



Watershed Coordination Steering Committee

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Colorado County Agriculture Building
Columbus, Texas
Thursday, June 8, 2006

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Today's Agenda Items

- Update on Watershed Coordinator/Regional Activities
- Update on the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership
- Leveraging Additional Funding Sources
 - TCEQ-TSSWCB Clean Water Act §319
 - Coastal Impact Assistance Program (GLO)
 - Coastal Management Program-Grant Cycle 12 (GLO)
 - Other funding NRCS and US EPA
- Path Forward
- Adjourn

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Update on Watershed Coordinator/Regional Activities

- Attended the Clean Rivers Program meetings for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority and the Sabine River Authority
- Attended workgroup and partnership meetings for the Dickinson Bayou Watershed Partnership
- The second and third issues of the Coordinated Watershed Planning in Southeast and South Central Texas Newsletter sent out, If you have any ideas on articles or would like to write one please let me know

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Update on Watershed Coordinator/ Regional Activities

Follow-up from:

- Dickinson Bayou WPP
- Upper San Antonio River WPP
- Bastrop Bayou WPP

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Update on Plum Creek

- April 10th, 25th, and 26th, the Plum Creek Watershed Partnership held their first three public meetings to "Kick Off" the project with about 116 citizens and agency representatives attending
- May 9, PCWP held their first steering committee meeting in Lockhart, identifying steering committee members and work groups and had about 50 people attending
- Discussions at the May 9th meeting included: watershed planning and implementation; ground rules for the steering committee; and additional stakeholders representing entities such as row crop farming, developers, oil and gas production, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and more city employees or councilmen.

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Update on Plum Creek

- Also, pollutants of concern and their potential sources, workgroup formation, and proposed workgroups were discussed.
- The workgroup formation and proposed workgroup discussion led the steering committee to have five workgroups:
 - 1) Urban Stormwater/ NPS
 - 2) Agriculture NPS
 - 3) Wastewater Infrastructure
 - 4) Outreach and Education
 - 5) Water Quality and Habitat

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Update on Plum Creek

Proposal for funding for additional monitoring on Plum Creek

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Update on Plum Creek

- Next PCWP Steering Committee Meeting June 20, 6-8:30pm Lockhart State Park Recreation Hall
- Steering Committee will sign the ground rules for the partnership.
- Members will select what work groups they will participate on and select the meeting times.
- Discussions on what the work groups role will be and what they need to accomplish during the work group meetings.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

- TSSWCB/TCEQ Clean Water Act §319(h)
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program
- Coastal Zone Management 6217
- Other Funding Opportunities:
 - NRCS-Cooperative Conservation Partnership
 - US EPA-Targeted Watersheds Grant,
 - Environmental Education Grants, and Regional Geographic Initiative

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TSSWCB CWA §319(h)

- Roughly \$10 million given to the state, split in half between TSSWCB and TCEQ
- The availability of §319(h) grant funding presents a major opportunity for the TSSWCB to implement a NPS management program that addresses the potential of NPS pollution affecting the state's water quality

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will be requesting applications for nonpoint source projects that address the objectives, goals and/or priorities identified in the State of Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program. Applicants will be competing for two categories of Clean Water Act (CWA) §319 funds. These are referred to as 1) *Base Funded* (traditional §319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) funding for education and demonstration of innovative best management practices) and 2) *Incremental Funded* (water quality restoration funding).

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h)

The grant application is a two step process. The applicant will submit a pre-proposal which will be judged against a set of criteria. Applicants who are selected will be notified in writing to prepare a proposal and will be assigned to a TCEQ project manager by September 27, 2006. The project manager will work with the applicant to draft and finalize the workplan prior to submit EPA. EPA will review all work plans prior to TCEQ awarding grant funds

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h)

- **Eligibility** – Grants will be available to all state agencies or political subdivisions of the State of Texas, including cities, counties, school districts, state universities, and special districts. Private, for profit, and nonprofit organizations may participate in projects as partners or contractors but may not apply directly for funding.
- **Match** – All projects must include non-federal matching funds of 40% of the project's total costs (i.e. 60/40 match of the 100% total cost, 60% is Federal funds and 40% is match funds). Applicants should make an effort to identify other similar work going on within the state.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h)

How to Apply and When?: Information on the CWA §319 grant program and how to apply for CWA §319 grant funding and can be accessed on the TCEQ Nonpoint Source Web site at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/monitoring/nps/mgmt-plan/index.html>.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h) Timeline

