

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WORKPLAN

For the Clean Water Act, Section 319(h)

Establishment of a Watershed Coordinator for the North Bosque River Watershed

TSSWCB Project No. 03-18



Establishment of a Watershed Coordinator for the North Bosque River Watershed

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
FY03 CWA Section 319(h), TSSWCB Project # 03-18

WORKPLAN

October 1, 2003? September 30, 2006

Title of Project: Establishment of a Watershed Coordinator for the North Bosque River Watershed

Project Area Description and Background: In 1998, segments 1226 and 1255 (corresponding to the North Bosque River and Upper North Bosque River segments) were deemed "impaired segments" on the State of Texas Clean Water Act Section 303(d) under water quality standards related to nutrients and aquatic plant growth. Studies have demonstrated that high levels of phosphorus (P) and other nutrients from point and nonpoint sources degrade water quality in the North Bosque River. Point sources consist primarily of municipal wastewater treatment plant effluent from the six cities that discharge near or directly into the North Bosque River. Nonpoint nutrient sources in this rural, agriculture dominated watershed include confined animal feeding operations such as the large number of dairies and turkey raising operations, rangeland that hosts many thousands of head of beef cattle, crop land, woodlands, individual homeowners septic systems, and an abundance of wildlife. Some of the potential sources of nutrients that could be entering the watershed, such as dairy waste application fields, dairy lagoons, and municipal wastewater treatment plants have been considered controllable sources of phosphorus.

These findings led to the US Environmental Protection Agency approval for the two Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for P in the North Bosque River. In December 2002, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved the implementation plan for the two TMDLs, and the TSSWCB approved them in January 2003. The goal of these TMDLs is to achieve a reduction of total annual loading and annual average concentrations of soluble reactive P (SRP) by approximately 50%. It is anticipated that SRP reductions of this magnitude will reduce the potential for problematic algal growth in the North Bosque River and Lake Waco.

With the North Bosque River Watershed receiving a very high degree of environmental, political, and regulatory scrutiny in the last several years, there are many activities occurring throughout the watershed that reflect newly imposed rules and regulations, best management practices development and implementation, agricultural waste utilization (composting, agronomic crop application, etc.), and municipal treatment plant renovations. There is a need to develop a means of bringing all the various activities together into a single view for communication, potential cost savings, transfer of information, and increased overall effectiveness and speed in improving water quality.

Project Goals/Objectives: A major goal for the establishment of a Watershed Coordinator for the North Bosque River Watershed is to provide a single point of contact for all activities in the watershed related to: demonstration, conservation, and pollution prevention projects; applicable Federal and State rules and regulations; and water quality data. The objectives of this project include identifying all pollution prevention projects and measures that are currently underway in the watershed, tracking the progress of these projects and measures, tracking rules and regulations that affect operations of entities in the watershed, reviewing water quality data for trend identification, providing opportunities for efficient and effective use of resources, and communicating through regularly scheduled meetings and the Brazos River Authority's web site current information related to the activities within the watershed. Another objective of this project is to identify areas within the watershed that may not have received the attention necessary to reduce potentially detrimental impacts to water quality. A watershed strategy will be developed from the information collected through this project.

Project Tasks: (1) Coordination With Project Participants, (2) Identification and Tracking of Ongoing Projects Pertaining to the Reduction of Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution and Establishment of Contact with all Relevant Parties, (3) Identification and Tracking of all Applicable Rules and Regulations Impacting Current Activities Contributing Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution, (4) Identification and Tracking of Existing Water Quality Data and Monitoring Efforts, (5) Identification of Data Gaps in Existing Water Quality Data and Monitoring Efforts, (6) Identification, Establishment of Contact, and Coordination with all Potential Stakeholders, (7) Facilitation of the Use of New and Emerging Technologies Beneficial in Reducing Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution, (8) Assessment of the Implementation Status of Existing Management Measures and Facilitation of Increased Participation, (9) Reporting to Project Management and Stakeholders.

Measures of Success: The success of this project will be measured by the increased communication between stakeholders, the benefits to stakeholders of having a single point of contact, and the increased awareness of overall level of effort that is underway in the watershed to improve water quality. Other benefits could include more efficient use of federal, state, and local resources by reducing redundant activities and potentially a more rapid advancement towards measurable water quality improvements.

