



TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Monthly Program News and Activities

4311 South 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas 76502
P.O. Box 658, Temple, Texas 76503 (254) 773-2250

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us>

September 2009

The TSSWCB produces this monthly update of the agency's activities as an informational service to local soil and water conservation district directors. I hope you find this information helpful, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to call your local Field Representative or our State Headquarters.

REX ISOM, Executive Director

Budgeting and Accounting

- **September 30th** is the deadline for 4th Quarter District Director Mileage & Per Diem claims for 2009, Technical Assistance claims for 2009, and the return of any unused District Director Mileage and Per Diem advances for 2009.
- **October 31st** is the deadline for submitting Annual Financial Statements. Forms for 2009 are available on the SWCD Resources Page at the TSSWCB website address www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds/resources.

Texas Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program	9
Texas Groundwater Protection Committee	11
Upcoming Meetings	14
Water Quality Planning & Implementation	15
Water Supply Enhancement Program	21
Flood Control Dams	23

CONTENTS

State Board Work Sessions and Meetings	1
Budget and Accounting	2
Human Resources	2
Special Projects	2
Public Information and Education	3
Water Quality Management Plan Program	4
Poultry Water Quality Management Plans	5
Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program	5
Clean Water Act, §319(h) NPS Grant Program	6
State Funded NPS Grant Program	7
Total Maximum Daily Load Program	8

STATE BOARD WORK SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Scheduled Work Sessions and Meetings

The State Board has scheduled a Board Work Session for 1:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 18, 2009** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. A formal State Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, November 19, 2009** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple. For more information on State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, visit the agency's website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>.

Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 17, 2009, State Board Meeting will be considered for approval at the meeting scheduled for November 19, 2009. To view

any past Board Meeting minutes visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings/minutes>

For more information on past and pending State Board Work Sessions and Meetings, please visit the agency's website at

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/boardmeetings>, or contact Vicki Davis at (254) 773-2250, ext. 253.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING

- **September 30th** is the deadline for 4th Quarter District Director Mileage & Per Diem claims for 2009, Technical Assistance claims for 2009, and the return of any unused District Director Mileage and Per Diem advances for 2009.
- **October 31st** is the deadline for submitting Annual Financial Statements. Forms for 2009 are available on the SWCD Resources Page at the TSSWCB website address www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds/resources.

HUMAN RESOURCES

TSSWCB is currently recruiting for the following position:

- Engineer III – Wharton
- Accountant I – Temple

For more information on TSSWCB employment please visit the link below:

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/employment>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Program Overview

Special Projects is a department within the TSSWCB that provides coordination for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Directors, facilitates open government functions required by the Texas Administrative Procedures Act, and directs the completion of other mandatory agency responsibilities such as compiling the agency's Semi-Annual Report and rule making.

69th Annual State Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors

- The state meeting this year is scheduled for October 19-21, 2009 in Arlington.
- Those planning on attending this year may find all the information needed for registration and reservations on our web site at:
<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/swcds/annualmeeting>

Please make your plans and join your fellow district directors in Arlington.

Proposed Rule Amendment (31 TAC §523.3)

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board has proposed a rule amendment. The rule amendment pertains to 31 TAC, Chapter 523.3. The proposed rule amendment concerns water quality management plans for poultry facilities. Senate Bill 1693 passed by the 81st Legislature requires the State Board to promulgate rules to assess the siting and construction of certain new or expanding poultry facilities.

The proposed rule amendment will be published in the October 9, 2009 *Texas Register* and the proposed rule will be open for review and comment for 30 days.

Proposed Rule Amendment (31 TAC §525) – Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

At their September 17, 2009 meeting, the State Board proposed amendments to 31 TAC §525 concerning the requirements for soil and water conservation districts to have an audit, compilation and review or annual financial statement.

The proposed rule will be published in the October 9, 2009 *Texas Register* for a 30 day review and comment period.

Adopted New Rule (31 TAC §529) - Flood Control O&M Grant Program

At their September 17, 2009 meeting, the State Board adopted the new rule 31 TAC §529 with amendments that were published in the *Texas Register*.

The proposed rule was published in the *Texas Register* July 31, 2009. The new rule will become effective October 14, 2009.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Program Development Workshop—A SWCD director-employee program development workshop is scheduled for January 26-27 in Temple at the Hilton Garden Inn. Though the workshop is open to all directors, newly elected or appointed directors will be extended an invitation first before information is sent to all districts in the state. Information about the workshop will be forthcoming after the State Meeting.

Area Association Meetings—The following area associations of SWCDS met during the month of September.

Rolling Plains Association of SWCDS: The Rolling Plains Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts met September 9, at the Bryson Senior

Citizens Center located in Bryson. District directors representing districts from a 16-county area toured the Barton Chapel Wind Farm located on Kinder Mountain in south Jack County. On site Iberdrola Renewables staff members talked to the directors about the operation of the wind farm. Iberdrola Renewables, a world leader in wind power, has operations in more than 40 countries servicing over 27 million customers.

The Barton Chapel Wind Farm was developed and constructed by Gamesa Energy and later purchased by Iberdrola Renewables. The wind farm, which is fully operational, has 60 turbines which are expected to supply over 110,000 habitants in North Texas with energy.

South Central Texas Association of SWCDS: The South Central Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts met September 22, at the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center located at Seguin. Soil and water conservation district directors representing districts from a 13-county area toured the facilities of the Alamo Group. With corporate offices in Seguin, Texas, the company designs, manufactures and distributes equipment for right-of-way maintenance and agriculture. It operates 17 principal facilities worldwide, primarily in the United States, England, France, Canada and Australia.

Deep East Texas Association of SWCDS: The Deep East Texas Association of Soil and water Conservation Districts met September 24, at the East Texas Plant Material Center located near Nacogdoches to learn about the latest research efforts in soil and water conservation plants and grasses. Established in 1982, the East Texas Plant Materials Center provides plant solutions for conservation problems in this gently-rolling to hilly-forested and prairies area of the state. The Center has developed new technology for mining and timber reclamation, improving saline soils, protecting stream banks and wetlands, enhancing wildlife habitat and improving range and pasture lands.

South Texas and Gulf Coast Associations of SWCDS: A joint meeting of the South Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Gulf Coast Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts met September 30, at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center in Corpus Christi.

District directors representing 38 soil and water conservation districts in the Gulf Coast Prairie, Coastal Sandy Plains and South Texas Brush Country regions of the state toured the Port of Corpus Christi to learn about the waterborne commerce of the navigation district and its operation as a public corporation.

