

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program
FY 2015 Workplan 15-09
Coordinating Implementation of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan

Quarterly Report Number 1
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for
February 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016

TASK 1: Project Administration

Subtask 1.1 NRA will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July, and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners and posted on the website.

- April 7, 2016: NRA completed and submitted QPR Number 1.

1 of 8 reports completed: 12.5% Complete

Subtask 1.2 NRA will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.

- March 3, 2016: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in February 2016.
- April 7, 2016: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in March 2016.

2 of 20 reports completed: 10% Complete

Subtask 1.3 NRA will host coordination meetings or conference calls, at least quarterly, with Project Partners to discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements. NRA will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel.

- February 22, 2016: NRA held conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities and submitted action list to TSSWCB.

1 of 8 meetings completed: 12.5% Complete

Subtask 1.4 NRA will develop a final report

- No activity this quarter

0% Complete

TASK 2: Quality Assurance

Subtask 2.1 NRA will develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for activities in Tasks 5 consistent with the most recent versions of *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5)* and the *TSSWCB Environmental Data Quality Management Plan*.

- February 26, 2016: NRA submitted a first draft of the Task 5 QAPP to TSSWCB.

On-going: 50% Complete

Subtask 2.2 NRA will implement the approved QAPP. NRA will submit revisions and necessary amendments to the QAPP as needed.

- No activity this quarter.

0% Complete

TASK 3: Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation

Subtask 3.1 NRA will serve as the Watershed Coordinator to engage and facilitate the Nueces River Watershed Partnership (NRWP) and entities identified in the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). NRA will serve as the primary conduit for interaction with landowners, citizens, and entities to facilitate the implementation of the WPP. NRA shall successfully complete (or have already completed) the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course. NRA shall participate in Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables.

- February 29, 2016: NRA participated in the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) Bays Plan revision process.
- March 16, 2016: NRA provided contact information to a riverfront landowner about concerns of debris caught on pipelines that cross the river. He also asked about access to the river from his property. NRA provided information about riparian buffers and sent him a Remarkable Riparian Field Guide.
- March 2016: NRA is developing a bid request for a contract to remove large debris that was identified by the side-scan sonar survey in April 2014. The work will be done during the summer of 2016 after the Hazel Bazemore boat ramp has been repaired. The CBBEP is funding the project. The City of Corpus Christi will provide dumpsters and waive the disposal fees.

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 3.2 NRA will assist governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Lower Nueces River watershed in identification and acquisition of resources (financial and technical) to assist with WPP implementation. NRA will actively seek and pursue funding opportunities and work with partners to develop grant proposals. NRA will work with state and federal agencies, as appropriate, to bring technical and financial resources to the watershed.

- February 12, 2016: NRA submitted two proposals to the CBBEP for FY 2017 funding: one will implement the Pet Waste Collection Stations Management Measure; and the second will provide for one Wildlife Management Workshop and one Feral Hog Management Workshop.
- March 16, 2016: NRA sent an email to the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) requesting information to begin implementation of the Oil and Gas Well P&A Cleanup Management Measure.
- March 2016: NRA has begun researching the creation of Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure.

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 3.3 NRA will 1) evaluate and track progress toward achieving milestones established in the WPP; and 2) assess water quality data collected through the CRP and other data collection efforts in relation to achieving load reductions.

- February 22, 2016: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with February 1, 2016 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 3.4 NRA will facilitate public participation and stakeholder involvement in the watershed planning process, specifically by hosting meetings of the NRWP Steering Committee (quarterly) and Work Groups (as needed) to provide regular updates on progress to implement the WPP and seek input and recommendations on needed activities. NRA will coordinate meetings, secure meeting locations, prepare and disseminate meeting notices and agendas. Meeting summaries will be prepared and posted to the project website.

- No activity this quarter – waiting on EPA’s comments on the WPP.

0% Complete

Subtask 3.5 NRA will maintain a database of watershed stakeholders and affected parties for use in engaging the public in the watershed planning process.

- NRA has developed the database and will update as needed.

95% Complete

Subtask 3.6 NRA will attend and participate in other public meetings as appropriate in order to communicate project goals, activities and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to, city councils, county commissioners’ courts, Clean Rivers Program (CRP) Basin Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), groundwater conservation districts, and other appropriate meetings of critical watershed stakeholder groups.

- March 30, 2016: NRA hosted the CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting for FY 2017 in Corpus Christi, TX.

Ongoing: 10% Complete

TASK 4: Outreach, Education and Community Support

Subtask 4.1 NRA will coordinate and conduct water resources and related environmental outreach/education efforts across the watershed, as identified in the Lower Nueces River WPP. NRA will work with collaborating entities to organize one On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) maintenance workshop per year for homeowners.

