

**Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board**  
**Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program**  
**FY 2020 Workplan 20-05**

| SUMMARY PAGE   |  |           |  |     |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|--|-----|--|-----------|
| Title of Project                                     | Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek Watershed Protection Plans  |           |  |     |  |           |
| Project Goals  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide educational programs to increase stakeholders and citizens knowledge about water quality issues in the watershed</li><li>• Conduct status reviews on WQMPs to track implementation success</li><li>• Provide technical assistance to agricultural producers for the development of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs)</li><li>• Foster coordinated technical assistance activities between TSSWCB, the local SWCD, and NRCS</li><li>• Inform and coordinate project efforts with local Steering Committee, Watershed Coordinator, and other partners.</li></ul> |           |  |     |  |           |
| Project Tasks  | (1) Project Administration; (2) Promotion and implementation of the TSSWCB WQMP Program  |           |  |     |  |           |
| Measures of Success                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide needed technical assistance to agricultural producers;</li><li>• Conduct status reviews on existing WQMPs;</li><li>• Implementation of management measures outlined in the Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek WPPs;</li><li>• Reduction in potential pollutant loads of streams from NPS pollution from agricultural operations</li></ul>  |           |  |     |  |           |
| Project Type   | Implementation (X); Education ( ); Planning ( ); Assessment ( ); Groundwater ( )   |           |  |     |  |           |
| Status of Waterbody on 2014 Texas Integrated Report  | <u>Segment ID</u><br>Segment 1501 – Tres Palacios Creek Tidal<br>Segment 1502<br>Segment 2456 – Caranchua Bay<br>Segment 2456A – West Caranchua Creek Tidal<br>Segment 1304 – Caney Creek Tidal<br>Segment 1304A- Linnville Bayou<br>Segment 1305 – Caney Creek abv Tidal  |           | <u>Parameter of Impairment or Concern</u><br>Depressed DO<br>Bacteria, chlorophyll-a<br>Depressed DO, chlorophyll-a<br>Bacteria, Total Phosphorous, chlorophyll-a<br>Bacteria, Depressed DO, chlorophyll-a<br>Bacteria, Total Phosphorous<br>Bacteria<br>Depressed DO<br>Bacteria, Total Phosphorous |     | <u>Category</u><br>Concern<br>5b<br>5c, CS<br>CS<br>5c, CS<br>5c, CS<br>5c<br>5b<br>5c, CS |           |
| Project Location (Statewide or Watershed and County) | Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek Watersheds in Matagorda, Wharton and Jackson Counties   |           |  |     |  |           |
| Key Project Activities                               | Hire Staff (X); Surface Water Quality Monitoring ( ); Technical Assistance (X); Education (X); Implementation (X); BMP Effectiveness Monitoring ( ); Demonstration ( ); Planning ( ); Modeling ( ); Bacterial Source Tracking ( ); Other ( )   |           |  |     |  |           |
| 2012 Texas NPS Management Program Reference          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Component 1 – Long Term Goal – Objectives 1, 2, 3</li><li>• Component 1 – Short Term Goal 2 – Objectives A, B, D</li><li>• Component 1 – Short Term Goal 3 – Objectives A, D, G</li><li>• Components 2, 3, and 4</li></ul>   |           |  |     |  |           |
| Project Costs  | Federal  | \$165,554 | Non-Federal  | \$0 | Total  | \$165,554 |
| Project Management                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matagorda County SWCD</li></ul>  |           |  |     |  |           |
| Project Period                                       | October 16, 2020- September 30, 2024   |           |  |     |  |           |

