

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program FY 2023 Workplan 23-08

	SUMMARY PAGE						
Title of Project	Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint S Creeks WPP and Coastal NPS Pollution						
Project Goals	 Creeks WPP and Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties 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 Provide educational programs to increase stakeholders and citizens knowledge about water quality issues in the watershed Conduct status reviews on WQMPs to track implementation success Foster coordinated technical assistance activities between TSSWCB, the local SWCD, and NRCS Inform and coordinate project efforts with local Steering Committee, Watershed Coordinator, and other partners. 						
Project Tasks	(1) Project Administration; (2) Promot Program	tion and implementation of the TSSV	VCB WQMP				
Measures of Success	 Provide needed technical assistance to agricultural producers; Development and implementation of WQMPs; Implementation of management measures outlined in the Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP and Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program Reduction in potential pollutant loads of streams from NPS pollution from agricultural operations 						
Project Type	Implementation (X); Education (); Pla	anning (): Assessment (): Groundwa	ter()				
Status of Waterbody on 2022 Texas Integrated Report	Segment ID 2203_01 Petronila Creek Tidal 2204_01 Petronila Creek 2204_02 Petronila Creek 2924A_01 San Fernando Creek 2924 O1 Baffin Bay	Parameter of Impairment or Conce Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a; DO, Total Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a: N; Total P Chlorophyl-a	rn Category 5c, CN 5b, CN				
Project Location (Statewide or Watershed and County)	Petronila Creek, San Fernando Creek and Baffin Bay Watersheds in Kleberg, Kenedy, Nueces, Duval and Jim Wells 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 ()						
2022 Texas NPS Management Program Reference	 Component 1 – Long Term Goal – Objectives 1, 2, 3 Component 1 – Short Term Goals – 2A, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3D, and 3G Components 2, 3, and 4 						
Project Costs	Federal \$170,585 Non-Fe	deral \$0 Total	\$170,585				
Project Management	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD						
Project Period	September 1, 2023-August 31, 2026						

Part I – Applicant Information

Applicant									
Project Lea	d	John Prukop							
Title		Chairman							
Organizatio	n	Kleberg-Ken	edy SWCD #3	356					
E-mail Add	lress	klebergkene	edy@swcd.te	xas.gov					
Street Addr	ess	100 E. Kleb	100 E. Kleberg Ave						
City	Kingsville		County Kleberg			State	TX	Zip Code	78364
Telephone 1	Number	361-592-0309	_	•	Fax N	Number			

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.
Kleberg-Kenedy 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)	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 Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD to track implementation of BMPs for incorporation into future Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP updates.
Petronila-San Fernando Creek Watersheds Steering Committee; Baffin Bay Stakeholder Group	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	Grou	ındwater							
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> ?										
If yes, identify the	If yes, identify the document. The Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP also the Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program									
If yes, identify the agency/group that Petronila and San Fernando Creeks Year										
developed and/or approved the document.			ng Committee facilitated by Texas Resources Institute, and TSSWCB.	Deve	eloped	20	21-22			
		Texas Progra	Coastal NPS Pollution Control m			19	97			

Watershed Information				
Watershed or Aquifer Name(s)	Hydrologic Unit Code (12 Digit)	Segment ID	Category on 2020 IR	Size (Acres)
Petronila Creek Watershed		2203 2204		432,000
San Fernando Creek Watershed		2924A	5b, 5c, CN	812,800
Baffin Bay Watershed east of US Hwy 77 (Coastal Zone Boundary) in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties		2924		179,000

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: *2022 Texas Integrated Report*, Clean Rivers Program Basin Summary/Highlights Reports, or other documented sources.

The 2022 Texas Integrated Report identified AUs 2203_01, 2204_01, 2204_02, and 2492A_01 as impaired due to elevated bacteria concentrations and reveals concerns for elevated chlorophyll-a levels, nitrates, total phosphorous, and low dissolved oxygen. San Fernando and Petronila Creeks are routinely monitored by the Nueces River Authority (NRA), the TCEQ Regional Office, and less frequently through special projects and studies conducted by organizations within or near the watershed. Baffin Bay AU 2492_0a is also has a concern for elevated Chlorophyl-a. Historically, measured data from these entities have indicated the similar concerns for bacteria and nutrient concentrations across the watershed.

