

Mission and Aransas Rivers: TMDL Implementation Status

Date of Status Report: June 2023, Year 6

I-Plan Approval Date: May 25, 2016

TCEQ Project Manager: Jonathan Nolte

Responsible Parties Abbreviations

APHIS - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

CCN - Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

MUD - Municipal Utility District

NRA - Nueces River Authority

NRI - Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

NRCS - U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District

TSSWCB - Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

TPWD - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

WSC - Water System Corporation

Management Measures

Management Measure 1: Develop and Implement Conservation Plans in Priority Areas of the Watershed

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
<p>Local stakeholders, Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension, TSSWCB, NRCS, NRA, Bee SWCD #344, Goliad SWCD #352, San Patricio SWCD #324, Copano SWCD #329, Local Work Groups, TPWD Private Lands Services</p>	<p>Year 1: Promote existing conservation programs, develop 24 conservation plans in the Aransas River Watershed and 16 in the Mission River watershed, pursue funding for education programs and financial assistance. Year 2: Continue promoting existing conservation programs, develop an additional 40 conservation plans in the TMDL watersheds, secure funding for education campaign, initiate education campaign. Years 3-5: Continue promoting existing conservation programs, develop an additional 123 conservation plans in the TMDL watersheds, deliver education programs (six total in years 3-5), assess overall strategy for implementation.</p>	<p>For Mission River, NRCS reports the application of 40 water quality conservation practices covering 5,641.64 acres of production land in calendar year 2022.</p> <p>For Aransas River, NRCS reports the application of 23 water quality conservation practices covering 2,219.9 acres of production land in calendar year 2022.</p> <p>The Karnes County Extension Office held 1 agricultural CEU program with about 100 people in attendance in 2022.</p> <p>The Goliad County Extension Office held 2 programs related to agricultural practices, nutrient management, and water quality in the calendar year 2022.</p>

Management Measure 2: Explore Feasibility of Altering Tax Exemption Requirements for Small Acreage Landowners

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
The Mission River Tidal and Aransas River Tidal Bacteria TMDL and I-Plan Coordination Committee, Bee County Appraisal District, Goliad County Appraisal District, San Patricio County Appraisal District, Refugio County Appraisal District, Aransas County Appraisal District, Coastal Bend Council of Governments, Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, Landowners	Years 1 - 2: Convene to discuss the alternatives of property tax exemptions; record the number of meetings (to be used to measure progress); submit an education proposal to a funding program (e.g., CWA 319[h]). Years 3 - 4: Develop framework for altering the property tax exemptions (measured by no. meetings); successfully securing funding for educational activities; begin educational activities where the number of individuals (both elected officials and landowners) will be measured. Year 5: Successfully submit the proposed changes for tax exemptions to the appropriate entities; measure the adoption rate of those proposed changes that can be measured; measure the number of individuals educated and programs delivered.	No updates.

Management Measure 3: Promote the Management of Feral Hogs and Control Their Populations

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
<p>TWS, Feral Hog Abatement Program, Texas AgriLife Stakeholders</p>	<p>Year 1: Contact landowners in priority areas to discuss the economic savings of feral hog removal; develop and submit proposals for both, educational programs and local assistance; existing methods of feral hog removal shall be continued and reported as appropriate. Year 2: Secure funding for education and local assistance; begin developing and disseminating materials; begin providing assistance to landowners locally; continue contacting landowners; continue feral hog removal. Years 3 - 4: Same as Year 2, but also conducting educational programs and securing educational funding. Year 5: Same as previous years but will assess strategy for the next phase of implementation.</p>	<p>5 feral hog management workshops (Goliad County, Beeville, Sinton) were held in 2022. TSSWCB, NRCS, APHIS, and NRI are conducting a pilot Feral Swine Control Project to provide smart trap loaning, direct control activities by APHIS, and additional education and outreach in Bee and San Patricio counties.</p>

Management Measure 4: Promote the Reduction of Illicit Dumping and Proper Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
<p>Goliad County, Refugio County, Bee County, San Patricio County, Aransas County, and all CCNs that fall within each of those counties.</p>	<p>Year 1: Develop and submit a grant proposal in pursuit of funding for educational programs, additional personnel and activities associated with illicit dumping mitigation; develop a strategy for how to best reduce illicit dumping; implement activities as resources allow; increase the number of fines written by 5% and reduce the number of reports of illicit dumping by 5%.</p> <p>Years 2-5: Secure funding for additional personnel, education programs, and/or illicit dumping implementation activities; initiate and implement educational programs; reduce the number of illicit dumping reports to responsible parties by 5% annually.</p>	<p>Goliad County Household Hazardous Waste Event held in May and October of 2022.</p>

Management Measure 5: Identify On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs), Prioritize OSSF Problem Areas, and Systematically Work to Bring Failing OSSF Systems into Compliance

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
OSSF owners, Goliad County, Refugio County, Bee County, San Patricio County, Aransas County	Year 1: Pursue funds for additional personnel, education, and OSSF replacements/upgrades; identify priority areas for OSSF inspections; develop a tracking tool for OSSFs; begin contacting OSSF owners. Years 2-5: Secure funding for additional personnel, education, and OSSF replacements/upgrades; initiate educational programs; begin OSSF replacements/upgrades; continue tracking OSSFs; continue contacting OSSF owners; inspect 1% of estimated OSSFs each year following Year 1.	There are no updates for this management measure this year.

