in incentive payments of the \$380,000 allocated has been completed.

Mark Freeman, State RC&D Coordinator provided a National and State RC&D Update.

Freeman stated that the Federal RC&D budget was funded at the same level as last year. The National RC&D Association is working to increase the budget for FY 2001 and has hired a new Executive Director to aid in this process.

The State Association has signed an Agreement with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission to allow funds to be delivered through the RC&D Areas for Supplemental Environmental Projects. The Association is also developing an Agreement with the Texas Department of Economic Development to allow funding of future economic development projects.

The Small Business Administration is transferring 400 computers to the State Association to be distributed through RC&D Areas to rural community organizations.

Freeman stated that the State Association Meeting will be in Amarillo in April 2000 and the National Association Meeting will be held in June 2000 in Ogden, Utah.

The Area's request for five donated computers to be distributed to community-based organizations through the Texas



Continued from Page 2

Department of Economic Development has been approved.

The Area received a \$6000 grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for administrative support for the Area.

Information on installing Dry Hydrants on irrigation wells was presented. The cost of the Dry Hydrants is reimbursable through the Texas Forest Service.

Brush Management/Water Yield Feasibility Studies are being conducted on eight watersheds in Texas for possible State funding. The Upper Colorado is one of the watersheds being evaluated. NRCS employees are currently conducting brush transects to support the study.

The Annual Sponsor Conference for Big Country RC&D Area will be held March 7, 2000, in Sweetwater, Texas.

NONPROFIT RECEIVES \$594,432 DONATION

People for Progress, Inc., (PPI) headquartered in Sweetwater and serving a nineteen county area, received donated Avon personal care products, clothing, and children gifts.

The donation will allow PPI to assist many needy people in their service area especially during the holiday season.

The Big Country RC&D Area acting as the Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for Gifts

In Kind International (GIKI) arranged the donation.

GIKI assists hundreds of companies to donate more than \$200 million in product donations annually to the nonprofit sector.

The Area has also secured over \$2,172,737 in computer software, equipment, and products for nonprofit organizations at a cost of \$17,302.97 for a savings of over \$2,155,434 in the past eight years.

POSSIBLE RAIN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The West Central Texas Municipal Water District (WCTMWD) and West Texas Utilities (WTU) co-sponsored a forum November 22, 1999, to educate Abilene area representatives on rain enhancement projects and determine if there is sufficient interest in establishing a district.

George Bomar, senior meteorologist with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) and Dale Bates, San Angelo area rancher and consultant to TNRCC, provided information and results from currently active rain enhancement districts in West Texas.

Bomar reported that state funds are available to start two or three new projects in Texas in 2000 or 2001.

Five million acres is the optimum size for a weather modification district based on economics of operation and weather radar equipment. Eight or nine counties would need to be involved to reach this amount.

Cost of the project based on the five million acres would be nine cents an acre. TNRCC will provide 4.5 cents an acre with the remainder to be matched locally.

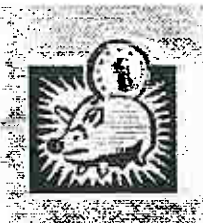
Contact David Bell, WCTMWD, 915/673-8254 or John Flood, WTU, 915/674-7253 for additional information.

AREA RECEIVES SOUTHWESTERN BELL GRANT

The Area was awarded a \$2400 grant from Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program.

The funds will be used for the design, development, and maintenance of an Internet Web Site for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Association (TMACA).

The TMACA was founded by the counties of Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry to promote trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.



The six county alliance sits at the crossroads of the Burlington Northern and Union Pacific Railroads along with the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and State Highways 70 & 84, which extends to Interstate 27 to the North. The Corridor Area is blessed with good transportation facilities, abundant oil, and a dedicated work force. Texas State Technical College, Howard College, and Western Texas College stand ready to offer training, both technical and post-secondary, to employees of any employer or industry.

The Texas, Mexico, & Asian Corridor Association has already positioned itself as an unique regional economic development effort.

House Bill 2614 (sponsored by State Representative David Counts) to allow contiguous counties to form a regional economic development corporation having the authority to issue bonds for economic development was signed into law by Governor Bush on June 19, 1999.

The website will provide worldwide access promoting the economic benefits of locating business and industry within the Corridor. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, businesses interested in locating in the Corridor will be able to search for information on transportation advantages, cost of utilities, incentives, and workforce information.

Local businesses that have established web sites on the worldwide web will have the opportunity to link their existing web sites to TMACA's web site and be able to reach additional customers and clients.

The Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Association has broad-based support from the six county region.

The eighteen member board is made up of three representatives from each of the counties. Membership includes the County Judge from each of the six counties. The remaining members represent economic development corporations and private business owners.

GRANT FUNDS SEARCH SERVICE AVAILABLE

Big Country RC&D provides Grant Searches for FREE to all Area Sponsors and \$25 each for those that are not Sponsors.

Grant searches are entered by using a query. A customized prospect list is created and mailed with the completed grant search.

The Area uses FC Search which covers over 47,000 grantmakers. The software also contains the names of more than 200,000 trustees, officers, and donors of these foundations and corporate funders.

To request a Grant Search Request Form, please contact **Dennise Hoover** @ 915/235-4300.

FUNDING SOURCES

USDA - RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

USDA Opportunity Grants available for technical assistance, training, and planning activities that improve economic conditions in rural areas. Program is designed to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs. Public bodies, private nonprofit corporations, and Indian Tribes are eligible to apply. Applicants MUST be located in rural areas.
NO DEADLINE

CONTACT:

Detailed information & applications are available through state/local offices of USDA Rural Development.
 Or email Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) at wstansbe@rus.usda.gov

KELLOGG FOUNDATION, W.K. - SOCIAL & ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The foundation's commitment is "to help people to help themselves" through the application of knowledge to meet societal needs. Linking economic and social resources is critical in the foundation's ongoing commitment to community development. Foundation supports comprehensive approaches which integrate resources & foster-cooperation at the family, neighborhood, community & policy levels. Academic institutions, government, PhD/MD/other professionals, and nonprofits are eligible. **NO DEADLINE**

CONTACT:

Manager of Grant Proposals
 W K Kellogg Foundation
 One Michigan Avenue East
 Battle Creek, Michigan 49017-4058
 616/968-1611 FAX - 616/968-0413

KRAFT GENERAL FOODS CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM - CIVIC & COMMUNITY GRANTS

As part of Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Kraft Foods allocates substantial funds each year to invest in the work of hundreds of nonprofit organizations that can make a difference in society. Although Kraft's primary focus areas are domestic hunger, parental involvement in education, and access to the arts, some smaller grants are available to public policy organizations; community-based improvement and housing groups; law, justice, & social action organizations and others advocating for the rights of the disadvantaged and people with disabilities; and special task forces & community development projects. Tax exempt organizations which meet the Kraft General Foods program objectives and fall within focus areas and diversity priorities will be considered.
NO DEADLINE

CONTACT:

Kraft Foods, Inc. Corporate Contributions
 Three Lakes Drive
 Northfield, Illinois 60093

7-11 STORES - LITERACY INITIATIVES

Accepting applications under the "People Who Read Achieve" grant program & its regular corporate contributions program, which fund literacy initiatives nationwide.
DUE DATE: January 14, 2000

CONTACT:

800/711-1FAX - request docs 904 & 906
www.7-eleven.com
 Send Proposals To:
 Sharon Neal
 Manager, Community Affairs
 7-Eleven Inc.
 P O Box 711
 Dallas TX 75221

FORD FOUNDATION - ASSET BUILDING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The area of interest focuses on helping poor people to build financial assets through work, access to credit, and home ownership, and uses program-related investments to expand the foundation's philanthropic reach through recoverable loans, loan guarantees, or equity investments.

