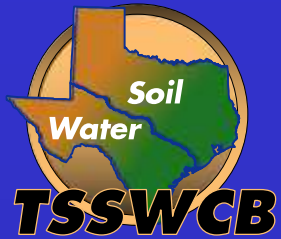


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# The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board



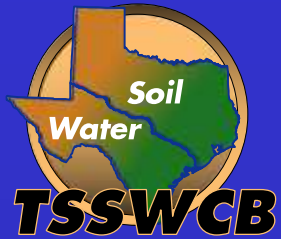


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# History of the law

- Problems of wind & water erosion in Texas began to get public attention in the early 1930's
- Federal government was seeking ways to put people back to work and to encourage conservation, thus the Civilian Conservation Corps and the **Soil Erosion Service** was created
- Demonstration projects were initiated to train technicians and to educate the public in ways to conserve soil resources



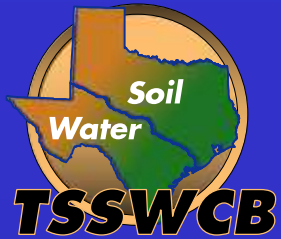


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# History of the law

- In 1935 P.L. 46 was passed creating the Soil Conservation Service. Hugh Bennett became the first Chief of the agency
- Bennett convinced President Franklin Roosevelt that a model soil conservation act should be developed and sent to the governors of each state for passage by their state legislatures



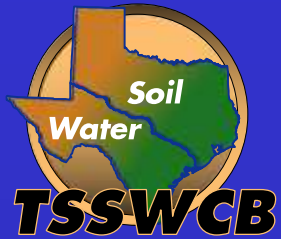


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# History of the law



- Texas legislative process in 1937 created much heated discussion on the proposed law
- Final version of Texas law contained many undesirable features
- Problem with original law as Marshall and his colleagues saw it was that it lacked stability
- Governor Jimmy Allred was convinced to veto the bill



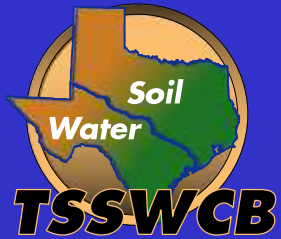
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# Historical Note

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## Controversial State Law

- Automatically established Soil Conservation Districts (SCD's) on a county basis.
- Made County Commissioners Courts the governing body.
- Portion of county taxes went to finance the program.

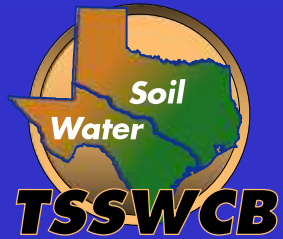


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# Early Organizers Wanted

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- County Extension Agents to be administrative officers
- A program controlled by landowners
- Farmers/Ranchers to determine whether a SCD was needed
- A law prohibiting SCD's from having taxing authority or powers of eminent domain

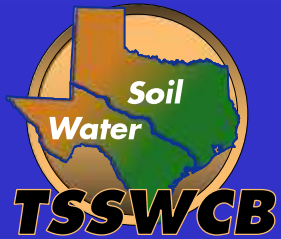


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# “Committee of 100”

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- After the legislative session of 1937 and through 1938 Marshall organized a very powerful and influential group of Texas farm and ranch leaders
- Called this group the “Committee of 100”
- Committee of 100, during these time worked to heal old wounds as well as began working to take the best parts of the Standard Act and the best of other bills and drafted a new proposal for a state soil conservation law
- The above are the primary points they wanted.



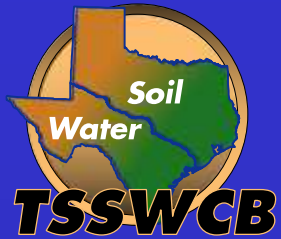
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# “Committee of 100”

- When the legislature of 1939 met, a soil conservation bill written by Texans for Texas was ready.
- Texas Legislature passed H.B. 20 and the bill was signed into law by Governor W. Lee O’Daniel on **April 20, 1939.**







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# Historical Note

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- Texas State Soil Conservation Board as it was called then, was organized on May 29, 1939.
- TSSWCB established their state headquarters on July 1, 1939 in Temple, TX.
- On April 30, 1940, the Secretary of State, issued Certificates of Organization for the first 16 Soil Conservation Districts (SCD's) in Texas.