TSSWCB Conservation Video Library

About The Catalog

There are over 200 conservation-related videos available; the 2009 catalog can be downloaded from the TSSWCB website at

http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/files/contentimages/2008_Video_Library_Catalogue.pdf. The 2009

Catalog includes 30 new titles in DVD format. No rental fees are assessed to those wishing to borrow the videos from the library. However, the borrower is responsible for paying the return postage. Borrowing privileges are for a length of two weeks and must be returned upon the date specified by the librarian. Videos can be ordered through your local soil and water conservation district or by contacting the Public Information/Education department of the TSSWCB.

How Shipping Works

The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Public Information/Education Committee will pay the first transit postage costs to mail the video(s) to the requester. Postage for returning the video(s) will be the responsibility of the borrower. All videos must be insured upon return.

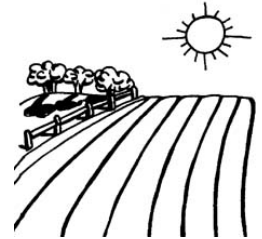
Ordering a Video

Select a video from the [TSSWCB Conservation Video Catalog](#), then contact Meredith Whitley at mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us to check it out.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

Program Overview

The passage of Texas Senate Bill 503 (1993) directed the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to implement water quality management plans (WQMPs) in Texas. A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The agency has been implementing WQMPs since the mid 1990s and has completed over 10,000 plans in the State of Texas.



<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wqmp>.

A total of 753 water quality management plans were certified by the State Board in FY-2009. This is 21.5% greater than the yearly goal.

District cost-share fund allocations for FY-10 have been approved by the State Board. The period for obligating FY-10 cost-share funds goes from September 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010.

Lapsed cost-share funds have been reduced by 69% in the last five years. Approximately 8.3% of total cost-share funds are being lapsed statewide at the present time. The lapsed fund report for FY-07 was completed in September, 2009.

POULTRY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Overview

In 2001, the 77th Legislature amended the Texas Water Code to require all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a



Water Quality Management Plan that is certified by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Beginning in September 2009, the 81st Legislature has amended the Texas Water Code to require TSSWCB to assess whether the siting and construction of all new poultry farms or existing farms that expand by more than 50% within ½ mile of permanently inhabited residences, businesses, or places of worship is likely to cause a persistent nuisance odor. The new law also requires all poultry producers and most receivers of poultry litter to keep records of poultry litter usage. For more information on Poultry WQMPs, please visit:

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/poultry>.

Program Activities

TSSWCB continues to conduct inspections of poultry CAFO facilities to ensure they are meeting all the necessary requirements. In addition, staff continues to review and update existing WQMPs and develop plans for newly constructed farms.

Contact the poultry office at (936) 462-7020 if you have questions about the poultry program.

TEXAS NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Overview

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to develop a program to protect the quality of water resources from the adverse effects of nonpoint

source (NPS) water pollution. The *Texas NPS Management Program* (Texas NPS Program) is the State's official roadmap for addressing NPS pollution. The program publication is updated every five years. The most recent revision was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Governor in December 2005. The Texas NPS Program is jointly administered by the TSSWCB and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The Texas NPS Program utilizes baseline water quality management programs and regulatory, voluntary, financial, and technical assistance approaches to achieve a balanced program. NPS pollution is managed through assessment, planning, implementation, and education. The TCEQ and TSSWCB have established goals and objectives for guiding and tracking the progress of NPS management in Texas. Success in achieving the goals and objectives are reported annually in the NPS Annual Report, which is submitted to EPA in accordance with the CWA.

Implementation of the Texas NPS Program involves partnerships among many organizations. With the extent and variety of NPS issues across Texas, cooperation across political boundaries is essential. Many local, regional, state, and federal agencies play an integral part in managing NPS pollution, especially at the watershed level. They provide information about local concerns and infrastructure and build support for the kind of pollution controls that are necessary to prevent and reduce NPS pollution. SWCDs are vital partners in working with landowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) that prevent and abate agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution. By establishing coordinated frameworks to share information and resources, the State can more effectively focus its water quality protection efforts.

For more information on the *Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program*, visit our website at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram>.

The following is a compilation of relevant information pertaining to the multiple water quality programs administered by and/or coordinated through the TSSWCB Statewide Resource Management (SRM) group that collectively represent the agency's efforts in supporting the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Program.

Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program – 2010 Revision Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the initial stages of updating the *Texas NPS Management Program* document. Staffs from both agencies are currently working on updating and revising the content of the program publication.

FY2009 Nonpoint Source Annual Report Status

TSSWCB SRM staff and TCEQ staff are in the early stages of coordinating the drafting of the *2009 Annual Report on Managing Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Texas*. SRM and TCEQ staff have finalized a timeline for articles and graphics. Selected articles for the report are currently being drafted by cooperating entities. In order to continue receiving CWA §319(h) funds, the State must annually report on success in achieving the goals and objectives of the Texas NPS Management Program. The report will highlight the State's efforts during FY2009 to collect data, assess water quality, implement projects that reduce or prevent NPS pollution, and educate and involve the public to improve and maintain the quality of water resources for current and future generations of Texans. This report must be submitted to EPA in January 2010 to ensure continued funding.

CLEAN WATER ACT §319(h) NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

Background

Congress enacted §319(h) of the CWA in 1987, establishing a national program to control NPS

water pollution. Through §319(h), federal funds are provided through the EPA to States for the development and implementation of each State's NPS Management Program. The §319(h) funding in Texas is divided equally between the TCEQ and the TSSWCB.

Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses a Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles:

- Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries;
- Water quality objectives based on scientific data;
- Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and,
- Diverse, well-integrated partnerships.

For groundwater management, the geographic focus is on aquifers rather than watersheds. Otherwise, the approach is the same. Wherever interactions between surface and ground water are identified, management activities will support the quality of both resources.

The TSSWCB and TCEQ apply the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by supporting the development and implementation of watershed protection plans (WPPs). WPPs are locally-driven projects that serve as a mechanism for voluntarily addressing complex water quality problems that cross multiple jurisdictions. WPPs are coordinated frameworks for implementing prioritized and integrated water quality protection and restoration strategies driven by environmental objectives. Through the WPP process, TSSWCB encourages stakeholders to holistically address all of the sources and causes of impairments and threats to both surface and ground water resources within a watershed. More information on WPPs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/wpp>.