- ◆ Merges work on community development & the environment in order to give low-income communities greater ownership & control of key community institutions and resources
- ◆ Focuses on the social, economic, and gender relations that influence human development & human reproduction in all communities.

Academic institutions, government, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

NO DEADLINES

CONTACT:

Secretary, Ford Foundation
320 E 43rd St
New York, New York 10017
212/573-5000 FAX - 212/351-3677
Email: office-secretary@fordfound.org

BANK OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

The foundation targets its philanthropy to education, community development, health & human services, and arts & culture. Education is the primary focus of the foundation. **NO DEADLINE**

CONTACT:

www.bankofamerica.com/foundation
Or contact local branch managers

AOL FOUNDATION - INTERACTIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Inviting applications supporting efforts to integrate technology into learning.

Proposals must tie technology into improving student learning. Projects that focus only on enhancing technology resources are not likely to be funded.

DUE DATE: January 17, 2000

CONTACT:

www.aolfoundation.org/grants/iei.html
Interactive Education Initiative
AOL Foundation
22000 AOL Way
Dulles VA 20166
703/265-1342 FAX - 703/265-2135
Email: aolgrants@aol.com

USDA - RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN & GRANT (REDLG)

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service hereby announces the maximum dollar amount on loan & grant awards under the REDLG program for FY 2000. The maximum dollar award on zero-interest loans is \$450,000. The maximum dollar award on grants is \$200,000. These awards are effective for FY 2000 (October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000). REDLG funds are available to Rural Utilities Service electric and telephone utilities to assist in developing rural areas from an economic standpoint.

CONTACT:

Patricia Wing
202/720-9558 FAX - 202/720-6561
Email: PWing@rus.usda.gov

• • • • •

• "You can't help someone •

• get up a hill •

• without getting closer •

• to the top yourself." •

• •

• -GEN H NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF •

• • • • •

EQIP EDUCATION GRANTS UPDATE

Educational Field Days attended by 246 participants were held during October in the Colorado Headwaters and Oak Creek designated Environmental Quality Incentive Program Geographic Priority Areas. Demonstrations of mechanical brush control equipment such as the Trackhoe Excavator and the Tree Terminator were conducted on cedar and mesquite. A number of test sites using different herbicide chemicals, mixtures, and rates for mesquite control were visited. Topics addressing pasture management, nutrient and pest management, and mechanical pasture renovation demonstrations were conducted.

Participants received the new Grazing Records and Livestock References publication to aid in making grazing management decisions on rangeland. Certificates for three hours of CEUs towards meeting the requirements of a Private Applicators License were available to those attending.

In addition to seeing a variety of Best

Management Practices for improving water quality, grazing conditions, and wildlife habitat, educational exhibits on protecting groundwater from various pollutants were on hand. The Field Days were coordinated by ten Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Big Country RC&D.

Also held in October was a Buffer Strip Demonstration as part of the 1999 Farmer-Stockman Show held in Lubbock. The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted last year on the Farmer-Stockman grounds. Full body mounts of wildlife were placed in the buffer strips to illustrate buffer strip's value to wildlife. Framed photographs of clean water and buffer strips from several regions of Texas were also placed in the buffer strip.

Supporters of this project included NRCS, Texas Farmer-Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, City of Lubbock, Netafim USA, Bamert Seed Company, and Big Country RC&D.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

FROM ALL OF US AT
BIG COUNTRY RC&D



NEW YEARS DAY -
JANUARY 1, 2000

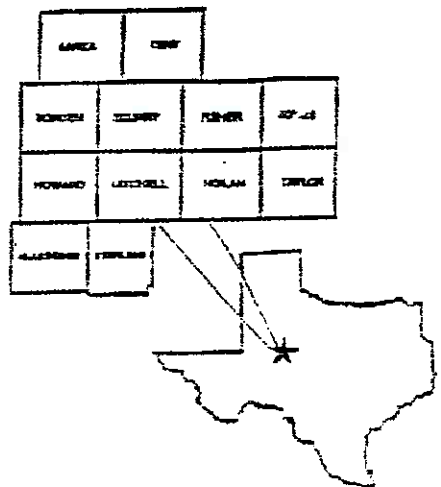
CHRISTMAS DAY
- DECEMBER 25



Winter Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the
Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

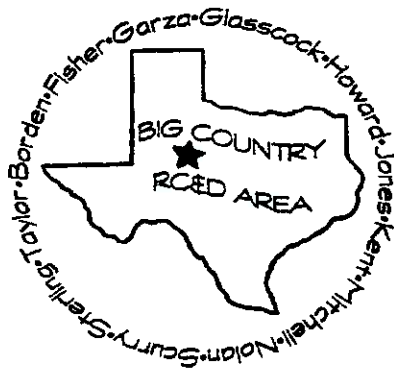
- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- WANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- DAVE BYERLY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SPRING - MARCH 2000

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President

KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer
JIMMY APEL - Executive Director
DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

NINTH ANNUAL SPONSORS' CONFERENCE

Dr. Monty Dozier, with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service gave the Keynote Address, "Preventing Ground Water Contamination" at the Annual Sponsors' Conference.

The meeting was held on March 7, 2000, at Allen Family Style Meals Banquet Hall, Sweetwater, and was attended by 84 individuals representing numerous organizations in the Area.

Prior to Dr. Dozier's speech, Dave Byerly, Jones County RC&D Director, presented the 1999 Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

1. A half-million dollars (\$500,000) in funding has been approved to address water quality concerns for over 30,000 people who are dependent on the surface runoff from the watersheds above **Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell** as their supply of potable (suitable for drinking) water.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area and the Nolan County

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in a joint venture applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for the funds. The funding is made available from U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act.

The TSSWCB is responsible for administering the Agricultural and Silvicultural portions of the Nonpoint Source Program of the Clean Water Act for the State of Texas.

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs constitute major portions of the public water supply for the following towns: **Sweetwater, Roscoe,** and **Blackwell** in **Nolan County**; **Bronte** in **Coke County**; **Trent** in **Taylor County**; and **Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation** that serves rural customers in **Nolan and Fisher County**. Water captured in Oak Creek Reservoir is pumped to **Lake Trammell**, which is used as a storage basin prior to the water being pumped to a filtration plant.

- Acting as a Coordinating Agency Partner (CAP) for the **Gifts In Kind International (GIKI)** Program, the Area secured **\$611,640** in donated computer hardware and software, healthcare products, and educational materials for **\$5,179.90** this past year. The donations are being used by nonprofit organizations and educational agencies.



Since 1991, when the Area joined GIKI as a CAP, the Area has provided savings of **\$2,171,962.13** to the nonprofit organizations that have been served through this program.

- A proposal submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work in the **Colorado Headwaters Watershed** was approved to receive second year funding of **\$726,640** with the possibility of obligating **\$1,875,000** over a five year period.

Two (2) proposals submitted by the Area to USDA to fund conservation work within sub-watersheds were approved to continue receiving funding.

Continued from Page 1

Sandyland Resource Initiative was funded at **\$172,047** for the third year with the possibility of obligating **\$4,150,330** over a five-year period. **Oak Creek Water Quality/Water Quantity** was funded at **\$344,348** for the second year with a possible five-year funding of **\$2,491,855**.

- The Area was awarded a **\$2,400** grant from **Southwestern Bell's 1999 Economic Excellence Program**.

The funds are being used for the design, development, and maintenance of an Internet Web Site for the Texas, Mexico, and Asian Corridor Corporation (TMACC).

The TMACC was founded by the counties of **Fisher, Howard, Jones, Mitchell, Nolan, and Scurry** to promote trade from Asia and the Pacific Rim through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and continuing through the Alameda Corridor and the Southwest Passage to Texas and Mexico.

The six county alliance sits at the crossroads of the Burlington Northern and Union Pacific Railroads along with the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and State Highways 70 & 84, which extends to Interstate 27 to the North. The Corridor Area is blessed with good transportation facilities, and a dedicated work force. Texas State Technical College, Howard College, and Western Texas College stand ready to offer training, both technical and post-secondary, to employees of any employer or industry.

