

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

Quarterly Report Number 2

Covering work accomplished January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012

April 10, 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.

- January 13, 2012 - GBRA prepared the progress report for November 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 and was submitted.

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.

- January 31, 2012 - GBRA submitted the invoice covering activities conducted in the months of November 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

10% 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.

- March 9, 2012 - GBRA, the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator (WC), Texas AgriLife and TSSWCB held a project meeting at the TSSWCB office in Temple. The WC was introduced to the TSSWCB project team. The tasks and deliverables were reviewed.

15% 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.

- GBRA drafted a Request for Qualifications (RFQs) to be used to solicit candidates for the watershed coordinator position. Twelve candidates submitted responses to the RFQ. GBRA sent copies of the responses to the selection committee and TSSWCB. The selection committee reviewed the responses and ranked their top five candidates. GBRA provided a criteria sheet to assist with the review and ranking.
- January 10, 2012 - It was decided that a face-to-face meeting to discuss the ranking and the number of candidates to interview was warranted rather than a conference call. That meeting was held at the Lockhart City Hall. TSSWCB joined by conference line. It was decided that each interview would have at least five questions. Each member of the selection committee took a question to ask each candidate. Also, because the WC will be required to make presentations to various groups, it was decided that each candidate would be asked to prepare a 5-10 minute presentation answering the question “Why I am the most qualified candidate for the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator Position”. GBRA called each candidate to notify them of the required presentation.
- January 27, 2012 - Four candidates were interviewed. The interviews were held in the County Annex in Lockhart. After the interviews, the committee discussed their rankings. GBRA made calls to the references provided by the top candidate.
- January 30, 2012 - Nick Dornak was offered and accepted the position. The position would be a contract position through GBRA. The salary combined with benefits would be paid on the first day of each month. During the quarter, GBRA purchased the bulk of the office equipment and supplies (office furniture, computer, printer, projector and office supplies). Other purchases will be made by the WC and requests for reimbursements will be made as necessary.
- March 1, 2012 - The official start date of the WC. The WC was afforded time to move his family from Wyoming to Texas. He also requested time to finish business in Wyoming in mid-March.
- February 13, 2012 - GBRA sent letters of thanks to the candidates that were not selected.
- March 15, 2012 - The WC and GBRA attended the TSSWCB Watershed Coordination Council in Columbus. GBRA gave a presentation on the efforts

of the PCWP to sustain the watershed protection activities and the hiring of a watershed coordinator. The WC was introduced to the group.

- March 6, and March 13, 2012 - GBRA met with the WC for orientation and the purchase of supplies for the office.
- Caldwell County provided the WC with a truck and fuel card.
- March 6, 2012 - Texas AgriLife traveled to Lockhart to begin training of the WC. Computer files are being shared with the WC.
- March 29, 2012 - WC traveled to College Station to continue orientation and training.

75% 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.

- March 6, 2012 - The WC was introduced to the Buda City Council.
- March 13, March 19, March 21 and March 28, 2012 - The WC participated in the conference calls held to discuss the TSSWCB's CIG grant proposal for removal and control feral hogs in the Plum Creek watershed.
- March 23, 2012 - The WC participated in a conference call with Texas AgriLife and Mark Jones, Hays County Commissioner, to discuss funding and interest in county's proposed Hillside Terrace Wastewater Project to reclaim failing septic systems serving a disadvantaged community within the Plum Creek watershed while cooperating with the City of Buda to provide sewer services to Hillside Terrace residents.
- March 30, 2012 - The WC attended the FY 2012-2013 CAPCOG Solid Waste Implementation Grants Workshop and will be assisting Caldwell County in the development of a grant application to fund four Solid and Hazardous Waste Collection Events to be held in 2012.

10% 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 is working with AgriLife to complete water quality reporting information to be included in the 2012 Update to the Plum Creek WPP.
- March 14, 2012 - The WC assisted GBRA in water quality sample collection and flow measurements throughout the watershed on.
- On February 2, 2012 - TSSWCB sent a link to the letter from EPA to TCEQ approving the movement of Plum Creek from the 303d list to category 4b, acknowledging the pollution control requirements implemented by federal, state and local authorities that will result in attainment of water quality standards in Segment 1810 (Plum Creek).

