

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
State Nonpoint Source Grant Program
FY 2018 Workplan 18-53
Coordinating Implementation of the Lower Nueces River Watershed Protection Plan

Quarterly Report Number 1
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for
May 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018

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 1st of March, June, September, and December. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners.

- August 31, 2018: 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.

- August 14, 2018: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in July 2018, the first month that work was charged to this contract.

1 of 18 reports completed: 5.6% 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.

- August 1, 2018: NRA held conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities and submitted action list to TSSWCB.
- August 2, 2018: NRA submitted conference call summary to TSSWCB
- August 10, 2018: NRA submitted action item of tentative dates for stakeholder meetings and newsletters

1 of 8 meetings completed: 12.5% Complete

TASK 2: Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation

Subtask 2.1 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.

- July 24, 2018: NRA participated in Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in College Station.
- August 2018: NRA provided information to the Nueces River Preservation Association in the coordination of their annual river cleanup scheduled for September 8, 2018.

Ongoing: 4 of 24 months (16.7%) Complete

Subtask 2.2 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.

- July 19, 2018: NRA hosted a stakeholder meeting for the OSSF Conversion project, funded by the TCEQ.
- July 31, 2018: NRA submitted a proposal to TCEQ to continue the OSSF repair and replacement project.

Ongoing: 4 of 24 months (16.7%) Complete

Subtask 2.3 NRA will 1) evaluate and track progress toward achieving milestones established in the WPP; and 2) assess water quality data collected through the Clean Rivers Program (CRP) and other data collection efforts in relation to achieving load reductions.

- May 26, 2018: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with May 8, 2018 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>
- August 15, 2018: Completed the 2018 CRP Basin Summary Report which included water quality data analysis for the Lower Nueces River, Segment 2102.

Ongoing: 4 of 24 months (16.7%) Complete

Subtask 2.4 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.

- August 2018 NRA worked on scheduling the first meeting for early November.

1% Complete

Subtask 2.5 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.

99% Complete

Subtask 2.6 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, 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.

- No activity this quarter.

Ongoing: 0% Complete

TASK 3: Outreach, Education and Community Support

Subtask 3.1 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 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.

- June 8, 2016: Provided updates on the WPP implementation in the CRP quarterly newsletter update.
- August 25, 2018: NRA participated in the Nueces County Ag Extension Urban Leadership Agriculture Academy session; gave a talk on riparian impacts on water quality.

Ongoing: 4 of 24 months (16.7%) Complete

Subtask 3.2 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.

- May 26, 2018: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with May 8, 2018 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>

Ongoing: 4 of 24 months (16.7%) Complete

Subtask 3.3 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.

- August 2018 NRA began work on first newsletter to be completed in September.

Activities Planned for September – November 2018 Quarter

Subtask 1.1

- Complete and submit QPR Number 2

Subtask 1.2

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for August through October

Subtask 1.3

- Host coordination meeting/conference call with TSSWCB

Subtask 2.1

- Participate in the Nueces River Preservation Association's annual river cleanup scheduled for September 8, 2018

Subtask 2.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 4th quarter sampling results

Subtask 2.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 3rd quarter sampling results
- Post stakeholder meeting information

Subtask 2.4

- Hold 1st stakeholder meeting on November 6th

Subtask 2.5

- Update stakeholder database as needed

Subtask 3.1

- Begin planning for educational workshops

Subtask 3.2

- Update website when needed

Subtask 3.3

- Complete and distribute 1st Newsletter