The development of WPPs is supported by §319(h) funding to varying extents; however, a WPP that meets EPA's criteria is required to be completed in order to utilize §319(h) funding to implement portions of WPPs.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and WPP development and implementation and are summarized in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

TSSWCB/TCEQ/NRCS/EPA Coordination for FY2010 Grant Funding Cycle

On September 10, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [John Foster, TJ Helton, Aaron Wendt, Loren Henley] hosted a coordination meeting with staff from EPA, TCEQ, and USDA-NRCS in Temple to discuss the upcoming FY2010 Request for Proposals. Each agency presented their preliminary priority areas and activities for FY2010; these priorities are all targeted to best implement projects to achieve water quality restoration. Discussion also occurred on general statewide concerns, scoring criteria for selecting proposals to fund, and where each agency plans to target funds over the long-term.

FY2010 Request for Proposals

TSSWCB SRM staff intend to publish the FY2010 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the NPS Grant Program on October 2, 2009. The RFP will be published in the *Texas Register* and all SWCDs will be notified of this funding opportunity. SRM staffs have identified priority areas and activities for this funding cycle based on the Texas NPS Management Program and the 2008 Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List. Once proposals are received, they will be reviewed by SRM staff based on the published ranking criteria and selected for funding. Projects receiving federal funding must be submitted to EPA for review and approval. The deadline for proposal submission will be November 16, 2009.

FY2003 – FY2008 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Status

There are currently 50 ongoing §319(h) grant-funded projects addressing a wide array of agricultural and silvicultural NPS issues. Unliquidated federal funds for these 50 ongoing projects total approximately \$13 million and are primarily being used to address NPS pollution from animal feeding operations, prevent atrazine runoff, provide technical assistance, implement BMPs, support various NPS outreach/education programs, develop and implement WPPs, and implement the NPS portion of TMDL Implementation Plans (I-Plans). Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through these grants are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

FY2009 CWA §319(h) NPS Grant Application Status

TSSWCB submitted the FY2009 CWA §319(h) grant application to EPA on July 7, 2009 requesting \$4,578,700 for 10 projects. SRM staff received written comments regarding individual workplans from EPA staff on August 5, 2009. TSSWCB staff developed responses to these comments and submitted them to EPA on August 10, 2009. TSSWCB staff had a conference call with EPA staff on August 13, 2009 to discuss remaining issues regarding the FY2009 grant application. TSSWCB SRM staff is working with EPA staff to complete the grant application and award process.

STATE FUNDED NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

Background

The 80th Texas Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million dollars in general revenue funds, for the biennium, to the TSSWCB for the purpose of planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution in impaired watersheds. TSSWCB is committed to funding

projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation. On May 24, 2007, the Board approved a *TSSWCB Policy on TMDLs* which provides guidance to staff on directing state appropriations for the State Funded NPS Grant Program. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds funded through this grant program are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report

FY2008 Grant Status

On July 19, 2007, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2008 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to the NPS Grant Program. There are currently two ongoing projects associated with the Little Brazos River Tributaries Bacteria Assessment Project. Five projects have been completed.

FY2009 Grant Status

On July 17, 2008, the Board approved an operating budget for FY2009 that allocated \$1,200,494 in state appropriations to the NPS Grant Program. There are currently thirteen ongoing projects that support implementation of agricultural NPS components of TMDL I-Plans, technical assistance for the development of WQMPs on agricultural lands, and the collection and analysis of water quality data for watersheds with impaired waterbodies.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROGRAM

Background

The CWA requires Texas to identify lakes, rivers, streams and estuaries failing to meet or not expected to meet water quality standards and not supporting their designated uses (swimming, drinking, aquatic life, etc.). This list of impaired waterbodies is known as the *Texas 303(d) List* and must be submitted to the EPA for review and approval every two years.

The State must then establish a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for certain waterbodies identified on the *Texas 303(d) List*. A TMDL defines the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate on a daily basis and still meet water quality standards. The pollution reduction goal set by the TMDL is necessary to restore attainment of the designated use of the impaired waterbody. The maximum amount of a pollutant is determined by conducting a detailed water quality assessment that provides the information for a TMDL to allocate pollutant loads between point sources and nonpoint sources. It also takes into account a margin of safety, which reflects uncertainty and future growth.

Based on the environmental target of the TMDL, an Implementation Plan (I-Plan) is then developed that prescribes the measures necessary to mitigate anthropogenic (human-caused) sources of that pollutant in that waterbody. The I-Plan specifies limits for point source dischargers and recommends BMPs for nonpoint sources. It also lays out a schedule for implementation. Together, the TMDL and the I-Plan serve as the mechanism to reduce the pollutant, restore the full use of the waterbody and remove it from the *303(d) List*. EPA must approve the TMDL, but the I-Plan only requires State approval.

With authority as the lead agency in Texas for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS water pollution, TSSWCB shares responsibility with the TCEQ for the development and implementation of TMDLs. TSSWCB is committed to funding and collaborating with TCEQ on TMDL projects encompassing monitoring, assessment, modeling, planning, education and implementation. More information on TMDLs is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl>.

The TSSWCB's efforts to restore water quality are channeled through TMDL and WPP development and implementation. Impaired waters may be

addressed through either mechanism depending on the specific situation. Summaries of the TSSWCB's activities within specific watersheds are available in the *Water Quality Planning and Implementation* section of this report.

TEXAS COASTAL NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Background

The Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to coordinate state, local, and federal programs for the management of Texas coastal resources. The program brings in federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funds to Texas to implement projects and program activities for a wide variety of purposes. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the CMP. The Coastal Coordination Council (CCC), established by the Texas Legislature, administers the CMP; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the CCC.

The CCC is charged with adopting uniform goals and policies to guide decision-making by all entities regulating or managing natural resource use within the Texas coastal area. The CCC reviews significant actions taken or authorized by state agencies and subdivisions that may adversely affect coastal natural resources to determine consistency with CMP goals and policies. In addition, the CCC oversees the CMP Grants Program and the Small Business and Individual Permitting Assistance Program.

The Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA) §6217, requires each State with an approved coastal zone management program (CMP) to develop a federally approvable program to control coastal NPS pollution. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the EPA jointly administer §6217 at the federal level. In Texas, the TSSWCB and the

TCEQ hold primary responsibility for the coastal NPS program's development and implementation.

More information on the CMP is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal.html>.

Conditional Approval Status of Coastal NPS Program

Texas submitted the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* (Coastal NPS Program) to EPA and NOAA in December 1998. In July 2003, NOAA and EPA issued conditional approval of the Coastal NPS Program. The agricultural and silvicultural portions of the program were approved without conditions. Texas had five years to meet the remaining conditions to gain full approval. States that fail to submit an adequate program (full approval) face penalties including loss of EPA and NOAA funds, including CWA §319(h) NPS grant monies.

