



Implementation Support Project in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir Watersheds

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
FY03 CWA Section 319(h)**

NPS Summary Page

- 1. Title of Project:** Implementation Support Project in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir Watersheds
- 2. Project Goals/Objectives:** This project will provide additional funding for the ongoing implementation efforts in the Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend watersheds. The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) project entitled "Soil and Water Conservation District WQMP Development, Implementation and/or Maintenance Assistance" (02-12) will provide technical assistance for the project.
- 3. Project Tasks:** (1) Continue coordination efforts with project participants, (2) Develop and implement WQMPs in targeted watershed. (3) Compile a list of WQMPs Implemented in the Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds and (4) Map implemented WQMPs in Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds.
- 4. Measures of Success:** Implementation of 35 WQMPs throughout the project period within the Shelby SWCD.
- 5. Project Type:** Statewide (); Watershed (X); Demonstration ()
- 6. Water body Type:** River (X); Groundwater (); Other ()
- 7. Project Location:** Segment #610 and #504 (Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoirs)
- 8. NPS Management Program Reference:** State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program- approved February 15, 2000.
- 9. NPS Assessment Report Status:** Impaired (X); Impacted (); Threatened (); Other ()
- 10. Key Project Activities:** Hire Staff (); Monitoring (); Regulatory Assistance (); Technical Assistance (); Education (); Implementation (X); Demonstration (); Other ()
- 11. NPS Management Program Elements:** Milestones from the "1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program", which will be implemented include: (1) providing financial assistance to Soil and Waters Conservation Districts for the implementation of Water Quality Management Plans to reduce NPS pollution (2) Coordinating with Federal, State, and Local Programs (3) Committing to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.
- 12. Project Costs:** Federal (\$350,000); Non-Federal Match (\$233,334); Total (\$583,334)
- 13. Project Management:** Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- 14. Project Period:** Three years from start date



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WORKPLAN

Problem/Need Statement:

The basis for this project is to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution loadings into the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir from agricultural and silvicultural activities by offering producers an opportunity to comply with State water quality laws through a voluntary, incentive-based program. Sam Rayburn Reservoir (segment 0610) and Toledo Bend Reservoir (segment 0504) were identified as having a NPS pollution concern for low dissolved oxygen on the *2000 State of Texas 303(d) list*. A TMDL is currently being developed on for the Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

As the lead agency in the state for abating agricultural and silvicultural NPS pollution, the TSSWCB works closely with local SWCDs to reduce NPS pollution through Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs). A WQMP is a site-specific plan that includes appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and a schedule to implement these practices. This program is administered by the TSSWCB and provides agricultural producers an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through traditional voluntary programs.

In June 2001, the TSSWCB initiated a project entitled "WQMP Implementation Assistance in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir Watershed and Toledo Bend Reservoir Watershed". This project set priority areas within the two watersheds and provided technical and financial assistance to address these priority areas. Another three-tiered priority system was set up to insure that poultry producers within the set priority areas were to receive technical assistance prior to those outside of the priority areas. When the project was developed, it was estimated that 100 WQMPs would be developed on poultry facilities within the Shelby SWCD and that 40 of those operations would require financial assistance for WQMP development. It is now known that 286 poultry facilities are in operation within the Shelby SWCD. Of these 286 poultry facilities only 169 facilities (as of 02/04/2002) are currently operating under a WQMP. It is the TSSWCB ultimate goal that all poultry facilities operate under a certified WQMP.

General Project Description:

This project is an addendum to TSSWCB Projects #99-9, providing supplemental financial assistance to the ongoing implementation project in the Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir watersheds within the Shelby Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The project consists of the TSSWCB working cooperatively with participating entities and district cooperators within the two watersheds to provide technical and financial assistance toward the implementation of BMPs. The Shelby SWCDs will provide technical assistance for this project thru TSSWCB Project #99-9 and #02-12. The TSSWCB will provide technical review of all developed plans. These entities will work cooperatively with landowners within the Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend watersheds to develop and implement WQMPs within Shelby SWCD.

The objective of WQMP implementation is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the State Board in consultation with the local SWCDs to be consistent with State water quality standards. Highest priority is given to the implementation of the most cost effective and most needed pollution abatement practices. Local SWCDs determine which landowners receive technical assistance for the development and implementation of WQMPs based on a three-tier system. The system consists of the following:

- 1st priority: Poultry Operations within original priority area set in Project #99-9*
- 2nd priority: Poultry Operations within the target watersheds, outside of original priority area
- 3rd priority: Other agricultural operations within the target watershed

*Note: Original priority areas were established based on an area's proximity to impacted water body.

The SWCDs will offer a sign up for the implementation assistance. Upon compiling the list of producers who are interested in assistance, they will be ranked based on the 3-tier system above and based on land units that are in the greatest need of WQMP implementation. Water quality improvement and protection will be the basis for making these decisions.

