



TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Protecting and enhancing Texas' natural resources for tomorrow

Our Mission

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) works in conjunction with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources. It is our goal to ensure the availability of those resources for future generations, so that all Texans' present and future needs can be met in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment and strong economic growth.

Who We Are

Established by the Texas Legislature in 1939, the TSSWCB is governed by seven board members, all of which are actively involved in agriculture or silviculture. Five of the board members are voted in by a delegation of their local peers, and two board members are appointed by the Governor of Texas. Our staff is comprised of a strongly committed group of natural resource professionals who are eager to assist the conservation needs of Texas' farmers, ranchers, and private land owners with voluntary conservation programs.

How We Do It

TSSWCB successfully delivers technical and financial assistance to private land owners of Texas through Texas' 216 local SWCDs, which are led by 1,080 locally elected district directors who are active in agriculture. This efficient, locally led conservation delivery system ensures that those most affected by conservation programs are able to make decisions on how and what programs will be implemented on their private lands.

What We Do

TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing coordinated natural resource conservation programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources of water pollution. TSSWCB also works to ensure that the State's network of over 2,000 flood control dams are protecting lives and property by providing operation, maintenance, and structural repair grants to local government sponsors.

Why We Do It

As the population of the state continues to increase, maintaining the productivity of our soil and water resources becomes increasingly vital in meeting the food, fiber, and resource needs for all Texans. TSSWCB is committed to working with farmers, ranchers, and private landowners to conserve and protect the natural resources of Texas.



BOARD MEMBERS:

Area I - Scott Buckles

Area II - Marty H. Graham

Area III - José Dodier, Jr.

Area IV - David Basinger

Area V - Barry Mahler

Governor Appointee - Tina Y. Buford

Executive Director - Rex Isom

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AGENCY OVERVIEW
VIDEO**



Soil & Water Conservation District Support

SWCDs play a critical role in delivering voluntary state and federal program resources to farmers and ranchers where natural resource conservation needs have been identified or are critical to meeting the goals of TSSWCB's overall mission. TSSWCB provides grants to SWCDs so they can adequately assist and implement soil and water programs through direct technical assistance with landowners.

Nonpoint Source Management Program

The Texas Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program is the State's comprehensive strategy for addressing nonpoint source pollution in all areas of the state, including the coastal zone, where assessment has determined the water quality is impaired or threatened. TSSWCB implements the agricultural and silvicultural aspects of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and Watershed Protection Plans (WPPs) through assessment, planning, implementation, education, and research.

Water Quality Management Plan Program

Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) are the TSSWCB's primary implementation mechanism for abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution. Farmers and ranchers receive technical and financial assistance to voluntarily conserve and protect natural resources through their local SWCD. Obtaining an individual WQMP provides assurance that activities taking place on the land are protective of state water quality standards.

Poultry Water Quality Management

The Texas Legislature requires all persons who own or operate a poultry facility to implement and maintain a certified WQMP to address litter, mortality, and odor management issues.

Nonpoint Source Grants

TSSWCB administers grants with funding from the EPA's Clean Water Act, Section 319(h) NPS Grant Program and the Texas Legislature. These grants facilitate watershed-scale TMDL and WPP implementation with WQMPs through financial incentives, demonstrations, education, and research projects.

Flood Control Dam Grant Program

TSSWCB works to ensure that the State's network of over 2,000 flood control structures are protecting lives, property, and public infrastructure by providing grants to dam owners and sponsors for operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation. The TSSWCB prioritizes high hazard dams constructed by the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Carrizo Cane Eradication Program

The Texas Legislature has directed TSSWCB to coordinate with local, state, and federal authorities to implement a voluntary program to eradicate carrizo cane along the Rio Grande River. Dense growth of carrizo cane along the river inhibits law enforcement from carrying out border security efforts.

Conservation Initiatives

In an effort to preserve working lands, which are necessary to prevent the destruction of food and cover for wildlife and endangered or threatened species, TSSWCB has worked to enhance and restore habitats for species such as the Monarch Butterfly, Lesser Prairie Chicken, and migratory birds. Because of their detrimental impacts on water quality and agricultural lands, TSSWCB currently participates in efforts to reduce feral hog populations across the state.