In July 2008, the CCC responded to the remaining conditional approval findings of NOAA and EPA. It was anticipated that this response would address the remaining conditions resulting in a fully approved program.

On May 29, 2009, GLO received e-mail comments from NOAA and EPA which stated, in part, that:

“NOAA and EPA find that enough progress has been made to lift only the hydromodification condition. For several urban management measures, Texas identifies planned activities to meet the conditions. While those activities may result in the measures being met in the future, NOAA and EPA must evaluate the actual activities, rather than a plan for future actions, in order to lift the conditions.”

TSSWCB, TCEQ, and GLO plan to meet with NOAA and EPA staff in the near future to discuss requirements for Texas to fully meet all conditions.

Coastal Coordination Council (CCC)

Several bills were passed by the 81st Texas Legislature that will impact the coastal program. Senate Bill 803 changes the number of required meetings of the CCC to twice annually and allows for other meetings at the call of the chair or three members of the CCC; SB 803 was effective September 1, 2009.

House Joint Resolution 102 proposes to effectively make the Open Beaches Act part of the Texas Constitution. This proposed constitutional amendment would protect the right of the public to access and use public beaches; this must be approved by the people of Texas through a statewide election on November 3, 2009.

CCC meeting information is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ccc.html>.

Coastal Management Program Grant Cycle 15

The CMP Grant Guidance and Application Package for Grant Cycle 15 is available at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/grants/cycle15.html>. As in previous grant cycles, the CCC expects to award approximately \$1.8 million for planning, acquisition, construction, education, and research projects in Grant Cycle 15.

The following funding categories have been established by the CCC to ensure that projects funded under the CMP Grants Program further the goals and policies of the CMP. Grant applications must fit within one or more of the categories to be eligible for funding. The categories are not listed in order of preference:

- Coastal Natural Hazards Response
- Critical Areas Enhancement
- Shoreline Access
- Water Quality Improvement
- Waterfront Revitalization and Ecotourism Development
- Permit Streamlining/Assistance and Governmental Coordination

- Information and Data Availability
- Public Education and Outreach

The application deadline is October 14, 2009. Selected projects would have a proposed project start date of October 2010.

TEXAS GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Background

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) bridges the gap between State groundwater programs, improves coordination between member agencies and works to protect groundwater as a vital resource; the TSSWCB is a statutorily-authorized member of the TGPC.

The Texas Water Code sets non-degradation of the State's groundwater resources as the goal for all State programs and asserts that groundwater be kept reasonably free of contaminants that interfere with its present and potential uses. The TGPC implements the State's groundwater protection policy which:

- requires that pollution discharges, waste disposal and other regulated activities not harm public health or impair current or potential groundwater use,
- recognizes the variability between aquifers,
- acknowledges the importance of water quality,
- balances the protection of the environment and the long-term economic health of the state, and
- recognizes the use of the best professional judgment of the responsible state agencies to implement the policy.

The Texas Groundwater Protection Committee:

- Reports on its activities and recommends new protection programs to the Legislature.
- Publishes numerous reports.

- Advises the TCEQ on the development of agricultural chemical plans for groundwater.
- Develops, implements and updates a comprehensive *Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy* and an annual *Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report*.

More information on the TGPC is available at <http://www.tgpc.state.tx.us/>.

TGPC Activities

- September 30, 2009 – TGPC Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Austin)

WATER QUALITY COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

MOA Coordination with TCEQ

On September 27, 2006, at a joint meeting, the TSSWCB and the TCEQ approved a new *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on TMDLs, I-Plans, and WPPs*. This framework for collaboration between the two agencies describes the programmatic mechanisms employed to develop and implement TMDLs and WPPs. TSSWCB staff continue to work with TCEQ staff to implement components of the MOA. The MOA is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/tmdl#moa>.

Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Major revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards are being drafted by TCEQ, including the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for reservoirs and modifications to contact recreation use and bacteria criteria.

TCEQ staff are working to incorporate comments received after the January 2009 Advisory Work Group meeting. The draft rule (Standards) will be proposed in the *Texas Register* for public comment. TCEQ adoption of any changes to the Standards is

not expected until the end of 2009 or early 2010. EPA must also approve any changes.

More information on this Standards review process is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stakeholders/swqsawg.html.

Texas Clean Rivers Program

The Texas Clean Rivers Program (CRP) is a state fee-funded program for water quality monitoring, assessment, and public outreach administered by the TCEQ. CRP is a collaboration of 15 partner agencies who conduct water quality monitoring and assessments in the 23 river and coastal basins in Texas. Each river or coastal basin is assigned to one of the designated CRP partner agencies. Each CRP partner agency has an established steering committee to set monitoring and assessment priorities within its basin. These committees bring together the diverse interests in each basin and are designed to allow local concerns to be addressed through regional solutions. The Texas Water Code requires the TCEQ and CRP partner agencies to coordinate monitoring and assessment activities with local SWCDs through the TSSWCB. The data generated by CRP partner agencies is used to identify significant long-term water quality trends and characterize water quality conditions. Each CRP partner agency develops and publishes an annual *Basin Highlights Report* and a five-year *Basin Summary Report*. The TCEQ also uses CRP-generated data in the biennial assessment conducted for the *Texas Water Quality Inventory and 303(d) List*. More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/eq/texcleanriver.html>.

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

Galveston Bay is an estuary of national importance and, through the federal CWA §320, is included in the National Estuary Program administered by the EPA. The Galveston Bay Council is the stakeholder advisory group that coordinates the implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan*, which is a

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under the auspices of the National Estuary Program. The TSSWCB is a named member of the Galveston Bay Council.

Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee

On September 24, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended the Galveston Bay Council Water and Sediment Quality Subcommittee meeting in Houston. At this meeting several updates on WPPs across the Galveston Bay Watershed were provided. The Dickinson Bayou WPP received consistency review comments from EPA concluding that the WPP did not satisfy all 9 key elements; however, EPA is allowing limited implementation of wetlands to treat stormwater. Texas Sea Grant will address the comments and resubmit the WPP to EPA for review. The Bastrop Bayou WPP is nearing completion; however, HGAC is waiting on Tidal Prism modeling results. Double Bayou and Highland Bayou are two WPPs that will be starting soon using funding from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus). These two projects will begin with a characterization phase including data collection and analysis, identifying sources, and some stakeholder interaction. When that phase is completed, the groups will seek additional funding to complete the WPPs; it is anticipated to take 3-4 years to complete the work. A discussion was held on attracting new partners to increase implementation in the Galveston Bay Watershed. The implementation would be focused on stormwater, examining different BMPs on small watersheds, collecting data, and sharing results with other groups to increase LID implementation, and other implementation projects that reduce stormwater pollution. When that phase is completed, the groups will seek additional funding to complete the WPPs; it is anticipated to take 3-4 years to complete the work. A discussion was held on attracting new partners to increase implementation in the Galveston Bay Watershed. The implementation

would be focused on stormwater, and looking at different BMPs on small watersheds, collecting data, and sharing results with other groups to increase LID implementation, and other types that reduce stormwater pollution.

More information is available at <http://www.gbep.state.tx.us/>. The implementation of the *Galveston Bay Plan* affects agricultural and silvicultural operations in watersheds that drain to Galveston Bay in Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties.

TDA Feral Hog Task Force

On September 23, 2009, TSSWCB staff [Mel Davis, Aaron Wendt] attended a Feral Hog Task Force meeting hosted by Agriculture Commissioner Staples in Austin. The 81st Texas Legislature appropriated \$1M over the FY2010-2011 biennium to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for feral hog abatement research, landowner education and outreach, and cooperative funding projects for actual abatement work. The Commissioner reconvened this Task Force to provide direction on a long-term statewide feral hog abatement strategy and to recommend appropriate projects to fund over the FY2010-2011 biennium.

At this meeting, the Task Force reviewed and discussed responses TDA received from their Request-for-Information (RFI) on existing and proposed feral hog abatement projects. Additionally, TDA had polled all 254 counties about any ongoing feral hog abatement activities each county was funding and participating in; only 46 counties responded. Responses to the RFI and the county poll helped the Task Force focus in on the type of projects that should be funded over this biennium. Based on these discussions, TDA staff will craft and publish a Request-for-Proposals. The Task Force also continued discussions on crafting a statewide feral hog abatement strategy. It was recommended that the strategy be designed as a model approach that can be implemented on a local county or watershed basis. The statewide strategy would include a section that clearly describes the

breadth of on-going abatement and research activities. The model approach would focus on working with landowners on actual abatement of feral hogs combined with an education component about feral hog management. The Task Force will meet again to assist TDA in reviewing proposals received from the forthcoming RFP and to review a draft of the statewide feral hog abatement strategy.

Many of the bacteria-related TMDLs and WPPs that the TSSWCB is involved in have demonstrated that since feral hogs spend a significant amount of time in the riparian corridor, they are significant contributors of pollutant loadings (bacteria, nutrients, sediment) to waterbodies. TSSWCB SRM staff intend to work with TDA to discuss how best to leverage their feral hog abatement monies with the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program to achieve the feral hog abatement goals in numerous WPPs and TMDLs, such as the Plum Creek WPP.

Getting in Step Workshop on Watershed Outreach Campaigns

On September 22-23, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch, Loren Henley, Mitch Conine, Donna Long, Lee Munz, and Aaron Wendt] participated in *Getting In Step* workshops on conducting outreach campaigns in Houston and Austin. These workshops, organized by the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), developed and led by Tetra Tech, and funded by the EPA, taught participants how to conduct watershed outreach campaigns to help reduce NPS and stormwater pollution, improve water quality on a priority watershed basis, and facilitate greater TMDL and WPP implementation.

This course helped increase participants' outreach and social marketing knowledge and skills, identify opportunities for agencies and organizations to partner to conduct and improve outreach efforts, and promote the adoption of social marketing and outcome-based methods to improve effectiveness of outreach efforts targeted at adults.

Air Emissions from Land Application of Manure

On September 18, 2009, TSSWCB poultry staff [Julie David and Jeremy Welch], TSSWCB SRM staff [Lee Munz] listened to a web cast over air emissions from land application of manure held by the AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. Curtis Dell, with USDA ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit discussed the concern with ammonia and green house gas emissions following land application of manures. Dr. Dell provided different techniques to use to best prevent ammonia volatilization and ways to implement these techniques. Dr. Dell ended his presentation discussing how agriculture contributes to the planet's greenhouse gasses and new methods of controlling the emissions of those gasses.

Dr. Robin Brandt, Pennsylvania State University, talked about the monitoring of manure odors following land application. Dr. Brandt explained how nuisance odors are assessed and that one of the most important factors in this process is intensity. He explained how a field olfactometer is used to aid us in the detection and intensity of these odors and allows us to have a standard (a tangible number) to use in the assessment. Joy Agnew, Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute, spoke about green house gas and odor emissions. Joy discussed different application techniques and emission data collected with each application method. According to Ms. Agnew's study, the application methods of manures are directly related to gaseous emissions into the air; the technical data emphasized the correlation between green house gases and odor.

In closing, the presentation provided all with important technical data and useful field data that hopefully all of us can incorporate into our duties at work. For more information on the presentations please visit the respective web-page below.

http://www.extension.org/pages/Air_Emissions_After_Manure_Land_Application_Including_Subsurface

Upcoming Public Meetings

- September 26, 2009 – National Estuaries Day
- September 26, 2009 – National Public Lands Day
- September 26, 2009 – Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Wetlands Visitor Center Grand Opening (Uncertain)
- September 29, 2009 – Bastrop Bayou WPP (Angleton)
- September 29-30, 2009 – Texas Animal Manure Management Issues Conference (Round Rock)
- September 30, 2009 – Texas Groundwater Protection Committee Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee (Austin)
- October 6, 2009 - Geronimo Creek WPP Public Meeting (Seguin)
- October 8, 2009 - Geronimo Creek WPP Public Meeting (New Braunfels)
- October 10, 2009 – South Llano Watershed Alliance Board Meeting (Junction)
- October 14, 2009 – Lake Granbury WPP Stakeholder Meeting (Granbury)
- October 14, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Rio Frio)
- October 15, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Pearsall)
- October 16, 2009 – *Pasture Management for Water Quality* (NLPELC Webcast)
- October 16, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (TBA)
- October 17, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Leakey)
- October 19, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Echo Valley)
- October 19-23, 2009 – EPA *Environmental Data Quality Assurance Conference* (Dallas)
- October 20, 2009 – Riparian Landowner Workshop, Nueces River Authority (Utopia)
- October 20, 2009 – BIG TMDL Meeting, (Houston)
- October 21, 2009 – Galveston Bay Council (Houston)
- October 21, 2009 – Cypress Creek Watershed Committee (Wimberley)
- October 22, 2009 – Concho River WPP Stakeholder Meeting (San Angelo)
- October 22, 2009 – Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Weslaco)
- October 27, 2009 – Buck Creek WPP stakeholder meeting (Wellington)
- October 27, 2009 – Bastrop Bayou WPP stakeholder meeting (Angleton)
- October 29, 2009 – Bastrop Bayou WPP stakeholder meeting (Lake Jackson)
- November 10, 2009 – Texas Watershed Steward Workshop focused on Geronimo Creek (Seguin)
- November 12, 2009 – Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee (Lockhart)
- November 16-18 – *Land-Water-People Conference* hosted by River Systems Institute (San Marcos)
- November 20, 2009 – *Air Emissions from Poultry Operations May Be Regulated as Water Quality Concerns* (NLPELC Webcast)
- December 3, 2009 – Texas Watershed Steward workshop focused on Caddo Lake (Jefferson)
- December 3, 2009 – Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee (Columbus)