The TMACC has already positioned itself as an unique regional economic development effort.

House Bill 2614 (sponsored by State Representative David Counts) to allow contiguous counties to form a regional economic development corporation having the authority to issue bonds for economic development was signed into law by Governor Bush on June 19, 1999.

The website will provide worldwide access promoting the economic benefits of locating business and industry within the Corridor. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, businesses interested in locating in the Corridor will be able to search for information on transportation advantages, cost of utilities, incentives, and workforce information.

Local businesses within the six counties that have established web sites on the worldwide web will

have the opportunity to link their existing web sites to the Corridor's web site and be able to reach additional customers and clients.

The TMACC has broad-based support from the six county region. The 18 member board is made up of three representatives from each of the counties. Membership includes the County Judge from each of the six counties. The remaining members represent economic development corporations and private business owners.

The TMACC's website is located at www.tmacorridor.com

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Education Grants** of **\$1,950** and **\$1,900** to fund Field Days in the Upper Colorado and Oak Creek watersheds were received by the Area.

Educational Field Days attended by **246** participants were held during October in the Colorado Headwaters and Oak Creek designated EQIP Geographic Priority Area.

Also held in October was a **Buffer Strip Demonstration** as part of the **1999 Farmer-Stockman Show** held in Lubbock. The demonstration included an actual buffer strip planted last year on the Farmer-Stockman grounds. The Area received a **\$4,055** EQIP Education Grant to conduct this demonstration.

- The Area received **\$6,000** in grant funds from the **Texas Grazing Lands Initiative (GLCI)** and the **USDA/NRCS** through the RC&D program to develop and print **17,000** copies of the **Grazing Records and Livestock References Publication**.

The record book is a product of a partnership between **USDA/NRCS, Texas GLCI Technical Committee, and the 23 RC&D Areas of Texas**.

- A grant of **\$3,450** from a private foundation has been received by the Area for the **"Friendship Garden" Project at Southeast Elementary in Sweetwater**.

To help fund this project — the third grade classes have conducted a number of fundraisers. A donation of **\$100** from the Sweetwater Kiwanis Club and **\$200** in private donations has been received.

The **Friendship Garden** is under construction with plans to complete the project this Spring.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

- Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area joined together to successfully request from the **Texas Department of Economic Development**, 10 computers for organizations in their 25-county service area.

Five nonprofit organizations and legal subdivisions of the state within the Big Country RC&D Area will benefit from the computers and monitors donated by the **Texas Department of Economic Development - Office of Rural Affairs**.

A grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service paid for transporting the computers from Austin.

- The Area coordinated delivery of ten complete computer systems and additional computer hardware to **Webdone.org**, a nonprofit organization, that trains potential job applicants and those needing basic computer skills.

The donated computers were a result of a partnership effort between Health & Human Services - Health Care Finance Agency and Indian Health Service, SBA - Office of Advocacy, GSA, USDA/NRCS, Big Country RC&D Area, and Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government Hassle-Free Communities.

- **Eleven** citizens from **Kent** and **Stonewall** Counties graduated from the **Double Mountain Rural Leadership Program** on May 5, 1999.
- Four Winds RC&D was successful in securing **\$8,500** through an EQIP Education Grant to help rural residents assess ground water pollution risks and learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the aquifer.

The project is being coordinated jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Areas in **Jones, Fisher, Kent, Baylor, Haskell, Knox, and Wilbarger** Counties.

Jones County was completed in January 2000. **Fisher County** is scheduled in April and **Kent County** in May. **Nolan, Scurry, Borden, and Howard Counties** will be conducted later in the year.

- The Area acting as Fiscal Sponsor for "Operation Helping Hands" received a **\$5,000** grant from **Winn-Dixie, Inc.**, and a **\$1,000** grant from **KMart Corporation** to construct a playground at Southeast Elementary in **Sweetwater**.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) conducted fundraising efforts that generated over **\$23,000** towards the project.

- A new tool for revegetating steep slopes was demonstrated May 12, in **Big Spring**.

Composted yard trimmings and wood chips produced by the **City of Big Spring** and composted cotton burs supplied by South Plains Composting of Lubbock was blown on to the slop utilizing the **Rexius Applicator**.

- The Big Country RC&D Area hosted the **1999 Texas Association of RC&Ds Annual Conference** in **Abilene, Texas**, on April 20-22, 1999. There were 181 registrants from the 23 RC&D Areas in Texas and 11 exhibitors.
- Big Country RC&D Area **Grant Research Library** has been updated with the addition of **FC Search** which is a computer program with a database of the top 47,000 Foundations and Corporations that are searched by a query method. **Fourteen** grant searches were completed this year.
- A **\$6,000** grant from USDA/NRCS for **Administrative Assistance** to the Area was received.
- The Area continued to provide office space one day a week to **Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS)** - a nonprofit organization.
- Total Sponsors for the Area is 76.

Sponsors include: Cities, Commissioners Courts, Chambers of Commerce, Industrial Development Foundations, School Districts, TU Electric, private banks, the West Central Texas Council of Governments, Volunteer Fire Departments, and private nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

39 additional Projects were accepted since March 3, 1999, for a total of **505**. **43** Projects were completed during the year bringing the total accomplished to **400**.

Windi Fuller, President and Mitchell County RC&D Director, announced the Directors elected by the individual RC&D Committees to serve on the area's Board of Directors:

Borden County	-Hurston Lemons
Jones County	-Dave Byerly
Nolan County	-Ken Becker
Scurry County	-Sid Hardegree

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MARCH MEETING

The Board of Director's meeting was held immediately following the Annual Sponsor's Conference at Allen's Family Style Meals, March 7, 2000, in Sweetwater.

Election of Officers was determined:
Windi Fuller - President
Judge Robert Browne - Vice President
Ken Becker - Secretary/Treasurer

Twelve new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 505 Projects that have been approved.

Voting Delegates from the Area plan to attend the Texas Association of RC&D Meeting in Amarillo, Texas, on April 18-20, 2000. The Area will also have an exhibit booth in conjunction with Wes-Tex RC&D.

The Area will have an exhibit booth at the West Texas Judges and Commissioner's Annual Meeting in conjunction with Wes-Tex, Four Winds, and Pecos Valley RC&Ds.

Assistant State Conservationist, Elisha Kuehn (Zone 2/San Angelo), gave an USDA/NRCS Update.

Details of the June Board of Director's Meeting to be held in Rotan, Texas, will be determined.

STERLING CITY DEPOT GRAND OPENING

After much hard work and \$240,000 of restorations, the Sterling City Depot is ready to be presented to the public!

About 3 1/2 years ago, with two major goals in mind, 1) to establish a permanent Senior Citizen Center to be available for those of all

ages and 2) to restore a beautiful, old, run-down building—the group got started. Sheryl Dockery, Senior Center Director, began research for grants. A lease was secured for the building in August of 1996.

After such a solid beginning — the project began to grow. It was decided to do the project in three phases: Phase I was roof repair and securing building door/window replacements; Phase II was building restorations; and Phase III was landscaping and parking lots.

\$65,000 in grants were received by the Texas Preservation Trust Fund, San Angelo Health Foundation, and private donations to complete Phase I. \$175,000 in grants and fundraising money was secured to complete Phase II.

Phase III is still in progress and the remainder of the funds are currently being sought by grants, private donations, and proceeds from the Spring Jamboree-Pancake Supper and Dance.

Since starting the senior citizen programs on January 4, 2000, the Center has quadrupled its numbers. Teachers, principals, and students eat lunch on Thursdays at the Center. Some of the Sterling City area school children come and spend time after-school with the senior citizens.

