

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 Ducinet	Lucation and a standard Name of Co	Company of the Potential	1 C T 1 .			
Title of Project	Implementing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Components of the Petronila and San Fernando Creeks WPP and Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties					
Project Goals	 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 Coordinator, and other partners. 	s with local Steering Committee, Wa	tershed			
Project Tasks	(1) Project Administration; (2) Promotic Program	•	CB 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 (); Plan	ning (); Assessment (); Groundwate	er()			
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 2924A_01 Baffin Bay	Parameter of Impairment or Concern Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a; DO, Total P Bacteria; Chlorophyl-a: N; Total P Chlorophyl-a	Category 5c, CN 5b, CN 5b, CN 5b, CN 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-Federal \$0 Total \$170,585					
Project Management Project Period	• Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD September 1, 2023-August 31, 2026					

Part I – Applicant Information

Applicant					
Project Lead	John Prukop				
Title	Chairman				
Organization	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #356				
E-mail Address	klebergkenedy@swcd.texas.gov				
Street Address	100 E. Kleberg Ave				
City Kingsvi	lle County Kleberg State TX Zip Code 78364				
Telephone Number	361-592-0309 Fax 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 Ground	ndwater						
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							
Texas Groundwater Protection Str		nd San Fernando Creeks WPP also the <i>Texas Coastal N</i>	DC D	Pallutio			
It was identity the document	Control Progra		rs r	οιιμιιοι	rı		
If yes, identify the agency/group the	If yes, identify the agency/group that Petronila and San Fernando Creeks Year						
developed and/or approved the do		ering Committee facilitated by Texas ter Resources Institute, and TSSWCB.	202	21-22			
		as Coastal NPS Pollution Control gram	199	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		432,000
San Fernando Creek Watershed		2204		012 000
		2924A	5b, 5c, CN	812,800
Baffin Bay Watershed east of US Hwy 77				179,000
(Coastal Zone Boundary) in Kleberg and		2924		177,000
Kenedy Counties				

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)

