

Coordinating Implementation of the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
Contract No. 11-07

Quarterly Report Number 4

Covering work accomplished July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012

October 12, 2012

TASK 1: Project Administration

Subtask 1.1: GBRA will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all Project Partners and posted on the project website.

- July 16, 2012 – GBRA, Texas AgriLife Extension and the new Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator (WC) prepared and submitted the progress report for April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

25% 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.

- July 30, 2012 - GBRA submitted the invoice covering activities conducted in the months of April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

25% complete – On-going

Subtask 1.3: GBRA will host coordination meetings or conference calls, at least quarterly, with Project Partners to discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements. GBRA will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel.

- GBRA, the WC and TSSWCB did not meet for a formal meeting, however we attended multiple meetings together and kept in contact with phone calls (1 to 2 per week). Numerous tasks and deliverables were reviewed, discussed and accomplished including current and future projects.

25% complete – On-going

Subtask 1.4: GBRA will develop a final report.

- No work was done on this task in this quarter.

0% complete – On-going

TASK 2. Support and Facilitation of WPP Implementation

Subtask 2.1: GBRA, in coordination with the PCWP, will hire a Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator (WC) to engage and facilitate the PCWP and entities identified in the Plum Creek WPP. The WC will serve as the primary conduit for interaction with landowners, citizens, and entities to facilitate the implementation of the WPP. The WC shall successfully complete (or have already completed) the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course. The WC shall participate in Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables and the TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee meetings. The WC shall be stationed in the Plum Creek watershed.

- March 1, 2012 – GBRA hired Nick Dornak as the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator
- July 3, 2012 – WC participated in presentations to update funding entities on the hiring process and to introduce the WC - City Council, City of Kyle
- September 6, 2012 – The WC attended the TSSWCB Watershed Coordination Steering Committee Meeting in Columbus, TX.
- July 26, 2012 - The WC and GBRA attended the Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable in College Station, TX.
- September 24 - 28, 2012 – The WC completed the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course in Bandera, TX.
- Landowner requested site visits to discuss individual water quality concerns were conducted in the watershed on the following dates:
 - July 3, 2012 – Landowner concerned with illegal dumping, Lockhart, TX.
 - July 31, 2012 – Landowner concerned with downed trees in the main branch of Plum Creek causing flooding on his property during high flows, Lockhart, TX.
- July 12, 2012 - Final approval of the Caldwell County CCEs grant application from TCEQ was received. The WC submitted an application to CAPCOG to fund four Solid Waste CCEs to be held in 2012 on behalf of Caldwell County. A grant administration meeting was also attended by the WC, CAPCOG Regional Solid Waste Program staff and Caldwell County Environmental Enforcement Officer in Lockhart, TX on September 13, 2012. Dates and locations for the four cleanup events are as follows:
 - October 20, 2012 – Maxwell, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #3)
 - January 12, 2013 – Luling, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #2)
 - April 6, 2013 – Dale, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #4)
 - June 1, 2013 – Lockhart, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #1)

80% completed – On-going

Subtask 2.2: The WC will assist governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Plum Creek watershed, in identification and acquisition of resources (financial and technical) to enable WPP implementation. The WC will actively seek and pursue funding opportunities and work with partners to develop

grant proposals. The WC will work with state and federal agencies, as appropriate, to bring technical and financial resources to the watershed.

- August 26, 2012 – The WC received a one-year ArcGIS license from ESRI. The license was funded by the San Marcos River Foundation and donated to the PCWP.
- July 10, 2012 – The WC continued to hold discussions with a private, Austin-based, consulting firm, WaterPR, about developing a proposal for a Plum Creek Riparian Landowner’s Network to enhance implementation of BMPs in the watershed.
- July 12, 2012 - Final approval of the Caldwell County CCEs grant application from TCEQ was received. The WC submitted an application to CAPCOG to fund four Solid Waste CCEs to be held in 2012 on behalf of Caldwell County. Despite a significant decline in CAPCOG funding for FY2012-2013 projects, the SWAC recommended the Caldwell County CCEs to receive all funding requested in the grant application (\$18,349).
- September 2012 – The WC secured funds through the TSSWCB for a new table-top display and publishing software license, InDesign.
- The WC has been working with officials from the City of Buda, Hays County and the TWDB to submit an application for funding the P&D phase of the Hillside Terrace Project through the Texas SRF loan forgiveness program. The WC facilitated the joint agreement on behalf of the City and Hays County to split the remaining principal cost, totaling just over \$120,000. The application continues to be assembled and will be submitted on or before November 1, 2012. The Hillside Terrace Project has been an extremely high priority project for the PCWP as evidenced by the recent Plum Creek WPP Update. This is the 3rd year that the City has considered funding the Hillside Terrace project. The agreement between the City and County offers the most significant promise to date. The WC will continue to work with officials throughout the process. Meetings associated with this process were conducted on the following dates:
 - July 17, 2012 – City Council, City of Buda
 - July 20, 2012 – City Engineer, Buda, TX
 - July 23, 2012 – Hays County Commissioner, Kyle, TX
 - July 25, 2012 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station, TX
 - August 1, 2012 – City of Buda and Hays County staff, Buda, TX
 - September 28, 2012 – TWDB Pre-Application meeting with TWDB staff, Hays County staff and City of Buda staff, Buda TX
- The WC has been working with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents, the Plum Creek feral hog education specialist, local businesses, volunteer groups, non-profits, government agencies and Hays County and Caldwell County Commissioners to partner on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Hog Out County Grants Program. Meeting dates regarding these developments are as follows:
 - July 2, 2012 – Caldwell County Judge, Lockhart, TX
 - July 11, 2012 – Caldwell County Judge, Lockhart, TX
 - July 16, 2012 – Caldwell County Commissioner’s Court, Lockhart, TX
 - July 23, 2012 – Hays County Commissioner, Kyle, TX
 - July 26, 2012 – Hays County Master Naturalist, Kyle, TX

