

**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 2

Covering work accomplished April through June, 2009

July 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 October 2008 through March 2009 and submitted the report on April 15, 2009.
10% 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 2008 through March 2009 on April 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 April and June:

- April 2009 – included continuous monitoring site on Geronimo Creek at SH 123 in the GBRA 319(h) grant application submitted to TCEQ. Included storm water sampler and information kiosk for use by the public. Submitted preproposal information to Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Network (CWQMN) of TCEQ for consideration of possible equipment loans and establishment of site in CWQMN.
- May 8, 2009 – met with Nikki Dictson to develop contract and timeline.
- Debbie Magin attended the monthly City of Seguin Long Range Planning Advisory Committee meetings, in order to keep a link between the city’s master planning efforts for that portion of their city limits and extraterritorial jurisdictions that lie in the watershed and the WPP development process.

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).

- Approved, signed QAPP for the monitoring portion of the project distributed on May 18, 2009.

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.

- June 18, 2009 - TAMU team toured watershed and confirmed locations of sampling sites.

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.

- May 2009 – GBRA began monitoring portion of the project under the signed QAPP.

8% 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.

- May - June – emails, calls made by Extension, GBRA, SSL, BAEN and TWRI to discuss and develop subagreement and modeling QAPP.
- June 8, 2009 – Extension met (Dr. Mark McFarland, Nikki Dictson and Matt Berg) with TAMU team to discuss project, timeline, planning, QAPP development, modeling and data availability.
- June 17, 2009 – further discussions with Extension about meeting in Seguin to discuss data availability, modeling and tour of watershed for BAEN and TAMU SSL.
- June 18, 2009 – Debbie Magin and Lee Gudgell met with TAMU team at GBRA in Seguin to discuss data availability, modeling and tour watershed. Discussed possible sources such as GBRA Hydroelectric Plants located on the Guadalupe River, upstream and downstream of confluence with Geronimo Creek; near by watersheds that have flow data available; GBRA stage height on Geronimo Creek at SH 123, and the CRP data collected monthly since 1996.

10% 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.

0% 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.
- 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.
- Dates established 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. Possible locations that are being looked into are New Braunfels Civic Center, Central Texas Technology Center and Comal ISD Middle School on FM 1101.

10% completed – On-going

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

0% completed – On-going

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

The subcontract and scope of work with Texas AgriLife Extension and TAMU BAEN and SSL was signed on July 9, 2009 with a start date of May 1, 2009. The development of the Quality Assurance Project Plan for the modeling portion of the project will begin immediately.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- a. Work will occur on watershed characterization and data gathering efforts in the Geronimo Creek Watershed.
- b. Subcontract with Extension and TAMU BAEN and SSL will be completed, signed and started.
- c. Project outreach materials will start to be developed including 2 page fact sheet and press releases, and web materials.
- d. Contact lists of stakeholders in the watershed will be developed and information sent out.