

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
EPA State Categorical Program Grants – Workplan Essential Elements
FY 2011-2015 EPA Strategic Plan Reference
Strategic Plan Goal – Goal 2 Protecting America’s Waters
Strategic Plan Objective – Objective 2.2 Protect and Restore Watersheds and Aquatic Ecosystems

Quarterly Report Number 9
Covering work accomplishments and documentation for
January 1, 2018 – March 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 15th of January, April, July, and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners and posted on the website.

- January 3, 2018: Work Plan and Budget Revision to extend the contract through June 2018 approved.
- January 11, 2018: NRA posted approved QPR Number 8.
- February 6, 2018: NRA submitted a Budget / Budget justification for continued funding from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.
- April 3, 2018: NRA submitted QPR Number 9.

9 of 10 reports completed: 90% Complete

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

- January 3, 2018: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in November 2017.
- January 4, 2018: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in December 2017.
- February 5, 2018: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in January 2018.
- March 5, 2018: NRA completed and submitted a Reimbursement Form for activities conducted in February 2018. Submitted requested revision March 6, 2018.

26 of 29 reports completed: 90% 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, 2018: NRA submitted talking points for coordination conference call.
- January 31, 2018: NRA held coordination conference call with TSSWCB to discuss project activities
- February 1, 2018: NRA submitted summary and action list. Approved February 8, 2018.

9 of 10 meetings completed: 90% Complete

Subtask 1.4 NRA will develop a final report

- Developed outline for final report.

1% 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.

- January 23, 2018: NRA attended Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in Austin, Tx.

91% 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 – March 2018: NRA is working with TCEQ and the City of Corpus Christi to implement the FY 2017 – *On-site Sewage Facility Conversion* workplan and contract.
- January – March 2018: NRA is working with TCEQ to implement the FY 2016 - *Lower Nueces River Watershed WPP Implementation – On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Assistance* workplan and contract.
- January 2018: Coordinated with the Ed Rachal Foundation, City of Corpus Christi, and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program (CBBEP) to hold a meeting on February 20, 2018 to discuss City-owned properties on CR 73. Cancelled due to illness. Will be rescheduled.

91% 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.

- January 29, 2018: NRA updated and posted water quality graphs with January 9, 2018 sampling results. <http://www.nuecesriverpartnership.org/graph.php>.

91% 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 7, 2018: Press release for January 30, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting posted in Corpus Christi Caller Times.
- January 9, 2018: NRA mailed, emailed, and posted the Stakeholder Meeting invitation and agenda.
- January 22, 2018: NRA emailed a meeting reminder with new meeting room information. Submitted meeting talking points to TSSWCB.
- January 29, 2018: NRA emailed a final meeting reminder to the Steering Committee.
- January 30, 2018: Held 7th Stakeholder meeting.
- February 1, 2018: NRA submitted meeting summary to TSSWCB. Approved and posted on February 8, 2018.
- March 23, 2018: NRA sent Doodle poll to Steering Committee for next Stakeholder Meeting. Sent reminder email on March 30, 2018.

7 of 8 meetings completed: 88% 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.

91% 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 3, 2018: NRA participated in the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Sciences field trip, discussing the Lower Nueces River Watershed
- March 21, 2018: NRA hosted CRP Coordinated Monitoring Meeting.

91% 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 – March 2018: NRA worked with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent to promote the Urban Leadership Agriculture Academy.
- January – March 2018: NRA worked with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, to schedule a Lone Star Healthy Streams Program for April 10, 2018.
- February – March 2018: NRA scheduled Arundo Donax prevention presentations.

91% 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, 2018: NRA posted October - December 2017 Quarterly Progress Report on the website.
- March 12, 2018: NRA distributed Clean Rivers Program Quarterly Update.

91% 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.

- January 3, 2018: NRA submitted Newsletter #4 to TSSWCB for review.
- January 9, 2018: NRA completed and distributed Newsletter #4.

4 of 5 newsletters completed: 80% 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.

- No work this quarter

100% Complete

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

- No work this quarter

50% Complete

Activities Planned for April - June 2018 Quarter

Subtask 1.1

- Complete and submit QPR Number 10

Subtask 1.2

- Complete and submit reimbursement requests for March - June

Subtask 1.3

- Host coordination meeting/conference call with TSSWCB

Subtask 1.4

- Submit draft final report

Subtask 3.2

- Complete report on the research of the creation of MUDs for the Wastewater and Urban Management Measure
- Continue implementation of the TCEQ FY 2016 OSSF contract (OSSF Assistance)
- Continue implementation of the TCEQ FY 2017 OSSF contract (OSSF Conversion)
- Reschedule meeting between City of Corpus Christi, Ed Rachal Foundation, and CBBEP on the City-owned CR 73 properties

Subtask 3.3

- Update and post water quality graphs with CRP FY 2018 3rd quarter sampling results

Subtask 3.4

- Hold April 25, 2018 Stakeholder Meeting

Subtask 3.5

- Update stakeholder database as needed

Subtask 3.6

- Attend CRP Statewide Partner Meeting on June 6, 2018

Subtask 4.1

- Hold Lone Star Healthy Streams Program on April 10, 2018
- Give Arundo Donax prevention presentations to Nueces County Drainage District #2 on April 24; to Nueces SWCD on May 7; to Jim Wells SWCD on May 9; to San Patricio SWCD on May 15; and to the San Patricio County Drainage District on May 16.
- 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 5th newsletter to be distributed in April or May 2018.

Subtask 5.2

- Complete Hyacinth Management Plan update.