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# TSSWCB Powers & Duties

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- Administer and manage all funds appropriated by the legislature to carry out authorities of the TSSWCB and SWCDs
- Matching Fund Program
- Technical Assistance Program
- SB503 Program

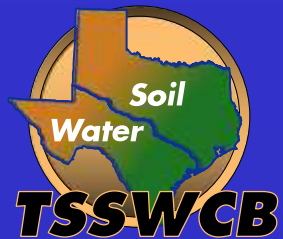


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# Timeline

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- **1949:** Legislature appropriated \$5 million for SCDS to help them establish their programs- (lesser amounts appropriated by legislature since 1949 to help new SCDS establish their programs.)
- **1969:** Matching Fund Program: 61st Legislature established the program to be used by SWCDS for annual operating expenses-
- **1981:** Technical Assistance Program: The 1981 State Plan identified a major concern among SWCDS for more TA since NRCS was losing field technicians at a critical rate with no increase.
- **1993:** SB503: Site specific water quality management plans



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# TSSWCB Powers & Duties

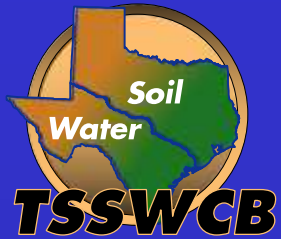
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Coordinate SWCD programs through advice and consultation

- TSSWCB Field Staff

Seek cooperation/assistance of local, state and federal agencies

- Memoranda of Understanding with USDA, Extension Service et. al.



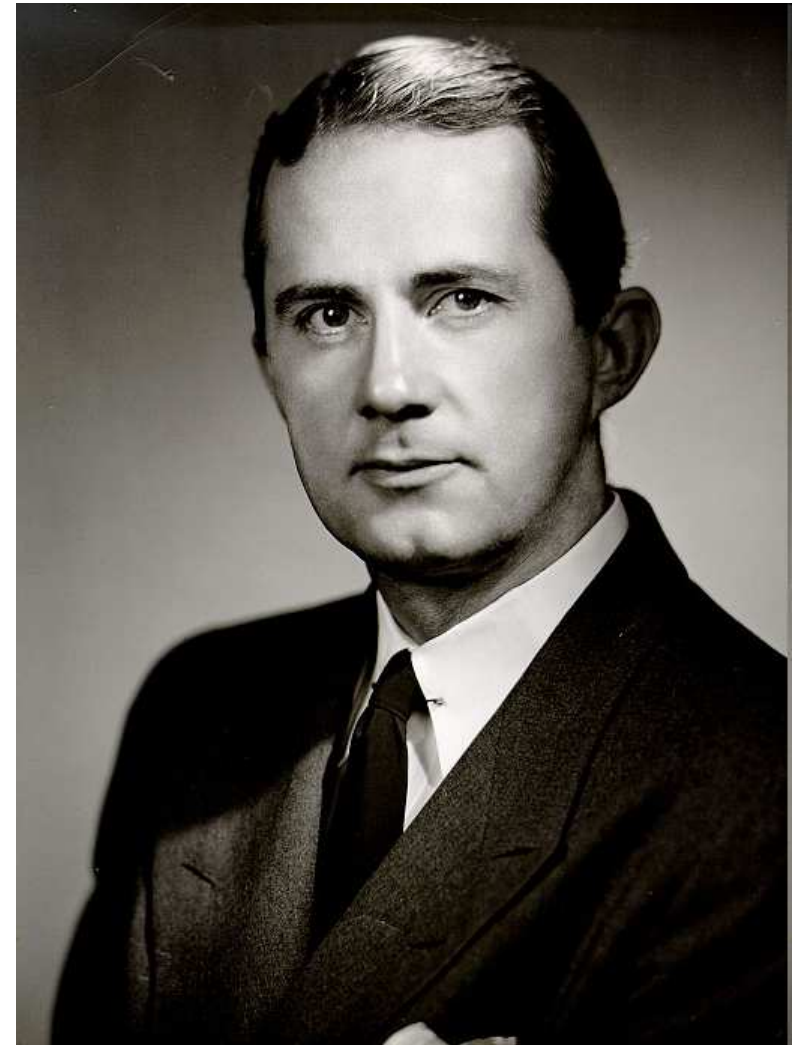
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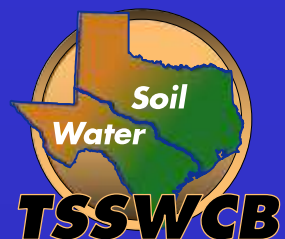
# Example of Seeking Assistance