## Part I – Applicant Information

| Applicant        |          |  |           |       |            |          |              |
|------------------|----------|--|-----------|-------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Project Lead     |          | Raymond Jones, Jr.   |           |       |            |          |              |
| Title            |          | Chairman   |           |       |            |          |              |
| Organization     |          | Matagorda County SWCD #316   |           |       |            |          |              |
| E-mail Address   |          | <a href="mailto:matagordacounty@swcd.texas.gov">matagordacounty@swcd.texas.gov</a> |           |       |            |          |              |
| Street Address   |          | 1006 Avenue F Ste A1   |           |       |            |          |              |
| City             | Bay City | County   | Matagorda | State | TX         | Zip Code | 77414        |
| Telephone Number |          | 979-245-1138   |           |       | Fax Number |          | 979-244-2362 |

| Project Partners  |   |
|---|---|
| Names   | Roles & Responsibilities  |
| Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)                                | Provide state oversight and management of all project activities and ensure coordination of activities with related projects and TCEQ.  |
| Matagorda County Soil and Water Conservation District                                 | Supervise one technician. Develop, implement and maintain WQMPs. Conduct status reviews. Responsible for all project deliverables.  |
| United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) | Support SWCD Technician in the development, implementation, and maintenance of WQMPs. Provide training as necessary to the technician.  |
| Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC)      | Support the SWCD Technician in educational program and resource development and delivery and in maintaining communication with the Steering Committee and Watershed Coordinator. Collaborate with Matagorda County SWCD to track implementation of BMPs for incorporation into future Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek WPP updates. |
| Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek Watershed Steering Committees      | Collaborate as critical local stakeholders and play a lead role in communicating with other local stakeholders.   |

## Part II – Project Information

| Project Type   |   |  |  |                |                            |
|--|---|--|--|----------------|----------------------------|
| Surface Water  | X | Groundwater  |  |                |                            |
| Does the project implement recommendations made in (a) a completed WPP, (b) an adopted TMDL, (c) an approved I-Plan, (d) a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan developed under CWA §320, (e) the <i>Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program</i> , or (f) the <i>Texas Groundwater Protection Strategy</i> ? |   |  |  | Yes            | X                          |
| If yes, identify the document.   |   | The Tres Palacios and Caranchua Bay Watershed Protection Plans and Caney Creek Watershed Protection Plan and I-plan (Draft) also the <i>Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program</i>              |  |                |                            |
| If yes, identify the agency/group that developed and/or approved the document.   |   | Tres Palacios Watershed Partnership and Caranchua Bay Watershed Partnership facilitated by Texas Water Resources Institute, and TCEQ. Caney Creek Watershed partnership facilitated by HGAC and TCEQ |  | Year Developed | 2003, 2017, 2018, and 2020 |

| Watershed Information         |  |                       |                     |                        |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Watershed or Aquifer Name(s)  | Hydrologic Unit Code (12 Digit)  | Segment ID            | Category on 2014 IR | Size (Acres)           |
| Tres Palacios Creek Watershed | 121004010300   | 1501<br>1502          |                     |                        |
| Caranchua Bay Watershed       | 121004010200   | 2456<br>2456A         |                     | 234,652                |
| Caney Creek Watershed         | 120904020201<br>120904020202<br>120904020203<br>120904020204<br>120904020100 | 1304<br>1304A<br>1305 |                     | 220,539<br><br>199,415 |

| Water Quality Impairment   |
|--|
| Describe all known causes (i.e., pollutants of concern) and sources (e.g., agricultural, silvicultural) of water quality impairments or concerns from any of the following sources: <i>2014 Texas Integrated Report</i> , Clean Rivers Program Basin Summary/Highlights Reports, or other documented sources.  |
| <p>Water quality data collected between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2012 for the tidal segment of the Tres Palacios Creek indicate a geometric mean of 67.19 cfu/100 mL for Enterococci bacteria. This exceeds the state established criterion for primary contact recreation of 35 cfu/100 mL.</p>  |
| <p>Water quality data collected between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2012 for Caranchua Bay indicate a geometric mean of 123.82 cfu/100 mL for Enterococci bacteria. This exceeds the state established criterion for primary contact recreation of 35 cfu/100 mL.</p>  |
| <p>Water quality data collected between December 1, 2005 and November 30, 2012 for Caney Creek Tidal indicate a geometric mean of 49.28cfu/100 mL for Enterococci bacteria. This exceeds the state established criterion for primary contact recreation of 35 cfu/100 mL.</p>  |
| <p>The 2014 Texas Integrated Report lists the sources of the bacteria impairment for Tres Palacios Creek Tidal as Agriculture NPS and Irrigated Cropland. The Integrated Report also lists the source of Chlorophyll-a in Tres Palacios Creek Above Tidal as unknown. However, analysis conducted in support of the Tres Palacios Creek Watershed Protection Plan indicates that nonpoint sources are the primary cause of bacteria and nutrient pollution in the watershed. In addition, an analysis of land use/cover showed that rangeland, forests, and agricultural lands represent over 80% of the watershed. Consequently, potential nonpoint source pollution from agricultural operations and rural properties was determined to be a source of bacteria, nutrient, and sediment in the project watersheds.</p> |

