

**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 2**  
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for  
April 1, 2016 through June 30, 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 15<sup>th</sup> of January, April, July, and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners and posted on the website.

- July 7, 2016: NRA completed and submitted QPR Number 2.

**2 of 8 reports completed: 25% Complete**

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

- May 11, 2016: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in April 2016.
- June 9, 2016 NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in May 2016.
- July 7, 2016 NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in June 2016.

**5 of 20 reports completed: 25% 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.

- April 13, 2016: NRA held conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities and submitted action list to TSSWCB.

**2 of 8 meetings completed: 25% 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*.

- April 25, 2016: NRA received the US Environment Protection Agency's (EPA) comments on Task 5 QAPP.
- June 7, 2016: NRA submitted revised QAPP to TSSWCB.
- June 27 – 28, 2016: NRA received notice that the QAPP had been approved and routed it for signatures.

**99% 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.

- April 12, 2016: NRA received notice that EPA had accepted the WPP, suggesting a few minor clarifications. TSSWCB provided funding for printing.
- May 12 – 18, 2016: Large debris removal completed. The work was performed by J. M. Davidson, Inc. It was funded by the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP), the City of Corpus Christi Solid Waste Department provided dumpsters and waived the disposal fees, and Nueces County's contract for the Hazel Bazemore boat ramp reconstruction paid for the contractor's equipment mobilization / demobilization costs.
- June 28, 2016: NRA sent email to TSSWCB Field Representative requesting meetings with the San Patricio, Nueces, and Jim Wells Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to initiate implementation of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP) and status reviews of existing WQMPs.
- June 29, 2016: NRA received 100 copies of the WPP.

**25% 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.

- April 2016: Writing report on the creation of Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) research for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure.
- April 14, 2016: NRA received notice that the *Lower Nueces River WPP Implementation – OSSF Assistance* proposal was accepted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The contract will run from November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2019.
- April 29, 2016: NRA received notice that the *Urban Waters Small Grant – Alternative Wastewater Collection Systems* proposal was not selected for funding by the EPA.
- May 10, 2016: NRA received status update on the two proposals submitted to the CBBEP for FY 2017 funding: the Pet Waste Collection Stations Management Measure ranked high enough to still be considered for funding, but the Wildlife Management Feral Hog Management Workshops did not.
- May 25, 2016: NRA spoke with the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) following up on the request for information to begin implementation of the Oil and Gas Well P&A Cleanup Management Measure. The RRC will conduct remediation if they are made aware of existing problems, but a consultant will need to be hired to conduct any surveys and review the status of oil and gas wells and pipelines.
- June 3, 2016: NRA submitted a FY 2017 *Coordinating Implementation of the Lower Nueces River WPP* proposal to TSSWCB for June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2020.

**25% 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 Clean Rivers Program (CRP) and other data collection efforts in relation to achieving load reductions.

- May 23, 2016: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with April 27, 2016 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>.
- June 9, 2016: NRA added a brief write-up of the Large Debris Removal management strategy on the website at <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org>.

**25% 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.

- April 14, 2016: NRA emailed “save the date” notices for the May 31, 2016 Stakeholder Meeting.
- May 11, 2016: NRA mailed, emailed, and posted Stakeholder meeting invitation and agenda.
- May 15, 2016: Stakeholder Meeting notice posted in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.
- May 24, 2016: NRA emailed Stakeholder Meeting reminders.
- June 15, 2016: NRA emailed Steering Committee Members that were not present at the Stakeholder Meeting to verify membership and following up on responses.
- June 20, 2016: NRA posted Stakeholder Meeting summary and presentation on <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/meet.php>.
- June 23, 2016: NRA met with Large Acreage / Rural representative about his continued involvement.

**1 of 7 meetings completed: 14% 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.

- May 15, 2016: NRA attended Texas Agricultural Land Trust Going, Going, Gone Landowner Workshop in Corpus Christi to learn about land trusts and conservation easements.
- May 18, 2016: NRA attended TCEQ’s Total Maximum Daily Load Stakeholder Engagement Conference Workshop in Austin.

**25% 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.

- March 10, 2016 NRA presented the Rainfall Simulator Model at Mireles Elementary Science Day in Corpus Christi, TX (CRP 160 participants) (Not reported in previous QPR)
- April 8, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model at GP Clark Elementary in Portland, TX (CRP 110 participants)
- April 9, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model at Earth Day / Bay Day in Corpus Christi, TX (CRP 400 participants)
- April 11 – 12, 14, and 20, 2016 NRA presented the River Basin Model at the Nueces Delta Preserve to Flour Bluff 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades (CRP 400 participants)
- May 18 – 19, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model at the Jim Wells County Ag Day in Alice, TX (CRP 870 participants)
- May 20, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model at the Annual Education Extravaganza at Hurricane Alley in Corpus Christi, TX (CRP 150 participants)
- May 25, 2016: NRA presented the River Basin Model at the Nueces Delta Preserve to Club Estate Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade (CRP 85 participants)
- June 13, 2016: NRA included information on the WPP implementation for the CRP quarterly email update.

**25% 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.

- May 14, 2016: NRA posted final Lower Nueces River WPP. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org>
- May 23, 2016: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with April 27, 2016 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>
- May - June 2016: Working on redesign of the website to emphasis WPP implementation as opposed to WPP development
- June 9, 2016: NRA added a brief write-up of the Large Debris Removal management strategy on the website at <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org>.
- June 20, 2016: NRA posted May 31, 2016 Stakeholder Meeting summary and presentation on <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/meet.php>.

**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](mailto: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.

- June 2016: NRA began writing 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

**10% 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.

- June 2016: NRA began preliminary planning for the survey.

**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 July - September 2016 Quarter**

### **Subtask 1.1**

- Complete and submit QPR Number 3

### **Subtask 1.2**

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for July through September

### **Subtask 1.3**

- Host coordination meeting/conference call with TSSWCB

### **Subtask 2.2**

- Conduct hyacinth survey (Subtask 5.1)

### **Subtask 3.1**

- Follow up with TSSWCB Field Representative for meetings with the San Patricio, Nueces, and Jim Wells SWCDs
- Attend Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Waco, TX on 07/13/2016

### **Subtask 3.2**

- Complete report on the research of the creation of MUDs for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure
- Rework and submit the Urban Waters Small Grants proposal to TCEQ's FY 2017 nonpoint source request for proposals
- Begin implementation for the Pet Waste Collection Stations if funded by CBBEP

### **Subtask 3.3**

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sampling results

### **Subtask 3.4**

- Schedule and hold 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder meeting

### **Subtask 3.5**

- Update stakeholder database as needed

### **Subtask 4.1**

- Schedule and possibly hold 1<sup>st</sup> OSSF workshop
- Report on related CRP and other programs education and outreach activities

### **Subtask 4.2**

- Complete redesign of the website
- Update website when needed

### **Subtask 4.3**

- Complete and distribute 1<sup>st</sup> Newsletter

### **Subtask 5.1**

- Hyacinth survey tentatively scheduled for August 29, 2016.