June	June 23-Request for Grant Application (RFGA) Start Date
July	July 19-Deadline for questions regarding RFGA
August	August 18- Final Addendum to RFGA VIA marketplace August 23- RFGA closes
September	September 27- Notify potential applicants to submit proposal Assign Project Managers to the selected projects
October	October 25- Complete draft workplan
November	November 55- Finalize workplan
December	November 29- Send work plans to EPA
March	Projected Date of EPA Award
April	Start Contract Initiation Process
May	Post awards on Market Place

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

TCEQ CWA §319(h)

- **Questions** –Contact Laurie Curra (512)239-4627
- **After 6/26/2006**, if you have questions concerning the Request for Grant Application please contact the person listed on the Grant Application Packet.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

- 2005 Energy Bill
- \$240 million 2007-2010 (\$60m/yr)
- No Match Required
- Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.
- Planning assistance and the administrative costs to comply with CIAP.**

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

CIAP cont.

- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan.
- Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.**
- **Not more than 23 percent of amounts received by a state or coastal political subdivision for any one fiscal year shall be used for the purposes described in the noted paragraphs

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

CIAP cont.

- All nominations must be submitted electronically to the General Land Office by 5:00 P.M. on June 20, 2006
- To access the nomination form or for more info visit: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/ciap2005.html>
- Discussion

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

Coastal Management Plan-Grant Cycle 12

- NOAA grant approved in 1997
- Administered by the Coastal Coordination Council staff of the General Land Office
- TSSWCB is a member of the Council, dealing with Agricultural and Silvicultural NPS
- Established in Coastal Counties to control NPS pollution
- TSSWCB uses its funding for WQMPs that fall within the coastal zone
- The deadline for pre-proposals is **June 21, 2006** by 5:00 p.m.

Eligible Entities

- 1) The following entities are eligible to receive funds under the Texas CMP Grants Program.
- 2) Incorporated cities in the coastal zone
- 3) County governments in the coastal zone

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

CMP-cont

Eligible Entities

- 4) Texas state agencies
- 5) Texas public universities (including colleges and institutes of higher education)
- 6) Subdivisions of the state with jurisdiction in the coastal zone (e.g., navigation districts, port authorities, river authorities, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts with jurisdiction in the coastal zone)
- 7) Councils of governments and other regional governmental entities in the coastal zone
- 8) The Galveston Bay Estuary Program
- 9) The Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
- 10) Nonprofit organizations located in Texas that are nominated by an eligible entity in categories 1-8 above.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

CMP-cont

- **Water Quality Improvement** - Data on the quality of water in the coastal area indicate that pollution problems remain
- With the ever-increasing population and development pressures on the coast, it is imperative that coastal water quality be improved
- CMP funds can be used for training programs for permitting officials and for enhancing coordination between agencies through the better use of technology
- Discussion

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

Other Funding: USDA NRCS

NRCS-Cooperative Conservation Initiative

- The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary program established to foster conservation partnerships that focus technical and financial resources on conservation priorities in watersheds of special significance
- Under CCPI, funds are awarded to State and local governments and agencies; Indian tribes; and non-governmental organizations that have a history of working with agricultural producers
- **Conservation Priorities component**—\$2 million available. This component is similar to the program that was offered in 2004 and 2005. Eligible applicants must address one or more of the conservation priorities identified in the request for proposals
- **Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) component**—\$2 million available. Eligible applicants must complete a rapid watershed assessment(s) in an 8-digit HUC watershed(s). The RWA must be consistent with NRCS' RWA guidance available below.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

Other Funding: US EPA

Targeted Watersheds Grant

- The Environmental Protection Agency will award over \$9 million to 12 of the nation's most outstanding watershed coalitions as part of the Agency's third round of Targeted Watersheds Grants (TWG).
- The Targeted Watersheds Grant Program is a relatively new EPA program designed to encourage successful community-based approaches and management techniques to protect and restore the nation's waters.
- These 12 organizations will join 34 others that have been selected over the past two years to help protect and restore some of the nation's most highly valued watersheds.

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Leveraging Additional Funding Sources

Other Funding: US EPA

Regional Geographic Initiative Funding

- Section 66.436 – Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Training Grants and Cooperative Agreements – Section 104(B)(3) of the Clean Water Act
- Expected Number of Awards: 10
- Estimated Total Program Funding: \$300,000
- Award Ceiling: \$75,000
- No Match Required

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Path Forward

- Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee meeting June 20 in Lockhart
- Newsletter Articles
- Priority Assessments
- Next WCSC meeting September 7, 2006

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Adjourn

- Thanks! Any Questions

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