| Project Narrative   |
|---|
| Problem/Need Statement  |
| <p>Several streams in Matagorda, Wharton and Jackson Counties are currently impaired for elevated bacteria and low dissolved oxygen, and also have concerns for chlorophyll-a and phosphorous. Watershed planning efforts and feedback from watershed stakeholders have identified livestock and agriculture as potential sources for the bacteria and nutrients.</p>   |
| <p>The Tres Palacios Creek watershed drains approximately 268 square miles of mainly rural and agricultural land. Tres Palacios Creek, which starts near the town of El Campo, meanders generally south through Wharton and Matagorda counties before draining into Tres Palacios Bay and the Matagorda Bay System. Along the way, Tres Palacios Creek provides an important water resource for agriculture, livestock, wildlife, businesses, and residents.</p>  |
| <p>Water quality monitoring conducted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) indicated that fecal indicator bacteria levels are often above the state’s recreational water quality standard. Furthermore, 24-hour dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring indicated that average and minimum DO levels fall below state water quality standards. As a result, the tidal portion of Tres Palacios Creek was listed as impaired for elevated bacteria and depressed DO in the 2014 Texas 303(d) List.</p> |
| <p>Water quality monitoring indicates Caranchua Bay does not meet water quality standards for recreation because of elevated levels of bacteria. Furthermore, West Caranchua Creek does not meet water quality standards due to depressed dissolved oxygen (DO). Elevated nutrients (phosphorus and chlorophyll-a) are also higher than normal when compared to similar water bodies.</p>   |
| <p>The Caney Creek watershed lies in southeast Texas near the Houston–Galveston area and includes the cities of Wharton, Boling-Iago, and Van Vleck. The watershed includes portions of Matagorda, Brazoria, and Wharton counties.</p>  |

Caney Creek flows southeastward before emptying into the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) near the northeast end of East Matagorda Bay.

All three watersheds have portions that lie within the Texas Coastal Zone and this project addresses pollutants of concern in these areas by implementing Agriculture NPS components of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program*.

Both the NRCS and TSSWCB offer agricultural producers technical guidance as well as financial incentives for implementation of BMPs. To receive financial incentives from TSSWCB, the landowner must develop a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) that is customized to fit the needs of their operation. The NRCS offers options for development and implementation of both individual practices and whole farm conservation plans. To facilitate development and implementation of these management plans, the Tres Palacios, Caranchua Bay, and Caney Creek Watershed Partnerships recommended pursuing funding to support a financial incentives program for the Matagorda County, Wharton County, and Jackson SWCDs, and the creation of a new technician position to provide assistance in the watershed. This technician is intended to serve the watershed by working one-on-one with local agricultural producers to develop and implement WQMPs.

## Project Narrative

### General Project Description (Include Project Location Map)

A comprehensive watershed approach focused on the most significant potential sources of NPS pollution contributing to the current impairments was used for WPP development. Recommended BMPs were identified for implementation by the Steering Committee and partner agencies. This project provides funding to support implementation of recommended agricultural management measures identified for action in the WPPs during the 10-year implementation schedule.

