

WHAT IS TSSWCB?

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, a state agency established in 1939, administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs to agricultural producers throughout the state. A seven-member State Board governs the agency, which is composed of two members appointed by the Governor and five members elected from across Texas by the more than 1,000 local soil and water conservation district directors. The TSSWCB is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. The TSSWCB also administers technical assistance and financial incentive programs for natural resource conservation land improvement measures. The TSSWCB fulfills its nonpoint source responsibilities through its Total Maximum Daily Load, Coastal Nonpoint Source Control, and Water Quality Management Plan programs, as well as the Clean Water Act §319(h) Grant Program funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The TSSWCB also administers a nonpoint source complaint resolution process, and a poultry WQMP Initiative. 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 Street
Dublin, TX 76446
Phone: (254) 445-4814 or (254) 445-4815
Fax: (254) 445-4819

HALE CENTER REGIONAL OFFICE

1201 Avenue E
Hale Center, TX 79041
Phone: (806) 839-1030
Fax: (806) 839-1323

HARLINGEN REGIONAL OFFICE

1824 West Jefferson Avenue, Suite A
Harlingen, TX 78550
Phone: (956) 421-5841
Fax: (956) 421-5853

MOUNT PLEASANT REGIONAL OFFICE

1809 West Ferguson Road, Suite B
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455
Phone: (903) 572-4471 or (903) 572-4472
Fax: (903) 572-4897

SAN ANGELO REGIONAL OFFICE

3129 Executive Drive
San Angelo, TX 76904
Phone: (325) 949-3213
Fax: (325) 949-3767

WHARTON REGIONAL OFFICE

1120 Hodges Lane
Wharton, TX 77488
Phone: (979) 532-9496 or (979) 532-9497
Fax: (979) 532-8765

POULTRY PROGRAM OFFICE

2200 NW Stallings Drive, Suite 102
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
Phone: (936) 462-7020
Fax: (936) 462-7009

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

*MANAGING AND ABATING
AGRICULTURAL AND SILVICULTURAL
NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION*

1497 Country View Lane
Temple, Texas 76504

Phone: 254-773-2250

Fax: 254-773-3311

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>

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 U.S. Department of



Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service. The FOTG represents the best available technology and is already tailored to meet the needs of SWCDs 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 management is a vital consideration for a good WQMP on rangeland.
- A WQMP on pastureland or hayland will have livestock watering 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.
- WQMPs also have components for irrigation water and erosion control, and are flexible enough to cater to a wide range of operating systems.



WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A water quality management plan (WQMP) is a site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands. The plan includes appropriate and essential land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, or technologies applicable to the planned land use. The purpose of a WQMP is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the TSSWCB, in consultation with local SWCDs, 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 planning phase of WQMP development
- Signature sheet to verify individual privacy

5-STEP WQMP PARTICIPATION PROCESS

1. An individual requests planning assistance through their local SWCD.
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 their land.
5. The WQMP is subject to periodic 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 SWCD. Typically, the SWCD office is co-located with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 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 incentives from both state and federal sources may be available. Contact your local SWCD 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 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 SWCD. Any poultry facility constructed after January 1, 2002 is required to have a WQMP prior to the receipt of any birds.