

Watershed Protection Planning

Mid and Lower Cibolo Creek

Brian Koch

Regional Watershed Coordinator

Texas State Soil and Water
Conservation Board





Mid and Lower Cibolo Creek Watershed





Agency Role

Water Quality Mandate-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



How is this done?

- The TSSWCB works with the 216 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Texas, by using local knowledge to achieve conservation goals that are based on the needs of each specific SWCD
- The TSSWCB provides technical assistance and in some cases financial assistance to the SWCDs to help achieve these goals as well



What is a Watershed Protection Plan?

- Watershed Protection Plans (WPP) address complex water quality issues across multiple jurisdictions
- The goal is to improve, restore or maintain good water quality within a particular watershed
- WPPs are tools to better leverage the resources of local governments, state and federal agencies, and non governmental organizations
- WPPs are a voluntary, proactive approach to integrating activities and prioritizing BMP implementation



WPP Elements

- Identification of the causes
- Estimate of the load reductions
- Description of management measures that will need to be implemented
- Estimate of technical and financial assistance needed to implement this plan
- Information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of this plan



WPP Elements

- Schedule for implementing management measures
- Description of interim, measurable milestones
- Set of criteria used to determine whether load reductions are being achieved
- Water quality monitoring component to evaluate effectiveness of implementation



Agency WPP Program

TSSWCB provides guidance and technical assistance to local stakeholder groups in developing and implementing WPPs through one of these three mechanisms:

- A TSSWCB Regional Watershed Coordinator provides technical assistance in the Watershed Planning process throughout their service area. Currently, the Wharton Regional Office is performing this in 47 counties in Southeast and South Central Texas
- TSSWCB Staff participate in, and provide technical assistance to WPP projects funded and facilitated by other entities
- Through the TSSWCB CWA §319(h) Grant Program, other entities are granted funds to facilitate the WPP process in a specific watershed



More Information on WPPs

- TSSWCB Watershed Protection Plan Webpage
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/wpp>
- Coordinated Watershed Planning in Southeast and South Central Texas Webpage
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>



Brian Koch
Regional Watershed Coordinator

Texas State Soil and Water
Conservation Board
Wharton Regional Office
1120 Hodges Ln
Wharton, TX 77488

979-532-9496 v

979-533-8836 c

979-532-8765 f

bkoch@tsswcb.texas.gov

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov>

<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/cwp>