To achieve this goal, the TSSWCB will administer federal CWA §319(h) funds through Matagorda County SWCD for support of one District Technician who will provide technical assistance to agricultural producers in developing and implementing WQMPs and Prescribed Grazing Plans in the Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek Watersheds. WQMPs are developed according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Once the WQMP is developed, it will be sent to the TSSWCB Wharton Regional Office for technical review and certification. Upon certification of the WQMP, the District Technician will work with the landowners to implement the BMPs prescribed in the WQMP.

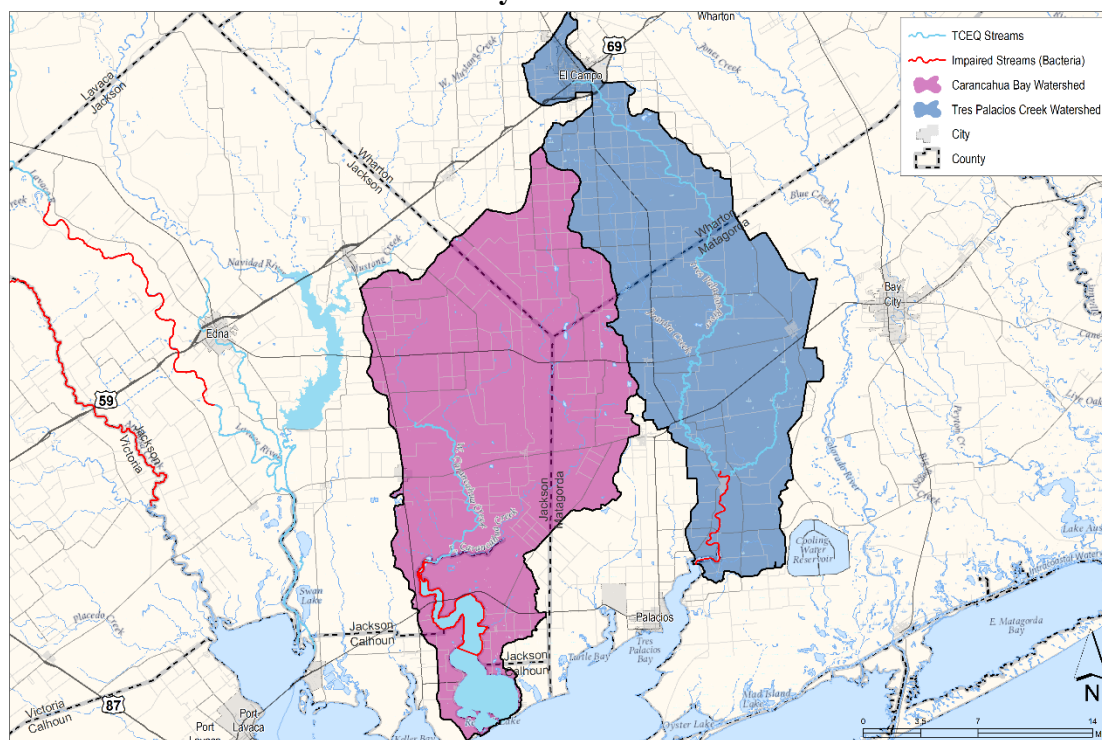
The District Technician will be placed in the Matagorda County SWCD office and will work under the direction of the Matagorda County SWCD, with assistance from the TSSWCB, NRCS, and Watershed Coordinators, as needed. The District Technician also will assist landowners in applying for and obtaining financial incentives to aid in implementation of BMPs prescribed in WQMPs.

The District Technician will conduct annual status reviews on all WQMPs developed and certified through the course of this project to ensure that landowners implement BMPs as specified and agreed to in the WQMP implementation schedule. The District Technician will track utilization of obligated financial incentives and assist landowners in utilizing these funds on schedule. The District Technician will complete an aggregate final report which describes the success of the project including WQMPs developed and BMPs implemented.