WATER QUALITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Adams and Cow Bayous

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, pH
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/37-orangecounty.html>. These TMDLs have limited affect on livestock and forestry operations in the Adams and Cow Bayous watershed in Orange, Jasper and Newton Counties.

Arroyo Colorado

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Concerns: Nutrients, Sediment
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.arroyocolorado.org/>. This WPP affects farming operations in the Arroyo Colorado watershed in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.

Atascosa River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-atascosa.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Atascosa River watershed in Atascosa, Bexar, Frio, Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen, Medina and Wilson Counties.

Bastrop Bayou

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.bastropbayou.org/>. This WPP has the

potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Bastrop Bayou watershed in Brazoria County.

Brady Creek

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.ucratx.org/NPSBrady.html>. This project has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Brady Creek watershed in McCulloch, Concho, San Saba and Menard Counties.

Buck Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://twri.tamu.edu/buckcreek/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Buck Creek watershed in Donley, Collingsworth, and Childress Counties.

Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/22-buffalobayou.html>. This TMDL will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Buffalo and Whiteoak Bayous watershed in Harris, Fort Bend and Waller Counties.

Caddo Lake

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen, pH
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.netmwd.com/Caddo%20Lake%20Protection%20Plan/Caddo_index.html. This WPP has the potential to affect poultry, forestry and other

agricultural operations in the Caddo Lake watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison, Marion, Wood, Gregg, Franklin, and Hopkins Counties.

Cedar Creek Reservoir

Impairment: pH
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

On August 25, 2009, a Texas Watershed Steward workshop was held in Kaufman. Sponsored by TSSWCB and facilitated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the training discussed what it is to be a watershed steward, watershed impairments, managing urban and rural lands through the use of BMPs, and how to get involved in community-driven watershed protection and management. The training also involved interactive displays such as a rainfall simulator. The workshop was held in support of on-going watershed assessment and planning efforts being facilitated by Texas AgriLife Research in the Cedar Creek Reservoir watershed. More information on the Texas Watershed Steward Program is available at <http://tws.tamu.edu/>. More information is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect agricultural operations in the Cedar Creek watershed in Henderson, Kaufman, Rockwall and Van Zandt Counties.

Clear Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/68-clearcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Clear Creek watershed in Galveston, Harris, Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties.

Concho River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen, Macroenthic Community
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at http://www.ucratx.org/CRiverRest_UCRA.html. This WPP will affect farming and livestock operations in the Concho River watershed in Coke, Concho, Crockett, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Menard, Midland, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Tom Green, and Upton Counties.

Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/42-copano.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Copano Bay and Mission and Aransas Rivers watershed in Bee, Goliad, Refugio, Karnes, Aransas and San Patricio Counties.

Cypress Creek

Concerns: Dissolved Oxygen, Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.cypresscreekproject.org/>. This WPP has the potential to affect livestock and farming operations in the Cypress Creek watershed in Hays County.

Dickinson Bayou

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

This WPP is proceeding in tandem with the on-going TMDLs for bacteria and dissolved oxygen. More information on the TMDL is available at

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/17-dickinson.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.dickinsonbayou.org/>. Both the WPP and the TMDLs have the potential to affect farming and ranching operations in the Dickinson Bayou watershed in Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Eagle Mountain Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations in the Eagle Mountain Reservoir watershed in Clay, Jack, Montague, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

Elm and Sandies Creeks

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/31-elmsandies.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Elm and Sandies Creeks watershed in Gonzales, DeWitt, Karnes, Wilson and Guadalupe Counties.

Galveston Bay

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/74-uppercoastoyster.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations around the Galveston Bay complex in Chambers, Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties.

Geronimo Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#geronimocreek>. This WPP has the potential to affect ranching and farming operations in the Geronimo Creek watershed in Guadalupe and Comal Counties.

Gilleland Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

More information on the Creekside Conservation Program is available at <http://www.lcra.org/community/conservation/creekside.html>. More information on the TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/69-gillelandcreekbacteria.html>. This TMDL has limited affect on livestock operations in the Gilleland Creek watershed in Travis County.

Lake Granbury

Concern: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

On August 18, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine] attended the Lake Granbury WPP stakeholder meeting in Granbury. An update from the financial workgroup was given. A review of the site-specific analyses of BMPs was provided. Project personnel gave a presentation on lot numbers used in the model for specific subdivisions, and the life span of septic systems used in the model.

More information is available at <http://www.brazos.org/gbWPP.asp>. This WPP has the potential to affect agricultural operations around Lake Granbury in Hood and Parker Counties.

Lake Granger

Impairment: Bacteria
Concern: Sediment
Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/managementprogram/granger>. This WPP will affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Granger watershed in Williamson and Burnet Counties.

Hickory Creek

Concern: Nutrients, Sediment

Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.cityofdenton.com/pages/mygovernormentalwater319grant.cfm>. This WPP has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Hickory Creek watershed in Denton County.