- In 1954 Governor Allen Shivers designated the TSSWCB as the approving agency for requests under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (P.L. 83-566 program).

In fulfilling this responsibility the TSSWCB:

- Receives and reviews all applications for assistance
- Participates in feasibility studies with NRCS
- Approves or disapproves applications based on feasibility and other considerations
- Establishes priorities for project planning



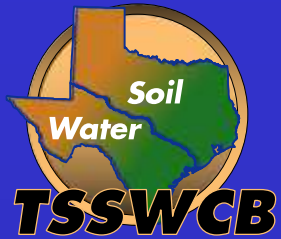


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# TSSWCB Powers & Duties

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- TSSWCB Technical Assistance (TA) Program: Training and supervision of SWCD employees
- Lead agency in State for agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution
- Contract with one or more federal agencies or private entities for watershed protection and flood control plans

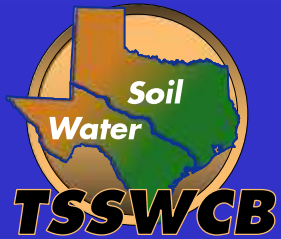


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# TSSWCB Timeline for Establishment

- **1976:** Governor Dolph Briscoe designated the TSSWCB as the state planning agency for nonpoint source pollution with respect to agricultural and silvicultural activities.





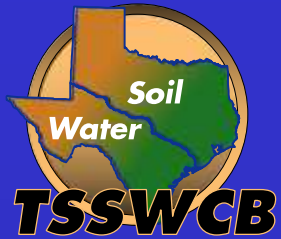
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# TSSWCB Timeline for Establishment

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- **1978:** TSSWCB was designated as the state management agency to develop and implement a statewide nonpoint source control program for pollution resulting from agricultural and silvicultural activities
- **1993:** Expanded the TSSWCB's responsibility to administer programs for abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. Made the agency the official representative before the federal government in all matters related to agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution
  - Act provided for the establishment of a water quality management plan certification program
  - Act removed NPS source aspects of ag operations from other pollution discharge regulations if a WQM developed
  - Act directed TSSWCB to administer a cost share program for funding land improvement measures under 503
  - Act set up a local complaint resolution process



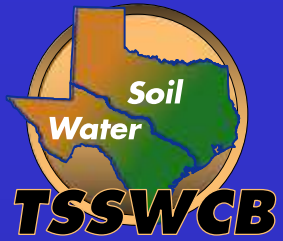


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# Typical Board Meeting Action Items