Project Type: Statewide (); Watershed (X); Demonstration (): This is a Watershed based project that is expected to be functional for a three year period beginning October 1, 2003 thru September 30, 2006. Successful demonstration of the effectiveness of this project could lead to either additional requests for this watershed or transferability to other watersheds.

Waterbody Type: River (X); Groundwater (); Other (): The waterbody type is actually the entire North Bosque River Watershed and all potential sources of effluent or runoff into the watershed.

Project Location: The Watershed Coordinator will affect the North Bosque River Watershed, located in the central portion of the Brazos River Basin. The Coordinator will office in the Central Office building of the Brazos River Authority located in Waco, Texas.

NPS Management Program Reference: State of Texas Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program approved February 25, 2000.

NPS Assessment Report Status: Impaired (X); Impacted (); Threatened (); Other(): Numerous receiving streams and river segments within the North Bosque River Watershed are listed as impaired for nutrients (phosphorus) and bacteria.

Key Project Activities: Hire Staff (); Monitoring (); Regulatory Assistance (); Technical Assistance (); Education (X); Implementation (); Demonstration (); Other ():

NPS Management Program Elements: Milestones from the “1999 Texas Nonpoint Source Pollution Assessment Report and Management Program”, which will be implemented include: (1) Coordinating with Federal, State, and Local Programs (2) Committing to technology transfer, technical support, administrative support and cooperation between agencies and programs for the prevention of NPS pollution.

Project Costs: Federal (\$190,815); Non-Federal Match (\$127,213); Total Project (\$318,028)

Project Management: The project will be managed by the TSSWCB and carried out by Brazos River Authority (BRA) staff with appropriate experience and expertise. The BRA staff will consist primarily of the Watershed Coordinator, with assistance from Environmental Services Quality Assurance and Data Management staff, Information Technologies/GIS Staff, Financial and Accounting Contract Management staff, and administrative support.

Cooperating Entities: The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Brazos River Authority.

Project Period: Three years. The project period is proposed to run from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2006. This project period should allow for the full development of the Watershed Coordinator position and assessment of the success of the project.

Establishment of a Watershed Coordinator for the North Bosque River Watershed

Task 1: Coordination With Project Participants.

Subtask 1.1: Arrange bi-monthly meetings with TSSWCB project management to ensure consistency with the project workplan and to provide updates on watershed activities.

Task 2: Identification and Tracking of Ongoing Projects Pertaining to the Reduction of Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution and Establishment of Contact with all Relevant Parties.

Subtask 2.1: Establish contact with all state, federal, local, and private entities currently engaged in activities related to point and nonpoint source pollution prevention in the watershed.

Subtask 2.2: Obtain reference materials detailing the current activities and create records for future use in project related activities and publications.

Deliverables: List of project managers or responsible parties related to ongoing pollution abatement activities.

Task 3: Identification and Tracking of all Applicable Rules and Regulations Impacting Current Activities Contributing Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution.

Subtask 3.1: Establish contact with state, federal, and local regulatory entities with jurisdictions pertaining to the watershed and applicable activities. Become knowledgeable about these rules and regulations.

Subtask 3.2 Track progress and status of any changes to existing rules and regulations or the development of new laws.

Deliverables: (1) List of applicable rules and regulations impacting current activities contributing point and nonpoint source pollution. (2) Update list for any new rules and regulations under development when applicable.

Task 4: Identification and Tracking of Existing Water Quality Data and Monitoring Efforts.

Subtask 4.1: Establish contact with all entities currently engaged in water quality monitoring activities in the watershed.

Subtask 4.2: Obtain access to the data and track trends and any scientific work being done that may impact the current or future Total Maximum Daily Loads for phosphorus, bacteria, or other water quality impairments.

Subtask 4.3: Act as point of contact for concerned residents or stakeholders to call with water quality inquiries.

Deliverables: Electronic or hardcopy reports of all relevant existing water quality data; include source.

Task 5: Identification of Data Gaps in Existing Water Quality Data and Monitoring Efforts.

Subtask 5.1: Identification of data gaps in existing water quality data and monitoring efforts based on information identified in Subtask 4.2.