NRA will look into the feasibility of conducting the following water resources and related environmental outreach/education events: local community clean-ups, Texas Watershed Steward Program, Riparian Management workshops, rainwater harvesting workshops, Texas Well Owner Network trainings, well screening events, Texas Stream Team volunteer monitoring trainings, and Lone Star Healthy Stream (grazing cattle component). NRA will work with the entities that administer/fund these programs and try to direct delivery of these programs to the Lower Nueces River depending on priorities of those entities and programs.

NRA will make presentations on the NRWP, WPP and general nonpoint source pollution information to local schools and community organizations.

NRA will support, promote, and participate in, as appropriate, any field days, demonstrations, site tours, or educational events sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and/or SWCDs for the Lower Nueces River watershed.

- February 10, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model in Rockport, TX under CRP (36 participants)
- February – March: NRA updated OSSF mailing list and organized by subdivision/unincorporated area. Waiting to hear if TCEQ §319(h) proposal to inspect/repair/replace systems is approved by EPA for FY 2017 before scheduling the first workshop.
- March 1, 2016: NRA provided an update for the December 2015 – February 2016 CRP Steering Committee and Stakeholder Update.
- March 23, 2016: NRA gave a presentation on the WPP to the Water Environment Association of Texas – Coastal Bend Section.
- March 2016: NRA included information on the water quality status and WPP implementation for the CRP 2016 Basin Highlights Report.
- March 2016: The education and outreach activities report for the CRP and other programs for March has not been compiled yet by the Uvalde office; those activities will be reported in the next QPR.

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 4.2 NRA will continue to host and maintain the NRWP website (<http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org>) to serve as a public clearinghouse for all project- and watershed-related information. All presentations, documents and results will be posted to this website. The website will serve as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public.

- February 22, 2016: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with February 1, 2016 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 4.3 NRA will facilitate communication with stakeholders in order to engage the public and affected entities in the watershed planning process. NRA will utilize all appropriate communication mechanisms including direct mail, e-mail, the project website, and print media. NRA will develop and disseminate general project informational materials, including, but not limited to: flyers, brochures, letters, factsheets, news releases, and other appropriate promotional publications. NRA will include information about the project in CRP publications. NRA will utilize the listserv, lowernuecesreiverwatershed@listserve.tamucc.edu, to facilitate direct discussion between stakeholders. NRA will develop, publish, and distribute 4 semi-annual newsletters that highlight Lower Nueces River watershed activities; the newsletter shall be distributed as most appropriate to individual landowners and entities in the watershed. NRA will solicit content matter for educational materials from Project Partners as appropriate. TSSWCB must approve all project-related content in any informational materials and promotional publications prior to distribution.

- No activity this quarter.

0% Complete

TASK 5: Hyacinth Management Plan Revision

Subtask 5.1 NRA will conduct an aerial reconnaissance to determine the upper extent, and possible source, of the water hyacinth.

- NRA is waiting on approval of the QAPP (see Subtask 2.1) prior to initiating work on this subtask.

Ongoing: 10% Complete

Subtask 5.2 NRA will update the Hyacinth Management Plan with the information obtained in Subtask 5.1.

- No activity this quarter.

0% Complete

Activities Planned for April – June 2016 Quarter

Subtask 1.1

- Complete and submit QPR Number 2

Subtask 1.2

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for April through June

Subtask 1.3

- Host coordination meeting/conference call with TSSWCB

Subtask 2.1

- Work with TSSWCB to finalize QAPP for hyacinth survey (Subtask 5.1)

Subtask 3.1

- Select contractor for large debris removal

Subtask 3.2

- Follow up with RRC to begin implementation of the Oil and Gas Well P&A Cleanup Management Measure
- Write up a report on the research of the creation of MUDs for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure
- Work with the City of Corpus Christi if the Urban Waters Small Grants proposal is selected for funding by EPA

Subtask 3.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 3rd quarter sampling results
- Post stakeholder meeting information if EPA comments on the WPP are received

Subtask 3.4

- Hold 1st stakeholder meeting if EPA comments on the WPP are received

Subtask 3.5

- Update stakeholder database as needed

Subtask 4.1

- Schedule 1st OSSF workshop when TCEQ proposal status is received
- Report on related CRP and other programs education and outreach activities
- Present River Basin Model at Earth Day Bay Day on April 9, 2015

Subtask 4.2

- Update website when needed

Subtask 4.3

- Begin work on 1st Newsletter

Subtask 5.1

- Schedule the hyacinth survey after the QAPP is approved