- August 1, 2012 – Hays County Commissioner, San Marcos, TX
- August 9, 2012 – PCWP Quarterly meeting, Lockhart, TX
- August 14, 2012 – Hays County Commissioner’s Court (Budget Workshop), San Marcos, TX
- August 20, 2012 – Lost Pine’s Master Naturalist, Bastrop, TX
- August 22, 2012 – Plum Creek feral hog education specialist planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
- September 1 - 30, 2012 – Multiple Hays County and Caldwell County businesses
- September 1 – 30, 2012 – Multiple interviews with media
- September 17, 2012 – Caldwell County Commissioner’s Court, Lockhart, TX
- September 18, 2012 – Feral hog webinar
- The WC served as the program director for the 5th Annual, Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek/Town Branch Cleanup. Over 300 volunteers (287 officially) removed 2,130 lbs of trash and 310.5 lbs of recyclables from 4.5 stream miles of the Plum Creek Watershed. The previous year’s totals were 590 lbs of trash and 680 lbs of recyclables. Additionally, due to a new approach to fundraising implemented by the WC, GBRA and volunteer staff, fundraising for the event tripled to just over \$2,200 in 2012. A news release, posters, flyer and webpostings were used to market the event. Sponsors of at least \$150 will receive a “Gold Level” plaque. An Environmental Fair also had over 100 participants. Key dates are as follows:
 - July 30, 2012 – First planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
 - August 13, 2012 – Planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
 - August 23, 2012 – Planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
 - September 10, 2012 – Planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
 - September 17, 2012 – Planning meeting, Lockhart, TX
 - September 18, 2012 – Site visit to all parks, Lockhart, TX
 - September 22, 2012 – 5th Annual, Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek/Town Branch Cleanup and Environmental Fair.

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 2.3: The WC will 1) evaluate and track progress toward achieving milestones established in the WPP; 2) assess water quality data collected through the Clean Rivers Program, TSSWCB project 10-07, and other data collection efforts in relation to achieving load reductions; and, 3) publish, print, and distribute to stakeholders a biennial addendum to the Plum Creek WPP that describes modifications/updates to goals and milestones, documents success in achieving goals and milestones, and success in achieving water quality improvement and load reductions (publishing targets in spring 2012 and spring 2014). The WC will work with TSSWCB and TCEQ to periodically provide information to EPA to support the *Rationale for Reclassifying Plum Creek (Segment 1810) from Category 5 to Category 4b on the 2010 Texas Integrated Report* and as modified in subsequent Integrated Reports.

- The WC continued working with AgriLife to complete water quality reporting information which was included in the 2012 Update to the Plum Creek WPP.
- Coordination Meetings with the WC, AgriLife, Caldwell-Travis SWCD, District Technician, and/or the Plum Creek Feral Hog Educator were held in Lockhart, TX to discuss implementation and progress related to the WPP on the following dates:
 - August 20, 2012
 - August 22, 2012
 - September 14, 2012
- August 26, 2012 – The WC received a one-year ArcGIS license from ESRI. The license was funded by the San Marcos River Foundation and donated to the PCWP. The WC continues working to collect shapefiles and develop maps and geodatabases to evaluate water quality data collected through the Clean Rivers Program in the Plum Creek watershed.
- August 31, 2012 – The WC participated in a fish count, macroinvertebrate sample collection and stream bank characterization study with GBRA staff. Flow measurement and water quality sampling were also completed.
- September 14, 2012 – The WC met with GIS staff at the Hays County Appraisal District to secure maps and shapefiles.
- September 17, 2012 – The WC met with GIS staff at the Caldwell County Appraisal District to secure maps and shapefiles.
- September 2012 (multiple dates) – The WC held discussions with AgriLife, GBRA and the City of Kyle to discuss concerns with water quality data collected in July near the discharge point of the Kyle WWTP

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 2.4: GBRA will facilitate public participation and stakeholder involvement in the watershed planning process, specifically by hosting meetings of the PCWP Steering Committee (quarterly) and Work Groups (as needed) to provide regular updates on progress to implement the WPP and seek input and recommendations on needed activities. GBRA will coordinate meetings, secure meeting locations, prepare and disseminate meeting notices and agendas. Meeting summaries will be prepared and posted to the project website.