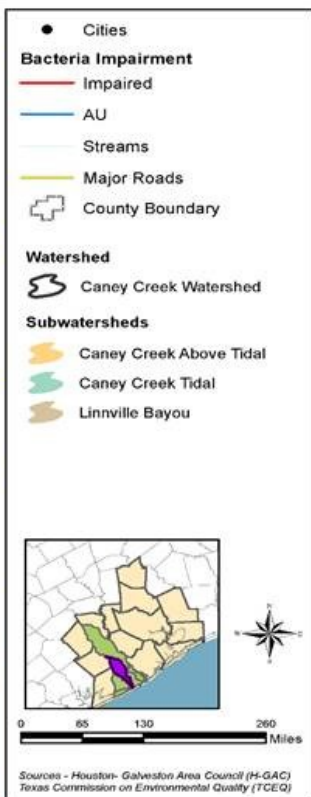
The District Technician also will work with TSSWCB, NRCS and the Watershed Coordinator to educate agricultural producers about water quality issues and how WQMPs and BMPs address NPS pollution from agriculture. The Technician will work with commodity organizations, such as Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA), Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), and others to educate their members about how BMPs can protect and enhance the value of their operation and achieve water quality goals for the

watershed at the same time. The Technician will cooperate and communicate with the Watershed Steering Committees in order to effectively and efficiently achieve project goals and to summarize activities and achievements made throughout the course of this project.

## Tres Palacios Creek and Caranchua Bay Watersheds



## Caney Creek Watershed



| Tasks, Objectives and Schedules |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
|---------------------------------|--|

|              |   |          |             |                 |          |          |
|--------------|---|----------|-------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Task 1       | Project Administration  |          |             |                 |          |          |
| Costs        | Federal   | \$23,857 | Non-Federal | \$0             | Total    | \$23,857 |
| Objective    | To effectively administer, coordinate and monitor all work performed under this project including technical and financial supervision and preparation of status reports.  |          |             |                 |          |          |
| Subtask 1.1  | Matagorda County SWCD will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 1 <sup>st</sup> of January, April, July and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all Project Partners.   |          |             |                 |          |          |
|              | Start Date  | Month 1  |             | Completion Date | Month 48 |          |
| Subtask 1.2  | Matagorda County SWCD will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.   |          |             |                 |          |          |
|              | Start Date  | Month 1  |             | Completion Date | Month 48 |          |
| Subtask 1.3  | Matagorda County SWCD 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. Matagorda County SWCD will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel. |          |             |                 |          |          |
|              | Start Date  | Month 1  |             | Completion Date | Month 48 |          |
| Subtask 1.4  | Matagorda County SWCD will develop a Final Report that summarizes activities completed and conclusions reached during the project. The report will also include the extent to which project goals and measures of success have been achieved.   |          |             |                 |          |          |
|              | Start Date  | Month 1  |             | Completion Date | Month 48 |          |
| Deliverables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QPRs in electronic format</li> <li>• Reimbursement Forms and necessary documentation in hard copy format</li> <li>• Final Report in electronic and hard copy formats</li> </ul>  |          |             |                 |          |          |