Project Narrative

Problem/Need Statement

Baffin Bay is considered one of the jewels of the Texas coast because of its tremendous fishing and recreation potential, as well as its positive economic impact on the surrounding communities and the State of Texas. The bay system supports some of the highest recreational and commercial fishery landings in the State and contains critical habitat for migratory/resident birds and other wildlife.

The Baffin Bay watershed is primarily rural with ranching and row-crop agriculture as predominant activities and contains three tributaries: Petronila, San Fernando, & Los Olmos creeks. The rural lands of the Baffin Bay Watershed also play an important economic role within the State of Texas. Agricultural and ranch lands produce food and fiber (one of the most important industries within Texas), host diverse wildlife, and provide clean, abundant water.

According to the 2022 Texas Integrated Report, four AUs in the watershed are impaired due to elevated bacteria (AU 2203_01, 2204_01, 2204_02 and 2492A_01). The criteria used for non-tidal, fresh recreational waters is 126 colony forming units (cfu) of E. coli / 100 milliliter (mL); whereas, in marine (tidal) recreational water, it is 35 cfu of enterococci / 100 mL. Furthermore, several nutrient and chlorophyll-a concerns are identified in four AUs in the combined San Fernando and Petronila watershed, also Baffin Bay (AU 2924_01) has a concern for Chlorophyl-a.

San Fernando and Petronila Creeks are routinely monitored by the Nueces River Authority (NRA), the TCEQ Regional Office, and less frequently through special projects and studies conducted by organizations within or near the watershed. Historically, measured data from these entities have indicated the similar concerns for bacteria and nutrient concentrations across the watershed.

All of the 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 Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP recommended pursuing funding to support a financial incentives program for the Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD, and the creation of a new technician position to provide assistance in the watersheds. 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)

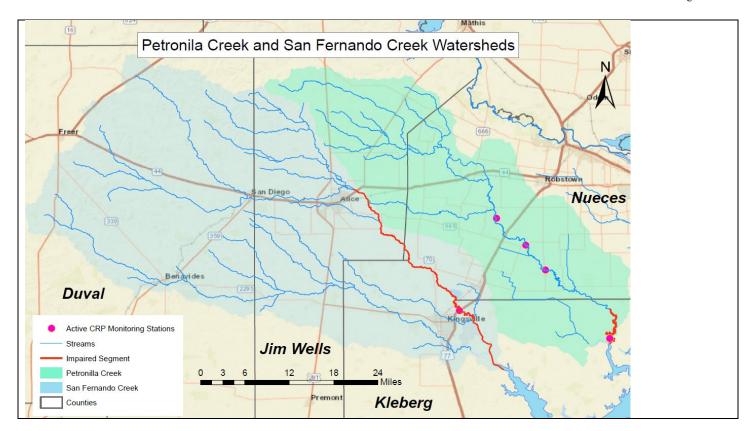
A comprehensive watershed approach focused on the most significant potential sources of NPS pollution contributing to the current impairments was used for WPP development. Recommended BMPs were identified for implementation by the Steering Committee and partner agencies. This project provides funding 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 Kleberg-Kenedy 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 Petronila and San Fernando Creek Watersheds and the Baffin Bay Watershed located in the Coastal Zone Management Area of Kleberg and Kenedy counties. Once the WQMP is developed, it will be sent to the TSSWCB Harlingen 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 Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD office and will work under the direction of the Kleberg-Kenedy 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, BMPs implemented, and financial incentives funds obligated and utilized.

The District Technician will also 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.



