



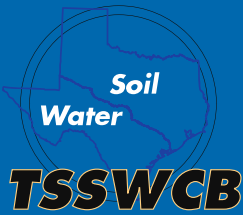
# Water Quality Management Plans for Agriculture in the Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed

Brian Koch

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

Geronimo Creek WPP Agricultural NPS  
Workgroup Meeting

June 8, 2010



# Role of Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

## Water Quality Mandate (Texas Agriculture Code §201.026)

TSSWCB is the lead agency in Texas responsible for planning, implementing and managing programs and practices for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural (forestry-related) nonpoint source water pollution

# Texas Conservation Partnership



Providing Conservation Assistance to Private Landowners for 70+ Years

- LOCAL

- 216 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

- STATE

- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

- FEDERAL

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)



# Critical Other Partners

- Texas AgriLife Extension Service
  - Education and demonstration of BMPs
  - Soil testing campaigns
- Texas Forest Service
  - Silvicultural NPS mgmt
- Texas Department of Agriculture
  - lead state agency for the regulation of pesticide use and application
- Texas AgriLife Research
  - Research and demonstration of BMP effectiveness
- USDA Agricultural Research Service
  - Research and demonstration of BMP effectiveness



*The soil conservation district is the workshop through which those who love the land pool their efforts and information in making land more stable and productive and our country more prosperous and a better land in which to live.*

*The fact that landowners themselves have the responsibility for voting in a district, formulating its program, administering its business and entering into cooperative agreements with their fellow landowners, makes soil conservation districts a democracy in action.*

V.C. Marshall  
Father of the Texas SWCD Program

# Only 1 SWCD for Geronimo Creek Watershed

## ➤ Comal-Guadalupe SWCD #306



## ➤ Board of Directors

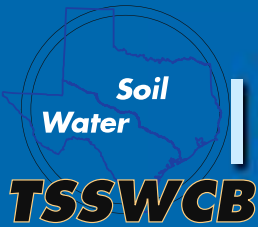
- Russell Bading, Chairman
- Larry Damerau, Vice Chairman
- Carroll Lindeman, Secretary
- Guy Anderson
- Kathryn Brady

### Office

3251 N Hwy 123 Bypass  
Seguin, TX 78155

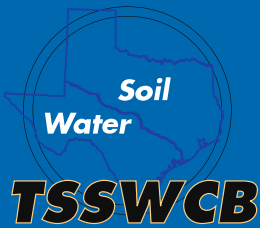
### Meeting Location

Producer's Co-op  
210 S Castell Ave  
New Braunfels, TX xxxxx



# Implementation Strategy

- Proactively address agricultural and silvicultural sources of pollutants through voluntary implementation of BMPs by private landowners to bring impaired waterbodies back into compliance with water quality standards or to prevent waterbodies from becoming impaired



# How Is This Done?

- Technical assistance for private landowners to develop Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) that implement BMPs
- Financial assistance for private landowners through traditional cost-share programs to implement WQMPs/BMPs
- Research on effectiveness of BMPs
- Education on and Demonstration of BMPs



# Water Quality Management Plans



- Site-specific plan for land improvement measures developed through SWCD for agricultural lands
- Provides farmers and ranchers a voluntary opportunity to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement consistent with state water quality standards
- Includes appropriate and essential land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, or technologies applicable to the planned land use
- Best available management and technology as described in NRCS Field Office Technical Guide



# WQMP statutory authority

- Created by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature in 1993 through Senate Bill 503 (often referred to as 503 Program, or 503 plans, or 503 cost-share)
- Voluntary enrollment in WQMP Program for farmers and ranchers, except that the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2001 (Senate Bill 1339) said poultry operations must obtain a WQMP



# WQMPs

- Site specific plans with a combination of BMPs for the treatment of identified resource concerns
  
- Based on:
  - Soil types
  - Planned land use/production goals
  - Known/potential water quality/natural resource problems (SWAPA)
  - Other site specific factors (topo, etc.)



# WQMPs

- Cover the entire farm or ranch
- Specifically designed to achieve pollution prevention/abatement

Consistent with Texas water quality goals

- Texas Water Code §26.121



# Technical Criteria for WQMPs

## NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

To view all approved practices for  
selected county:

- [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg\\_locator.aspx?map=TX](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=TX)
- Select region
- Select county
- Select Section IV
- Select A. Conservation Practices



# FOTG “essential practices” for each land use:

## ➤ Cropland

- Conservation crop rotation
- Residue mgmt.

## ➤ Pastureland

- Prescribed grazing
- Livestock water

## ➤ Rangeland

- Prescribed grazing
- Livestock water

## ➤ Wildlife

- Wildlife mgmt.

## ➤ Forestland

- Forest mgmt.