Management Measure 6: Promote the Improved Quality and Management of Urban Stormwater

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beeville, City of Sinton, Town of Woodsboro, Town of Refugio, City of Taft, Pettus MUD, Skidmore WSC, St. Paul WSC, Tynan WSC, Town of Odem, Goliad County, Refugio County, Bee County, San Patricio County, Aransas County	Year 1: Submit a proposal to fund urban stormwater education and planning. Identify the locations of urban BMP installation locations. Year 2: Successfully secure funding for stormwater education and planning activities. Initiate education programs for stormwater. Develop educational materials and comprehensive stormwater assessments. Initiate the installation of BMPs, if/where feasible. Years 3-5: Continuation of educational and planning activities. Completion of urban BMP installation, if/where feasible.	TWRI is working with communities through the Coastal Communities education program to provide resources for cities to address stormwater and FOG education.

Management Measure 7: Coordinate Efforts to Reduce Unauthorized Discharges

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beeville, City of Sinton, Town of Refugio, City of Taft, Pettus MUD, Town of Skidmore, Town of St. Paul, Town of Tynan	Year 1: Conduct visual inspections of existing infrastructure and make needed repairs as necessary; document repairs and if possible, map in Geographic Information System (GIS). Develop a plan for the upcoming year to help prioritize efforts; initiate education programs, if possible; pursue funds for educational activities. Years 2-5: Continue conducting inspections and repairs of infrastructure; plan for upcoming year repairs; continue to document all repairs and, if possible, map in GIS; continue to pursue and secure funding for education and outreach programs; initiate education and outreach programs if funding has been secured.	No updates for this management measure.

Management Measure 8: Reduce Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Contributions by Meeting Half of the Permitted Bacteria Limit

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beeville, City of Sinton, Town of Woodsboro, Town of Refugio, City of Taft, Pettus MUD, Skidmore WSC, St. Paul WSC, Tynan WSC, Town of Odem	Year 1: Evaluate the option of treating effluent to meet half of permitted bacteria limits. Pursue funding for education programs. Years 2-5: If found feasible, effluent will be treated to meet half the permitted limit for bacteria. Education programs will be developed and delivered as funding allows.	Most facilities are well below half the permitted bacteria limits. The following are the geometric means of <i>E. coli</i> or Enterococcus daily averages reported during calendar year 2021: Chase Field: No reported discharge Moore Street: 2.38 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Sinton Main: 83.94 cfu/100mL Enterococcus Woodsboro: 5.6 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Refugio: 10.36 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Taft: 2.17 cfu/100mL Enterococcus Pettus: 0 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Skidmore 1.64 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> St. Paul 17.22 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Tynan: 2.227 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Odem: 14.89 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i> Welder: 7.83 cfu/100mL <i>E. coli</i>

Management Measure 9: Coordinate and Expand Existing Water Quality Monitoring in the Watershed

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
NRA, TCEQ Clean Rivers Program, TCEQ Regional Office, TSSWCB, local stakeholders	Year 1: Establish data objectives for monitoring and submit a grant proposal for funding of monitoring projects; develop website containing data and other information; establish a volunteer monitoring program in the TMDL watersheds. Years 2-5: Develop Quality Assurance Protection Plans (QAPPs) for monitoring projects; initiate and continue both volunteer monitoring and assessment monitoring; analyze monitoring results and continue monitoring education.	TWRI is conducting monthly monitoring in the watershed.

Control Actions

Control Action 1: Improved Monitoring of WWTF Effluent to Ensure Permit Compliance

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beeville, City of Sinton, Town of Woodsboro, Town of Refugio, City of Taft, Pettus MUD, Skidmore WSC, St. Paul WSC, Tynan WSC, Sinton Engineer Building WWTF	Monitoring according to permit requirements.	All WWTFs are required to monitor wastewater effluent (<i>E. coli</i> or Enterococcus) per their permit. The remaining two WWTFs will be required to monitor upon renewal of permits.

Control Action 2: Improve and Upgrade WWTFs

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
TCEQ, City of Beeville, City of Sinton, Town of Woodsboro, Town of Refugio, City of Taft, Pettus MUD, Skidmore WSC, St. Paul WSC, Tynan WSC, Sinton Engineer Building WWTF	Years 1-2: Identify WWTFs with substandard bacteria treatment systems; identify improvements that can be made in treatment and WWTF expansion needs; pursue technical and financial assistance. Years 3-5: Begin making upgrades and improvements to WWTFs; assess and expand capacities.	Moore Street WWTP (Beeville) renovations were completed in 2022.