Lake Houston

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

On September 15, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Brian Koch] attended a monthly steering committee meeting for the BIG in Houston. A review of the public engagement activities was given; at the one public meeting conducted so far, positive comments on the plan were received. The most common practice that was suggested through prioritization exercises was the reduction of impervious cover. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) has received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) funding to conduct an intense survey of failing septic systems (OSSFs) in their 13 county region and an additional two counties in BIG watersheds. The survey will include a mapping component. A presentation was given on various urban stormwater BMPs for bacteria reduction; the main focus was on which provided the best load reductions and which BMPs were the most cost-effective. HGAC reported that the GIS mapping is near completion on the impaired waterbodies, and work is on-going on the risk analysis comparing actual bacteria geometric means in streams to the local human population. TCEQ

staff presented information on their CWA §319(h) grant program and upcoming FY2010 Request-For-Grant-Applications (RFGA). The selection criterion for projects was overviewed, and the RFGA will open in September 2009; the priority will be for projects exploring low impact development (LID) for pollutant load reductions. TSSWCB SRM staff announced the upcoming FY2010 Request-for-Proposals (RFP) for the TSSWCB NPS Grant Program; WPP development is a top priority

More information on the greater Houston area Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/community/water/tmdl/BIG/default.aspx>. More information on the Lake Houston TMDLs is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/82-lakehouston.html>. These TMDLs have the potential to affect livestock operations in the Lake Houston watershed in Grimes, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller Counties.

Lake O' the Pines

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/19-lakeopines.html>. This TMDL and I- Plan affect poultry, dairy and forestry operations in the Lake O' the Pines watershed in Upshur, Camp, Titus, Morris, Cass, Harrison and Marion Counties.

Lampasas River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: WPP

Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.lampasasriver.org/>. This WPP will affect livestock operations in the Lampasas River watershed in Bell, Burnet, Hamilton, Lampasas and Mills Counties.

Leon River

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen

Mechanism: WPP, TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ (TMDL), TSSWCB (WPP)

On August 26, 2009, TSSWCB SRM staff [Mitch Conine, Aaron Wendt] attended a Leon River Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting in Temple. The objective of this meeting was to update the TAG on progress being made by Leon River stakeholders on the development of the WPP and to obtain feedback and suggestions on the management strategies recommended by stakeholders for inclusion in the WPP. Topics that were discussed included the results from the reconnaissance survey, water quality goal of the stakeholders, RUAAAs being conducted by TCEQ, and a summary of the management strategies selected by stakeholders. Parsons presented the results of a sensitivity analysis that was conducted on the effectiveness of the management measures. Guidance was also sought from agencies that will play a role in providing future technical or financial support towards implementing the solutions in the Leon River WPP.

More information on the postponed bacteria TMDL is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-leonbacteria.html>. More information on the WPP is available at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>. Both the WPP and the TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Leon River watershed in Comanche, Coryell, Mills, Erath and Hamilton Counties.

Little Brazos River Tributaries

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: Assessment

Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/watersheds#littlebrazosriver>. This project will affect livestock and poultry operations in the Walnut, Pin Oak,

Campbells, Mud and Spring Creek watersheds in Robertson County.

Lower San Antonio River

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-lowersanantonibac.html>. This TMDL will affect livestock operations in the Lower San Antonio River watershed in Karnes, Goliad, Refugio, DeWitt, Wilson, Victoria, and Guadalupe Counties.

North Bosque River

Impairment: Nutrients, Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/06-bosque.html>. This TMDL affects dairy operations in the North Bosque River watershed in Bosque, Erath, Somervell, Hamilton, Coryell and McLennan Counties.

Oso Bay and Oso Creek

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/67-osobaybacteria.html>. This TMDL may affect livestock and farming operations in the Oso Bay/Creek watershed in Nueces County.

Peach Creek

Impairment: Bacteria

Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan

Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/34-peachcreek_group.html. This TMDL will

affect livestock operations in the Peach Creek watershed in Gonzales, Bastrop, Fayette and Caldwell Counties.

Pecos River

Impairment: Dissolved Oxygen
Concern: Salinity
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/>. This WPP will affect agricultural operations in the Pecos River watershed in Andrews, Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, Jeff Davis, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward and Winkler Counties.

Plum Creek

Impairment: Bacteria
Concerns: Nutrients
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TSSWCB

More information is available at <http://plumcreek.tamu.edu/>. This WPP affects livestock and farming operations in the Plum Creek watershed in Caldwell and Hays Counties.

Rio Grande below Falcon Reservoir

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: TCEQ

This project has the potential to affect livestock operations in Starr, Jim Hogg and Hidalgo Counties.

San Bernard River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: WPP
Lead: Third party

More information is available at <http://www.sanbernardriver.com/>. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the San Bernard River watershed in

Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend and Wharton Counties.

Lake Somerville

Impairment: pH, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: Assessment
Lead: TCEQ

This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the Lake Somerville watershed in Bastrop, Burleson, Lee, Milam, Washington, and Williamson Counties.

South Llano River

Impairment: None
Mechanism: Assessment and Planning
Lead: Third party

On August 20, 2009, the South Llano Watershed Alliance held a meeting in Junction. This recently formed group of local landowners' mission is "to preserve and enhance the South Llano River and adjoining watersheds by encouraging land and water stewardship through collaboration, education, and community participation." An Upper Llanos SWCD Director also serves as a member of the Alliance's Board. At this meeting current issues affecting local groundwater conservation districts were discussed. Also, the role Burn Associations play in reducing brush and enhancing rangeland grasses was discussed.

More information is available at <http://www.texaswatermatters.org/southllanoriver.htm>. This project has the potential to affect farming and livestock operations in the South Llano River watershed in Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Real and Sutton Counties.

Upper Oyster Creek

Impairment: Bacteria, Dissolved Oxygen
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan
Lead: TCEQ

On August 24, 2009, TCEQ contractors hosted a RUAA meeting in Sugar Land. At this meeting, the results of RUAA field surveys were reviewed. The comprehensive study involved a detailed examination of the entire segment. This included a look at historical as well as current recreational uses, multiple sampling trips, and interviews with local residents and landowners.

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/25-oystercreek.html>. This TMDL will have limited affect on farming and livestock operations in the Upper Oyster Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

Upper Trinity River

Impairment: Bacteria
Mechanism: TMDL, I-Plan, RUAA
Lead: TCEQ

More information is available at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/water/tmdl/66-trinitybacteria.html>. These TMDLs will have limited affect on livestock operations in the Upper Trinity River watershed in Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Kaufman, Navarro and Tarrant Counties.

Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

The 81st Legislature continued funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program by providing \$4,503,641.00 in General Revenue Funds in FY10. These funds were directed to be used for continuation of brush control projects designated by the Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- Provided the following SWCD with Water Supply Enhancement Program Updates,

Water Supply Enhancement Program Certification, and /or Contracts

Area 1 District

Donley County SWCD

Area 2 Districts

Middle Concho SWCD
Eldorado-Divide SWCD
Tom Green County SWCD
Pedernales SWCD
Gillespie County SWCD
Kerr County SWCD
Kendall SWCD

Area 3 Districts

McMullen County SWCD
LaSalle County SWCD
Caldwell/ Travis SWCD
Comal/Guadalupe SWCD
Webb County SWCD
Frio SWCD

Area 5 Districts

Archer County SWCD
Lower Clear Fork/Brazos SWCD
Pecan Bayou SWCD
Bosque SWCD
Little Wichita SWCD

Current Water Supply Enhancement Projects throughout the State and Project Managers:

- Canadian River Project- Rod Goodwin
Canadian River Municipal Water Authority
- Greenbelt Water Authority – Bob Gruner
- Twin Buttes- Tuffy Wood
- Little Wichita River (Archer and Clay Counties)- Cody York
- Pedernales Project- Melissa Grote
- Guadalupe River Project- Melissa Grote
- Edwards Aquifer Project (Bandera County)-
Melissa Grote
- Lake Brownwood Project- Cody York
- Nueces River Project- Tuffy Wood
- Bosque Project- Cody York
- Lower Guadalupe River – Kendria Ray

- Frio River Watershed – Adrian Perez
- Fort Phantom Hill- Cody York
- Palo Pinto- Cody York

Evaluating Watersheds are based on the following criteria as per Chapter 203.053:

In ranking areas under the plan, the board shall consider:

- (1) the location of various brush infestations;
- (2) the type and severity of brush infestations;
- (3) the various management methods that may be used to control brush;
- (4) the amount of water produced by a project and the severity of water shortage in the project area; and

any other criteria that the board considers relevant to assure that the brush control program can be most effectively, efficiently, and economically implemented

Evaluating Limits on Cost Share Participation as per Chapter 203.154

- (a) Not more than 70 percent of the total cost of a single brush control project may be made available as the state’s share in cost sharing.
- (b) A person is not eligible to participate in the state brush control program or to receive money from the state brush control program if the person is simultaneously receiving any cost-share money for brush control on the same acreage from a federal government program.
- (c) The board may grant an exception to Subsection (b) if the board finds that joint participation of the state brush control program and any federal brush control program will:
 - (1) enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of a project;
 - (2) lessen the state’s financial commitment to the project; and
 - (3) not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the project.
- (d) A political subdivision is eligible for cost sharing under the brush control program,

provided that the state’s share may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of a single project.

- (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, 100 percent of the total cost of a single project on public lands may be made available as the state’s share in cost sharing.

Staff Activities

- Evaluate pending application sub basin criteria from all projects
- Landowners assisted with Brush Certifications
- Landowners assisted with Brush Contracts
- Provided information to landowners in Eagle Pass about invasive species on the Rio Grande
- Discuss Internal Auditor review in Temple and prepare Audit responses for Internal Auditor and TSSWCB
- Attended staff meeting in Austin
- Guadalupe work group meeting held in Boerne, TX with the Kendall SWCD, Kerr County SWCD, and the Comal SWCD
- Conducted training sessions for District planners, NRCS and Field Reps in Johnson City and Pearsall discuss changes that are currently being made to the WSEP
- Prepare Sunset Evaluation Report concerning Water Supply Enhancement Program for TSSWCB

FLOOD CONTROL DAM PROGRAMS

Background

Nearly 2,000 floodwater retarding structures, or dams, have been built over the last 60 years within the State of Texas. The primary purpose of the structures is to protect lives and property by reducing the velocity of floodwaters, and thereby releasing flows at a safer rate. These are earthen dams that exist on private property, and were designed and constructed by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). They were built with the understanding that the private property owner would provide the land, the federal government would provide the technical design expertise and the funding to construct them, and then units of local government would be responsible for maintaining them into the future.

Local sponsors of the dams were required before a federal project was begun. Local sponsors signed a watershed agreement which outlined the duties and responsibilities of the federal and local sponsors. In general, local sponsors are required to obtain and enforce easements, conduct operation and maintenance (O&M) inspections, maintain the structures, and implement land treatment measures in the watershed. Soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) are one of the local sponsors in all watershed projects. Other local sponsors include counties, cities, and Water Control and Improvement Districts (WCIDs).

Due to the passage of time and difficulty in raising adequate funds locally, many sponsors approached the Texas Legislature with their concerns over amount of needed O&M and repairs. In recognition that these dams will continue to serve as a critical protection for our state's infrastructure, private property, and lives, the Legislature appropriated \$15

million dollars to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for grants to local SWCDs during the 2010-2011 biennium for O&M and structural repairs.

Program Development Status

In response to this appropriation, the TSSWCB conducted stakeholder meetings throughout the Summer of 2009 with interested parties to determine the best approach for administering these funds. It was determined that separate programs, one to address O&M and another to address structural repairs, should be created.

Program rules for the Flood Control O&M Grant Program were published in the Texas Register for a 30-day public comment period on July 31, 2009, and were adopted on September 17, 2009 by the State Board. The State Board also approved funding allocations for all eligible SWCDs on September 17, 2009. TSSWCB staff is currently in the process of developing notifications for SWCDs that received an allocation, which will include information on other program topics and information on how to request reimbursement for the performance of O&M activities. These notifications are scheduled to be sent out before the end of September.

Program rules for the Structural Repair Grant Program are currently being drafted by the TSSWCB staff and should be provided to the State Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting. All interested parties will be provided an opportunity to submit comments on these rules prior to final adoption by the State Board.

For more information on these new programs, please visit the TSSWCB's website at:

<http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us/en/floodcontrol>

The NRCS has prepared Watershed fact sheets for all watershed projects in Texas. A state-wide fact sheet has also been prepared. You may access this information at:

<http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watersheds/index.htm>.

The fact sheets and other data from the watershed web may be used in working with your local watershed sponsors on O&M, repair, dam safety, and rehabilitation of watershed project dams.

Monthly Program News and Activities is produced by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for use by Texas soil and water conservation district directors. If you have any questions regarding its contents, or have information you would like to see in a future issue, please contact Meredith Whitley (254) 773-2250 or mwhitley@tsswcb.state.tx.us.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) is a state agency that administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and coordinates conservation and pollution abatement programs throughout the State. Headquartered in Temple, Texas, the TSSWCB offers technical assistance to the state's 216 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is the lead state agency for the planning, management, and abatement of agricultural and silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution, and administers the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's responsibilities.



4311 S 31ST STREET, SUITE 125
TEMPLE, TEXAS 76502
(254) 773-2250
www.tsswcb.state.tx.us