



## Peach Creek TMDL Implementation Strategy

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

October 6, 2005  
Gonzales, TX



## What is the TSSWCB?

- Established in 1939
- Administer Texas' soil and water conservation law
- Led by the seven member State Board
- About 60 staff statewide
- Promote the wise use of Texas' renewable natural resources and provide for the conservation and enhancement of soil and water resources
- Work through 217 local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs)

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## Agency Program Areas

1. Soil and Water Conservation District Assistance
  - Technical Assistance Grants
  - Matching Funds
  - Field Representatives
2. Water Supply Enhancement
  - Water Conservation Planning
  - Water Conservation Grants
  - Brush Control Program
3. Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement
  - Water Quality Management Plan Program
  - Poultry Initiative
  - TMDL Program
  - Clean Water Act §319(h) Grants
  - Coastal Zone Management

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## Legislative Mandate to Protect Water Quality

- Codified in Texas Agriculture Code §201.026
- TSSWCB is the lead agency in Texas responsible for planning, implementing and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution
- Shared water quality responsibility with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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## TMDL Implementation Strategy

- Proactively address the agricultural sources of bacteria through voluntary implementation of best management practices (BMPs) by private landowners to bring the impaired Peach Creek watershed back into compliance with Texas Surface Water Quality Standards

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## Peach Creek Project

- Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant funding
  - New soil conservation technician for 3 year period
  - Develop 30 WQMPs on cattle operations
  - Cost share assistance of \$578,375 at 50% to aid in implementation
  - Educational events and publications
- Texas Legislature funding
  - Maintain soil conservation technician
  - Develop 60 WQMPs on poultry operations
- USDA NRCS EQIP funding

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## Implementation Through Partnerships

- Texas Cooperative Extension
  - Education for landowners on the water quality concerns in the watershed and what measures they can implement to reduce bacterial runoff
- Gonzales County Soil and Water Conservation District
  - Technical assistance in developing Water Quality Management Plans implementing BMPs that reduce the amount of bacteria entering the creeks
  - Financial assistance through a traditional cost-share program to private landowners implementing the WQMPs and BMPs

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## Phased Implementation

- Assist producers over time based on geographic distribution of operations relative to Peach Creek
- Main stem → perennial tributaries → intermittent tributaries → watershed

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## WQMPs

- Traditional, voluntary-based incentive program
- Site-specific plan developed through and approved by SWCDs for agricultural or silvicultural lands
- Purpose is 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, technologies, or combinations thereof applicable to the planned land use
- Best available management and technology as described in NRCS Field Office Technical Guide
- Cost share component designed to aid producers in implementing BMPs

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## Cattle BMPs

- Prescribed Grazing (528)
  - Managing the controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing animals
  - Fence (382)
- Alternative Water Sources
  - Pond (378), Water Well (642), Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614)
  - Provide grazing animals access to water to protect and enhance vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing and to protect streams from contamination
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Area of trees and shrubs adjacent to streams
  - Intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in surface runoff
  - Food, cover and connectivity for wildlife
  - Increase resistance of banks to erosion from stream flow and surface runoff

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## Poultry BMPs

- Waste Utilization (633)
  - Application of agricultural waste (poultry litter) on the land in an environmentally acceptable manner while maintaining or improving natural resources to aid in meeting crop nutrient demand
  - Annual soil and litter tests
- Filter Strip (393) and Field Border (386)
  - Strips of permanent vegetation established near streams (393) or the perimeter of a field (386) established to remove sediment, organic material and other pollutants from runoff
- Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
  - Area of trees and shrubs adjacent to streams
  - Intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants in surface runoff
  - Food, cover and connectivity for wildlife
  - Increase resistance of banks to erosion from stream flow and surface runoff

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