22% 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.

- February 9, 2012 - The quarterly meeting of the PC Watershed Partnership was held. The meeting was coordinated by Texas AgriLife. The WC was not officially hired yet but tried to listen in by conference call. Introduction of the WC will be conducted at the quarterly meeting in May.
- AgriLife Extension posted the meeting summary and it is available on the project website.

10% 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.

- Texas AgriLife has shared database files with the WC.

10% 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.

- Texas AgriLife gave a presentation to the Guadalupe River Basin Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee on the status of the Plum Creek

Watershed Protection Plan and sustainability efforts. The WC was unable to attend due to prior commitment.

- March 6, 2012 - The new WC was introduced at the Buda's City Council meeting.
- March 15, 2012 - The WC was introduced at the Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee, in Columbus, TX.
- March 22, 2012 - Texas AgriLife Extension attended the 2012 Guadalupe River Basin Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee meeting to give a project update and overview of the process used to hire a local watershed coordinator.

10% 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.

- March 31, 2012 - WC maintained a booth at the Bastrop-Caldwell County Wildlife Management Association Extravaganza in Smithville, TX. Project literature was made available to stakeholders in attendance. Networking with other vendors and attendees to discuss potential public/private cooperation on project activities was also accomplished.

10% 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.

- March 29, 2012 - The WC has completed preliminary training with AgriLife and will be granted administrative rights to the website during the next quarter.

10% 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.

- March 20, 2012 – GBRA obtained a new domain name and email address was obtained for the WC. The email address for the WC is ndornak@plumcreekwatershed.org. The project website will continue to be housed with TAMU.
- March 29, 2012 - The WC has been granted administrative rights to maintain the Project Facebook page.

- March 29, 2012 - The WC has completed preliminary training with Texas AgriLife to manage the Constant Contact software used to distribute the Project newsletter.
- March 12, 2012 - The WC made contact with a rural landowner located within the watershed who was concerned that the oil wells located on his property were not being properly maintained by the Operator. The WC met with the landowner and toured the property. The WC was shown the location of several spills which were subsequently washed into a Plum Creek tributary prior to any mitigation by the Operator. The WC has been in contact with the landowner and Texas Railroad Commission, and a case file has been developed.

10% completed – On-going

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

Nick Dornak was hired as the Plum Creek Watershed Coordinator. Texas AgriLife and GBRA began orientation and training of the WC. Purchases of office equipment and supplies were made. Caldwell County provided a truck, fuel card and office space for use by the WC. The new WC was introduced at the Buda's City Council meeting.

Projected Work for Next Quarter

The following will be accomplished during the coming quarter:

- Texas AgriLife will continue training of the watershed coordinator.
- The WC will be introduced to the PC Watershed Partnership at quarterly meeting in May.
- Texas AgriLife will introduce the WC at meetings of city councils, county commissioners and other partnership member's boards (Plum Creek Conservation District, Polonia WSC and GBRA).
- An application for a FY 2012-2013 Solid Waste Implementation Grant to fund four Solid and Hazardous Waste Collection Events in Caldwell County will be submitted to CAPCOG.
- Monthly coordination meetings with the WC, Texas AgriLife, the Extension Feral Hog Education Specialist and District Technician have been scheduled for April and May.
- The WC will maintain a booth at the Natural Resource Fair for families attending the Chisholm Trail Round Up in Lockhart on June 9, 2012 from 2-4 p.m.
- The WC will participate in the June 7, 2012 meeting of the Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee.
- A GIS (ArcView) license to manage and develop geographic and scientific data throughout the Plum Creek Watershed will be secured for the WC.
- The WC will maintain a booth at the Luling Foundation Field Day on May 17, 2012.

- 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.
- GBRA will issue a news release announcing the hiring of the WC.
- The WC will issue the semi-annual installment of the project newsletter.