- August 9, 2012 – The quarterly meeting of the PCWP was held. The meeting was facilitated by the WC. The WC presented an update on activities since the May 3, 2012 PCWP meeting and led a roundtable discussion for Steering Committee members.
- The WC posted the meeting summary and it is available on the project website.

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 2.5: GBRA will maintain a database of watershed stakeholders and affected parties for use in engaging the public in the watershed planning process. The stakeholder group will be added based upon previous efforts of Extension in TSSWCB projects 04-17 and 08-07.

- The WC is managing the stakeholder database and is continuing to update the document for current and future communications.
- The WC has also produced sign-up sheets that have been provided to those in attendance at every meeting or event featuring the WC since September 22, 2012.

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 2.6: GBRA will attend and participate in other public meetings as appropriate in order to communicate project goals, activities and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to, city councils, county commissioners' courts, Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring, local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), groundwater conservation districts and other appropriate meetings of critical watershed stakeholder groups.

- July 16, 2012 – Caldwell County Commissioner's Court, Lockhart, TX
- July 19, 2012 – WC was keynote speaker at meeting of the Texas Water Utility Association, Lockhart, TX
- July 26, 2012 – WC was keynote speaker at the Hays County Master Naturalist meeting, Kyle, TX
- August 14, 2012 – Hays County Commissioner's Court (Budget Workshop), San Marcos, TX
- August 20, 2012 – Lost Pine's Master Naturalist, Bastrop, TX
- September 17, 2012 – Caldwell County Commissioner's Court, Lockhart, TX
- One-On-One Meetings with the WC and PCWP Steering Committee members continued throughout the quarter..

25% completed – On-going

TASK 3. Outreach, Education and Community Support

Subtask 3.1: The WC will coordinate and conduct water resources and related environmental outreach/education efforts across the watershed, as identified in the Plum Creek WPP. GBRA will work with collaborating entities to organize the following training programs:

- Lone Star Healthy Streams (feral hog component) – 3 events
- Conventional OSSF maintenance workshop for homeowners – 1 event
- Aerobic system operation and maintenance workshops for homeowners – 2 events
- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials workshop – 1 event

The WC will look into the feasibility of conducting the following water resources and related environmental outreach/education events: Local community clean-ups, Texas Watershed Steward Program, Sports and Athletic Field Education,

Riparian Management workshops, rainwater harvesting workshops, Texas Well Owner Network trainings, well screening events, Texas Stream Team volunteer monitoring trainings, and Lone Star Healthy Stream (grazing cattle component).

The WC will work with the entities that administer/fund these programs and try to direct delivery of these programs to Plum Creek depending on priorities of those entities and programs.

The WC will make presentations on the PCWP, WPP and general nonpoint source pollution information to local schools and community organizations.

The WC will work with Extension (County Agents) to coordinate annual soil testing campaigns targeting fertilizer users (agricultural and urban) in Hays and Caldwell Counties.

GBRA will support, promote, and participate in, as appropriate, any field days, demonstrations, site tours, or education events sponsored by Extension, NRCS, and/or SWCDs for the Plum Creek watershed.

- The Hog Out County Grants program has provided a platform for numerous opportunities to inform the public about the Plum Creek WPP and the PCWP. Over 1 million people have been reached throughout Central Texas as a result of media coverage.
- July 19, 2012 – WC was keynote speaker at meeting of the Texas Water Utility Association, Lockhart, TX
- July 26, 2012 – WC was keynote speaker at the Hays County Master Naturalist meeting, Kyle, TX
- August 20, 2012 – Lost Pine’s Master Naturalist, Bastrop, TX
- September 22, 2012 – 5th Annual, Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek/Town Branch Cleanup. Over 300 volunteers (287 officially) removed 2,130 lbs of trash and 310.5 lbs of recyclables from 4.5 stream miles of the Plum Creek Watershed. Also the WC held a booth at the Environmental Fair portion of the Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek/Town Branch Cleanup. Over 100 children and adults attended the Environmental Fair.

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 3.2: GBRA will work with TAMU Spatial Sciences Laboratory to continue to host and maintain the PCWP website (<http://plumcreek.tamu.edu>) to serve as a public clearinghouse for all project- and watershed-related information. All presentations, documents and results will be posted to this website. The website will serve as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public.

