

**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 3

Covering work accomplished July through September, 2009

October 15, 2009

I. Abstract

Many administrative tasks, meetings and planning activities occurred 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 April 2009 through June 2009 and submitted the report on July 15, 2009.

20% 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 April 2009 through June 2009 on July 30, 2009.

10% 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.

- Several planning meetings and conference calls were held between July and September:

- Phone calls and emails between the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) and Texas AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife), finalizing details in the subcontract for services to include facilitation of the Geronimo Creek Watershed Partnership and development of the watershed protection plan.
- Attended Watershed Coordinator's Roundtable meeting on sustainability, held in Temple on July 8, 2009.
- Executed the contract between GBRA and AgriLife.
- August 25, 2009 Debbie Magin and Nikki Dictson had a planning meeting for the Geronimo Creek Project to discuss the letters, fact sheet, marketing and planning for the kick-off of the project.
- September 3, 2009 - Geronimo Planning Team Meeting was held in Columbus with GBRA, Extension, TSSWCB to discuss kickoff meeting materials, invitation letters, agenda, fact sheet and press releases.

10% 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).

100% completed – On-going

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

0% completed – On-going

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.

- TAMU Team began collecting existing and historical data on the watershed.

5% completed – On-going

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.

100% completed – On-going

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.

- July through September 2009 – GBRA continued the monitoring portion of the project under the signed QAPP.
 - July 2009
 - Five routine sites were monitored. Two routine sites were not monitored; due to dry conditions.
 - CRP site at Haberle Road was sampled.
 - August 2009
 - Five routine monitoring sites were collected on 8/10/09; field probe failed post-calibration. Sites were resampled for field data on 8/20/09. Two routine sites were not monitored, due to dry conditions.
 - Targeted monitoring was done at one location – Geronimo Creek at FM 20 (only targeted site with water due to the drought).
 - Geronimo Creek WWTP sampled.
 - Groundwater sites (3) sampled.
 - CRP site at Haberle Road sampled.
 - September 2009
 - Targeted wet weather monitoring at 8 locations; 7 stations remained dry.
 - CRP site at Haberle Road sampled.

20% completed – On-going

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.

- Exchanged calls and emails with Texas A&M University Contracts and Grants to develop subagreement to cover facilitation and program development by the AgriLife Extension Service and the modeling by BAEN and SSL. Final agreement executed on July 9, 2009 with a start date of May 1, 2009.
- July - September – emails, calls made by Extension, GBRA, SSL, BAEN and TWRI to discuss and develop modeling QAPP.
- August 24, September 28 and October 1, 2009 – Extension met (Dr. Mark McFarland, Nikki Dictson, Ward Ling, and Matt Berg) with TAMU team to discuss project, timeline, planning, modeling and data availability.
- On multiple dates in August - September discussions between Extension and GBRA were held about historical data availability including water quality and flow data.
- September 18, 2009 - Additional information on historical water quality and flow data was provided by GBRA (Lee Gudgell and Tommy Hill) on the continuous monitoring stage height data on Geronimo and Larry Thomas with USGS on USGS gage station flow data from the Guadalupe River above and below the Geronimo Creek confluence.

15% completed – On-going

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.

- Gathering historical data to characterize the watershed.

3% completed – On-going

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.

- The subcontract and scope of work with Extension were negotiated. The subcontract and scope of work were finalized on July 9, 2009 with a start date of May 1, 2009.
- Texas Watershed Steward training for the Geronimo Creek watershed has been scheduled for November 10, 2009.
- July 22, 2009 - Debbie Magin attended the Seguin Long Range Planning Meeting to represent the Geronimo Creek Watershed Partnership.
- Nikki Dictson contacted GBRA and County Extension offices to find dates, times and places to hold first public meetings in October. She also requested lists of names of stakeholders.
- August 19-24, 2009 - Nikki Dictson developed a 2 page information sheet for the Project to use as marketing materials.
- Nikki Dictson and Debbie Magin developed draft October kickoff meeting agenda, invitation letter, press release information and meeting materials.
- September 2, 2009 - Debbie Magin and Nikki Dictson contacted New Braunfels Utility, City of New Braunfels, and the Comal County Extension Agent to find a meeting location large enough for the October Public meeting in New Braunfels.
- September 3, 2009 - Held Geronimo Creek WPP Planning Team meeting in Columbus to discuss preparation and materials for October Public Meetings.
- September 4, 2009 - Debbie Magin reserved the meeting location in New Braunfels at the Landa Haus in Landa Park and drove around the watershed to identify addresses for watershed stakeholders to include in the public meeting invitation mailout.
- September 8, 2009 - Nikki Dictson and Debbie Magin developed materials and information for the Geronimo and Alligator Creek Website that Leigh Crettenden used to create and launch the website, <http://geronimocreek.org>.
- September 8, 2009 - Nikki Dictson and Jennifer Peterson developed the flier for the Geronimo Creek Texas Watershed Steward Program and sent out to the planning team for review.
- September 17-18, 2009 - AgriLife Extension mailed and emailed out invitation letters, 2 page fact sheets, and participation surveys to the acquired lists of watershed stakeholders in Guadalupe and Comal Counties that potentially live or work in the watershed.
- September 23, 2009 - Debbie Magin and Nikki Dictson attended the EPA Getting in Step Training Program held all day in Austin at TCEQ offices. This program discussed outreach and education projects associated with social marketing.
- September 23, 2009 - Debbie Magin attended the Seguin Long Range Planning Meeting to represent the Geronimo Creek Watershed Partnership. Debbie announced the kickoff public meetings at this meeting and sent invitation letters and information to this planning group.
- September 24, 2009 - Debbie Magin developed an invitation letter signed by the GBRA General Manager that was sent out to the GBRA Board of Directors, Seguin Long Range Planning Committee, the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center Board and additional landowners in the watershed.

- September 28, 2009 - the final flier was completed and distributed to the planning team.
- September 24, 2009 - Extension held a planning team meeting for Geronimo Creek materials and preparation for the meetings as well as the project timeline.
- September 30, - October 5, 2009 - Developed presentation materials for kickoff meetings.
- September 30, 2009 - Developed a meeting flier that posted at about 18 local offices, businesses, restaurants, and schools in Seguin, Geronimo, and New Braunfels advertising the public meetings on October 1st.
- September 30, 2009 - GBRA and Extension met with invited media over lunch to brief them on the project and discuss how to better partner with the media.
- September 30, 2009 - GBRA and Extension met with M&S Engineers to discuss the Geronimo Creek WPP project and their new TWDB Flood Mitigation Study for Guadalupe County so that we can work cooperatively on these two studies moving forward.
- Dates established for public meetings are October 6 and 8, 2009. The October 6th meeting will be held in Seguin at the GBRA River Annex. The October 8th meeting will be held in the watershed nearer to New Braunfels.

10% completed – On-going

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

- Extension and GBRA are gathering historical data and information that will be needed for the plan and to characterize the watershed.

3% completed – On-going

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

The Quality Assurance Project Plan was developed, reviewed by TSSWCB and is the review process at EPA so we are awaiting the QAPP Approval to move forward with modeling.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. Work will continue on watershed characterization and data gathering efforts in the Geronimo Creek Watershed.
- b. Project materials will be developed for the Partnership Meetings in January and February including agendas, presentations, handouts, ground rules, etc.
- c. Participation surveys will be assessed and meetings will occur to determine the

Steering Committee Members for January.

- d. Invitations/Reminders will go out to publicize the January Meeting.
- e. Modeling and data assessment will occur once the Modeling QAPP is approved in October.
- f. Routine and targeted monitoring will continue in the watershed.