# WQMPs also include:

- Nutrient management
- Pest management
- Animal waste management system
- Waste utilization
- Irrigation water management

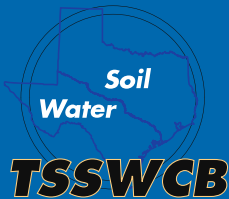




# WQMPs also include:

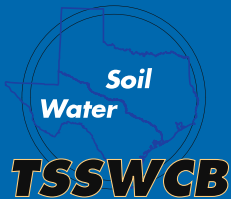
- Erosion control measures to bring soil loss to acceptable levels (T)
- Erosion control to treat other forms of erosion (i.e. gullies) according to FOTG quality criteria
- Other practices to meet site specific concerns





# Why have a WQMP?

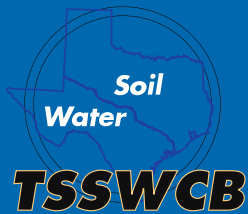
- Abate/prevent erosion and promote conservation
- A strategic “management” plan for your operation
- “Assurance” policy – state-certified proof that you aren’t just sitting around doing nothing
- Demonstrate that voluntary conservation programs promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals
- Demonstrate that agriculture is doing our part to protect water quality
- Resolve water quality complaints through voluntary process with SWCD and TSSWCB



# WQMPs

## What Does A Plan Contain?

- District-Cooperator Agreement
- Request for Planning Assistance
- Soils Map & Interpretations
- Conservation Plan Map
- Narrative Record of decisions (practices) needed to implement WQMP
- Implementation schedule indicating years practices are to be applied
- Worksheets used during the inventory and planning process of developing WQMP
- NRCS Practice Standards and engineering designs
- Signature sheet to verify individual's privacy



# How to get a WQMP?

- An individual requests planning assistance through their local SWCD
- The WQMP is usually developed by the SWCD Technician with NRCS and TSSWCB assistance
- The WQMP is approved by the landowner, the SWCD and NRCS and then certified by the TSSWCB
- Producer implements the WQMP on their land
- Annual status reviews are conducted to ensure that the landowner implements BMPs as agreed to in the implementation schedule



# Financial Assistance



State (TSSWCB) or Federal (NRCS) assistance is obtainable for certain conservation practices



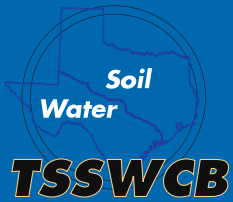
## ➤ TSSWCB

- 503 or 319 or WSEP cost-share

## ➤ NRCS



- Farm Bill Programs (EQIP, WHIP, WRP, AWEP)
- Local Work Group meetings to set priorities



