

Texas AgriLife Research

Agricultural NPS Remediation in the Cedar Creek Reservoir Watershed Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program FY 2007 Project 07-14

Quarter no. 12 From 10/1/10 Through 12/31/10

I. Abstract

Zach Kinsey has continued with planning, review, and implementation of all certified WQMP, and has continued to work on the BMP spreadsheet. One status review was conducted during this quarter. Two WQMPs were certified by TSSWCB Mt. Pleasant Regional Office. A District/319 audit was also completed this quarter. Flow measuring equipment, ISCO runoff samplers and best management practices were monitored in the cropland and pastureland runoff plots to guarantee operability. Flow data has been processed for determining nutrient and sediment loads and reductions for events up to this reporting period. Nutrient data is being processed. TWRI continued coordinating project activities, collecting information from project members, and reporting.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Subtask 1.1 The Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD will hire a technician to provide technical assistance to landowners on the development of WQMPs. The TSSWCB Mount Pleasant Regional Office will train the technician.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- The Kaufman-Van Zandt Soil and Water Conservation District hired Zach Kinsey to serve as the technician for this project on February 20, 2008.

100% Complete

Subtask 1.2 The SWCD technician will attend monthly SWCD board meetings to discuss technical assistance activities, project schedule, lines of responsibility, communication needs, and other required tasks with project participants.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Zach Kinsey attended SWCD board meetings on October 6, November, and December 1, 2010 to update them of field visits, conservation planning and program status.

70% Complete

Subtask 1.3 The SWCD technician will coordinate with other agencies and programs providing landowners incentives for adopting Best Management Practices.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Zach Kinsey has spoke with producers that have WQMP practices scheduled for spring 2011. Currently three producers have started work on seedbed preparation, and one has completed 820 feet of fencing that was planned.

70% Complete

Subtask 1.4 The SWCD technician will attend meetings with the TSSWCB project manager and other meetings, as needed, to review project status, deliverables, etc.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No activity this quarter.

50% Complete

Subtask 1.5 The SWCD technician will prepare materials for inclusion in quarterly reports and the final report for submittal by TWRI to the TSSWCB.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Zach Kinsey provided information for the quarterly report.
- Zach Kinsey has continued work on the Final Report and the BMP spreadsheet.

73% Complete

Subtask 1.6 The Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD will be allocated \$300,000 in 319(h) funding to provide cost-share to landowners in the Cedar Creek Watershed to implement BMPs that reduce nutrient and sediment runoff to local waterbodies. In addition, TRWD will provide \$50,000 in cost-share funds. The maximum cost-share rate shall not exceed 70% of the cost of implementation of the BMP with 60% coming from 319(h), 10% from TRWD funds, and 30% from the landowner. Landowners shall be eligible to receive a maximum cost-share amount of \$15,000 from the TSSWCB 319(h) funds. Cost share will be based on actual cost not to exceed average cost of the practice.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Several practices on WQMP #505-10-045 have been completed (15 acres of T-85 grass planting and pest management for establishment) as of December 20, 2010. Total cost-share for installation was \$2,196. Approximately 1% of the \$300,000 allocated funds were used. Remaining practices have been completed, but producer has not turned in invoices for payment.
- One practice on WQMP #505-09-044 has been completed (1,005 ft of fencing) as of November 2, 2010. Total cost-share for installation was \$1,356.75. Approximately .05% of the \$300,000 allocated funds were used.

- Several practices on WQMP #505-09-026 have been completed (4,017 ft of fence and 1,072 ft of fence) as of December 7, 2010. Total cost-share for installation was \$6,870.15. Approximately 2% of the \$300,000 allocated funds were used.

58% Complete

Subtask 1.7 The SWCD technician will send out notifications announcing the availability of assistance for implementing WQMPs/BMPs and will assist the SWCD in accepting and prioritizing the WQMP applications. The TSSWCB project manager must approve all announcements, letters and publications developed before distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No activity this quarter.

60% Complete

Subtask 1.8 The SWCD technician, with assistance from NRCS and the TSSWCB Mount Pleasant Regional Office, will provide landowners information on appropriate BMPs and will work with landowners in developing and implementing a minimum of 20 WQMPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- As of December 29, 2010, the Kaufman Van Zandt SWCD has 28 certified WQMPs. Work has begun or is completed on 24 plans.

50% Complete

Subtask 1.9 The TSSWCB Mount Pleasant Regional Office will provide technical review and certification of WQMPs. During this process, TSSWCB will certify all WQMPs and ensure that they are consistent with state water quality standards.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TSSWCB certified WQMP #505-11-015 (146 acres of Native Range seeding), and WQMP #505-11-055 (Grade Stabilization Structure) as of December 29, 2010.

40% Complete

Subtask 1.10 The SWCD technician will conduct status reviews on all WQMPs to ensure BMP implementation schedules are being followed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Zach Kinsey completed the one remaining status review on December 29, 2010.

70% Complete

Subtask 1.11 The SWCD technician will assist landowners in the SWCD with the acquisition of current soil tests through utilization of project funding. Funding for 100 soil tests annually will be provided.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Throughout the project thus far, 120-150 soil test bags have been given out to 40 producers (2-3 bags per producer). There has been little response from the landowners and in most cases if they do utilize the bags, they only do one and they do it themselves.

0% Complete

Subtask 1.12 The SWCD will have an audit completed at least once during the project period.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- KVZ SWCD#505 has completed an audit as of December 29, 2010.

