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.


  30% 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.

- October 31, 2012 - GBRA submitted the invoice covering activities conducted in the months of July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

  30% 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 come together 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.

  30% 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
- September 24 - 28, 2012 – The WC completed the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course in Bandera, TX.
- Stakeholder requested site visits to discuss individual water quality concerns were conducted in the watershed on the following dates:
  - November 30, 2012 – The WC accompanied Texas Parks and a Wildlife Department (TPWD), Spills and Kills Team member and a landowner to survey the effects of a 500+ barrel brine water spill into West Fork Plum Creek north of Luling, TX. The Texas Railroad Commission and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are working with TPWD and the oilfield operator to assess the spill and any enforcement actions.
  - December 19, 2012 – The WC met with the owner and employees of Helicopter Tours of Texas at their office in Fentress, TX, to discuss expanding opportunities for aerial control of feral hogs in the watershed.
- October 20, 2012 – The first of four planned Caldwell County Community Collection Events (CCEs) was held in Maxwell, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #3).
  - 22 volunteers
  - 88 volunteer hours
  - 70 citizen participants (individuals dropping off non-hazardous waste)
  - 10.6 tons of solid waste processed
  - 200 tires collected
- October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 – The WC initiated and served as Project Coordinator for both the Hays County and Caldwell County, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Hog Out County Grants Program. The WC worked with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents, the Plum Creek feral hog education specialist, local businesses, volunteer groups, non-profits, government agencies and Hays County and Caldwell County Commissioners to develop partnerships and implement the program. Contact information for future educational opportunities was collected on participants and harvest data including date, method and location were collected for each qualifying feral hog entry. The following details include the unofficial total for both counties combined.
- 18 volunteers received 1 hour of feral hog education, data entry and safety training
- 107 individuals attended feral hog management workshops
- 5 participating businesses issuing county-funded feral hog bounty
- Bounty payments issued to over 50 different hunter, trapper and landowner participants
- Over $1,000 in prizes donated by local businesses
- 1,124 feral hogs harvested (1,014 – Caldwell County; 110 – Hays County)
- Local, state and national print, online, radio and television media coverage of the PCWP reaching well over 1 million individuals. In addition to local media, major media outlets of note included: Lonestar Outdoor News, Austin American Statesmen, San Francisco Chronicle, Bloomberg News, YNN, KVUE (Austin), KEYE (Austin), KXAN (Austin) and “The Big Outdoors” radio program (airs on affiliate radio stations throughout the Midwest).

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.

- The Hillside Terrace wastewater project has been an extremely high priority for the PCWP as evidenced by the recent Plum Creek WPP Update. The WC has been working with officials from the City of Buda, Hays County and the TWDB to submit an application for funding the Planning and Design (P&D) phase of the project through the Texas SRF loan forgiveness program. Total estimated project cost for P&D = $402,308. On August 28, 2012, Buda received a letter of invitation to the NPS program for P&D, which can be also be used to assess the future of wastewater for this area. Due to the economic status of Hillside Terrace residents, the project qualified for 70% loan forgiveness (highest available). The WC facilitated the joint agreement on behalf of Buda and Hays County to split the remaining 30%, totaling $120,692. The project has received local and statewide media attention.
  - October 30, 2012 – Interlocal agreement approved by Hays County Commissioner’s Court to split costs with City of Buda for unfunded principal portion of P&D.
  - October 30, 2012 – Buda City Council approves all required agenda items.
  - November 1, 2012 – Hillside Terrace wastewater project application submitted to TWDB.
  - December 4, 2012 – Engineering firm submits additional information requested by TWDB.
- October 12, 2012 – Plum Creek Riparian Cooperative grant application submitted by WC on behalf of GBRA to TSSWCB CWA §319(h) Nonpoint
Source Grant Program, FY2013. Total project cost = $188,712 ($111,660 federal, $77,052 local match)
- Develops Plum Creek riparian landowner network and leadership committee
- 15 to 20 “On Ranch” and “Living Room” style workshops planned for 3 years
- Estimated reach, 300+ riparian landowners
- Utilizes private public relations firm and industry experts to coordinate meetings, workshops and outreach
- Letters of support from PCWP, NRCS, Texas Master Naturalist, Farm Bureau, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces River Authority