The focus of the TSSWCB in this watershed will be to reduce agricultural nutrient NPS pollution. Some of the activities that the planner will work on include:

- Developing Conservation Plan Maps showing boundaries, field, land use, acres and facilities
- Acquire soil maps with appropriate interpretations
- Developing an implementation schedule
- Completing worksheets used during the planning phases (nutrient management plans, erosion worksheets, and field notes)

Once the WQMP is completed, it will be sent by the District to the TSSWCB Regional office in Mt. Pleasant for technical review and then on to the TSSWCB main office in Temple, TX for certification. Upon certification of the WQMP by the TSSWCB the plan will be implemented. As part of this process, the producer must also sign an agreement stating that he will maintain the WQMP for the life of the practices. If the landowner does not implement the WQMP according to the conditions established in the plan, the TSSWCB will decertify the plan. The TSSWCB Mt. Pleasant Regional office will provide technical review of developed WQMPs during this project to ensure that the WQMPs are consistent with TSSWCB procedures.

Tasks, Objectives, Schedules, and Estimated Costs:

TASK 1: Development and Implementation of WQMPs

Costs: \$350,000 (Federal); \$116,667 (Non-Federal); \$466,667 (Total).

Objective: To provide technical assistance to landowners in developing and implementing WQMPs within the Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend watersheds within the Shelby SWCD.

Subtask 1.1 Shelby SWCDs will send out notifications announcing the additional WQMP implementation assistance funds. (Month 1)

Subtask 1.2 The applications for WQMPs will be prioritized and ranked based on the previously mentioned three tiered system. (Start Date: Month 1; CompletionDate: Month 36)

Subtask 1.3 TSSWCB will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs. (Start Date: Month 1; Completion Date: Month 36)

Deliverables:

- A copy of the notification of available funds.
- Quarterly reports, Final reports and BMP implementation will be compiled as part of TSSWCB projects 99-9 and 02-12.

TASK 2: State Senate Bill 503 Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Program

Costs: \$0 (Federal); \$116,667 (Non-Federal); \$116,667 (Total)

Objective: Provide agricultural and silvicultural producers within the Sabine River Basin an opportunity to comply with state water quality laws through a traditional voluntary incentive based program.

Subtask 2.1 Allocate FY2003 Senate Bill 503 funds to the following SWCDs listed below: Harrison County, Upsher-Gregg, Marion-Cass, Wood, Hopkins-Rains. These districts are in the Sabine River basin above Toledo Bend Reservoir. *(The districts listed above received a total SB 503 allocation of \$317,512.42.)*

Subtask 2.2 Senate Bill 503 dollars will be spent on WQMPs in each of the SWCDs mentioned in Subtask 2.1. WQMPs insure farming or ranching operations are carried out in a manner consistent with state water quality goals. The TSSWCB will review all of the WQMPs to make certain they are consistent with the state water quality standards and certify those that meet the necessary criteria. Funds will be allocated to landowners in the targeted areas on a first-come-first-serve basis. Approximately 12 WQMPs will be implemented with these funds.

Subtask 2.3: The TSSWCB will implement the approximate 12 (WQMPs) in the targeted SWCDs in subtask 2.1 in cooperation with the SWCDs.

Subtask 2.4: The TSSWCB will ensure that the landowners implement the WQMPs as specified and agreed to in their WQMP implementation schedule.

Coordination, Roles and Responsibilities:

Participating organizations and agencies along with their roles in this project include:

- Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board - Project management - Responsible for technical review and certification of WQMPs. Work with and assist as needed local SWCDs in the implementation and development of WQMPs. Also assist the district in inventorying current BMPs and land use practices and the implementation of WQMPs
- Shelby SWCD - Project lead - Responsible for developing and implementing WQMPs. Also responsible for inventorying current BMPs and land use practices on a subwatershed basis and for tracking/inventorying the implementation of WQMPs.

Public Participation:

This is an internal TSSWCB project with the Shelby SWCDs. This project will provide technical assistance to landowners in these districts in the implementation of WQMPs in the Arroyo Colorado watershed.

Measures of Success:

- Implementation of 47 WQMPs throughout the course of the project within the target watersheds.
- Measured improvement in dissolved oxygen levels within Sam Rayburn Reservoir and Toledo Bend Reservoir based on TCEQ monitoring results.
- Increased awareness of agricultural/silvicultural NPS impacts on water quality thru BMP technology transfer.

Project Manager:

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BUDGET

<u>Object Class Category</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Non-Federal</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
1. Personnel			
Subtotal Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Fringe Benefits			
Fringe @ 28%	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Subtotal Salary and Fringe	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Contractual			
Shelby SWCD	\$350,000	\$116,667	\$466,667
7.S.B. 503 Program Implementation	\$0	\$116,667	\$116,667
8. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0
9. Other	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
10. Total Direct Costs	\$350,000	\$233,334	\$583,334
11. Indirect Costs	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
12. Total Project Costs	\$350,000	\$233,334	\$583,334