

**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 7

Covering work accomplished July through September, 2010

October 15, 2010

I. Abstract

Many administrative tasks, meetings and planning activities occurred during the reporting period. A Partnership meeting was held in August in Seguin. Monitoring of sites was completed on August 31 per the contract. Data assessment for watershed modeling continued.

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 2010 through June 2010 and submitted the report on July 15, 2010.

65% 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 2010 through June 2010 on July 23, 2010.

45% 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.

- Planning meetings and conference calls were held between July and September:
 - A planning meeting attended by GBRA, Texas AgriLife Extension and TSSWCB was held on August 31, 2010. Items discussed included a stop-gap project to extend monitoring, and a “no cost” extension of the current project in order to complete the plan prior to making a grant proposal for implementation.

50% 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.

- No revisions or amendments were needed in quarter.

50% 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.

- No further historical data collection was conducted in this quarter.

100% 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 August 2010 – GBRA continued the monitoring portion of the project under the signed QAPP.
 - July 2010
 - All seven routine sites were monitored under summer wet weather conditions, along with the routine site collected under the Clean Rivers Program.
 - Seven targeted sites were monitored under wet weather conditions. Four of the seven were dry – site nos. 20748 (Alligator Creek at FM 1102), 20749 (Alligator Creek at FM 1101), 20750 (Alligator Creek at Barbarosa Road), 20751 (Geronimo Creek at Peiper Road)
 - Site no. GB714, the groundwater well sample near Laubach Road, was sampled.
 - August 2010
 - Seven routine monitoring sites were collected, along with the routine site collected under the Clean Rivers Program under wet weather conditions.
 - The bioassessment conducted under the Clean Rivers Program was performed on the Geronimo Creek at Haberle Road site on August 16, 2010.
- Data was reviewed for March through August 2010 for representativeness and quality assurance. Data will be transmitted to TSSWCB in SWQM-IS format after the stations are assigned permanent station location numbers. The data has been put into excel spreadsheets. Due to conflicts and upgrades to the GBRA website there has been a delay in getting the monitoring data on to the website. The data will be posted in the next quarter.

80% 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.

- July – September- Modeling analysis of potential bacteria loading was presented to Extension staff, who interpreted the results and compiled into presentation format, as well as, formatted into the draft section of the WPP document.

60% 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.

- July – September – Technical consultant prepared tables and maps to be included in the development of the watershed protection plan.

60% 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.

- July 26, 2010 - Debbie Magin attended the EPA Watershed Planning Tools class in Dallas.
- July 27, 2010 - Debbie Magin and Ward Ling (Extension) attended the Watershed Coordinator's Roundtable.
- July 28, 2010 - Debbie Magin arranged for Arthur Talley to present information to the Seguin Long Range Planning Committee on 319 nonpoint source planning grants. Ward Ling with Extension attended and briefed the committee on the status of the partnership. Guadalupe County staff was invited but did not attend. Information on the presentation was included in the meeting report printed in Seguin Gazette.
- August 5, 2010 – Debbie Magin prepared the draft section on Geronimo

Creek for the TSSWCB annual report and sent to Extension for their review and edit.

- August 10, 2010 - Extension held stakeholders committee meeting in Seguin. Meeting agenda and presentations were posted on the website, transmitted to committee members and TSSWCB.
- August 10, 2010 - Tommy Hill of GBRA attended Guadalupe County's Flood Mitigation Study Oversight Committee meeting and reported back to Debbie Magin. The results of the study will be presented to the Geronimo Creek stakeholders at the October stakeholders meeting.
- August 11, 2010 – Submitted annual report to TSSWCB.
- August 13, 2010 – Debbie Magin met with City of Seguin staff to discuss future 319 projects that could be paired with flood mitigation projects in Geronimo Creek watershed.
- August 18, 2010 - Debbie Magin attended the final public meeting of Guadalupe County's Flood Mitigation Study and presented a status report on the Geronimo Creek/Alligator Creek Watershed Partnership.
- September 1, 2010 - GBRA hosted a webcast on Permeable Pavements presented by Association of Watershed and Stormwater Professionals. City of Seguin (staff, city council and long range planning committee), Guadalupe County and City of New Braunfels were invited to attend. The draft final report has been issued. GBRA has reviewed the report. It has been transmitted to Extension for their review.
- Extension and GBRA began preparations for advertising for the October Steering Committee Meeting. Repeated email invitations, personal phone calls to all SC members, multiple press releases to newspaper and radio, and posting to community calendars composed the media advertisement of the October 12th meeting. Press releases, community calendar postings and phone interviews that occurred in October in advance of the October 12th meeting will be included in the next quarter progress report.
- September 2, 2010 - Nikki Dictson attended the TSSWCB Watershed Coordination Steering Committee Meeting in Columbus.
- September 14, 2010 - Emailed out the Riparian Workshop Registration Form and information to advertise it to the Watershed Partnership.
- September 15, 2010 – Debbie Magin watched the EPA webcast "*A Watershed Dialogue: How Can We Build the Capacity and Effectiveness of Watershed Groups*". Members of the Seguin Long Range Planning Committee attended.
- September 20, 2010 – Debbie Magin watched the USGS webcast "*Viral source tracking in Karst environments: Examples of the influence of septic systems and spray-fields on groundwater quality*" recommended by TSSWCB.
- September 28, 2010 - Debbie Magin attended Instream Bacteria Dynamics Workshop hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments recommended by TSSWCB.

60% completed – On-going

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

- Debbie Magin reviewed first and second sections of draft plan and submitted comments to Extension.
- Extension completed drafts of Sections 1 and 2 (4 sections total), and submitted those to TSSWCB for review. The draft of Section 3 is 90% complete, and should be submitted to TSSWCB for review during the next quarter.

60% completed – On-going

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

It was discussed that EPA is not approving implementation projects if the watershed protection plan has not been approved by the state agency and sent to them for review. Discussion was had on extending the project with no additional costs in order to complete the plan and send it to EPA for their review. There are plans to submit an implementation grant proposal to TSSWCB in 2011. TSSWCB wants to see water quality monitoring and preliminary implementation activities continued in the watershed. GBRA will prepare a stopgap proposal for continued monitoring until the implementation proposal which will include monitoring can be approved.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. Hold the steering committee meetings in October and November.
- b. Submit stop-gap proposal for water quality monitoring and preliminary implementation activities.
- c. Continue to update the website with water quality data.
- d. Submit data in text file format to TSSWCB.
- e. Project materials will be developed for the Partnership Meetings in October and November including agendas, presentations, handouts, etc.
- f. Invitations/Reminders will go out to publicize the meetings, including radio and newspaper community calendars and personal calls to stakeholders.
- g. GBRA and Extension will develop Sections 3 and 4 of the draft WPP to be provided for review and comment.