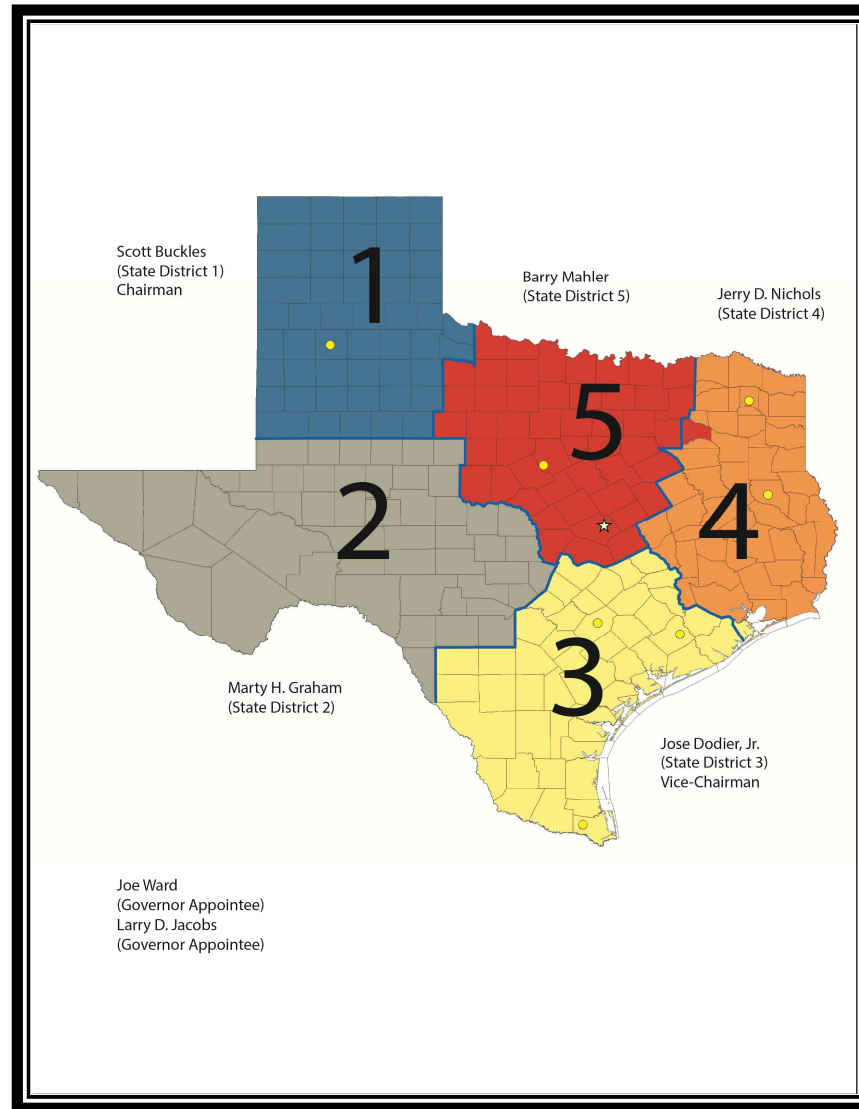
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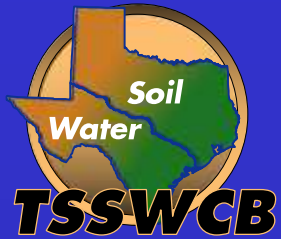
- District Director Appointments
- Review/Approve Operating Budget
- Approve Technical Assistance, Matching Fund, Director mileage & per diem allocations
- Consider/Approve cost-share allocations for Water Quality Mgmt. program
- Review Flood Control Program
- Review Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program
- Review Water Supply enhancement Program
- Act on SWCD subdivision changes
- Review and plan for annual meeting of SWCD directors.



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# Meet Your State Board





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# Questions to Think About

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- How did your TSSWCB State Board Member become one?
- How long is the board member term in office?
- What qualifies the board member to hold office?

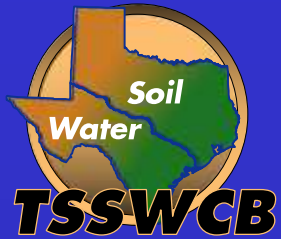


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# Election Law

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- TSSWCB members **must be elected** at a state district convention.
- TSSWCB elections **must be held** on the first Tuesday in May of each year in a state district where the board member's term expires.

