

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Project
CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program
TSSWCB Contract No. 12-07

Quarter no. 8 From 10/01/14 Through 12/31/14

I. Abstract

In this quarter the project work primarily focused on advertising, coordinating, conducting and preparations for the following workshops: Lower Nueces River/Petronila Creek/ Oso Creek on October 8, Eagle Mountain Lake in Azle on October 14, and Pedernales River in Stonewall on December 5 of 2014. The other major effort was in preparing materials and the website for the Urban Riparian Symposium our second conference. This included coordinating the workshops with agency partners and the Planning Team, to put together instructors, updating the course, website and advertising materials. Work also continued on contacting watershed coordinators to plan future workshops across the state for 2015. Tasks also included updating webpages, gathering educational materials/presentations /evaluations, and visiting with some of the watershed coordinators about this program. Nueces River Authority has continued working on digital tools and updating the Remarkable Riparian Website, and providing the Remarkable Riparian publications for workshop attendees.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Objective and Task

OBJECTIVE 1: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Administer, coordinate and monitor all work performed under this project including technical and financial supervision and preparation of status and final reports.

Task 1.1: Project Administration –TWRI/IRNR will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 15th of January, April, July and October. QPRs shall be distributed to all project partners.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The QPR for the last quarter was submitted on 09/13/14 date.

74% Complete

Task 1.2: TWRI/IRNR will perform accounting functions for project funds and will submit appropriate Reimbursement Forms to TSSWCB at least quarterly.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI and SRS submitted reimbursement forms for the last quarter.
- b. TWRI and SRS have processed monthly invoices from NRA.
- c. TWRI and SRS have processed quarterly invoices from Texas A&M Forest Service.

60% Complete

Task 1.3: TWRI/IRNR 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. TWRI/IRNR will develop lists of action items needed following each project coordination meeting and distribute to project personnel.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has conducted multiple meetings and teleconference calls with members of the Planning Team over the quarter including:
 - Calls/Emails with Dr. Georgianne Moore, ESSM Planning team member.
 - Conference Calls and emails with Steve Nelle occurred for planning and coordinating Riparian Workshops.
 - Calls with Russell Castro and Kyle Wright with NRCS to be instructors at workshops.
 - Melissa Parker, TPWD about the workshops and planning of workshops.
 - Kenneth Mayben with NRCS on workshops, soils health, and PFC Training.
 - Emails and calls with Planning Team/TRA Board Members on workshops and Urban Riparian Symposium.
 - Calls with Brian Koch, TSSWCB for Lower Nueces, Petronila Creek, Oso Creek Workshops.
 - Calls/emails with Hughes Simpson, TFS on forestry presentation, website links, quarterly reporting etc,
 - Call with TRA and Austin to discuss pre-conference workshop and future conference on Urban stream and riparian issues through emails and conference calls
 - TRA Board Business Emails multiple throughout quarter that discussed website and joint annual meeting including a conference call Board Meeting to Plan the Urban Riparian meeting
 - NRA emails discussing the websites and tools occurred during the quarter
 - Calls and emails with Rocky Freund of NRA and Jason Ott, AgriLife Extension Agent for Lower Nueces, Petronila Creek, Oso Creek Workshop
 - Calls and emails with Tina Hendon, TRWD to plan the Eagle Mountain Watershed Workshop.
 - Calls and emails with Phoenix Rogers and Charriss York about the Dickinson Bayou Workshop scheduled for February 27, 2015.

68% Complete

Task 1.4: TWRI/IRNR will attend and participate in meetings, as appropriate, in order to communicate project goals, activities and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to, Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committees, Texas Watershed Planning Short Course, Texas Watershed Coordinator Roundtables, and the TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has initiated scheduling presentations to advertise the new program including the following scheduled events during the next quarter.
 - TWRI attended and conducted a booth with information on the Riparian Program at the upcoming TSSWCD Annual Meeting in Galveston, Texas on October 27-28, 2014.
 - TWRI presented at the National EPA NPS Conference in Dallas on these Riparian Workshops and the great cooperation between all of the agencies involved in this program on November 19, 2014 to over 197 attendees.
 - TWRI and Texas A&M Forest Service as well as NRCS presented at the Houston Galveston Area Council Riparian Buffers Workshop to over 77 attendees.
- b. TWRI has developed a Workshop flier/registration form for each of the workshops.

