



The Importance of Collaboration

The Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors (TAWs) is a nonprofit organization whose members are Sponsors of PL-534, Pilot or PL-566 watershed projects within the State of Texas. Sponsors in Texas include over 300 units of local government including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, counties, cities, water control and improvement districts, watershed authorities and other special purpose districts.

2026-27 Officers:

Kevin Burns

President

Larry Lehr

Vice- President

Sue Lilly

Sect/Treasurer

Steering Committee:

Aaron Hoff

Rooter Brite

Kevin Burns

Jilane Carper

Jim Clarno

Carolann Corado

Roy D Deen

John Elrod

Jerry Henderson

Larry Lehr

Daniel Meyer

Tommy Mitchell

Tom Sulak

Bill Dodson

Wacy Beck

Benefits of Membership

The purpose of TAWs is to secure State and Federal Funding for watershed sponsors, foster communications among its members, educate and provide information to legislative, governmental and other groups to have a positive impact on the Small Watershed Program.

All watershed sponsors benefit from the work and activities of the organization, but that work wouldn't be possible without member support. Individuals, consulting engineers, and others who have an interest in the Small Watershed Program may also provide support through donations, meeting sponsorships, and memberships. The 2026 membership application document is on the [third page](#) of this newsletter. If you have not done so already, please complete the form and send payment via check to the address included.

Calling All Future Steering Committee Members and Officers

We'd like to introduce Sue Lilly, our new TAWs Secretary/Treasurer. Sue is currently the District Clerk/Office Manager for the Lower Brushy Creek Water Control and Improvement District and has been a member of TAWs for several years. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact her at 512-567-5143 or by email at sue.lilly@lowerbrushycreekwcid.org. TAWs has Steering Committee Member openings. Please contact Kevin Burns at burnauto@yahoo.com for further information.

SAVE THE DATES:

TAWs Annual Spring Meeting & ATSWCD Legislative Day at the Capital

We're excited to announce that this coming year's annual spring meeting will be held in conjunction with the ATSWCD Legislative Day at the Capital. On Monday, March 1st and Tuesday March 2nd, TAWs will hold it's regularly scheduled program. On Wednesday March 3rd, there is an opportunity to participate in the Legislative Day at the Capital. You are encouraged to attend on behalf of TAWs to promote and support the TSSWCB proposed budget and it's program. Special emphasis will be placed on the State Board's request for three exceptional items:

1. \$150 million for repairs, rehabilitations and upgrades of high hazard watershed dams
2. \$5 million for breach maps and assistance to develop and approve Emergency Action Plans for sponsors
3. \$1 million to provide technical support to SWCD's to assist with applications and administration for flood control grant funds.

In addition, TAWS will be supporting Plum Creek Conservation District's request to allow sponsors to be excluded from TCEQ's requirements for obtaining a Water Rights Permit to use water for maintenance or construction.

Come listen to agency reports from NRCS, TCEQ and TSSWCD, a Legislative update, participation in Legislative Day at the Capital and more! The full agenda and registration will be sent out later this winter. If you are interested in presenting please let Jim Clarno know- jim.clarno@lowerbrushycreekwcid.org

www.Texaswatersheds.org

2026 TAWS Dues

Please complete the TAWS membership form below and return it with your payment to the address on the bottom of this form.

The Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors (TAWS) has four membership categories:

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS (SWCDs, WCIDs, Cities, Counties and other political subdivisions of the State of Texas who have entered into long-term O&M Agreements with USDA- NRCS)

SPONSORING MEMBERS (elected and appointed representatives of Sponsoring Organizations)

ASSOCIATE FIRMS (consulting engineering firms and others who support the mission of TAWS)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (individual consulting engineers and others who support the mission of TAWS)

Your support of TAWS will enable the Steering Committee and other members to work towards securing adequate state and federal funding for the Small Watershed Program and to work with the TCEQ and NRCS on other issues. TAWS is a member of the National Watershed Coalition and supports the goals of that organization.

Over the years, TAWS has received donations from several sponsors and others. For those entities who can make a donation in addition to their regular dues, TAWS is appreciative and will recognize them at future meetings.

Organization: _____
Contact Name and Title: _____
Mailing address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Contact number: _____
Email address: _____

Membership Levels

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| • Sponsoring Organizations | _____ | (\$250, recommended) |
| • Sponsoring Member (Individuals) | _____ | (\$25, recommended) |
| • Associate Member Firms | _____ | (\$250, recommended) |
| • Association Members (Individuals) | _____ | (\$25, recommended) |
| • Additional Donation | _____ | |

Total Payment

TAWS membership period is from March 1, 2026- February 28, 2027

Please make your checks payable to TAWS and mail Sue Lilly, Secretary/Treasurer, at the address below:

Sue Lilly
351 Exchange Blvd, Ste 230
Hutto, TX 78634

For questions, please contact Sue at 512-567-5143 or by email at sue.lilly@lowerbrushycreekwcid.org