

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 5
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for
January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017

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 4, 2017: NRA completed and submitted QPR Number 5.

5 of 8 reports completed: 62.5% Complete

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

- January 6, 2017: NRA addressed comments received on December 28, 2016 and resubmitted the work plan and budget revision for TSSWCB consideration.
- February 8, 2017: NRA addressed additional comments via phone conversation with TSSWCB and resubmitted the work plan and budget revision.
- February 17, 2017: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in January 2017.
- February 23, 2017: NRA received approved work plan and budget revision from TSSWCB.
- March 6, 2017: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in February 2017.
- April 4, 2017: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in March 2017.

13 of 20 reports completed: 65% 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.

- January 30, 2017: NRA held conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities; NRA submitted conference call summary and action list to TSSWCB.

5 of 8 meetings completed: 62.5% 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*.

- No activity this quarter.

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.

- February 1, 2017: NRA attended the Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Dallas, TX.

62.5% 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.

- January - February, 2017: NRA worked with TCEQ to finalize the FY 2016 - *Lower Nueces River Watershed WPP Implementation – On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Assistance* workplan and contract – received signed contract on February 16, 2017.
- January 24, 2017: Submitted proposal to Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries (CBBEP) for trash can lids at Hazel Bazemore Park.
- January - March 2017: NRA is working with CBBEP to implement the pet waste stations management measure.
NRA is working with TCEQ to finalize the FY 2017 – *On-site Sewage Facility Conversion* contract.

62.5% 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.

- February 24, 2017: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with January 10, 2017 and January 31, 2017 sampling results.
<http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>.

62.5% 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.

- January 11, 2017, & February 9, 2017: NRA emailed meeting reminders for the February 15, 2017 Nueces River Watershed Steering Committee Business Meeting.
- February 15, 2017: NRA submitted meeting notes to TSSWCB.
NRA emailed final meeting reminder.
Nueces River Watershed Steering Committee Business Meeting – approved management measures prioritization
- February 16, 2017: NRA submitted February 15, 2017 Nueces River Watershed Steering Committee Business Meeting summary to TSSWCB.

4 of 7 meetings completed: 57.1% 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.

75% 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.

- February 9, 2017: NRA attended Plum Creek Watershed Partnership Meeting in Lockhart, TX.
- February 13, 2017: Joint presentation (NRA, CBBEP, City of Corpus Christi) to the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) Coastal Issues Forum (CIF) concerning the pass- thru requirements of the Agreed Order – fresh water inflows to Nueces Bay via the Lower Nueces River.
- February 27, 2017 Presented the CBBF CIF presentation to Nueces County Commissioner Mike Pusley.

62.5% 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.

- January 2017 - : Working with Texas AgriLife Extension to plan the Spring Ranch Management Field Day scheduled for May 18, 2017.
- March 3, 2017: NRA included information on the WPP implementation for the CRP quarterly email update.

62.5% 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.

- January 11, 2017: NRA posted October - December 2016 Quarterly Progress Report on the website.
- January 12, 2017: NRA posted February 15, 2017 Steering Committee Business Meeting announcement on the website.
- March 3, 2017: NRA posted February 15, 2017 Steering Committee Business Meeting summary on the website.

62.5% 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.

- February 2017: NRA working on Newsletter #2.

62.5% 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.

- NRA scheduled hyacinth survey for May 16, 2017.

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 2017 Quarter

Subtask 1.1

- Complete and submit QPR Number 6
- Evaluate need for a contract extension (work started three months after contract start date)

Subtask 1.2

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for April through June

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
- Continue implementation for the Pet Waste Collection Stations funded by CBBEP
- Continue implementation of the TCEQ FY 2016 OSSF contract

Subtask 3.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP 7th quarter sampling results

Subtask 3.4

- Hold 5th Stakeholder meeting on May 10, 2017

Subtask 3.5

- Update stakeholder database as needed

Subtask 3.6

- Give the CBBF CIF presentation at a Corpus Christi City Council workshop on April 20, 2017
- Give presentation to the Port Industries Technical Committee on water related issues and activities in the Coastal Bend on June 15, 2017

Subtask 4.1

- Beginning planning for 2nd OSSF workshop
- Attend meeting on April 4, 2017 to help coordinate Nueces River Preservation Association's (NRPA) annual river cleanup with other activities planned for April 22, 2017 at Hazel Bazemore Park
- Participate in NRPA's annual river cleanup on April 22, 2017
- Participate in AgriLife Spring Ranch Management Field Day on May 18, 2017
- 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 2nd newsletter

Subtask 5.1

- Conduct aerial reconnaissance on May 16, 2017