| Tasks, Objectives and Schedules |  |           |             |                  |          |           |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------|-------------|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Task 2                          | Promotion and Implementation of the TSSWCB WQMP Program  |           |             |                  |          |           |
| Costs                           | Federal  | \$141,697 | Non-Federal | \$0              | Total    | \$141,697 |
| Objective                       | To promote WQMP development and implementation, encourage participation, and provide technical assistance to agricultural producers for the development and implementation of WQMPs. Track implementation of WQMPs to achieve load reductions in selected watershed(s).  |           |             |                  |          |           |
| Subtask 2.1                     | Matagorda County SWCD will hire one District Technician to promote, develop, and implement WQMPs.  |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date   | Month 1   |             | Completion Date  | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.2                     | The District Technician will identify landowners in priority areas to distribute notifications announcing the availability of technical assistance and financial incentives for developing and implementing WQMPs. The District Technician will develop and distribute flyers, brochures, letters, news releases and other appropriate promotional publications to encourage participation from agricultural producers. TSSWCB must approve all announcements, letters and publications prior to distribution. |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date   | Month 1   |             | Completion Date  | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.3                     | The District Technician will work with TSSWCB, NRCS and the Watershed Coordinator to educate producers about water quality issues and how WQMPs and BMPs address pollutant contamination from agriculture.   |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date   | Month 1   |             | Completion Date  | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.4                     | The District Technician will work with commodity organizations, such as Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA), Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA), and Texas Farm Bureau (TFB), to educate their members on this opportunity to enhance the value of their operation and achieve water quality goals for the watershed at the same time.   |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date   | Month 1   |             | Completion Date  | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.5                     | The District Technician, with assistance from NRCS and TSSWCB, will assist landowners in the development of WQMPs and associated Prescribed Grazing Plans.   |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.6                     | The District Technician, with assistance from NRCS and TSSWCB, will assist landowners in applying for and obtaining financial incentives to aid in implementation of BMPs prescribed in WQMPs. Financial incentives will be based on actual costs not to exceed the average cost of the practice.  |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.7                     | The District Technician will prioritize WQMP development and financial incentive applications consistent with the priority areas identified in the WPP.  |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.8                     | The District Technician will conduct annual status reviews on all WQMPs developed and certified through the course of this project and any existing WQMPs (certified prior to this project) in the selected watersheds to ensure that landowners implement BMPs as specified and agreed to in the WQMP implementation schedule. The District Technician will document any follow-up technical assistance needed or necessary modifications to the WQMP implementation schedule.                                |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.9                     | The District Technician will track utilization of obligated financial incentives. The District Technician, with assistance from TSSWCB and NRCS, will assist landowners in utilizing obligated financial incentives on schedule.   |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |
| Subtask 2.10                    | The District Technician will create a spreadsheet and map describing and showing the location of all WQMPs developed and BMPs implemented through the project. The map will not reveal the identity or exact location of any producer.   |           |             |                  |          |           |
|                                 | Start Date:  | Month 1   |             | Completion Date: | Month 48 |           |



|              |   |         |                  |          |
|--------------|---|---------|------------------|----------|
| Subtask 2.11 | The District Technician will meet monthly with the Matagorda County SWCD and other parties to efficiently and effectively achieve project goals; summarize activities and achievements made throughout the course of this project; and discuss project activities, project schedule, communication needs, deliverables, and other requirements.   |         |                  |          |
|              | Start Date:   | Month 1 | Completion Date: | Month 48 |
| Subtask 2.12 | The District Technician will cooperate and communicate with the local Watershed Coordinator in order to efficiently and effectively achieve project goals and to summarize activities and achievements made throughout the course of this project. Specifically, the District Technician will, at least, participate in any stakeholder meetings held under the auspices of the local Watershed Steering Committee. |         |                  |          |
|              | Start Date:   | Month 1 | Completion Date: | Month 48 |
| Deliverables | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional and educational publications, as developed and distributed</li> <li>Status reviews for WQMPs</li> </ul>  |         |                  |          |

| Project Goals (Expand from Summary Page) |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance to agricultural producers for the development of Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and track progress</li> <li>Provide educational programs to increase stakeholders and citizen knowledge about water quality issues in the selected watershed</li> <li>To conduct status reviews on WQMPs to track implementation success</li> <li>To foster coordinated technical assistance between TSSWCB, SWCDs, and NRCS</li> <li>Inform and coordinate project efforts with the local Watershed Steering Committees and Coordinators</li> </ul> |

| Measures of Success (Expand from Summary Page) |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide needed technical assistance to agricultural producers</li> <li>Conduct status reviews on existing WQMPs</li> <li>Implementation of agricultural management measures outlined in the WPP</li> <li>Reduction in potential pollutant loads of streams from NPS pollution from agricultural operations</li> </ul> |

