



## TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

### *Meeting Critical Water Conservation Needs and Enhancing Public Water Supplies Through Brush Control*

#### **Stakeholder Committee and Science Advisory Committee**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) administers the Water Supply Enhancement Program (WSEP) to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of water-depleting brush in areas in need of water conservation. In order to provide recommendations to the agency and guide the decisions of the State Board in implementing the Legislative directives for the WSEP (i.e., provisions of HB 1808, 82<sup>nd</sup> Legislature), the TSSWCB established a Stakeholder Committee of program beneficiaries and a Science Advisory Committee of technical experts. Since early 2012, TSSWCB has worked with these two Committees to discuss how best to implement changes to the WSEP. Both Committees have worked hard to ensure that the best available science is being used by the TSSWCB to direct State funds to those areas where the positive impacts of brush management to enhance public water supplies can best be realized.

The Stakeholder Committee has provided recommendations for WSEP goals, the proposal ranking process, and the ranking index. The Stakeholder Committee is currently comprised of:

- Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Jule Richmond
- Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association – Jason Skaggs
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – vacant
- Texas Tech University – Dr. Ken Rainwater
- Texas Water Development Board – Dr. Robert Mace

The Science Advisory Committee has provided recommendations regarding requirements for feasibility studies and computer models, and the method for prioritizing acreage for brush management, and will evaluate proposed new feasibility studies. Due primarily to public comments received on the *State Water Supply Enhancement Plan* in summer 2014, membership of the Science Advisory Committee has expanded since it was initially established. The Science Advisory Committee is currently comprised of:

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – vacant
- Texas Department of Agriculture – Dr. David Villarreal
- Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University – Dr. Larry Hauck
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Chad Norris (Anne Rogers, alternate)
- Texas Tech University – Dr. Ken Rainwater (Dr. Tom Arsuffi, alternate)
- Texas Water Development Board – Dr. Carla Guthrie (Dr. Yujuin Yang, alternate)
- USDA Agricultural Research Service – Dr. Mike White
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Dr. Ken Spaeth (Kristy Oates, alternate)
- U.S. Geological Survey – Dr. George Ozuna (Dr. Ryan Banta, alternate)

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, established in 1939, administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers throughout the state. The agency is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution; administers a water supply enhancement program to increase available surface and ground water supplies through the targeted control of water-depleting brush in areas in need of water conservation; works to ensure the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams is protecting lives, private property, and public infrastructure from flood damage; works to improve border security along the Rio Grande through control of invasive carrizo cane; and facilitates the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.