Tasks, Objec	ectives and Schedules							
Task 1	Project Administration							
Costs	Federal \$19,387	Non-Federal	\$0	Total \$19,387				
Objective	To effectively administer,	coordinate and monitor al	l work performed under t	his project including				
	technical and financial sup	pervision and preparation of	of status reports.					
Subtask 1.1		vill prepare electronic quai						
		cument all activities perfor						
	1 st of January, April, July	and October. QPRs shall b	e distributed to all Projec	t Partners.				
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 1.2	, ,		nctions for project funds	and will submit appropriate				
	Reimbursement Forms to	TSSWCB monthly.						
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 1.3		will host coordination meet						
		s project activities, project						
	•	WCD technician will trave		<u> </u>				
		ng. Kleberg-Kenedy Count						
		ordination meeting and dis	1 1					
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 1.4	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD v	vill complete one financial	audit during the project	period.				
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 1.5	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD will develop a Final Report that summarizes activities completed and							
		g the project. The report w	vill also include the exten	t to which project goals				
	and measures of success h	ave been achieved.						
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				

Deliverables	•	QPRs in electronic format
	•	Reimbursement Forms and necessary documentation in hard copy format
	•	Final Report in electronic and hard copy formats

Tasks, Objec	tives and Schedules							
Task 2	Promotion and Implement	tation of the TSSWCB Wo	QMP Program					
Costs	Federal \$151,19		<u> </u>	otal \$151,198				
Objective	To promote WQMP development and implementation, encourage participation, and provide technical assistance to agricultural producers for the development and implementation of WQMPs. Promote the availability of financial incentives to support BMP implementation. Track implementation of WQMPs to achieve load reductions in selected watershed(s).							
Subtask 2.1	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD v	will hire one District Tech	nician to promote, develop	, and implement WQMPs.				
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.2	the availability of technical WQMPs. The District Technical and other appropriate projects	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 36				
Subtask 2.3	producers about water qua agriculture.	ality issues and how WQM	NRCS and the Watershed C IPs and BMPs address poll	utant contamination from				
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.4	Cattle Raisers Association Farm Bureau (TFB), to ed operation and achieve wa	n (TSCRA), Independent of lucate their members on the ter quality goals for the wa		Texas (ICA), and Texas the value of their				
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.5	· ·		S and TSSWCB, will assist Grazing Plans. The Distric					
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.6	for and obtaining financia \$60,000 in CWA §319(h) WQMP Program. Landov \$30,000 from the TSSWC of the cost of implementar	l incentives to aid in imple funding (23-02) is available vners shall be eligible to re CB §319(h) funds. The man tion of the BMPs. The rem	S and TSSWCB, will assist ementation of BMPs prescrible as financial incentive the eceive a maximum financial ximum financial incentive enaining 40% will be provide to exceed average cost of Completion Date:	ribed in WQMPs. rough the TSSWCB l incentive amount of rate shall not exceed 60% ed by the landowner.				
Subtask 2.7			lopment and financial ince					
Suotusk 2.7	consistent with the priorit Start Date:	•	•	Month 36				
Subtask 2.8			reviews on all WQMPs dev					
Subtask 2.0	through the course of this selected watershed to ensimplementation schedule. needed or necessary modi	project and any existing Vare that landowners implement The District Technician was fications to the WQMP in	VQMPs (certified prior to to ment BMPs as specified an will document any follow-un plementation schedule.	his project) in the d agreed to in the WQMP p technical assistance				
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				

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.	incentives on schedule.						
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.10			SWCB Regional office wil					
			ctices Evaluation Tool (TB					
			B project manager for inclu	sion in EPA's Grants				
	Reporting and Tracking S							
		Start Date: Month 1 Completion Date: Month 36						
Subtask 2.11	The District Technician will meet monthly with the Kleberg-Kenedy County SWCD and other parties to							
			nmarize activities and achie					
			oject activities, project sche	edule, communication				
	needs, deliverables, and o	ther requirements.						
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.12			icate with the local Watersl					
			nd to summarize activities					
	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 36				
Deliverables	 Promotional and edu 	cational publications, as de	eveloped and distributed					
	 Status reviews for W 	QMPs						

Project Goals (Expand from Summary Page)

- 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
- Provide educational programs to increase stakeholders and citizen knowledge about water quality issues in the selected watershed
- To conduct status reviews on WQMPs to track implementation success
- To foster coordinated technical assistance between TSSWCB, SWCDs, and NRCS
- Inform and coordinate project efforts with the local Watershed Steering Committees and Coordinators and other partners

Measures of Success (Expand from Summary Page)

- Provide needed technical assistance to agricultural producers
- Development and implementation of of WQMPs
- Implementation of agricultural management measures outlined in the WPP
- Reduction in potential pollutant loads of streams from NPS pollution from agricultural operations

2022 Texas NPS Management Program Reference (Expand from Summary Page)

Components, Goals, and Objectives

Component One – Explicit short- and long-term goals, objectives and strategies that protect surface and ground water. Long-Term Goal – Protect and restore water quality affected by NPS pollution through assessment, implementation, and education.