- July 25, 2012 – The WC traveled to College Station to continue training with AgriLife, acquire additional project documents and materials, and to receive training on managing the project website, Constant Contact and Facebook.

25% completed – On-going

Subtask 3.3: GBRA will facilitate communication with stakeholders in order to engage the public and affected entities in the watershed planning process. GBRA will utilize all appropriate communication mechanisms including direct mail, e-

mail, the project website, and mass media (print, radio, television). GBRA will develop and disseminate general project informational materials, including, but not limited to, flyers, brochures, letters, factsheets, news releases, and other appropriate promotional publications. GBRA will include information about the project in GBRA newsletters (e.g., *River Run*) and Clean Rivers Program publications. GBRA will develop and utilize a listserv (e.g., <http://listserv.tamu.edu/>) to facilitate direct discussion between stakeholders. GBRA will make appropriate use of social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter) as a stakeholder communication mechanism for this watershed. GBRA will develop, publish, and distribute 6 semi-annual newsletters (i.e., *Plum Creek Current*) that highlight Plum Creek watershed activities; the newsletter shall be distributed as most appropriate to individual landowners and entities in the watershed. GBRA will solicit content matter for educational materials from Project Partners as appropriate. TSSWCB must approve all project-related content in any informational materials and promotional publications prior to distribution.

- The WC continues to work on publishing the next issue of the *Plum Creek Current*.
- The WC has been successfully managing and updating the project website and Facebook page.
- The WC was featured in the August issue of the GBRA *River Run*.
- The WC has been working with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents, the Plum Creek feral hog education specialist, local businesses, volunteer groups, non-profits, government agencies and Hays County and Caldwell County Commissioners to partner on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Hog Out County Grants Program. Two news releases and flyers have been developed to promote the program as well as dozens phone and personal meetings. With appearances on two Austin network news programs, two radio stations, articles in at least a dozen local and statewide newspapers and publications including the Austin American Statesmen and Texas Outdoor News, it is estimated that over 1 million Central Texas residents have heard about the PCWP and their role in the feral hog programs in Hays and Caldwell County. A Google search also reveals over 25 websites and internet chat rooms have covered the story, as well. The PCWP website has been used as a clearinghouse for information regarding these programs in Hays and Caldwell County. Facebook has also be effective for disseminating information.

25% completed – On-going

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- July 31, 2012 – What began as site visit for a landowner concerned with downed trees in the main branch of Plum Creek causing flooding on his property during high flows ended with the landowner, who had been given special access to the TXDOT-owned wetland mitigation site developed as part of the Highway 130 project, taking the WC on a two-hour guided tour of the wetlands.
- The Texas Watershed Steward Program scheduled for September 11, 2012 in Plum Creek did not receive enough RSVPs and was cancelled. It is unclear as to why this happened. News releases, flyers, large banners and countless emails

were sent out to promote the event. There had been two TWS workshops previously in the watershed, so it is possible that the core group of stakeholders had already been saturated.

Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- The WC will begin implementation of the Caldwell County CCEs.
- The WC will continue working with Hays and Caldwell County to promote and participate in the Texas Hog Out County Grant Program.
- The WC will continue working with Hays and Caldwell County and local businesses to implement a bounty system on feral hogs.
- The WC will host education and safety training meetings for local volunteers participating the Texas Hog Out County Grants Program.
- The WC will speak at 4 to 6 feral hog educational workshops planned for Hays and Caldwell County.
- The WC and GBRA will host a wrap-up meeting for the Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Town Branch/Plum Creek Clean-Up in Lockhart, TX and develop a news release reporting on the event.
- The WC will assist the City of Buda in completing and submitting an application to the TWDB to receive Texas SRF funds and loan forgiveness to implement the Planning and Design phase of the Hillside Terrace project.
- Monthly coordination meetings with the WC, AgriLife, Plum Creek Feral Hog Educator and SWCD District Technician.
- The WC will be the keynote speaker at the Caldwell County Farm Bureau Annual Convention.
- The WC will speak at meetings of the Tri-Community Wildlife Management Assn. and Clear Fork Wildlife Management Assn.
- The WC will participate in a meeting of the Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee.
- One-On-One meetings with Steering Committee Members and the WC will continue.
- The WC will submit a CWA Section 319 grant application to the TSSWCB to continue funding the District SWCD Technician and WQMPs to support the Plum Creek WPP.
- The WC will submit a CWA Section 319 grant application to the TSSWCB to fund the development of the Plum Creek Riparian Cooperative, a riparian landowner's group and workshop series focusing on the implementation of BMPs to mitigate NPS pollution in the Plum Creek watershed.
- Additional grants and funding mechanisms as well as the development of public-private partnerships to increase public awareness and implement water quality projects within the watershed will continue to be investigated and pursued.
- The WC will issue the semi-annual installment of the project newsletter.