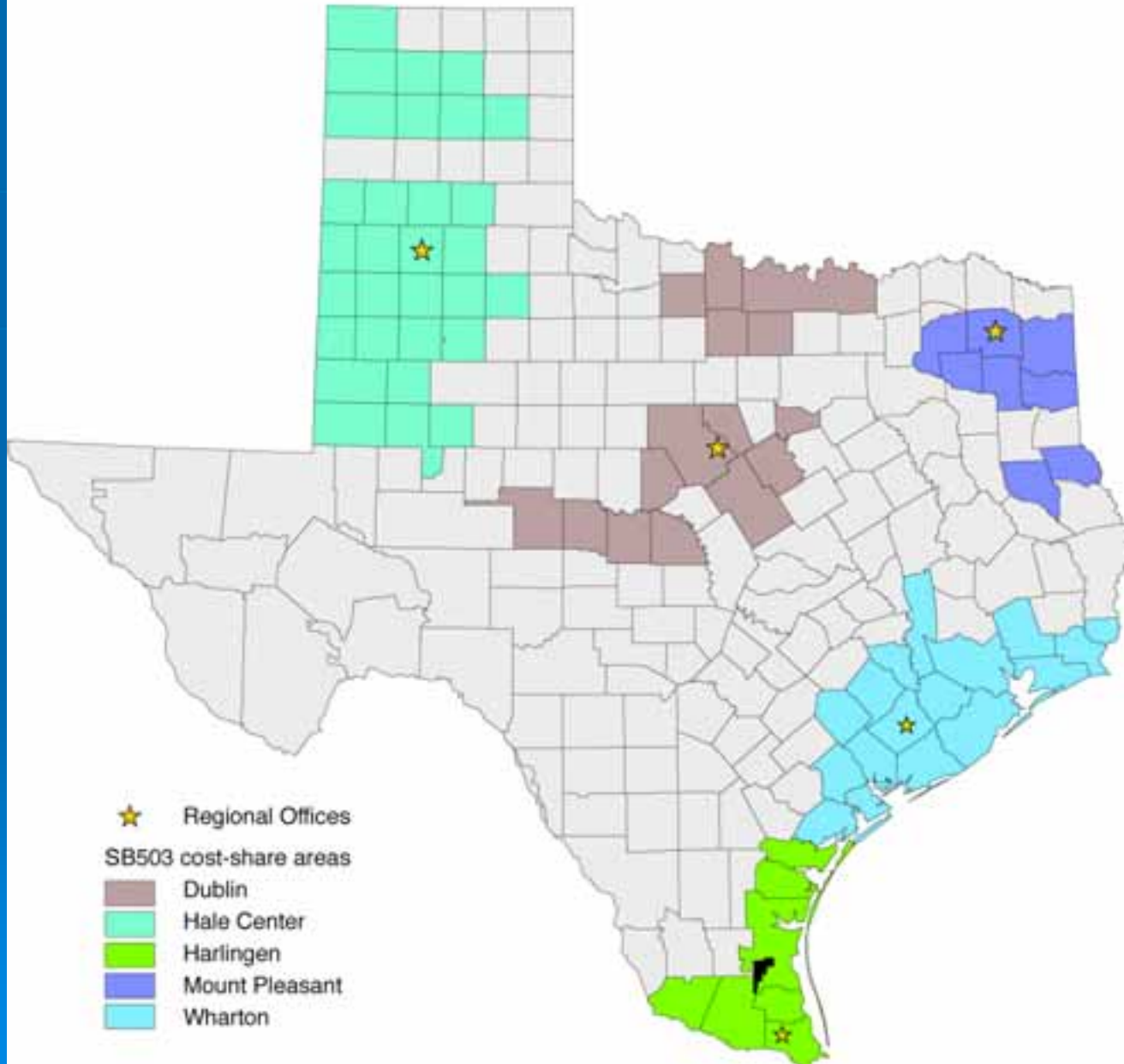
# TSSWCB Financial Assistance

- TSSWCB limits cost-share rate to 75% and maximum amount to \$15,000 per WQMP
- Each SWCD sets its own rate and maximum not to exceed state
- Practices for cost-share must be approved by TSSWCB
- SWCD must also approve practices for cost-share (may be more restrictive than state list)
- Each SWCD sets average cost of each practice based on local economics
- Applies regardless of funding source (503, 319)

# TSSWCB Cost Share Program - Practice Eligibility

Code	Practice Name and Unit	Minimum Life Span (Yrs)	Code	Practice Name and Unit	Minimum Life Span (Yrs)
313	Waste Storage Facility (no.)	10	442	Sprinkler-low pressure-new installations	10
314	Brush Management (acre)	10	442	Sprinkler – Conversion to low pressure	10
316	Animal Mortality Facility (no.)	10	442	Sprinkler – Chemigation equipment	10
317	Composting Facility (no.)	10	443	Surface – Shallow flood, rice (all needed components)	10
324	Deep Tillage (acre)	5	443	Surface – Surge valves	5
332	Contour Buffer Strips (acre)	5	447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (no.)	10
342	Critical Area Planting (acre)	5	462	Precision Land Forming (acre)	10
350	Sediment Basin (no.)	10	464	Irrigation Land Leveling (acre)	10
351	Well Decommissioning (no.)	5	512	Pasture and Hayland Planting (acre)	5
359	Waste Storage Lagoon (no.)	10	516	Pipeline (ft.)	10
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments (no.)	5	521	Pond Sealing or Lining (no.)	10
362	Diversion (ft.)	10	550	Range Planting (acre)	5
378	Pond (no.)	10	552-A	Irrigation Pit (no.)	10
382	Fence (ft.)	10	552	Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (no.)	10
386	Field Border (ft.)	5	558	Roof Runoff Structure (no.)	10
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (acre)	10	560	Access Roads (hard surface lanes) (ft.)	10
391	Riparian Forest Buffer (acre)	10	600	Terrace (ft.)	10
393	Filter Strip (acre)	5	606	Subsurface Drain (ft.)	10
410	Grade Stabilization Structure (no.)	10	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (acre)	10
412	Grassed Waterway (acre)	10	614	Watering Facility (no.)	10
430	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (ft.)	20	634	Manure Transfer (no.)	10
	IRRIGATION SYSTEM (no. and acre)		638	Water and Sediment Control Basin (no.)	10
436	Irrigation Storage Reservoir	10	642	Water Well (no.)	20
441	Microirrigation (all needed components)	10	642	Well Head Protection (no.)	20

# REGIONAL OFFICES AND SB 503 COST-SHARE AREAS



**TSSWCB**  
**Regional**  
**Offices &**  
**Cost**  
**Share**  
**Areas**

June 8, 2010



# Resources for WQMPs

## **Local:**

Comal-Guadalupe SWCD #306

TSSWCB - Wharton Regional Office

1120 Hodges Lane

Wharton, TX 77488

979-532-9496

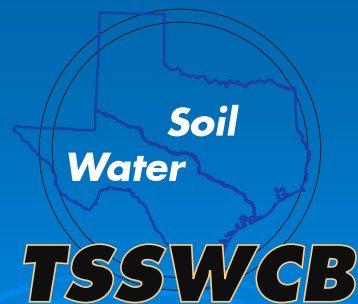
## **On the Web:**

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



Thanks!

Any Questions?



June 8, 2010

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Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

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

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