



WHAT IS THE TSSWCB?

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 217 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs). The TSSWCB is governed by a seven-member board composed of two Governor appointees and five landowners elected throughout Texas by more than 1,000 SWCD Directors. The TSSWCB is the lead Texas agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The TSSWCB also administers Technical Assistance and Cost-Share Assistance Programs for natural resource conservation land improvement measures. The TSSWCB fulfills its responsibilities as the lead agency through its Total Maximum Daily Load, NPS Coastal Management Plan, and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Programs, as well as the Clean Water Act, §319(h) Grant Program funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The TSSWCB also administers a NPS complaint resolution process, a Poultry WQMP Initiative, and the Texas Brush Control Program. The TSSWCB maintains regional offices in strategic locations in the State to help carry out the agency's water quality responsibilities.



REGIONAL OFFICE LOCATIONS

DUBLIN REGIONAL OFFICE:
611 East Blackjack
Dublin, TX 76446-2321
(254) 445-4814; (254) 445-4815
Fax: (254) 445-4819

HALE CENTER REGIONAL OFFICE:
1201 Avenue E
Hale Center, TX 79041
(806) 839-1030
Fax: (806) 839-1323

HARLINGEN REGIONAL OFFICE:
1826 West Jefferson
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 421-5841
Fax: (956) 421-5853

MOUNT PLEASANT REGIONAL OFFICE:
1809 West Ferguson Ste. B
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
(903) 572-4471; (903) 572-4472
Fax: (903) 572-4897

WHARTON REGIONAL OFFICE:
1120 Hodges Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-9496; (979) 532-9497
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TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



TSSWCB WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM

*MANAGING AND ABATING
AGRICULTURAL & SILVICULTURAL
NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION*

311 North 5th
P.O. Box 658
Temple, Texas 76503

Phone: 254-773-2250
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WHAT CRITERIA MUST A WQMP MEET?

The TSSWCB selected requirements for a WQMP based on the criteria outlined in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), a publication of the United States Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The FOTG represents the best available technology and is already tailored to meet the needs of soil and water conservation districts all over the nation.

A WQMP covers the entire operating unit, and includes essential practices applicable to the planned land use. For example:

- Conservation cropping sequence and residue management should be considered for cropland.
- Proper grazing use is a vital consideration for a good WQMP on rangeland.
- A WQMP on pastureland/hayland will have water facility considerations.
- Forested land and wildlife are not to be excluded from the WQMP operating unit.
- Nutrient management must be outlined if nutrients are applied.
- Pesticide management must also be considered.
- If an animal feeding operation is involved (such as a dairy), an animal waste management system will be a component of the WQMP.
- Waste utilization will be considered when agricultural wastes are applied.
- These WQMPs also have components for irrigation waters, erosion control, and are flexible enough to cater to a wide range of operating systems.



WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (WQMP)?

A WQMP is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by soil and water conservation districts for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The plan includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, technologies or combinations thereof. The purpose of a WQMP is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation with local soil and water conservation districts, to be consistent with state water quality standards.

WHAT DOES A WQMP CONTAIN?

- SWCD-Cooperator Agreement.
- Written request for planning assistance.
- Soil map of the area with appropriate interpretations.
- Conservation plan map.
- Narrative record of decisions (including all practices needed for a WQMP).
- Implementation schedule indicating the year practices will be applied.
- Worksheets used during the inventory and/or planning phase of WQMP.
- Signature sheet to verify individual privacy.

5-STEP WQMP PARTICIPATION PROCESS

1. An individual requests planning assistance through their local Soil and Water Conservation District.
2. The SWCD arranges for technical assistance and the WQMP is developed.
3. The WQMP is certified by the TSSWCB.
4. The individual implements the WQMP on his/her land.
5. The WQMP is subject to annual status reviews by the TSSWCB to check on implementation progress.



HOW TO OBTAIN A WQMP

The first step in obtaining a WQMP is to visit your local soil and water conservation district (SWCD). Typically, the SWCD office is co-located with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the local USDA Service Center. NRCS or SWCD staff at the local office can take your request for a WQMP, obtain necessary information from you, and start the plan development process. You can also contact one of the TSSWCB Regional Offices identified on the reverse side of this brochure.



HOW MUCH DOES A WQMP COST?

There is no charge for the development of a WQMP. However, there may be costs for implementing certain practices required in a WQMP. Financial assistance from both state and federal sources may be available. Contact your local soil and water conservation district for specific information.

POULTRY WQMPs

The 77th Texas Legislature, in 2001, passed Senate Bill 1339, which requires all poultry facilities in Texas to operate in accordance with a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) certified by the TSSWCB.



This law provides a schedule of deadlines by which each producer, depending on their initial date of operation, must have requested the development of a WQMP from their soil and water conservation district. Any poultry facility constructed after January 1, 2002 is required to have a WQMP prior to the receipt of any birds.

