

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 3
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for
July 1, 2016 through September 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 15th of January, April, July, and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners and posted on the website.

- October 3, 2016: NRA completed and submitted QPR Number 3.

3 of 8 reports completed: 37.5% Complete

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

- August 3, 2016: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in July 2016.
- September 19, 2016 NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in August 2016.

7 of 20 reports completed: 35% 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.

- July 21, 2016: NRA held conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities and submitted action list to TSSWCB.

3 of 8 meetings completed: 37.5% 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*.

- August 3, 2016: NRA received final QAPP with all signatures.

100% 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.

- July 5, 2016: NRA mailed final WPP to Steering Committee members.
- July 13, 2016: NRA attended Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Waco, Tx.
- August 1, 2016: NRA attended the Nueces Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) meeting to discuss implementation and status reviews of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMP).
- August 4, 2016: NRA met with the Nueces County Extension agent to discuss collaboration with respect to education and outreach opportunities in the watershed.
- August 10, 2016: NRA attended the Jim Wells SWCD meeting to discuss implementation and status reviews of existing WQMPs.
- August 16, 2016: NRA submitted workplan revision to include the Coastal Bend Soil and Testing Campaign.
- August 18, 2016: NRA attended the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program Bays Council meeting; they will be funding implementation of pet waste stations in FY 2017.
- September 20, 2016: NRA attended the San Patricio SWCD meeting to discuss implementation and status reviews of existing WQMPs.
- September 28, 2016: NRA received workplan revision approval.
- September 2016: NRA is working with Texas AgriLife Extension to schedule a Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Program workshop. Tentatively scheduled for December 2016.
NRA is preparing the mail out for the Coastal Bend Soil Testing Campaign.

37.5% 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.

- August 28, 2016: NRA submitted a FY 2017 – *On-site Sewage Facility Conversion* proposal to TCEQ.
- September 29, 2016: NRA received notice that the FY 2017 *Coordinating Implementation of the Lower Nueces River WPP* proposal to TSSWCB for June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2020 was not selected for 319(h) funding.

37.5% 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.

- August 17, 2016: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with July 20, 2016 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php..>

37.55% 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.

- July 22, 2016: NRA sent out Doodle poll with Steering Committee Business Meeting date options.
- August 15, 2016: NRA notified that Steering Committee that the Steering Committee Business Meeting was scheduled for August 31, 2016.
- August 24, 2016: NRA emailed a Steering Committee Business Meeting reminder.
- August 31, 2016: Steering Committee Business Meeting
- August – September: NRA contacting / confirming Steering Committee membership
- September, 2016: NRA developed list of meeting dates for the Steering Committee and Stakeholders.
- September 26, 2016: NRA posted Steering Committee Business Meeting summary.

2 of 7 meetings completed: 28.6% 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.

- August 30, 2016: NRA participated in a presentation to the Corpus Christi City Council regarding water rights and flows in the Lower Nueces River.
- September 9, 2016: NRA participated in a presentation to the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Committee regarding water rights and flows in the Lower Nueces River.
- September 18, 2016: NRA participated in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Sciences field trip, discussing the Lower Nueces River Watershed.

37.5% 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.

- September 22, 2016: NRA included information on the WPP implementation for the CRP quarterly email update.
- September 2016: NRA worked with Texas AgriLife Extension to hold an OSSF workshop on October 29, 2016.

37.5% 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.

- July 22, 2016: NRA posted the 1st Newsletter on <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/pubs.php>.
- September 26, 2016: NRA posted Steering Committee Business Meeting summary on <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/meet.php>.

37.5% 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.

- July 22 2016: NRA finalized the 1st Newsletter, sent it out via mail and email, and posted it on the website.

37.5% 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.

- August 2016: NRA had initially planned the survey for August 29, 2016, but postponed it due to a high rainfall and flow event on the river.

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 October - December 2016 Quarter

Subtask 1.1

- Complete and submit QPR Number 4

Subtask 1.2

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for September through December.
- Complete and submit MBE/WBE with September reimbursement.

Subtask 1.3

- Host coordination meeting/conference call with TSSWCB

Subtask 3.2

- Complete report on the research of the creation of MUDs for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure
- Begin implementation for the Pet Waste Collection Stations funded by CBBEP
- Begin implementation of the TCEQ FY 2016 OSSF contract.

Subtask 3.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 5th quarter sampling results

Subtask 3.4

- Hold 3rd Stakeholder meeting on November 9, 2016

Subtask 3.5

- Update stakeholder database as needed

Subtask 4.1

- Hold 1st OSSF workshop on October 29, 2016
- Report on related CRP and other programs education and outreach activities

Subtask 4.2

- Complete redesign of the website
- Update website when needed