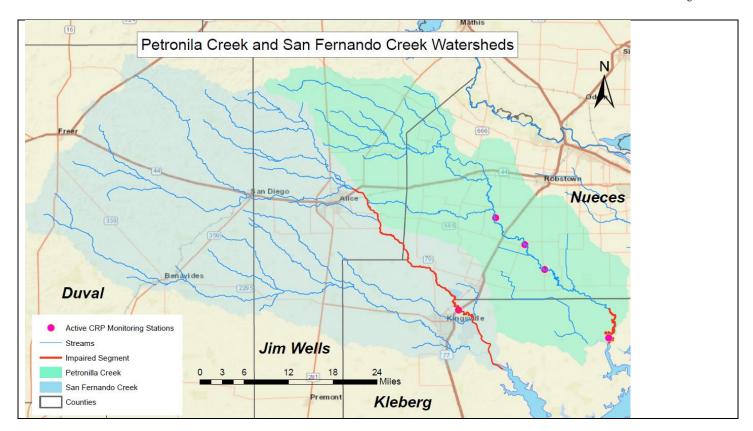
A comprehensive watershed approach focused on the most significant potential sources of NPS pollution contributing to the current impairments was used for WPP development. Recommended BMPs were identified for implementation by the Steering Committee and partner agencies. This project provides funding 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, Objectives and Schedules							
Task 1	Project Administ	ration					
Costs	Federal	\$19,387	Non-Federal	\$0	Total		\$19,387
Objective			inate and monitor al		under thi	s project	including
			on and preparation				
Subtask 1.1			epare electronic qua				
			t all activities perfor				ibmitted by the
			ctober. QPRs shall b				
	Start Date		Month 1	Completion 1			Month 36
Subtask 1.2			rform accounting fu	nctions for project	funds an	d will su	bmit appropriate
	Reimbursement	Forms to TSSW	CB monthly.				
	Start Date		Month 1	Completion 1	Date]	Month 36
Subtask 1.3			st coordination mee	•			• .
			ct activities, project				
	_		technician will trave		•		•
	Regional Office for training. Kleberg-Kenedy County SWCD will develop lists of action items needed						
			ion meeting and dis				
	Start Date		Month 1	Completion 1			Month 36
Subtask 1.4			mplete one financial	audit during the p	project pe		
	Start Date		Month 1	Completion Date Month 36		Month 36	
Subtask 1.5	Kleberg-Kenedy 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 be	een achieved.				
	Start Date		Month 1	Completion 1	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 Implemen	tation of the TSSWCB WO	QMP Program					
Costs	Federal \$151,19			stal \$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							
0.1. 1.0.1	to achieve load reductions			1' 1				
Subtask 2.1	Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD will hire one District Technician to promote, develop, and implement WQMPs.							
Cycleto als 2.2	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.2			priority areas to distribute incentives for developing a					
	•		distribute flyers, brochures,					
			ansurouse fryers, prochares, acourage participation from					
			and publications prior to dis					
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.3			VRCS and the Watershed C					
			IPs and BMPs address polli					
	agriculture.		1					
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.4	The District Technician w	vill work with commodity	organizations, such as Texa	s and Southwestern				
	Cattle Raisers Association	n (TSCRA), Independent C	Cattlemen's Association of T	Γexas (ICA), and Texas				
			is opportunity to enhance the	he value of their				
		ter quality goals for the wa						
	Start Date	Month 1	Completion Date	Month 36				
Subtask 2.5			and TSSWCB, will assist					
		and associated Prescribed	Grazing Plans. The District	Technician will develop				
	at least 2 WQMPs.	M 41- 1	C1-4: D-4	Manda 26				
C1-41-2-6	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.6			S and TSSWCB, will assist ementation of BMPs prescri					
	· ·		ole as financial incentive the	~				
			ceive a maximum financial					
	- 0	•	kimum financial incentive r					
			aining 40% will be provide					
	_		to exceed average cost of t	-				
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.7	The District Technician w	vill prioritize WQMP deve	lopment and financial incer	ntive applications				
	consistent with the priorit	y areas identified in the W	PP.					
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36				
Subtask 2.8			eviews on all WQMPs deve					
			VQMPs (certified prior to tl					
			nent BMPs as specified and	_				
			vill document any follow-up	technical assistance				
		fications to the WQMP im		M1 26				
	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.						
	Start Date:	Month 1	Completion Date:	Month 36			
Subtask 2.10	The District Technician w	ith assistance from the TS	SWCB Regional office wil	l calculate load			
			ctices Evaluation Tool (TB)				
	report load reductions by	October 1 st to the TSSWCl	B project manager for inclu	sion in EPA's Grants			
	Reporting and Tracking S	ystem (GRTS).					
	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						
	achieve project goals efficiently and effectively; 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 36						
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 36			
Deliverables	Promotional and educational publications, as developed 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								
Federal	\$	170.	,585	%	o of total project		100%	
Non-Federal	\$		0	%	of total pr	oject		0%
Total	\$	170,	,585		Total			100%
Category			Federal		N	Ion-Federal		Total
Personnel		\$	143,00	00	\$	0	\$	143,000
Fringe Benefits		\$	11,44	0	\$	0	\$	11.440
Travel		\$	6,64	5	\$	0	\$	6,645
Equipment		\$		0	\$	0	\$	0
Supplies		\$	2,75	50	\$	0	\$	2,750
Contractual		\$	5,00	00	\$	0	\$	5,000
Construction		\$		0	\$	0	\$	0
Other		\$	1,75	60	\$	0	\$	1,750
Total Direct Costs		\$	170,58	35	\$	0	\$	170,585
Indirect Costs (≤ 15%)		\$		0	\$	0	\$	0
		·						
Total Project Costs	S	\$	170,58	35	\$	0	\$	170,585

Budget Justificat	ion (Federal)	
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	\$ (N/A
Supplies	\$ 2,750	Office supplies include pens, pencils, paper, printer cartridges, folders,
		envelopes, mailing labels, flash drives, etc. for SWCD for 3 years (\$500);
		laptop and printer @ \$2,250
Contractual*	\$ 5,000	Financial audit for Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD
Construction	\$ (N/A
Other	\$ 1,750	Job posting (\$450); trainings and workshops (\$1000); Postage for mail outs
		(\$300)
Indirect	\$ (N/A