

Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Member Notifications

STWEC by the Numbers

April 2018

864

2,675

85,960

STWEC members*

Parcels enrolled

Acres enrolled

95%

96.7%

Farm Evaluations NMP Summary
Received Reports Received

*Note, the compliance status of approximately 51 members are in jeopardy. If you are uncertain of your status, please contact STWEC ASAP.

Repeated contact with members regarding incomplete and not received Farm Evaluations, Nitrogen Management Plan Summaries and unpaid invoices increases costs for all members. Please ensure that your paperwork is completed in a timely manner, thanks!

Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday May 9th, 2018

8.a.m-10:00 a.m.

Tehama County Farm Bureau 275 Sale Lane Red Bluff, CA 96080 Coffee and Continental Breakfast

Election of Two Board Members Guest Speakers:

Allan Fulton-UC Cooperative Extension
Bruce Houdesheldt –Sacramento Valley Water
Quality Coalition

Sue McConnell and Rebecca Tabor-Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Thank you to the Membership:

Thanks from the STWEC staff to all members who paid their invoices and turned in their 2017 Farm Evaluations and Nitrogen Management Reports on time. We are always here to help, feel free to call anytime 530-527-4208.

<u>Compliance Inspection Readiness:</u> The Regional Board conducted thirteen (13) on-site inspections in 2017 in and will be conducting more in 2018. The criteria for selecting members for inspection are: members with missing annual reports, those in High Vulnerability Areas, size of operation and proximity to receiving waters. Some best practices to be ready for an inspection are:

- Be prepared! The member is the farm operation expert; be aware of on-farm practices and note any recent changes.
- Create a STWEC Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) file and keep it on-farm. It should include the required reporting documents; all Farm Evaluations, a Farm map with wells indicated, Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheets and NMP Certification (if applicable), Nitrogen Management Summary (if applicable), Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Worksheet and proof of Certification (if applicable). You will be asked to present these documents in the event of a on-farm inspection.

<u>Wellhead "Good Housekeeping" Practices:</u> During annual reporting this year, many of our members asked about wellhead "Good Housekeeping" Practices, an option listed under wellhead protection on the farm evaluation. Some of these practices are:

- Keep the surrounding area free of trash, debris and any empty containers.
- Ensure no storage or mixing of pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous cleaning products, gasoline or automotive waste near the well (storage tanks for hazardous materials or storage of hazardous materials should be kept 100 feet from the well).
- Inspect your well at least once a year for cracks in the casing, seal, or any types of leaks for a possible source of contamination. Inspect and replace a degraded or missing well plug or plugs.
- Ensure a 100 foot setback from any animal enclosure. Manure is a source of microbial contaminants, nutrients and salts.
- Periodically, having your well tested is something to consider.

For more information www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/wellowner guide.pdf

Board Vacancy

We are sad to announce that Hal Crain is retiring as a Director of the STWEC board. He has provided over a decade of invaluable service to STWEC members and staff. We will accept nominations for this vacant board position. Members may nominate themselves or other members. Nominations will be accepted at the annual meeting on May 9th or in advance by contacting STWEC at (530) 527-4208 or emmy@stwec.org.

The board consists of 5 Directors, with both counties represented. The board meets bi-monthly at 8 am on the second Wednesday of each odd numbered month.

A Director is a STWEC member in good standing, defined as a Shasta or Tehama County commercial irrigator who complies with the requirements of the Waste Discharge Order.

Each Director shall hold office for two years and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Message from the President

A reminder to everyone that May 9 is our annual meeting as well as a regular Board meeting. There are either 2 or 3 board member positions open every year at our annual meeting. This year two board members' seats are open: Larry Solberg, who has agreed to stay for another two years, and Hal Crain, who has been on the board since the beginning of the program, is not going to seek reelection. Hal is from Tehama County and is considered a large irrigator by the coalition. Although the by-laws do not require it, the remaining board recommends replacing him with a similar irrigator. This would maintain the current makeup of the board with two large irrigators and three small irrigators. Hal has consistently represented the members' interests. He firmly believed that the coalition must comply with the requirements of program without burdening our members with extra conditions. He also strongly advocated keeping the cost to members to a minimum. His service will be missed. Any member is eligible to be on the board and we welcome anyone who is interested to attend the annual meeting and indicate your interest. All board meetings are open to all members and we always encourage your

attendance and welcome your input.

Paul J. Bertagna President STWEC Board of Directors



Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition

PO Box 933 Red Bluff CA 96080

Phone: 530-527-4208

«CONAME» «Fname» «Lname» «ADDR1» «CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

Up-Coming Board Meeting:

Annual/Bi-Monthly Board Meeting Coming Soon!

Wednesday, May 9th, 2018 at 8 am | Tehama County Farm Bureau | 275 Sale Lane | Red Bluff, CA 96080

ATTENTION-Complete your Sediment and Erosion Control Training and receive your certification online! Check it out @ https://irrigated-lands-regulatory-program.thinkific.com/courses/online-secp-self-certification-training