

# **Hillebrandt Bayou & Neches River Tidal: TMDL Implementation Status**

**Date of Status Report:** October 2024, Year 1

**I-Plan Approval Date:** August 16, 2023

**TCEQ Project Manager:** Jonathan Nolte

## **Responsible Parties Abbreviations**

ANRA – Angelina & Neches River Authority

BTA – Big Thicket Association

LNVA – Lower Neches Valley Authority

NRCS – U.S Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service

SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District

TFS- Texas A&M Forest Service

TPWD – Texas Parks and Wildlife

TSSWCB – Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board

TWRI – Texas Water Resources Institute

TxDOT – Texas Department of Transportation

## Management Measures

### ***Management Measure 1: Promote and Implement NRCS Conservation Plans and TSSWCB Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs)***

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
Landowners & Producers, AgriLife Extension, TSSWCB, USDA NRCS, SWCDs	<p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure funding for a field technician to develop conservation plans and WQMPs.</li> <li>Deliver an education, outreach, or extension event.</li> <li>Develop nine WQMPs or conservation plans.</li> </ul> <p>Years 2, 4, 6, 8, 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain funding for the field technician developing conservation plans and WQMPs.</li> <li>Develop nine WQMPs or conservation plans annually.</li> </ul> <p>Years 3, 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain funding for the field technician developing conservation plans and WQMPs.</li> <li>Deliver an education, outreach, or extension event.</li> <li>Develop nine WQMPs or conservation plans annually.</li> </ul> <p>Years 5, 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain funding for the field technician developing conservation plans and WQMPs.</li> <li>Deliver an education, outreach, or extension event.</li> <li>Develop nine WQMPs or conservation plans annually.</li> <li>Assess progress, and if necessary, modify existing efforts or develop a new strategy for implementation</li> </ul>	<p>3 Conservation Plans were implemented in Year 1 covering 126.4 acres across the Hillebrandt Bayou Watershed.</p> <p>3 Conservation Plans were implemented in Year 1 covering 16.8 acres across the Neches River Tidal Watershed.</p> <p>1 Riparian &amp; Stream Ecosystem workshop delivered.</p>

**Management Measure 2: Promote Effective Feral Hog Management**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
Local Stakeholders, Jefferson & Orange County Extension Offices, AgriLife Extension	<p>Years 1-10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver a minimum of five feral hog management workshops.</li><li>• Promote feral hog management by volunteer hunting or trapping.</li><li>• Explore funding for feral hog trappers and equipment as needed.</li></ul> <p>Years 5, 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess overall progress and if necessary, modify existing efforts or develop a new strategy for implementation</li></ul>	1 Riparian & Stream Ecosystem workshop delivered including a component on feral hog management.

**Management Measure 3: Promote OSSF Management**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
AgriLife Extension, County Staff or Designated Representatives, OSSF owners, LNVA	<p>Years 1-10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspect and document the status of OSSFs in Year 1.</li><li>• Secure funding and administer an OSSF repair or replacement program to address malfunctioning OSSFs identified through inspections.</li><li>• Repair or replace approximately 130 OSSF systems within 10 years (contingent upon funding).</li><li>• Organize and deliver five OSSF O&amp;M Workshops.</li></ul> <p>Year 5, 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess overall progress and if necessary, modify existing efforts or develop a new strategy for implementation.</li></ul>	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has applied for a grant to replace failing OSSFs in Orange County.

**Management Measure 4: Reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows & Unauthorized Discharges**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beaumont, City of Port Neches, City of Nederland, Other municipalities and eligible entities as enrolled, AgriLife Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved SSO plan.</li><li>• Annual employee training on O&amp;M.</li><li>• Annual community outreach events.</li></ul>	The City of Beaumont developed an Annual Progress Report for their 2022 SSO Initiatives

**Management Measure 5: Promote Sustainable Forest Practices**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
TFS, Landowners, Forest Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver education programs to landowners, loggers, and others or host outreach activities for them.</li><li>• Encourage landowners and forestry managers with no forestry management plans to develop such plans.</li><li>• Encourage landowners and forestry managers voluntarily implement and maintain appropriate BMPs.</li><li>• Every three years, TFS will track BMP implementation and education and outreach events.</li></ul>	1 Riparian & Stream Ecosystem workshop delivered.

**Management Measure 6: Promote Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
Volunteers, LNVA, ANRA, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruit local environmental stewards or citizen scientists.</li><li>• Provide an annual volunteer training event.</li><li>• Secure funding for buying water quality monitoring kits.</li></ul>	No updates.

**Management Measure 7: Implement Water Quality Monitoring**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
LNVA, Local stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct water quality monitoring and submit data according to established CRP QAPPs.</li><li>• Develop QAPPs for additional projects as needed.</li><li>• Provide water quality and I-Plan updates at annual CRP Steering Committee meetings.</li></ul>	LNVA and TCEQ Region 10 are continuing routine monitoring of both waterbodies under approved QAPPs and providing updates through the annual CRP Steering Committee meeting.

**Management Measure 8: Promote Adult & Youth Watershed Education & Awareness through Education Programs and Public Events**

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
Jefferson County AgriLife Extension, Orange County AgriLife Extension, Texas Sea Grant, LNVA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, BTA, Other Local Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement education programs in the TMDL watersheds that target residents and students.</li><li>• Organize and implement water quality themed public outreach events annually.</li></ul>	<p>4 Youth Education Programs held through Junior Master Gardeners and Big Thicket Association covering water cycle education, irrigation management, and water quality.</p> <p>Education and outreach activities were held during the Neches River Rally and the Neches River Festival.</p>

## Control Actions

### ***Control Action 1: Continue Implementation of Phase I MS4 Stormwater Management Programs***

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Beaumont, Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6, TxDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of priority areas and sources of bacteria in the MS4 areas.</li><li>• Update SWMPs to include BMPs aimed at reducing bacteria loads in the impaired waterbodies.</li><li>• Implement measures described in the SWMPs.</li></ul>	The City of Beaumont developed a MS4 SWMP for 2023.

### ***Control Action 2: Continue Implementation of Phase II MS4 Stormwater Management Programs***

Responsible Party	Implementation Goal	Status
City of Vidor, Orange County Drainage District, Orange County, Jefferson County, Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7, City of Port Neches, City of Bridge City, TxDOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved SWMPs for Phase II MS4s.</li><li>• Number of employees trained on stormwater management.</li><li>• Number of public education and outreach programs implemented.</li></ul>	The City of Beaumont released a SWMP for Phase II MS4s and has 15 employees trained in stormwater management. They also had 6 public education and outreach programs in their area.