• October 12, 2012 – District SWCD Technician and funding for WQMPs grant application submitted by WC on behalf of Caldwell-Travis SWCD to TSSWCB CWA §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program, FY2013. Total project cost = $907,080 ($607,080 federal, $300,000 local match)
  - Funds SWCD Technician and administrative costs for 3 years
  - Funds 30 WQMPs

• December 10, 2012 – The WC requested funding from the Caldwell County Commissioners Court to expand existing projects
  - Additional funds not to exceed $1,000 were approved by the Court to continue the $2 per feral hog bounty program initiated to improve participation in the Hog Out County Grants Program. Total project funding $2,000.
  - Additional funds not to exceed $3,000 were approved by the Court to provide an additional dumpster and disposal fees for discarded tires at the remaining three Caldwell County CCEs. Total project funding $62,293.

• December 21, 2012 – The WC and representatives from the Hays and Caldwell County government and business community met with Texas Lt. Governor, Dave Dewhurst’s Chief of Staff to discuss new funding opportunities for methods to control feral hogs in the watershed and surrounding counties. A future meeting planned with Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Todd Staples, will be facilitated by the Lt. Governor’s Office.

• The WC continues to have hold discussions with the permittees and TCEQ to secure the funding of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) for the watershed as part of any potential enforcement action stemming from the partially treated sewage spills at the Kyle WWTP reported on November 20, 2012 by Aqua Texas. Second spill reported December 3, 2012.

30% 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.

- May 2012 – Biennial addendum to the Plum Creek WPP published.
- The WC continued to work in close contact with AgriLife, Caldwell-Travis SWCD District Technician, and the Plum Creek Feral Hog Educator throughout the quarter by phone, email and informal office meetings to discuss implementation and progress related to the WPP.
- The WC continues working to collect and develop shapefiles, maps and geodatabases to evaluate water quality data collected through the Clean Rivers Program in the Plum Creek watershed.
- November 16, 2012 – The WC submitted comments to the TCEQ Water Quality Planning Division on behalf of the PCWP in response to the TCEQ proposal to list AU 1810_02 on the 303(d) list for concerns including impaired habitat and impaired macrobenthic community.
- December 18, 2012 – WC assisted GBRA staff in conducting routine water quality sampling on Plum Creek.
- Throughout October and November, the WC continued to have discussions and share data with the City of Kyle and the Plum Creek Steering Committee in response to high E. coli concentrations and depressed DO in water quality samples taken at and immediately downstream of the Kyle WWTP operated by Aqua Texas. The City of Kyle and Aqua Texas are identified by TCEQ as co-permittees for the WWTP. An ongoing lawsuit between the City of Kyle and Aqua Texas, however, served as a barrier of communication between the permittees. Any action on the part of the City of Kyle was also restricted by an operating contract between the two parties. A malfunction at the plant in November resulted in a spill of over 100,000 gallons of partially treated sewage into Plum Creek. Aqua Texas issued a press release regarding this spill on November 20, 2012. A second spill was reported by Aqua Texas on December 3, 2012. TCEQ staff held a meeting on December 6, 2012 with the WC, GBRA water quality monitoring staff, TPWD staff, Texas Stream Team staff and Plum Creek Development, Inc. (beneficiary of 210 permit for reuse of effluent to irrigate golf course) to share data, information and concerns regarding the spill. The WC has been closely monitoring the situation and working with the permittees, TCEQ, TPWD Spills and Kills staff and Plum Creek stakeholders to oversee the investigation and cleanup. On December 27, 2012, the WC met with TCEQ, TPWD and Aqua Texas staff to discuss dewatering a half-mile portion of Plum Creek downstream of the Kyle WWTP to enable further cleanup and mitigation of the spills. Additionally, the WC has been working with the permittees and TCEQ to secure the funding of a SEP for the watershed as part of any enforcement action. It should be noted that Aqua Texas has now installed a flow-based chlorination system in plant and has expressed sincere interest in funding an SEP. The extent of downstream impacts to the watershed as a result of the spills is unknown at this time, however, data will continue to be collected and evaluated.
• All harvest data collected via the Hays County and Caldwell County Hog Out County Grant program will be used expand the current online feral hog reporting system. It is anticipated that these data will double the number of feral hogs reported as being removed from the watershed. Contact information collected on each participant and workshop attendee will also expand the reach of the database and feral hog education components of the WPP.