68% Complete

Task 1.5: TWRI/IRNR will develop (Month 1-3), host and maintain (Months 4-36) a website to serve as a public clearinghouse for project-related information. This website will serve as a means to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI/IRNR has initiated the project website as a part of the Texas Riparian Website – texasriparian.org and the TWRI/IRNR trainings website will manage all of the training RSVPs/registrations.
- b. The training registration site has the newly scheduled dates available for attendees to RSVP to the workshops and it is linked to the TRA website.
- c. These websites are coordinated and linked to RemarkableRiparian.org website that is being managed by Sky Lewey - Nueces River Authority and have the online educational delivery as discussed in Task 3.
- d. TexasRiparian.org website had 5,957 visitors for the quarter and 20,168 since January 2013.
- e. The TexasRiparian.org website has 2,205 subscribed to the website and posts.
- f. TWRI set up a twitter feed on the TexasRiparian.org website so that all of the TWRI twitters are shown on the homepage of the website.
- g. TWRI set up a facebook and currently has 246 likes at <https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>
- h. Materials continue to be developed and added to the websites weekly including information about the Southwest Stream Restoration Conference in San Antonio in May and voice over powerpoints videos of the workshop presentations are on both websites.
- i. Workshops were advertised through the websites, the listserv and facebook.

68% Complete

Task 1.5: TWRI/IRNR will develop a final report covering all project activities.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activities to report during this quarter.

0% Complete

OBJECTIVE 2: COORDINATE AND DELIVER RIPARIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Deliver riparian education programs to targeted watersheds to promote healthy riparian areas, thus healthy watersheds, by increasing citizen awareness, understanding, and knowledge about the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits, and BMPs for protecting them and minimize NPS pollution.

Task 2.1: TWRI/IRNR will employ an Extension Program Specialist who will serve as the Riparian Education Program Coordinator and will be responsible for the general oversight and coordination of all project activities and for promoting, coordinating, and delivering riparian education training events and web-based tools.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. An Extension Program Specialist II, Nikki Dictson has been hired to serve as the Riparian Education Program Coordinator.

100% Complete

Task 2.2: TWRI/IRNR will establish a Riparian Team to direct this synergistic project. This Riparian Team will include TWRI/IRNR, ESSM, TFS, TPWD, NRA, NRCS, TRA, and TTU-LRFS. This Riparian Team will assist with program development, marketing, and delivery. This Riparian Team will serve as the primary pool of instructors to deliver the Riparian Education Program. The Riparian Team will meet as frequently as needed, likely quarterly in year 1 and semi-annually in years 2-3.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has established a Riparian Team of specialists that includes TWRI/IRNR, ESSM, TFS, TPWD, NRA, NRCS, TRA, and TTU-LRFS.
- b. Multiple emails and calls occurred with riparian planning team members and instructors throughout the quarter. Emails included materials for review and comment.
- c. Multiple calls and emails occurred with planning team members to discuss who was available to be instructors for the workshops during the quarter. This included contact with Steve Nelle, Melissa Parker, Ryan McGillicuddy, Russell Castro, Kyle Wright, Hughes Simpson, Lori Hazel, Sky Lewey, Georgianne Moore, Anne Rogers, Kevin Anderson, Blake Alldredge, Tom Arsuffi and Ken Mayben.
- d. Multiple calls and emails were conducted with Watershed Coordinators (Rocky Freund, Melissa Parker/Katherine Romans and Tina Hendon) about the logistics, RSVPs, and the agendas for the 3 workshops workshops.

68% Complete

Task 2.3: The Extension Program Specialist will compile the amassed body of work utilized by the various entities for riparian workshops and conferences. In conjunction with the Riparian Team, the Extension Program Specialist will select the most appropriate educational materials and resources for use in identified priority watersheds. Although existing resources and guides will be used for trainings; where possible, regional information and curriculum will be

developed by the Extension Program Specialist and Riparian Team. TFS will be integral for both adapting the program and delivering it in East Texas. NRA will be integral for adapting the program and delivering it in the Texas Hill Country and South Texas and providing the Riparian Team their valuable experience of program delivery in the Nueces watershed. As possible, TWRI/IRNR and the Riparian Team will work with cities to adapt the program for delivery in urban areas as well.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has contacted members of the Austin Watershed Program to discuss an Urban Workshop on riparian restoration to include in all stream and riparian workshops and to discuss education for cities. This workshop is scheduled for February 11-13, 2015 in Austin, Texas for around 150 attendees at the Palmer Events Center.
- b. Coordinated multiple calls and emails for the Urban Riparian Symposium being planned in Austin February 12-13, 2014.
- c. Updated all of the information about the Urban Riparian Symposium on the website and opened up registration.