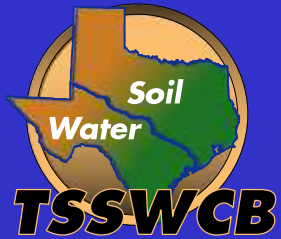


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# TSSWCB Member Terms of Office

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- Serve two-year staggered terms
- Terms of TSSWCB members in State Districts **1, 3 and 5** expire in **odd numbered years.**
- Terms of TSSWCB members in State Districts **2 and 4** expire in **even numbered years.**

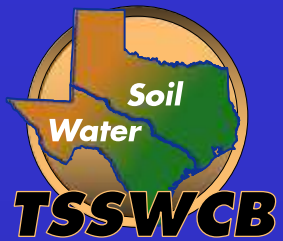


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# TSSWCB Member Qualifications

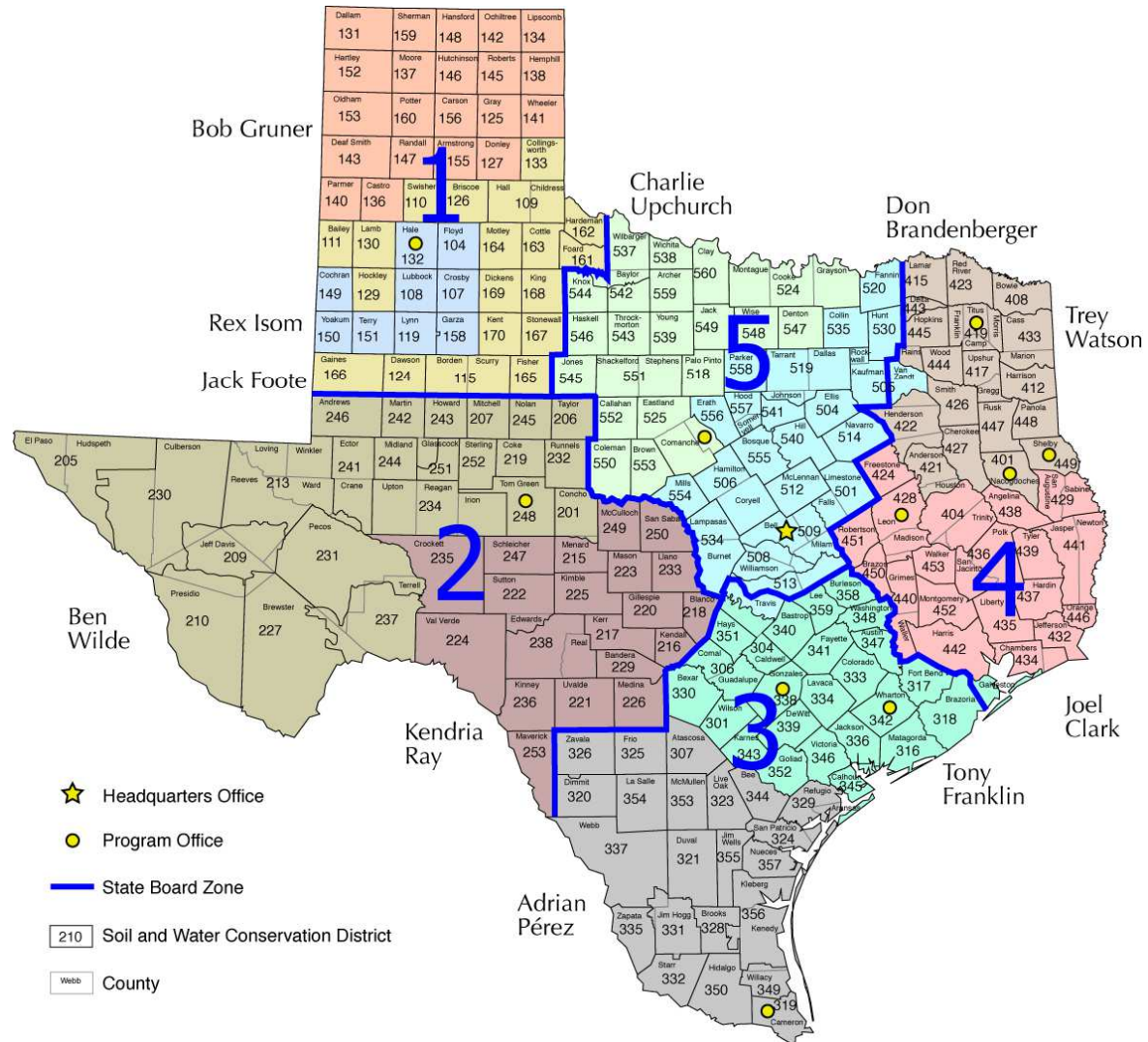
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- Be of eligible voting age
- Owner of agricultural land
- Be actively engaged in farming or ranching
- Be a resident of the state district he or she is to represent