The Center will soon be available to rent for showers, civic or business meetings, reunions, or any other activity. You may contact Nell Castro at 915/378-4102.

If you wish to help contribute to the Center, all private donations are accepted and appreciated! You may send donations to Sterling County Senior Citizen Center or Sterling City Depot, P O Box 73, Sterling City TX 76951-0073. The Sterling County Senior Citizen Center is a nonprofit organization.

FUNDING SOURCES

TOCKER FOUNDATION:

Small rural libraries in Texas are eligible to receive grants for materials, capital improvements, special programs, equipment, and library automation. Their goal is to make library services accessible to individuals who, by reason of distance, residence, handicap, age, literacy level or other disadvantage, are unable to receive the benefits of public library services. In addition, Tocker strives to meet the particular needs of the individuals within the communities, including those with limited English speaking abilities.

COMMENTS: Tocker will consider requests from public libraries serving populations of 12,000 or less.

DEADLINE: January 5 & June 1 - Applications are accepted year round.

CONTACT: Tocker Foundation, 3814 Medical Pkwy, Austin TX 78756-4002, 512/452-1044, Fax 512/452-7690, Email grants@tocker.org, www.tocker.org

WALGREEN COMPANY:

Divides charitable support among education, health and human services, civic and community, and arts and culture programs. Among many programs, Walgreens has a tutoring program and supports the American Heart Association in the fight against heart disease and stroke.

DEADLINE: None

CONTACT: 847/914-2856, Fax 914-2660, www.walgreens.com/about/community/default.jhtml

AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION:

Supports various programs within youth education. Projects that have been funded include a focus on job training, math, science, and environmental education. Those eligible are nonprofits including K-12 schools, school districts, education institutions, nonprofit scientific and education organizations and national

programs involved with curriculum development that encourage innovative education methods and techniques.

COMMENTS: If the staff receives preliminary proposals a month before deadline they can provide feedback.

DEADLINE: May 1, August 1, November 1, & February 1

CONTACT: American Honda Foundation, P O Box 2205, Torrance CA 9509

CHEVRON CORPORATE & COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM:

Nonprofits in the US and abroad in Chevron communities are eligible for funding of more than \$23 million. Most grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Chevron allocates its grants as follows: higher education, 26%; health/human services, 23%; international community development, 17%; civic/employee involvement, 12%; K-12 education & youth, 8%; conservation/environment, 7%; arts/culture, 7%.

COMMENTS: Do not request grants for capital funds, endowments, conferences, travel, sports activities, or advertising.

DEADLINE: March 1, July 1, and November 1 for awards in May, September, & January.

CONTACT: Chevron Corporate and Community Grants Program, 575 Market St, San Francisco CA 94105, 415/894-4193, www.chevron.com/community/index.html

THE MEDTRONIC FOUNDATION:

National and local nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive \$5,000-\$50,000 per year for one to three year projects to provide education and awareness on sudden cardiac death, early defibrillation, and interventions.

COMMENTS: The Foundation encourages potential applicants to contact a program officer with an informal inquiry prior to the grant deadline.

DEADLINE: March 15 & October 15

CONTACT: Joan Mellor 612/514-8200, www.medtronic.com/foundation/heartrescue.html)

INTERNET RESOURCES

- USEFUL WEB SITES -

- ◆ **GRANT SERVICES**
www.grantservices.com
 List the top 10 essential web sites for Grant Seekers.

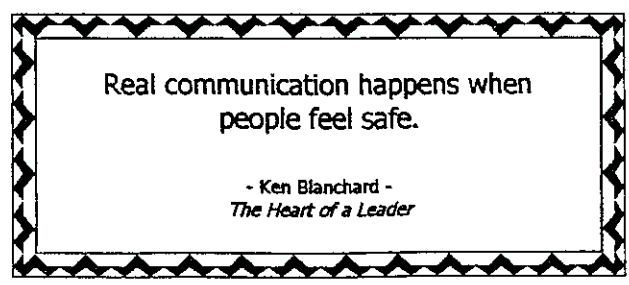
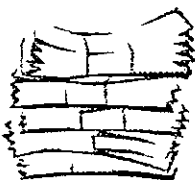
- ◆ **QUALITY 990**
www.qual990.org
 Access IRS Form 990 for tax-exempt groups, including foundations and other nonprofits.

- ◆ **GRANT MATCH**
www.grantmatch.com
 List your grant proposals by specific category and review grantmakers' funding interests or recent requests for proposals.

- ◆ **FOUNDATION CENTER**
www.fdncenter.org
 A nonprofit information clearinghouse that fosters public understanding of the foundation field by collecting, organizing, analyzing, and disseminating information on foundations, corporate giving, and related subjects.

- ◆ **FAST WEB**
www.fastweb.com
 Helps students find scholarships for college by matching each student's background automatically with eligibility requirements advise them about scholarship opportunities tailored to that student. All for FREE!

- ◆ **GRANT ALERT**
www.governor.state.tx.us
 Office of the Governor (Texas) offers a biweekly grant alert lists in their Grant Sources & Proposals Section along with other grant source help and advice.



RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING

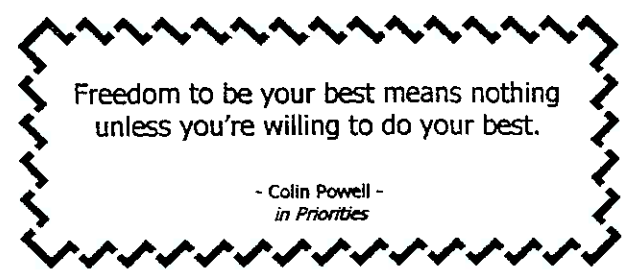
Residents of Fisher, Kent, Nolan, and Mitchell Counties will have the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salt in the next few months.

Plans are being developed for Borden, Scurry, and Howard Counties to participate in the fall.

This is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells. In addition to the water screening, information will be provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as the Tex*A*Syst Program. Cost of the screening is \$3 to cover testing expense.

The following counties are scheduled for the water well screening:

- Fisher County April 11-13, 2000
- Kent County May 22-24, 2000
- Nolan County July 24-26, 2000
- Mitchell County August 15-17, 2000



It is our choices
that show what we truly are,
far more than our abilities.

- JK Rowling -
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

COMPUTER DONATION RECEIVED

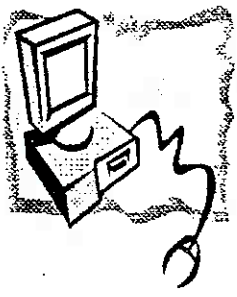
Since Big Country RC&D began distributing donated computers to rural nonprofit organizations and legal subdivisions of the State in 1997, approximately 100 computers have been distributed throughout the twelve county rural area.

The project has been a success since its inception and has become an ongoing project of the Big Country RC&D Area.

The Area has received the donated computers from the Gifts In Kind International Program; the Texas Attorney General's Office; the Texas Department of Economic Development - Office of Rural

Affairs; a joint effort between Health & Human Services - Health Care Finance Agency and Indian Health Service, SBA - Office of Advocacy, GSA, Vice President Al Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government Hassle-Free Communities; and also through local private donations.

Additional computers may become available in the near future. The Big Country RC&D Area requests that your nonprofit organization submit a letter of request (including contact information and need for computer(s)) to Big Country RC&D Area, P O Box 1114, Sweetwater TX 79556 or may be faxed to 915/236-6625.



The only way you can truly control
how you're seen is by being honest
all the time.