| 2017 Texas NPS Management Program Reference (Expand from Summary Page)   |
|--|
| Components, Goals, and Objectives  |
| <p>Component One – Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives and strategies that protect surface and ground water.</p> <p>Long-Term Goal – Protect and restore water quality affected by NPS pollution through assessment, implementation, and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1 – Focus NPS abatement efforts, implementation strategies, and available resources in watersheds and aquifers identified as impacted by nonpoint source pollution.</li> <li>• Objective 2 – Support the implementation of state, regional, and local programs to prevent NPS pollution through assessment, implementation, and education.</li> <li>• Objective 3 – Support the implementation of state, regional, and local programs to reduce NPS pollution, such as the implementation of strategies defined in TMDL I-Plans, WPPs, and other water planning efforts in the state..</li> </ul> |
| <p>Short-Term Goal Two – Implementation – Coordinate the NPS Program to support the implementation of TMDL I-Plans ...and other state, regional, and local plans/programs to reduce NPS pollution ...[by] target[ing] implementation activities to the areas identified as impacted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective A – Work with regional and local entities to determine priority areas and develop and implement strategies to address NPS pollution in those areas.</li> <li>• Objective B – Develop and implement BMPs to address constituents of concern or waterbodies not meeting water quality standards in watersheds identified as impacted by NPS pollution</li> <li>• Objective D – Implement TMDL I-Plans, WPPs, and other state, regional, and local plans developed to restore and maintain water quality in waterbodies identified as impacted by NPS pollution.</li> </ul>      |
| <p>Short-Term Goal Three – Education – Conduct education and technology transfer activities to increase awareness of NPS pollution and activities which contribute to the degradation of water bodies, including aquifers, by NPS pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective A – Enhance existing outreach programs at the state, regional, and local levels to maximize the effectiveness of NPS education.</li> <li>• Objective D – Conduct outreach through the CRP, AgriLife Extension, SWCDs, and others to enable stakeholders and the public to participate in decision-making and provide a more complete understanding of water quality issues and how they relate to each citizen.</li> <li>• Objective G – Implement public outreach and education to maintain and restore water quality in water bodies by NPS pollution.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Component Two – Working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, regional, and local entities, private sector groups, and federal agencies.</p>  |
| <p>Component Three – Balanced approach that emphasizes both statewide NPS programs and on-the-ground management of individual watersheds.</p>  |
| <p>Component Four – Abatement of water quality impairments from NPS pollution and prevention of significant threats to water quality from present and future NPS activities.</p>   |

**Estimated Load Reductions Expected (Only applicable to Implementation Project Type)**

Estimated load reductions expected from implementing this project are based on information in the Tres Palacios Creek and Caranchua Bay WPPs, primarily Management Measure 1 from each plan. Caney Creek WPP/I-plan is currently being developed and will probably have similar measures to address Agriculture NPS, and this project also implements components of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* in each watershed.

The goals of the Tres Palacios Creek, Caranchua Bay and Caney Creek WPPs are to reduce nonpoint source loadings of bacteria (impairment) from identified sources within the watershed. Management measures contained in the WPP focus on bacteria reduction, but through implementing the management measures, reductions in nutrient loading will also be realized. This scope of work will address nonpoint source loadings from agricultural nonpoint sources through development of Water Quality Management Plans for agricultural operations in the watersheds.

In order to calculate estimated load reductions, we assumed that, consistent with Subtask 2.5, all WQMPs to be implemented are assumed to be in subwatersheds with the greatest number of operations, operations with the greatest number of animal units, and particularly those located closest to streams and drainage areas. The load reduction from the District Technician agricultural education component in this project is consistent with management measure in each plan for the total load reduction (over the 10-year implementation schedule).