- Objective 1 Focus NPS abatement efforts, implementation strategies, and available resources in watersheds and aquifers identified as impacted by nonpoint source pollution.
- Objective 2 Support the implementation of state, regional, and local programs to prevent NPS pollution through assessment, implementation, and education.
- 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..

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

- Objective A Work with regional and local entities to determine priority areas and develop and implement strategies to address NPS pollution in those areas.
- 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
- 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.

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

- Objective A Enhance existing outreach programs at the state, regional, and local levels to maximize the effectiveness of NPS education.
- 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.
- Objective G Implement public outreach and education to maintain and restore water quality in water bodies by NPS pollution.

Component Two – Working partnerships and linkages to appropriate state, regional, and local entities, private sector groups, and federal agencies.

Component Three – Balanced approach that emphasizes both statewide NPS programs and on-the-ground management of individual watersheds.

Component Four – Abatement of water quality impairments from NPS pollution and prevention of significant threats to water quality from present and future NPS activities.

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

Estimated load reductions expected from implementing this project are based on information in the Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP, primarily Management Measure 1 from the plan. This project also implements components of the *Texas Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program* in each watershed.

The goals of the Petronila and San Fernando Creek WPP 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.

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 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Reference

Strategic Plan Goal – 5.0 Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities

Strategic Plan Objective – 5.2 - Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds

This workplan supports Goal 5 (Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities) and Objective 5.2 (Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds) by funding the Texas State and Soil Water Conservation Board's NPS Program for state and local planning, education, assessments, watershed restoration and protection, best management practices, and related water quality activities.

Part III – Financial Information

Budget Summary	Budget Summary							
Federal	\$	170,585		%	of total pr	roject	100%	
Non-Federal	\$		0	9/0	of total pr	roject		0%
Total	\$	170,	,585		Total			100%
Category			Federal		1	Non-Federal		Total
Personnel		\$	143,00	0	\$	0	\$	143,000
Fringe Benefits		\$	11,44	0	\$	0	\$	11.440
Travel		\$	6,64	5	\$	0	\$	6,645
Equipment		\$		0	\$	0	\$	0
Supplies		\$	1,76	0	\$	0	\$	1,760
Contractual		\$	5,00	0	\$	0	\$	5,000
Construction		\$		0	\$	0	\$	0
Other		\$	2,74	0	\$	0	\$	2,740
Total Direct Costs \$		\$	170,585		\$	0	\$	170,585
Indirect Costs (≤ 15%) \$			0	\$	0	\$	0	
Total Project Cost	S	\$	170,58	5	\$	0	\$	170,585

Budget Justificat	tion (Fe	deral)	
Category	Total	Amount	Justification
Personnel	\$	143,000	1 full-time technician for 3 years (\$135,800)
			1 part-time Bookkeeper @ \$15-20/hr for 10hrs/month for 3 years (\$7,200)
Fringe Benefits	\$	11,440	Fringe benefits calculated @ 8%
Travel	\$	6,645	3,000 miles/yr @ state rate (\$5,895)
			Per diem @ state rate and hotel expenses @ state rate for 4 overnight trips
			(\$750)
Equipment	\$	0	N/A
Supplies	\$	1,760	Office supplies include pens, pencils, paper, printer cartridges, folders,
			envelopes, mailing labels, flash drives, etc. for SWCD for 3 years (\$500);
			laptop and printer @ \$1,260
Contractual*	\$	5,000	Financial audit for Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD
Construction	\$	0	N/A
Other	\$	2,740	Trainings and workshops (\$1000); Postage for mail outs (\$300); Internet
			Service for 3 years (\$1,440)
Indirect	\$	0	N/A