- Tom Hanks -
quoted in Interview Magazine

MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

EARTH DAY
April 22



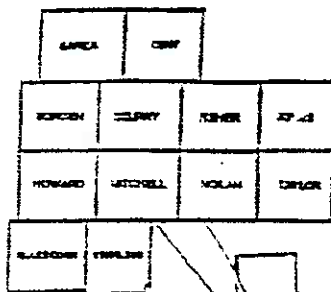
Happy
St. Patrick's Day



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Nolan
- ROBERT OWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- WANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- DAVE BYERLY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller

Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel

Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

SUMMER - JUNE 2000

SERVING YOU:

- WINDI FULLER - President*
- JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE - Vice President*
- KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer*
- JIMMY APEL - Executive Director*
- DENNISE HOOVER - Administrative Assistant*

NORTHWEST TEXAS INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER

What do the towns of Dawn, Big Spring, Muleshoe, and Vernon have in common?

They along with 34 other towns in West Texas are origination sites for businesses that export their products worldwide.

Seventy-seven transactions worth \$21,940,716 were completed from October 1, 1999, to May 1, 2000, by businesses assisted by the Northwest Texas International Trade Center.

The Trade Center is affiliated with Texas Tech University and is located in Lubbock.

If your business wants to expand into international markets and needs assistance in locating markets, shipping, etc., contact Pat Helton, Director, at 800/992-7232.

\$146,942 AVAILABLE FOR FY 2001 MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE GRANTS

The West Central Texas Council of Governments (WCTCOG), in cooperation with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, announces availability of \$146,942 for Municipal Solid Waste Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2001 in their 19-county region. The purpose of the program is to provide grant funding for projects to eligible entities which will provide a direct and measurable effect in nine grant categories: Local Enforcement; Source Reduction and Recycling; Local Solid Waste Management Plans; Household Hazardous Waste Management; Citizen Collection Stations and Small Registered Transfer Stations; Technical Studies; Community Clean Up Events and Educational and Training Projects.

Requests for Application (RFA) packets for each of these grant categories can be obtained by responding by telephone to **Wendy Stovall**, Solid Waste Coordinator, at **915/672-8544** or by mail at P O Box 3195, Abilene TX 79604-3195. WCTCOG will make staff available to assist local entities to complete applications for funding.

RFA's will be available beginning **June 7, 2000**, and are due back in the WCTCOG offices by **5 PM on July 20, 2000**.

"It's not your blue blood, your pedigree, or your college degree.
It's what you do with your life that counts."

- Millard Fuller -

RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING AVAILABLE

Residents of Nolan and Mitchell Counties have the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salt.

This is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells.

In addition to the water screening, information will be provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as the TEX*A*Syst Program which highlights practices you may want to modify in your operation to reduce the risk of contaminating the ground water supply.

These projects are supported by the Nolan and Mitchell County Agricultural Extension Services, Nolan and Mitchell County SWCDs, Nolan and Mitchell County Commissioners Court, Lone Wolf Underground Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Big Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area.

Cost of the screening is \$3.00 to cover testing expense.

Schedule of events:

- Nolan County – July 18-20, 2000
- Mitchell County – August 15-17, 2000

For additional information, contact:

Nolan County Extension – 915/235-3184
NRCS, Sweetwater – 915/235-4485
Mitchell County Extension – 915/728-3111

EQIP EDUCATION GRANT COMPLETED

Four Winds RC&D Area received a \$8,500 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) education grant in 1999 to help rural residents assess ground water pollution risks and learn Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect the aquifer.

The Project was coordinated jointly by Four Winds and Big Country RC&D Area for residents of Jones, Fisher, Kent, Baylor, Haskell, Knox, and Wilbarger Counties.

409 citizens submitted 485 water samples from domestic and irrigation wells that were tested for nitrates, salts, and bacteria.

The educational component of the project utilized information developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Utilizing the Tex*A*Syst program.



Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Texas Agricultural Extension Service Offices, and Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices were active partners in completing the project.

TEXAS RC&D FACTS

- The 23 RC&D Areas in Texas adopted 616 Projects in Fiscal Year 1999
- 361 Projects were completed statewide
- \$28,721,000 in grant funds were brought into Texas through the RC&D Area's efforts
- 16:1 ratio of grant dollars versus Federal RC&D program funds for FY 1999



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S JUNE MEETING

The Board of Director's held their quarterly meeting at the Lion's Club Building in Rotan on June 5, 2000, with 35 present.

Harvey Everheart, Manager of the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District, gave a presentation on Private Property Rights and Underground Water Issues in Texas.

Everheart explained that there are 20 activities that an underground water conservation district must conduct to meet the State's requirements to be considered a viable organization. He stated that both surface and underground water will receive a great deal of attention in the next Texas Legislative session.

Six new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 511 Projects that have been approved.

Terry Been presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-two applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$168,000 in financial incentive payments.

The EQIP Education Grant proposal for the Buffer Strip Demonstration at the Farmer-Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, was approved for \$4,487. The proposal to expand the rural well water screening program, to publish the *Grazing Records and Livestock References* notebook, and an interactive display on conservation subjects were not approved.

The September Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled to be held in Colorado City, Texas, on September 12, 2000. The place will be announced later.

URBAN FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Approximately \$400,000 will be distributed to eligible community groups through the Texas Forest Service Urban Forestry Program.

Urban Forestry Partnership Grants are designed to start or improve a local urban forestry program or to educate the public about the importance of urban trees. Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and must be matched dollar-for-dollar. An exception is an application for a new professional staff position for up to \$20,000.

Eligible applicants include local or state government entities, schools, or nonprofit groups.

Examples of eligible projects are: workshops; youth and volunteer tree programs; long range plans; staff positions; and production of educational materials.

Deadline to apply is **July 6, 2000.**

For additional information contact **Matt Grubisich, Urban Forester** at 915/676-5827 or access the TFS website at <http://txforestservation.tamu.edu>



Decide what your priorities are
and how much time you'll
spend on them.
If you don't, someone else will.

- Harvey Mackay -
quoted in SAM's Club Source

FUNDING SOURCES

RURAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:

During consideration of the FY2001 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, the House Agriculture Committee adopted an amendment by Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) that provides an additional \$57 million for the Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP). Included within the RCAP account is a total of \$10 million for the NADO-support Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program. In FY2000, Congress provided \$3.5 million for the RBOG program, the first significant amount for the program established by the 1996 Farm Bill. The Senate Bill for FY2001 increases RCAP funding by \$55.7 million above the current \$749.3 million level including \$8 million for RBOG as recommended by the President. NADO will provide more details as they become available.

ALA PUBLIC PROGRAMS OFFICE:

This national project, began in 1992 as Writers Live at the Library, is an umbrella initiative of the ALA Public Programs Office that focuses on helping libraries become active centers for live cultural programming in their communities. With major support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the John S and James L Knight Foundation, the initiative offers ongoing resources for adult "live" programming in libraries.

DEADLINE: 6/30/00, 9/30/00, & 4/30/01

WEB: www.ala.org/publicprograms/live.html

PIONEER HI-BRED COMMUNITY GRANT:

To support community-based programs in areas of education, farm safety, rural health, and local community initiatives. Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is interested in supporting projects that demonstrate: cooperation with other community-based programs; broad-based funding; community need; and positive results. It looks favorably

on programs that involve its customers, growers, employees, and sales representatives. Education is their priority consideration focus area.

DEADLINE: 6/30, 9/30, 12/30, & 3/30

CONTACT: Eric Fogg, Hi-Bred International, Inc., 700 Capital Square, 400 Locust Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2340

WEB: www.pioneer.com/pioneer_info/

LIVING BUFFER STRIP GRANT APPROVED

The **Big Country RC&D Area** will receive and administer a \$4,487 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

Melony Sikes, NRCS Program Manager in San Angelo, has been invited to make a presentation and have an exhibit booth at the 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock on October 10, 11, and 12, 2000. Sikes will coordinate the Project including the scheduling of additional partners for the exhibit/demonstration.

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show. Sikes received permission to install the buffer strip and carry out this presentation by Monica Hightower, the Texas Farmer Stockman Show Manager.

Continued on Page 5

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

Information will be given on the procedure for signing up for buffer strips through EQIP and the continuous CRP by parties from the cooperating agencies.