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# TSSWCB Field Representatives





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# TSSWCB Field Representatives

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## What do they do?

- Advise SWCD directors & employees on TSSWCB policies and programs
- Consult with local SWCDS relative to their authorities & procedures of operation
- Confer with SWCD directors on programs and needs of the district
- Provide technical advice in preparation of district programs, work plans etc.





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# TSSWCB

## Field Representatives

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- Coordinate the reorganization of SWCDs and adjustment of district boundaries.
- Provide guidance on proper expenditure of SWCD funds through:
  - Reviewing & coordinating financial affairs of SWCDs
  - Bookkeeping and audit procedures
  - Purchase and sale of property and equipment



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# TSSWCB

## Field Representatives

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- Assist in planning and coordinating Area Association of SWCDs meetings.
- Perform TSSWCB responsibilities pertaining to SWCD Director elections and appointments.



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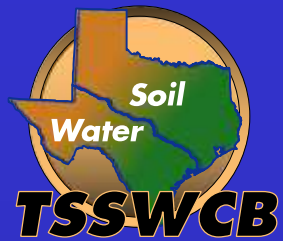
# TSSWCB

## Field Representatives

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Provide assistance in coordinating and organizing conservation education events such as:

- Colleges, universities, local schools
- Woodland contests
- Wildlife Clinics
- Land, pasture judging contests



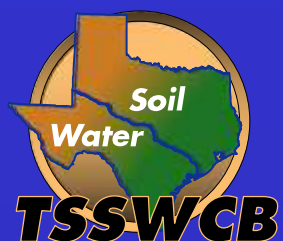
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# TSSWCB

## Field Representatives

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- Consult with and provide support to TSSWCB regional offices
- Confer and provide assistance to county commissioners courts, city governments, elected officials and employees of water districts and other political sub-divisions of state government working with SWCDS



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# Summary

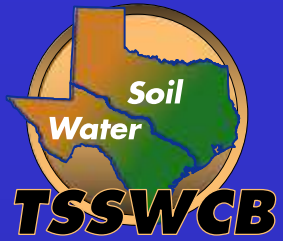
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“The soil conservation district is the workshop through which those who love the land pool their efforts and information in making the land more stable and productive and our county more prosperous, more attractive and a better land in which to live.

The fact that landowners themselves have the responsibility for petitioning for and voting in a district, formulating its program and work plan, administering its business and entering into cooperative agreements with their fellow landowners and operators, makes soil conservation districts a democracy in action.”

V. C. Marshall

(Credited with being the “Father of the soil and water conservation district program in Texas)



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A large, dark oval graphic is centered on the page. Inside the oval is a photograph of a rural landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. In the foreground, a windmill stands on a tall metal tower, with its blades catching the light. To the right of the windmill, a large, cylindrical water tower is visible. The ground is covered in tall grass, and the overall scene is hazy and atmospheric.

Presentation  
By  
Don Brandenberger  
TSSWCB Field Rep.  
Region 5