Subtask 5.2: Facilitate funding sources and contracting entities to conduct monitoring efforts that are needed based on findings from Subtask 5.1.

Task 6: Identification, Establishment of Contact, and Coordination with all Potential Stakeholders.

Subtask 6.1: Establish contact with any entities previously engaged in stakeholder group development and meetings.

Subtask 6.2: Identify other entities not previously engaged in stakeholder meetings and establish contact with appropriate representatives.

Subtask 6.3: Either establish a regular stakeholder group meeting or assimilate new stakeholders into an existing forum and facilitate inclusion of additional issues if required. BRA will host stakeholder meetings as needed to facilitate the distribution and discussion of the brochure as outlined in Subtask 9.2

Deliverables: (1) List of existing stakeholders; provide updates to list as new stakeholders are identified. (2) Schedule for stakeholder group meetings. (3) Minutes from stakeholder group meetings.

Task 7: Facilitation of the Use of New and Emerging Technologies Beneficial in Reducing Point and Nonpoint Source Pollution.

Subtask 7.1: Identify new and emerging technologies that have the potential to reduce point and nonpoint pollution in the watershed.

Subtask 7.2: Coordinate with individuals actively engaged in the evaluation of such technologies.

Subtask 7.3: Facilitate the implementation of technologies identified as being feasible and beneficial.

Deliverables: (1) List of all identified new or emerging technologies; update list as additional technologies are identified and provide updates of list within quarterly reports required under Subtask 9.1.

Task 8: Assessment of the Implementation Status of Existing Management Measures and Facilitation of Increased Participation.

Subtask 8.1: Identify existing management measures (required or voluntary).

Subtask 8.2: Assess level of participation in existing management measures.

Subtask 8.3: Facilitate increased participation in existing management measures.

Subtask 8.4: Develop a watershed strategy using existing information and data, as well as, information and data collected through this project. The “Supplemental Guidelines for the Award of Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants to States and Territories in FY 2003” sets criterion for a similar watershed approach.

Deliverables: (1) List of existing management measures/programs; 2) Report on the level of participation with the watershed and identify within the semi-annual brochure and the quarterly reports; 3) Watershed Strategy

Task 9: Reporting to Project Management and Stakeholders.

Subtask 9.1: Prepare and submit quarterly reports on project activities and progress to TSSWCB project management.

Subtask 9.2: Produce and distribute a publications-quality brochure that details all identified pollution abatement activities in the watershed. The brochure should be approved by TSSWCB project management prior to distribution. The brochure should be produced and distributed semi-annually, beginning 6 months after the official start of this project. The brochure should be distributed to all stakeholders.

Subtask 9.3 Issue bi-weekly emails, in newsletter-style format, to all stakeholders. These bi-weekly emails should include information pertaining to any relevant meetings, demonstrations, or events related to pollution abatement in

the watershed. Information regarding new or emerging technologies and efforts being made to evaluate and/or implement them within the watershed.

Deliverables: (1) Quarterly reports. (2) Semi-annual brochure. (3) Bi-weekly email updates.

Three Year Budget

	Federal	Non-Federal Match	Total
1. Personnel			
Watershed Coordinator	190,815		190,815
BRA Technical and Administrative Support	<u>0</u>	10,985	10,985
Subtotal Personnel	190,815	10,985	201,800
2. Fringe Benefits			
Benefits for Coordinator @ 28%	<u>0</u>	<u>53,428</u>	<u>53,428</u>
Subtotal Fringe	0	53,428	53,428
3. Travel and Training	0	20,000	20,000
4. Equipment			
Computer, phones, etc.		10,000	10,000
5. Supplies			
General Office Supplies	<u>0</u>	1,000	1,000
6. Contractual			
Financial Audit	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal Contractual	0	0	0
7. Construction	0	0	0
8. Other			
Printing, Meetings, etc	<u>0</u>	17,500	17,500
Office (space, furniture, utilities)		14,300	14,300
Subtotal Other		31,800	31,800
9. Total Direct Costs	190,815	127,213	318,028
10. Indirect Costs	0	0	0
11. Total Project Costs	190,815	127,213	318,028