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

NONPROFIT RECEIVED \$594,432 DONATION

People for Progress, Inc., headquartered in Sweetwater and serving a nineteen county area, received personal care products, clothing, and educational materials donated by Avon Products, Inc. The donation will assist many needy people in their service area.

Cost to receive the donated goods valued at \$594,432 was \$1750 to pay for transportation and handling.

This is the fourth semi-trailer truckload donation that PPI has received through this program. Total value of the four donations is \$2,337,728 at a cost of \$11,500 to the organization.

The Area has secured \$2,783,582 in donations for receiving nonprofit organizations at a cost of \$19,927.97 for a savings of over \$2,763,654.03 in the past nine years.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

- Homer Simpson -

"If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it —
Now quiet, they are about to announce the lottery numbers!"

- Mary E Potter -
in Berkshire Eagle

"You can tell a lot about a town from
how it treats its visitors."

- Kenneth Tyan -
(1865-1957)

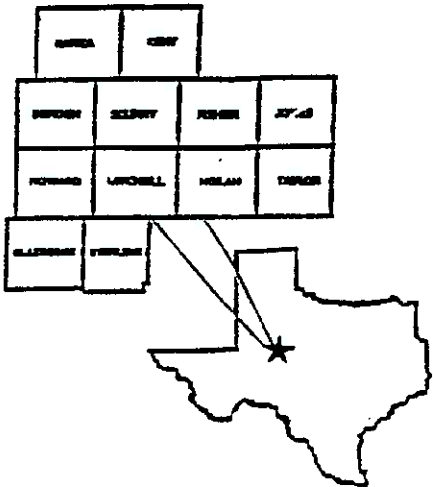
"A critic is a man who knows the way
but can't drive the car."



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

- KEN BECKER - Noian
- ROBERT BROWNE - Sterling
- GARY FUQUA - Howard
- WINDI FULLER - Mitchell
- SID HARDEGREE - Scurry
- MICHAEL HOCH - Glasscock
- CHARLES HOBBS - Taylor
- HURSTON LEMONS - Borden
- VANDA MITCHELL - Garza
- ROBERT POSEY - Fisher
- DAVE BYERLY - Jones
- MARY COLLIER - Kent



Windi Fuller
Windi Fuller
President

Jimmy J. Apel
Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director



NEWS

BIG COUNTRY PARTICULARS

FALL - SEPTEMBER 2000

SERVING YOU:

WINDI FULLER - President
JUDGE ROBERT BROWNE -
Vice President

KEN BECKER - Secretary/Treasurer

JIMMY APEL - Executive Director

DENNISE HOOVER -
Administrative Assistant

TEXAS STATE DRY HYDRANT COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is from a report by Jimmy Woodard, Texas Rural Fire Protection Committee and Volunteer Fireman at Tahoka, Texas.

DRY HYDRANT FUNDING

Funding for installation of dry hydrants has come from the Oil Overcharge Fund in the Texas Department of Energy. The 2000 fiscal year money has not been made available until now due to the Energy Department requesting a report for energy saved by the use of dry hydrants. The Texas Forest Service (TFS) has now developed a formula to satisfy this requirement if the participating fire department will report the times these new installations are used. The amount of the 2000 and 2001 budget for this program is \$200,000 each year.

All parts and labor for each hydrant is eligible for 50% cost share. New this year is including the cost of culverts in barrow ditches to provide all weather access. Cost share amounts for each dry hydrant has increased from \$500 to \$800. Interested fire departments and counties should contact the TFS for applications.

TFS HELPING HANDS PROGRAM

This program is the legal way of transferring fire department equipment to the TFS and then to the receiving fire department without the donating organization having a possible liability problem. To date \$6 million worth of equipment has gone through this program. Over 50 fire department vehicles are in smaller departments by going through this program. Many fire departments have located the equipment to be donated and worked with TFS to move the equipment through the program.

TFS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

This program began in 1947 as a way of putting surplus TFS and military equipment in rural fire departments. The equipment as stated in the agreement is on loan to the fire department. The equipment stays on the TFS inventory list. The only other requirement is that the rolling equipment be painted and insured. The TFS could request the equipment to be used in an emergency. To date this request has only been made once during the woodland fire that went through the central part of Texas. In that case all requested equipment was on site and being used because of the departments mutual assist agreement before the TFS request was made. Some computers may become available under this program.

REPORTS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO TFS

Work is progressing to allow reports to be made on the internet by using the TFS web site. The site address is <http://ticc.fws.gov/>. For additional information contact Stanford's office at the TFS.

RURAL WELL WATER SCREENING

The rural well water screening conducted in six of the twelve Area's counties with three more counties scheduled in September have been successful. The residents of each county have had the opportunity to screen their wells for bacteria, nitrates, and salts.

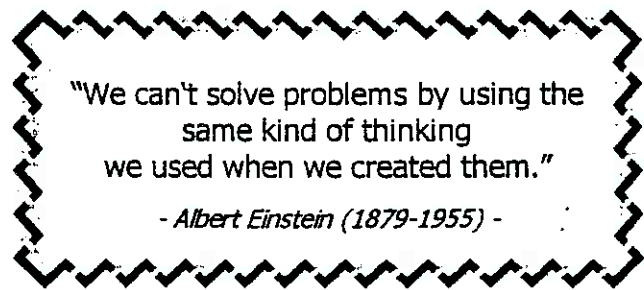
This screening is a voluntary, confidential, self-assessment program to help rural residents check the quality of their well water and learn how to reduce the pollution risks associated with water wells. Information was also provided to help rural residents assess the risk of ground water pollution and describe Best Management Practices that can help protect ground water. This information was developed by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the TEX*A*Syst Program.

Counties within the Big Country RC&D Area:

	Participants	Samples	
Jones	43	66	Jan 2000
Fisher	31	39	Apr 2000
Kent	23	35	May 2000
Nolan	72	111	July 2000
Mitchell	42	55	Aug 2000
Howard	103	156	Aug 2000
Scurry/Borden			Sept 2000
Garza			Sept 2000*

*Conducted by Extension Service & NRCS

To Date: 6 Counties Completed
 314 Participants
 462 Samples Tested



RURAL TEXAS EMS SCHOLARSHIPS

Responding to the growing need for EMS professionals throughout rural Texas, the Center for Rural Health Initiatives has announced its new Rural EMS Scholarship Incentive Program. The program is designed to partner the State Office of Rural Health with rural Texas communities to assist in the training and recruiting of qualified EMS professionals.

The program matches community commitments up to \$2000 for a scholarship to help EMS students with tuition/other costs associated with training at the EMT (Basic), EMT-I (Intermediate) & EMT-P (Paramedic) levels. In return, the newly-trained EMS professional serves for a period of at least one year in the community.

CONTACT: www.crhi.state.tx.us, 877/TEX-CRHI, or crhi@chri.state.tx.us

NEED MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

Need money for college? At KnowledgeFirst you will find the tools and information to help you:

- Educate yourself about the financial aid process
- Find tips on filling out scholarship applications and recognizing scholarship scams
- Read easy-to-understand explanations of aid sources like student loans, military scholarships, need-based grants, and work-study programs
- Calculate the true cost of your college education using calculators
- Compare various available loan options with a lender chart
- Apply online for college financing
- Browse KnowledgeFirst's guides to the SAT/ACT/FASFA/CSS and much more

To register go to www.knowledgefirst.com

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Board of Director's held their quarterly meeting at Bama's Restaurant in Colorado City on September 12, 2000, with 25 present.

Windi Fuller, one of 31 members of the Future of Groundwater in Texas Committee, reported on the recommendations that will be provided to the Texas Legislature in their next session.

The Committee addressed: interbasin transfers; Junior Water Rights; marketing and exporting of underground water; exemptions for wells; funding options for underground water districts; insuring that planning is coordinated among all entities having interest; development of management plans; and that decisions affecting aquifers are made on the basis of science.

