



Water Quality Management Plans in Mill Creek Watershed

By Faith Chase

Austin County SWCD District Technician




What is a Water Quality Management Plan(WQMP)?

- ▶ Site-specific plan for land improvement measures developed through Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) for agricultural lands
- ▶ Provides farmers and ranchers a voluntary opportunity 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, or technologies applicable to the planned land use
- ▶ Best available management and technology as described in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office Technical Guide (FTOG)



Benefits of a WQMP

- Abate/prevent erosion and promote conservation
 - A strategic “management” plan for your operation
 - Demonstrate that voluntary conservation programs promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals
 - Resolve water quality complaints through a voluntary process with SWCD and TSSWCB
- 



How to get a WQMP?

- An individual requests planning assistance through their local SWCD
- The WQMP is usually developed by the SWCD Technician with NRCS and TSSWCB
- The WQMP is approved by the landowner, the SWCD and NRCS and then certified by the TSSWCB
- Producer implements the WQMP on their land
- Annual status reviews are conducted to ensure that the landowner implements BMPs as agreed to in the implementation schedule



Financial Assistance

State and Federal (TSSWCB) or Federal (NRCS) assistance is obtainable for certain conservation practices

➤ TSSWCB

- WQMP Financial Assistance
- Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funding (must be in the Mill Creek Watershed)

➤ NRCS

- Farm Bill Programs
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



What if I have a plan written and I want to make changes or cancel it?

- WQMPs are flexible and voluntary
- If you want to change something, it can be done at ANY time*
- If you decide you no longer want to participate in the WQMP program on your property, for ANY reason it can be canceled at ANY time*

*If the plan is cancelled, cost-share will need to be refunded.



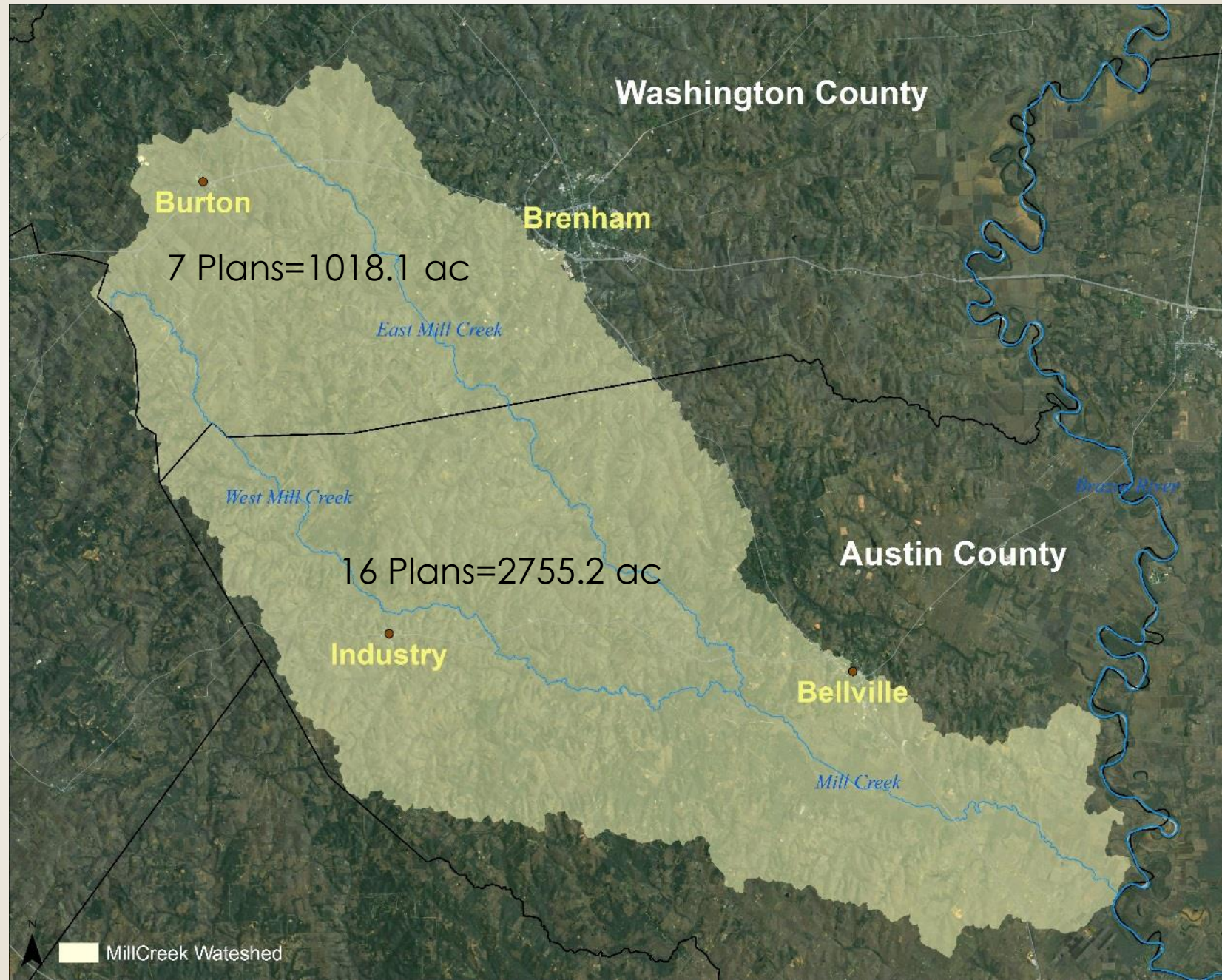
Mill Creek Watershed: **Progress Report**

Beginning in 2017, which includes two three-year grant periods
(2017-2019, 2020-2022)

How it's going?

County	Austin	Washington	Totals
Plans Developed	16	7	23
Acres Implemented	1443.8 ac	779.7 ac	2223.5 ac
Financial Incentives Paid Out	\$68,238.23	\$7522.16	\$75,760.39
Acres to be Implemented within 12 mos	553.2 ac	238.4 ac	791.6 ac
Financial Incentives to be Paid within 12 mos	\$65,670.00	\$30,000.00	\$95,670.00
Plans in development	3	0	3
Acres under development	758.2 ac	0 ac	758.2 ac
Total Acres	2755.2 ac	1018.1 ac	3773.3 ac

Mill Creek Watershed





Questions?

Contact Faith Chase at:

faith.chase@tx.nacdnet.net

Austin County Soil & Water Conservation District (MWF)

1351 W Main St, Ste. B, Bellville, TX 77418

(979) 865-3139 Ext. 3

Washington Soil & Water Conservation District (TTh)

2305 Becker Dr. Ste. C Brenham, TX 77833

(979) 830-7123 Ext. 3

Funding for this effort is provided through a Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.