

**Development of a Watershed Protection Plan
for Geronimo Creek**

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
FY09-11 CWA Section 319(h)
Project No. 08-06

Quarterly Report Number 13

Covering work accomplished January through March, 2012

April 11, 2012

I. Abstract

Administrative tasks, meetings and planning activities were performed during the reporting period.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Administration and Coordination

Subtask 1.1: The GBRA will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports for submission to TSSWCB. Progress reports shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July and October. All progress reports will be posted to the project website and provided to all project partners.

- GBRA prepared the progress report for October through December 2011 and submitted the report on January 13, 2012.

95% complete – On-going

Subtask 1.2: GBRA will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate reimbursement forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.

- GBRA submitted the invoice for October through December 2011 on January 26, 2012.

92% complete – On-going

Subtask 1.3: GBRA will host coordination meetings or conference calls with TSSWCB and any subcontractors as appropriate, at least quarterly to discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements.

- Texas AgriLife and GBRA communicated with TSSWCB by email or phone about the status of the draft watershed protection plan and meetings with

stakeholders to discuss grant funding in advance of the accepted plan in order to take advantage of the funding cycles.

90% complete – On-going

TASK 2. Quality Assurance

Subtask 2.1: GBRA will develop a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for activities in tasks 3 and 4, consistent with *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (QA/R-5)* (May 2006) and the *TSSWCB Environmental Data and Quality Management Plan* (August 2007).

Consistency with Title 30, Chapter 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Environmental Testing Laboratory Accreditation and Certification, which describes Texas' approach to implementing the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference standards, shall be required.

All monitoring procedures and methods prescribed in the QAPP shall be consistent with the guidelines detailed in the TCEQ *Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures, Volume 1: Physical and Chemical Monitoring Methods for Water, Sediment, and Tissue* (RG-415) December 2003) and *Volume 2: Methods for Collecting and Analyzing Biological Community and Habitat Data* (RG-416) (August 2005).

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

Subtask 2.2: GBRA will submit revisions and necessary amendments to the QAPP as needed.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

TASK 3. Water Quality Monitoring

Subtask 3.1: Technical consultant will compile historical and baseline data on the Geronimo Creek watershed, including water quality data, land use, topography, soil types and vegetation.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

Subtask 3.2: GBRA, with consultation with the technical consultant, will produce a twelve-month water quality monitoring plan based on information identified in Subtask 3.1, including monthly routine and targeted monitoring of the stream and tributaries, quarterly monitoring of the springs (up to four locations), and the quarterly monitoring of wells (up to four locations) that are in close proximity to be contributing to the stream flow through springs.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

Subtask 3.3: GBRA will conduct water quality monitoring of the watershed as described in the plan developed in Subtask 3.2 and under the QAPP developed in Subtask 2.1.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

TASK 4. Water Quality Modeling and Data Analysis

Subtask 4.1: The Technical Consultant will perform services that include the selection of a model(s) that facilitate development of the watershed protection plan; produce geographical information including digitizing of land use data to the sub-watershed level; data analysis to rank sources of the impairments; estimation of the fate and transport of bacteria, nutrients and other constituents; and production tools that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

Subtask 4.2: The Technical Consultant will perform all necessary phases of modeling that facilitate development of the watershed protection plan as described in Task 5.

- No work was performed under this task in this quarter.

100% completed

TASK 5. Watershed Partnership and Plan Development

Subtask 5.1: GBRA will subcontract with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Extension) to facilitate the development of the Geronimo Creek Watershed Partnership Steering Committee and associated subcommittees for the purpose of plan development, including Texas Watershed Steward training for stakeholders.

- February 8, 2012 - Extension and GBRA attended a meeting with representatives from the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, and later that day with representatives from the City of Seguin for the purpose of discussing potential grant opportunities and projects, as identified in the draft WPP.
- March 21, 2012 - Extension and GBRA conducted a conference call with representatives from the City of Seguin, and TCEQ for the purpose of further exploring grant opportunities for the City of Seguin, in order to initiate implementation of the WPP. Similar conversations were had with representatives from the City of New Braunfels.

92% completed – On-going

Subtask 5.2: Extension, in collaboration with GBRA, will develop the Geronimo Creek Watershed Protection Plan.

- Extension worked with GBRA to complete the draft Geronimo and Alligator Creeks Watershed Protection Plan and made preparations to initiate the public comment period. Activities included: phone contact with all Steering Committee members, email notifications, press releases, postings to community calendars, venues reserved for public meetings, prepared presentations for the public meetings, postings to the project webpage, and consulted with various stakeholders by phone and email.

80% completed – On-going

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- Extension and GBRA attended the Bacteria Source Tracking Conference produced by Texas Water Resources Institute at the T Bar M Conference center in New Braunfels February 27-29th. Bacteria Source Tracking is identified in the draft WPP as a potential tool during implementation and keeping current on the latest developments in this field is necessary.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. The formal comment period for the draft WPP will run from April 1 through April 30. During the public comment period, comments can be sent in through email,

postal mail, or at the formal meetings. The comment period will last for 30 days, and after all comments are received, Texas AgriLife will respond to all comments and will submit the amended draft to the TSSWCB.

- b. Two public meetings will be held during April, one in Seguin and one in New Braunfels, in order to answer questions and receive comments in person.
- c. Texas AgriLife will begin continue to meet with prospective parties about the potential for funding implementation activities before the draft WPP is completed and sent to EPA.