30% 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.

• November 8, 2012 – The quarterly meeting of the PCWP was held. The meeting was facilitated by the WC and saw a large increase in attendance. The WC presented an update on activities since the August 9, 2012 PCWP meeting. A special presentation of new feral hog trapping mobile technologies was a meeting highlight.
• The WC posted the meeting summary and it is available on the project website.

30% 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 produced sign-up sheets that have been provided to those in attendance at every meeting or event featuring the WC since September 22, 2012.
• The PCWP meeting held on November 8, 2012, with 54 attendees, saw a 100% increase in attendance over the previous 3 meeting average. The increase was made up almost entirely of new or first-time attendees.

30% 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.

- October 1, 2012 – The WC served as the keynote speaker for the Caldwell County Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Lockhart, TX
- October 11, 2012 – The WC served as the keynote speaker for the Clear Fork Wildlife Management Association bi-annual meeting, Lockhart, TX
- October 13, 2012 – The WC gave a presentation to the Tri-Community Wildlife Management Association bi-annual meeting, McMahan, TX
- December 6, 2012 – WC gave presentation and attended meeting with TCEQ and Plum Creek stakeholders including the GBRA to discuss Kyle WWTP spills, Austin, TX
- December 10, 2012 – Caldwell County Commissioner’s Court, Lockhart, TX
- December 21, 2012 – The WC and representatives from the Hays and Caldwell County government and business community met with Texas Lt. Governor, Dave Dewhurst’s Chief of Staff to discuss new funding opportunities for methods to control feral hogs in the watershed and surrounding counties, Austin, TX
- One-On-One Meetings with the WC and PCWP Steering Committee members continued throughout the quarter.

30% 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 and beyond as a result of statewide and national media coverage of the program in Hays and Caldwell County. Outreach associated with the program includes:
  - October 2, 3, 4 and 17, 2012 – The WC conducted training workshops for Hays County and Caldwell County Hog Out Volunteers
  - October 23, 2012 – The WC and Caldwell County Extension Agent coordinated a Feral Hog Webinar viewing and a Question and Answer session for Caldwell County, Lockhart, TX
  - October 25, 2012 – WC was coordinator and presenter at the Hays County feral hog education workshop at Cabela’s, Buda, TX
  - October 30, 2012 – WC was coordinator and presenter at the Hays County feral hog education workshop, San Marcos, TX
  - November 20, 2012 – Feral hog webinar, Lockhart, TX
- October 1, 2012 – The WC served as the keynote speaker for the Caldwell County Farm Bureau Annual Convention, Lockhart, TX
- October 9, 2012 – Wrap-up meeting for the 5th Annual, Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek Cleanup, Lockhart, TX
- October 11, 2012 – The WC served as the keynote speaker for the Clear Fork Wildlife Management Association bi-annual meeting, Lockhart, TX
- October 12, 2012 – Plum Creek Riparian Cooperative grant application submitted by WC on behalf of GBRA to TSSWCB CWA §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program, FY2013. Total project cost = $188,712 ($111,660 federal, $77,052 local match)
  - Develops Plum Creek riparian landowner network and leadership committee
  - 15 to 20 “On Ranch” and “Living Room” style workshops planned for 3 years
  - Estimated reach, 300+ riparian landowners
  - Utilizes private public relations firm and industry experts to coordinate meetings, workshops and outreach
  - Letters of support from PCWP, NRCS, Texas Master Naturalist, Farm Bureau, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Nueces River Authority
- October 13, 2012 – The WC gave a presentation to the Tri-Community Wildlife Management Association bi-annual meeting, McMahan, TX
- October 18, 2012 through November 16, 2012 – Caldwell/Hays Soil Testing Campaign
October 20, 2012 – The first of four planned Caldwell County Community Collection Events (CCEs) was held in Maxwell, TX (Caldwell County Pct. #3).
- 22 volunteers
- 88 volunteer hours
- 70 citizen participants (individuals dropping off non-hazardous waste)
- 10.6 tons of solid waste processed
- 200 tires collected

30% 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.