100% Complete

Subtask 1.13 The SWCD technician, with assistance from the NRCS and TSSWCB Mount Pleasant Regional Office, will compile information on the location and types of BMPs for each WQMP implemented within the Cedar Creek Reservoir, Kings Creek, and Cedar Creek Watersheds.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Work continued this quarter.

50% Complete

TASK 2: VERIFY BMP EFFECTIVENESS

Subtask 2.1 Texas AgriLife Research will develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that will detail project goals and objectives, the data needs to fulfill those objectives, lists field and laboratory methods, procedures and schedules to be followed, and specify a data management structure and quality assurance protocols. The QAPP will be developed using guidelines in EPA QA/R-5, "EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans".

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- The QAPP was reviewed and approved by TSSWCB and EPA

100% Complete

Subtask 2.2 Texas AgriLife Research will provide annual revisions to the QAPP and amendments, as needed, to the TSSWCB and EPA. (Start Date: Month 6; Completion Date: Month 36)

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No revisions were required during this reporting period.

70% Complete

Subtask 2.3 Texas AgriLife Research will construct 10 replication plots 2,500 square feet in size and measuring 50X50 ft to evaluate agricultural BMPs for cropland and pasture lands. Texas AgriLife Research will install run off collection instruments and soil moisture monitoring equipment in the runoff plots and gather benchmark runoff data from each plot before initiating BMPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Flow measuring equipment, ISCO runoff samplers and best management practices were monitored in the cropland and pastureland runoff plots to guarantee operability.

90% Complete

Subtask 2.4 Texas AgriLife Research will collect runoff data including flow intensities and volumes, sediment loads, total and soluble N and P concentrations, pH, electrolytic conductivity, total and dissolved organic carbon, and dissolved oxygen content. Treatments will consist of the following: 1) Control, 2) Residue management, 3) Buffer Strips, 4) Fertilizer and Nutrient Management, and 5) Cropland converted to forage production.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Fourteen (14) rainfall events occurred from October 1 to December 31, 2010. One event was greater 1 inch, three were greater than 0.5 inch and the rest were less than 0.5 inch. However, none of these generated runoff for collection in both the cropland and pastureland runoff plots.

50% Complete

Subtask 2.5 Texas AgriLife Research will use runoff data and data from other sources to calculate the nutrient and sediment load reductions resulting from the project for inclusion in the final report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Flow data has been processed for determining nutrient and sediment loads and reductions for events up to this reporting period. Nutrient data is being processed.

45% Complete

TASK 3: PROVIDE WATER QUALITY EDUCATION

Subtask 3.1 Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas AgriLife Research will assimilate and evaluate the adequacy of existing educational resources and resource needs to provide educational support for the project.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No activity this quarter.

85% Complete

Subtask 3.2 Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas AgriLife Research will provide biannual educational/training events on single- or multi-county level to: 1) improve landowner knowledge and understanding of BMPs for nutrient management and erosion control, 2) provide information on project activities and results and 3) provide additional training on implementing and sustaining BMPs. NRCS, TSSWCB, and Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD personnel will be requested to be speakers to provide information on cost share and technical assistance programs available to assist producers.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A workshop on utilizing BMPs to manage agricultural land in the watershed is scheduled for February 11 at the Kaufman County Library. The agenda is drafted and AgriLife Extension personnel are working together to finalize it.

70% Complete

Subtask 3.3 Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas AgriLife Research will conduct a preliminary survey of a select group of initial event participants to evaluate knowledge about surface water conditions in the watershed and assess current knowledge and use of erosion control and nutrient management practices. Follow-up surveys will be conducted in subsequent years to evaluate changes, if any, in producer awareness and BMP implementation.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- Surveys are being prepared to distribute at the February 11 meeting for knowledge of BMPs, watershed issues, and willingness to adopt such practices.

20% Complete

TASK 4: COORDINATE PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND REPORTING

Subtask 4.1 TWRI, with input from the Project Partners, will prepare electronic quarterly reports for submission to the TSSWCB. All progress reports will be provided to all Project Participants.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TWRI will submit the Year 3, Quarter 12 Progress Report on January 14, 2011.

80% Complete

Subtask 4.2 TWRI will coordinate quarterly TTVN meetings or teleconferences, as appropriate, with project participants to discuss project activities, project schedule, lines of responsibility, communication needs, and other requirements.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TWRI Project Manager continues working with Zach and Clint to gather current information and updates on deliverables.

60% Complete

Subtask 4.3 TWRI will attend meetings with the TSSWCB project manager, SWCD, and other meetings, as needed, to review project status, deliverables, etc.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TWRI met with TSSWCB project managers on October 5, 2010 to discuss the project status and deliverables.

45% Complete

Subtask 4.4 TWRI will assist Project Partners with the completion and submittal of a final report to the TSSWCB at the culmination of the project. This report will be completed and provided to the TSSWCB in electronic format (i.e. compact disc, etc.).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- No activity this quarter.

0% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- Nothing to report this quarter.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Zach will continue working on WQMPs.
- Zach will conduct the remaining status review next quarter.
- Kaufman Van Zandt SWCD will complete an audit before the end of the next quarter.
- Zach will continue working on the final report and the BMP spreadsheet.
- Working through the County Extension Agents in Kaufman, Henderson, Van Zandt and Rockwall counties, the project team will continue to coordinate educational events in the Cedar Creek Watershed.
- Continue working with the Kaufmann-Van Zandt SWCD, TSSWCB, USDA-NRCS, Texas AgriLife Research, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, TWRI and TRWD in moving forward with project deliverables and reporting progress on a quarterly basis. Efforts will be made to publicize the project and raise awareness of water quality issues within the study area.