Nine new Project Proposals were approved for inclusion in the Area Plan and Plan of Work. This makes a total of 519 Projects that have been approved.

Ken Cash presented a status report on the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell 319(h) Water Quality Project. Twenty-six (26) applications have been submitted by producers requesting \$194,965 in financial incentive payments.

Elisha Kuehn, Assistant State Conservationist in Zone II, informed the Directors that it appears there will be a flat budget for the NRCS overall. However, it

appears that there will be an increase in RC&D funding. Depending on the amount of increase, new Areas will be authorized and an increase in funds will be made to existing RC&D Areas.

Apel presented information on: the Texas Midwest Community Network's Seventh Annual Conference; an update on the TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) program; the completion of Southeast Elementary's Friendship Garden; Rural Texas EMS Scholarships available for EMT training; a summary of counties who participated in the rural well water screening; Rural Small Business 504 Loans that are now available; and highlights from the Texas State Dry Hydrant Committee.

A Progress Summary of the Area Projects from 1991 to date and for the past year and a current listing of the Area Goals were presented. The Area's three-year Plan of Work including the Civil Rights—EEO statement that is a part of the Plan, was approved.

The Area has submitted a Cooperative Agreement to NRCS requesting \$6000 for FY2001 for administrative assistance to the Area.

A thank you letter from Jetty Ann Tomhave was presented to the Area for its assistance with the Farrar Family Scholarship.

The December Board of Director's Meeting is scheduled to be held in Big Spring, Texas. The date was set tentatively for Tuesday, December 5, 2000. More details will be mailed out closer to the date.



"A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes."

- Scottish Proverb -



"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

- Hannah Moore, English Writer {1745-1833} -

FUNDING SOURCES

J C PENNEY:

JC Penney has targeted pre-K through 12th education as a focus for its corporate giving and associate involvement, particularly dropout prevention and school reform and restructuring efforts.

DEADLINE: Accepted year round.

CONTACT:

Community Relations/Contribution Manager
J C Penney Co.
P O Box 10001
Dallas TX 75301
WEB: www.jcpenney.net/company/commrel/educate.htm

KRAFT FOOD CORPORATE GIVING:

Kraft Foods supports programs that provide direct service, especially in three focus areas: hunger; domestic violence; and the access children, especially at-risk children, to the visual and performing arts.

DEADLINE: None ~ board meets quarterly

CONTACT:

Kraft Foods, Inc.
847/646-2000 or FAX 847/646-5241
WEB: www.kraft.com/corporate/about/ci_index.html

AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION:

Deals with various programs within youth education including job training, math, science, and environmental education. Eligibility includes: nonprofits (K-12 schools & school districts, education institutions, nonprofit scientific and education organizations) and national programs involved with curriculum development that encourage innovative education methods and techniques.

DEADLINE: 11/1/00, 5/1/00, & 8/1/00

GUIDELINES ~ Send a SASE to:

American Honda Foundation
P O Box 2205, Torrance CA 90509

CONTACT:

Kathy Carey
310/781-4090

COCA-COLA FOUNDATION:

Aims to provide youth with the educational opportunities and support systems they need to become knowledgeable about the world in which they live and better able to give back to their communities.

DEADLINE: 12/1/00 & 9/1/00

WEB: www.thecoca-colacompany.com/foundation/index.html

LIVING BUFFER STRIP GRANT APPROVED

The Big Country RC&D Area received a **\$4,487** Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) education grant to promote Buffer Strips as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

Buffer Strips are an important tool in improving water quality, nutrient management, reducing wind and water erosion, and providing wildlife habitat.

The exhibit booth may be viewed at the 2000 Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas, on October 10, 11, and 12, 2000.

The demonstration will include an actual buffer strip planted in 1998 on the Farmer Stockman Show grounds. The walkway will be along an artificial creek and the buffer strip is planted on each side. Full body mounts of wildlife will be placed in the buffer strips to illustrate the value of buffer strips to wildlife. The buffer strip and creek will be under a tent during the show.

This provides an opportunity to promote Conservation Buffers (one of the Core Management Practices) with a living demonstration.

Photographs of clean water and buffer strips, representing several regions of Texas, will be framed and placed on easels

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

along the tent wall. The theme for the demonstration is "Buffer Strips are the Art Work of the Land."

Each year over 35,000 people attend the Texas Farmer Stockman Show in Lubbock, Texas. Producers come from all over Texas and the surrounding states, as well as foreign countries.

Support of this project in addition to USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service includes the Texas Farmer Stockman Show, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sutton County Underground Water District, and Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District.

WANTED: EMAIL ADDRESSES

Frequently, the Big Country RC&D Area office receives information on grants and programs that we feel are of interest to our sponsors and supporters. Sometimes the information may have a deadline that prevents us from providing this in our quarterly newsletter.

PLEASE send us your email address so we may forward this valuable information to you quickly.



EMAIL:

Jimmy's Email is Jimmy.Apel@tx.usda.gov
Big Country RC&D's email is bcrcd@hotmail.com

- **HARDWARE:** Collective term for any computer-related object that can be kicked or battered when inclined to do so.
- **ERROR MESSAGE:** Terse, baffling remark used by programmers to place blame on users for their program's shortcomings.
- **PRINTER:** A joke in poor taste. A printer consists of three main parts: the case, the jammed paper tray, and the blinking red light.
- **COMPUTER:** Instrument of torture.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Big Country RC&D Area, a not for profit organization, concentrates on Community and Rural Development to improve the quality of life in West Texas.

VALUES

Local citizens develop an action-oriented plan to improve the social, economic, and environmental betterment of the Area utilizing volunteers, training, and education.

VISION STATEMENT

A safe healthful environment having a strong economy and sustaining the area's natural resources.

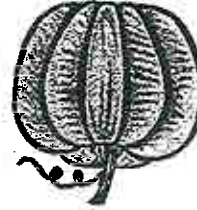
This Newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity provider and employer.

- Homer Simpson -
 "If you really want something in this life, you have to work for it —
 Now quiet, they are about to announce the lottery numbers!"

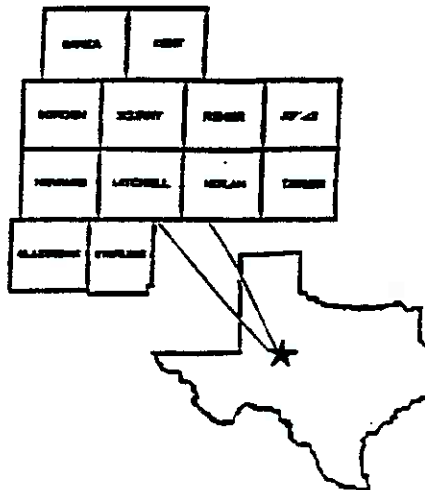
- Mary E Potter -
in Berkshire Eagle
 "You can tell a lot about a town from
 how it treats its visitors."