- The WC has been successfully managing and updating the project website and Facebook page.

30% 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, email, 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 has been successfully managing and updating the project website and Facebook page. The Facebook page continues to add “likes” every quarter.
- 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. Three news releases and two flyers have
been developed to promote the program as well as dozens of phone and personal meetings. With six appearances on Austin network news programs, two local radio stations, “The Big Outdoors” radio program, which is syndicated on radio stations throughout the Midwest, articles in at least a dozen local, state and national newspapers and publications including the Austin American Statesmen, Texas Outdoor News, The San Francisco Chronicle and Bloomberg News, it is estimated that over 1 million individuals 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 been effective for disseminating information.

- The Austin American Statesman and Community Impact News interviewed the WC and featured stories on the Hays County Commissioner’s decision to fund the Hillside Terrace Project.
- The Kyle WWTP spill and comments from the WC was covered by local media, the Austin American Statesman and several Austin network news programs.
- The WC continues to work on publishing the next issue of the Plum Creek Current.

**30% completed – On-going**

### Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- The partially treated effluent spills from the Kyle WWTP in November and December, detailed above, have had a substantial impact on Plum Creek in the reach just downstream of the outfall. While some fish were seen in the area immediately after the spill, no fish have been seen by the WC in December and January visits to the site. The macroinvertebrate community also appears to have been substantially impacted by the low DO levels measured in the creek. Further, a significant amount of riparian vegetation along the banks of Plum Creek in the area of the spill was removed during the cleanup process. Silt fences have been temporarily installed. The WC has been to the area at least weekly after the spills and collected a large amount of video and photos of the aftermath. While vacuum trucks have been utilized on at least two occasions, there is still a tremendous amount of sludge remaining in the water for at least ½ mile downstream of the outfall. TCEQ has recommended dewatering the area and additional vacuuming, however, as of the date of this submittal, no work has been done toward this task. It is unknown, due to the turbidity of the water, the effects heavy rains on January 8th and 9th had on the impacted area. The spill has demanded a large amount of attention from the WC. It should be noted, however, that the WC has played an invaluable role in informing stakeholders and working with regulatory agencies and the permittees throughout the process to help ensure that proper documentation of the event is taken and that any follow-up actions will result in safer operations of the WWTP. The WC will also work with the City of Kyle, who owns the
land on which the spill occurred, to develop a revegetation plan for the area and restore a healthy riparian buffer.

- The WC did not attend the December 13, 2012 meeting of the TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee due to scheduling conflicts.

**Projected Work for Next Quarter**

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- The WC will facilitate the first and second meetings of the Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force.
- The WC will work with the Caldwell County Feral Hog Task Force members to develop a funding proposal to the Texas Agriculture Commissioner.
- The WC will submit applications on behalf of Hays and Caldwell County to the TDA Hog Out County Grant Program.
- The WC will coordinate an awards ceremony for Hays and Caldwell County Hog Out County Grant program participants.
- The WC will give a presentation at the Feral Hog Management Workshop in Luling, TX.
- The WC will continue to work with the City of Buda in submitting any additionally requested application materials to the TWDB toward Texas SRF funds and loan forgiveness to implement the Planning and Design phase of the Hillside Terrace project.
- Monthly coordination meetings with the WC, Plum Creek Feral Hog Educator and SWCD District Technician.
- 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 issue the semi-annual installment of the project newsletter.
- The WC will attend the Central Texas Environmental Summit.
- The WC will attend the Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtable.
- The WC will complete An Introduction to Modeling Training hosted by the Texas Water Resources Institute.
- The WC will work with the Keep Texas Beautiful Program to acquire funding for the 6th Annual Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Plum Creek Cleanup.
- The WC will facilitate the quarterly meeting of the PCWP.
- The WC will an address at a meeting local area real estate agents and provide information on the PCWP to be included in new and prospective homeowner packets.
- The WC will work with permittees and the TCEQ to develop an SEP for the watershed to be included in any enforcement action as a result of the November and December Kyle WWTP spills.
- 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.