

**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 8**

Covering work accomplished October through December, 2010

January 15, 2011

**I. Abstract**

Many administrative tasks, meetings and planning activities occurred during the reporting period. Partnership meetings were held in October and November in Seguin. Sections of the draft Watershed Protection Plan were written by Texas AgriLife Extension and GBRA and sent to TSSWCB for review and comment.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 July 2010 through September 2010 and submitted the report on October 15, 2010.

75% 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 July 2010 through September 2010 on October 27, 2010.

60% 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 October and December:
  - October 2, 2010 - A conference call was held between GBRA, TSSWCB and Texas AgriLife Extension to discuss steering committee meeting agenda and the management measures and history sections of draft report.
  - October 2010 - Calls between GBRA and AgriLife were made to discuss draft report sections, calls to steering committee members, media contacts, extended project grant applications.
  - November 5, 2010 – Conference call between GBRA, TSSWCB and Texas AgriLife Extension to discuss preparations for the November steering committee meeting.
  - November 2010 - Calls between GBRA and AgriLife were made to discuss draft report sections, calls to steering committee members, extended project grant applications, invoice, meetings with Seguin Outdoor Learning Center and Cities of New Braunfels and Seguin to be held on November 9, 2010
  - December 8, 2010 - Conference call was held between GBRA, AgriLife, and TSSWCB to discuss status of draft report review.

65% 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.

75% 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.

- October through December 2010 -- GBRA continued the monitoring portion of the project under the Clean Rivers Program Quality Assurance Project Plan.
  - October through December 2010
    - The routine site, Geronimo Creek at Haberle Road, was monitored under the Clean Rivers Program Quality Assurance Project Plan.

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.

- Technical consultant performed minor modifications to the SELECT inputs for septic systems to more accurately reflect watershed conditions.

90% 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.

- Technical consultant performed minor modifications to the SELECT inputs for septic systems to more accurately reflect watershed conditions.

90% 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.

- October 4, 2010 - Seven GBRA employees attended the Riparian Workshop held in Lockhart, Texas.
- October 5-6, 2010 and November 8-9, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension made telephone calls to all stakeholders in order to personally remind them of the October 2010 meeting.
- October 13, 2010 - GBRA called cities of New Braunfels and Seguin and the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center to arrange for meetings with entities to discuss plan and proposed management measures.
- October 28, 2010 - Contact was made between AgriLife Extension and the Seguin Gazette-Enterprise and the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung regarding information to be included in newspaper articles (press releases) for the project that would inform and educate the public, as well as result in increased attendance at public meetings.
- November 9, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension met with cities of New Braunfels and Seguin, the Seguin Outdoor Learning Center and a contractor on the site of a large apartment complex being built in the watershed to discuss possible management measures to be included in watershed protection plan.
- November 10, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension reviewed Guadalupe County Geronimo Creek Flood Study and sent in comments with

respect to storm water management in watershed. Sent emails to M&S Engineering. Made follow up calls to discuss comments.

- November 15-16, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension prepared no-cost extension grant application for extending the time period for the draft report and stop gap project to resume monitoring in the watershed.
- November 11-12 and 15, 2010 - GBRA investigated potential for stormwater control project at apartment complex located in portion of the Geronimo Creek watershed in the City of Seguin. Calls were made to AgriLife specialist on rainwater harvesting, civil engineer working on apartment construction, and TCEQ NPS to discuss possibility of including rainwater harvesting and landscape watering at the complex.
- December 2, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension gave a presentation to the Comal County Commissioners Court on project status and discussed proposed management measures.
- December 7, 2010 - GBRA and Texas AgriLife Extension gave a presentation to the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court on project status and discussed proposed management measures.
- December 7, 2010 - GBRA met with Navarro ISD superintendent and Navarro Education Foundation president to discuss the development of a Navarro Environmental Science Academy for middle school students modeled after the highly-successful Seguin Environmental Science Academy that would focus on the water quality, history and environmental significance of Geronimo Creek.
- Texas AgriLife Extension met with a representative of USDA Farm Loan Services to discuss funding programs to be included in the draft WPP.

75% completed On-going

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

- Debbie Magin reviewed the management measures section of draft plan and submitted comments to Extension. Extension processed comments from GBRA and the management measures chapter is currently completing in-house peer review before being submitted to TSSWCB.
- Extension received comments on the modeling section from TSSWCB, and in-house review of those edits is ongoing.
- Extension began drafting the final section of the WPP, which includes measures of success, implementation, bibliography and appendices.

70% completed On-going

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

GBRA submitted a grant application that would extend the project with additional costs in order to complete the plan and send it to EPA for their review. GBRA prepared a stopgap proposal for continued monitoring until the implementation proposal which will include monitoring can be approved. A large apartment complex is being built in the watershed in the city limits of Seguin. Consideration could be made for a rainwater harvesting incorporated into the complex.

#### **IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter**

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. Hold the steering committee meetings in February and March.
- b. Continue to update the website with water quality data.
- c. Submit data in text file format to TSSWCB.
- d. Project materials will be developed for the Partnership Meetings in February and March including agendas, presentations, handouts, etc.
- e. Electronic invitations/reminders will go out to publicize the meetings, including radio and newspaper press releases, community calendars and personal calls to stakeholders.
- f. GBRA and Extension will develop final sections of the draft WPP to be provided for review and comment.