Participation in the TSSWCB WQMP Program by individual ranchers and farmers is voluntary. The decision to participate is based on a number of factors, including the producer's ability to provide the cost-share match (40% in this project). Adoption of BMPs and participation in the WQMP Program by producers is highly dependent on the success or failure of outreach and education initiatives and social marketing campaigns. Effectiveness of particular BMPs in reducing pollutants is dependent on a myriad of factors, including natural weather phenomena and the ability of producers to correctly install, operate, maintain or manage the BMP. There will be complementary nitrogen and sediment load reductions achieved from livestock and cropland WQMPs, and supplementary bacteria load reductions achieved from livestock and cropland WQMPs. With these factors accounted for, the estimated load reductions to be expected, as presented above, should be regarded as the "best case scenario" with probability that actual load reductions achieved will be less.

The mechanism for reporting pollutant load reductions achieved through implementation of BMPs funded with CWA §319(h) monies is through the EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). Actual load reductions achieved can only be reported after the BMPs are installed and operational.

**EPA State Categorical Program Grants – Workplan Essential Elements  
 FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan Reference**

**Strategic Plan Goal – Goal 1 Core Mission: Deliver a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for all Americans and future generations by carrying out the Agency's core mission.**

**Strategic Plan Objective – Objective 1.2 Provide for Clean and Safe Water to ensure waters are clean through improved water infrastructure and, in partnership with states and tribes, sustainably manage programs to support drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and recreational, economic, and subsistence activities.**

## Part III – Financial Information

### Budget Summary

| Federal                | \$ 165,554 | % of total project | 100%       |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Non-Federal            | \$ 0       | % of total project | 0%         |
| Total                  | \$ 165,554 | Total              | 100%       |
| Category               | Federal    | Non-Federal        | Total      |
| Personnel              | \$ 135,000 | \$ 0               | \$ 135,000 |
| Fringe Benefits        | \$ 10,260  | \$ 0               | \$ 10,260  |
| Travel                 | \$ 10,379  | \$ 0               | \$ 10,379  |
| Equipment              | \$ 0       | \$ 0               | \$ 0       |
| Supplies               | \$ 4,915   | \$ 0               | \$ 4,915   |
| Contractual            | \$ 4,000   | \$ 0               | \$ 4,000   |
| Construction           | \$ 0       | \$ 0               | \$ 0       |
| Other                  | \$ 1,000   | \$ 0               | \$ 1,000   |
| Total Direct Costs     | \$ 165,554 | \$ 0               | \$ 165,554 |
| Indirect Costs (≤ 15%) | \$ 0       | \$ 0               | \$ 0       |
| Total Project Costs    | \$ 165,554 | \$ 0               | \$ 165,554 |

| Budget Justification (Federal) |              |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Category                       | Total Amount | Justification   |
| Personnel                      | \$ 135,000   | 1 technician for 4 years (\$125,400)<br>1 part-time Bookkeeper @ \$15-20/hr for 10hrs/month for 4 years (\$9,600)   |
| Fringe Benefits                | \$ 10,260    | Fringe benefits calculated @ 7.6%   |
| Travel                         | \$ 10,379    | 5,800 miles/yr @ state rate (\$10,005)<br>Per diem @ state rate and hotel expenses @ state rate for 2 overnight trips (\$374)   |
| Equipment                      | \$ 0         | N/A   |
| Supplies                       | \$ 4,915     | Office supplies include pens, pencils, paper, printer cartridges, folders, envelopes, mailing labels, flash drives, etc. for SWCD @ \$15/month for 4 years (\$720); laptop and printer @ \$2,250; Internet Service @ \$45/month for 36 months (\$1,620); Handheld GPS @ \$325 |
| Contractual*                   | \$ 4,000     | Financial audit for Matagorda County SWCD   |
| Construction                   | \$ 0         | N/A   |
| Other                          | \$ 1,000     | Job posting (\$300); NRCS training registration fees (\$400); Postage for mail outs (\$300)   |
| Indirect                       | \$ 0         | N/A   |

| Budget Justification (Non-Federal) |              |               |
|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Category                           | Total Amount | Justification |
| Personnel                          | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Fringe Benefits                    | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Travel                             | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Equipment                          | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Supplies                           | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Contractual*                       | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Construction                       | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Other                              | \$ 0         | N/A           |
| Indirect                           | \$ 0         | N/A           |