Big Country RC&D Area, Inc.
P O Box 1114
Sweetwater TX 79556-1114

The current Board of Directors serving the Big Country RC&D Area, Inc. are:

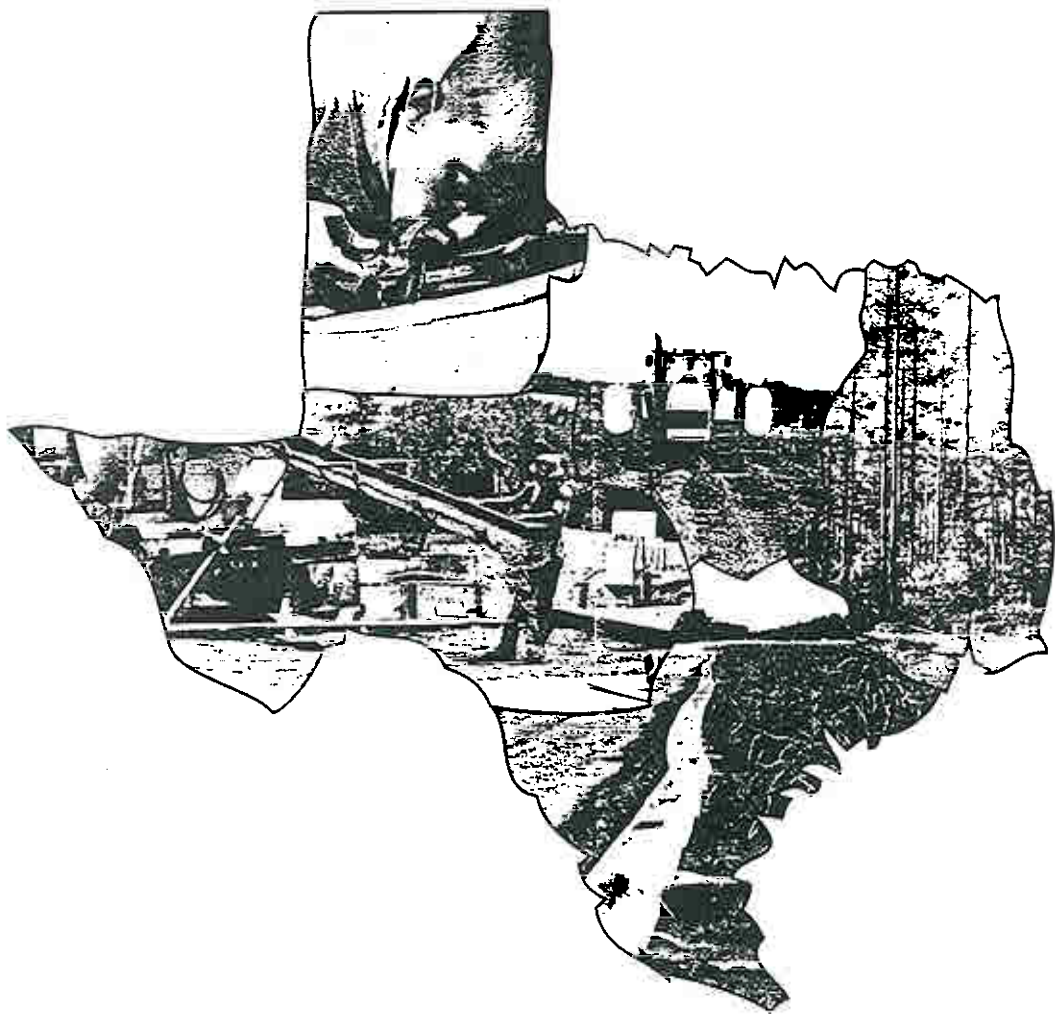
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| KEN BECKER | - Nolan |
| ROBERT BROWNE | - Sterling |
| GARY FUQUA | - Howard |
| WINDI FULLER | - Mitchell |
| SID HARDEGREE | - Scurry |
| MICHAEL HOCH | - Glasscock |
| CHARLES HOBBS | - Taylor |
| HURSTON LEMONS | - Borden |
| B L "SHUG" THOMAS | - Garza |
| ROBERT POSEY | - Fisher |
| DAVE BYERLY | - Jones |
| MARY COLLIER | - Kent |



Windi Fuller
Windi Fuller
President

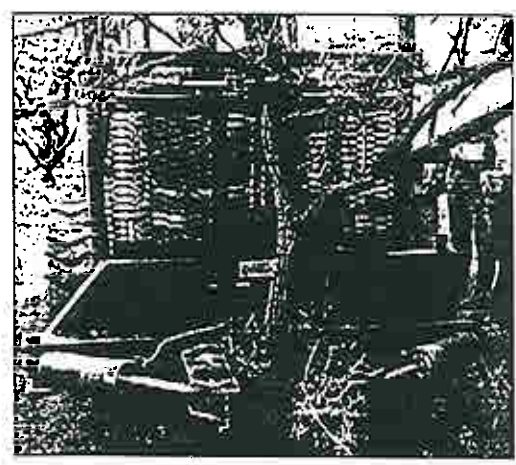
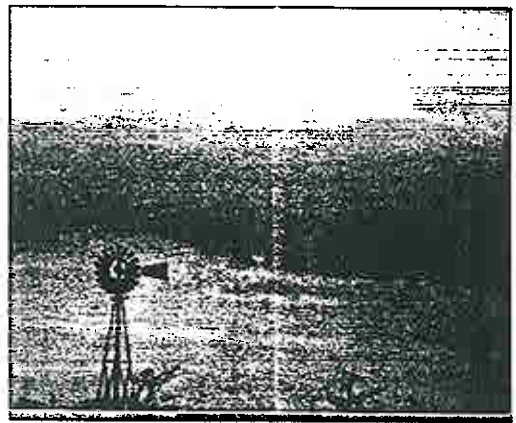
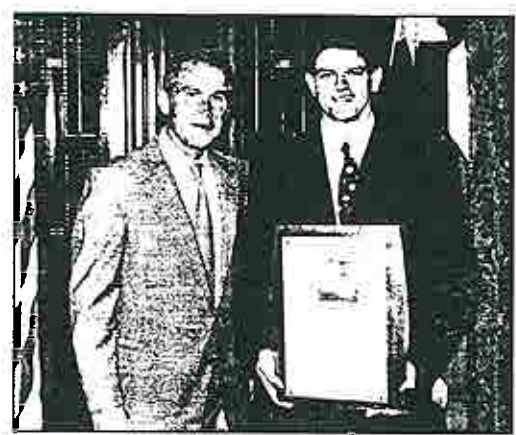
Jimmy J. Apel
Jimmy J. Apel
Executive Director

Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program 2000 Annual Report



A joint publication of the
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
and the
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

319(h) Grant Program Success Stories



Watershed Project Highlight

Oak Creek Reservoir/Lake Trammell Watershed Project

The Oak Creek and Lake Trammell reservoirs, located in west central Texas, constitute major portions of the public water supply for Sweetwater, Roscoe, and Blackwell in Nolan County; Bronte in Coke County; Trent in Taylor County; and the Bitter Creek Water Supply Corporation serving customers in Nolan and Fisher Counties. In all, over 30,000 people are dependent on the watersheds above Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell as their supply of drinking water.

A long-term concern in Oak Creek Reservoir and Lake Trammell is sedimentation that has reduced, and is continuing to reduce, the quality of water captured by these structures. Sedimentation is also reducing the reservoirs' water storage capacity.

The Big Country Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) and the Nolan County SWCD developed the Oak Creek/Lake Trammell Watershed Project to address this water quality issue. The TSSWCB administers and oversees 319(h) funding made available from the EPA.

So far, the project has developed more than 20 WQMPs with agricultural producers. Financial incentives are made available to producers to implement the BMPs in their WQMPs. Assistance in developing and implementing the plans is provided through the Nolan County SWCD, the Big Country RC&D, and the NRCS.

Statewide Project Highlight

Texas Forest Service Statewide BMP Project

Since 1991, the TFS' Best Management Practices Project has worked with the forestry community to ensure the protection of Texas waterways. The project is funded by 319(h) grants from the EPA through the TSSWCB.

Working with trade organizations such as the Texas Forestry Association and the Texas Logging Council, the TFS BMP Project has reached thousands with its message of water quality protection, BMP implementation, and forest stewardship.

With support from the Texas Forestry Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee and cooperation from timber companies, the BMP Project conducts workshops for loggers and foresters, highlighting the correct use and importance of BMPs in the logging industry. These full-day workshops include classroom time and field demonstrations at an actual logging site. From 1995 through 2000, 85 of these sessions have been held, training over 2,000 loggers and foresters.