50% Complete

Task 2.4: TWRI/IRNR will work in concert with TSSWCB, TCEQ, TPWD, NRCS, TFS, and other state and local organizations to select locations for the riparian education training events. This project will deliver riparian education programs to targeted watersheds across the state. Priority watersheds will be selected in collaboration with TSSWCB, and with input from TCEQ and others, and primarily represent those with approved WPPs or TMDLs and those developing or planning development of WPPs or TMDLs. Initial priority shall be given to Buck Creek, Cedar Creek Reservoir, Dickinson Bayou, Geronimo Creek, Hickory Creek, Lampasas River, Pecos River, Plum Creek, San Bernard River, and Upper Llano River. Other watersheds may be selected based on need and in response to collaborations with other groups and organizations, including river authorities, SWCDs, local citizen groups/watershed associations, etc. Watersheds will be selected consistent with the State's implementation of the Texas NPS Management Program. Additional watersheds will be selected based on impairment status, environmental sensitivity, and/or other priority issues. TWRI/IRNR and TSSWCB will periodically make collaborative decisions to re-prioritize and add to/remove from the list of watersheds.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI continues to coordinate with TSSWCB and TCEQ on the list of watersheds for workshops across the state. TWRI is keeping a list of folks that have contacted them with interest in a workshop.
- b. TWRI has been contacting watershed coordinators to determine when would be most appropriate to hold a workshop in their area. The latest version of the list is attached.
- c. Workshops conducted:
 - a. Lower Nueces River/Petronila Creek/ Oso Creek October 8, 2014
 - b. Eagle Mountain Lake Watershed October 14
 - c. Pedernales River on December 5, 2014
- d. Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, NRCS, Extension Feral Hog Education Staff, and TWRI were instructors at the workshops.
- e. Future workshops planned:

- a. Dickinson Bayou on February 27, 2015
- b. Leon River on March 12, 2015
- c. Hickory Creek in Denton will be held in May 2015.
- f. Future workshops in the planning stages:
 - a. Attoyac Bayou will be in the Spring 2015.
- g. TWRI will continue to contact watershed coordinators to discuss the best future date for workshops in their watershed.

68% Complete

Task 2.5: The Extension Program Specialist will work to establish CEU credits for the riparian education program to encourage participation by landowners and water resource professionals.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has sent program materials to potential CEU providers so that they can review the agenda and information and evaluate the program to the following:
 - a. Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 hour
 - b. Texas Floodplain Management Association – waiting for response
 - c. Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists – Approved for 6 hrs.
 - d. Texas Master Naturalists – approval required at the chapter level each time – approved for Lockhart training.
 - e. Texas Master Gardeners – approval required at the chapter level each time
 - f. Texas Forestry Association – approved for up to 6 hrs approved
 - g. Society of American Foresters – approved for up to 4.5 hrs
 - h. Texas Board of Architectural Examiners does not approve courses but said we should advertise as “Acceptable for HSW” – or good for State CE hours.
 - i. TWRI will coordinate with County Extension Agents in each county for Texas Department of Agriculture – Pesticide Applicators – approved for 3 hrs.
 - j. The program may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.
- b. TWRI will continue to look into additional CEUs for the program.

68% Complete

Task 2.6: TWRI/IRNR, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will actively market riparian education trainings through news releases (AgriLife News and local media outlets), internet postings, newsletter announcements, public/conference presentations, flyers, etc., to enhance awareness and utilization. TSSWCB must review and approve all project-related content in any materials prior to distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI advertised the workshops on the Websites and Facebook account.
- b. TWRI has developed the RSVP system online to track attendance at the workshops and continues to update it for each workshop.
- c. TWRI coordinated with watershed coordinators and county extension agents to develop press releases on each of the workshops to advertise them.

- d. TWRI advertised the Lower Nueces River/Petronila Creek/ Oso Creek on October 8, Eagle Mountain Lake Watershed on October 14, and Pedernales on December 5 on the TRA listserv, post to the website subscribers, the Texas Watershed Coordinators listserv, and facebook.
- e. TWRI worked with the County Extension Agents and Watershed Coordinators and provided them the registration form and materials to advertise.
- f. TWRI developed a press release to advertise the Lower Nueces River/Petronila Creek/ Oso Creek on October 8 and Eagle Mountain Lake Watershed on Oct 14, and the Pedernales River on December 5, 2014 with the local county extension agents and watershed coordinators.

68% Complete

Task 2.7: TWRI/IRNR, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will deliver 25, daylong riparian education training events in prioritized watersheds (Subtask 2.4) during the project period. Five programs are planned for delivery in year 1 and 10 each year during years 2 and 3. Certificates of completion will be provided to all participants in the trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has been in contact with the watershed coordinators on the list of watersheds.
- b. Trainings have been conducted or scheduled with dates:
 - a. Plum Creek in Lockhart on June 25, 2013.
 - b. Leon River in Moody on Sept. 12, 2013.
 - c. Geronimo and Alligator Creek in Seguin on Sept. 17th, 2013.
 - d. WMHS Graduate Course in College Station on October 13, 2013.
 - e. Upper Llano River on October 16th, 2013.
 - f. TRA Junction Workshop on November 1, 2013.
 - g. Carters and Burton Creek on November 21, 2013.
 - h. Lavaca River Basin on February 25, 2014.
 - i. San Bernard River on March 18, 2014.
 - j. Arroyo Colorado on April 24, 2014.
 - k. Cedar Bayou on May 8, 2014
 - l. Upper Guadalupe River on May 13, 2013.
 - m. Double Bayou on September 24, 2014
 - n. Lower Nueces River on October 8, 2014
 - o. Petronila Creek on October 8, 2014
 - p. Oso Creek on October 8, 2014
 - q. Eagle Mountain Lake on October 14, 2014
 - r. Pedernales River on December 5, 2014.
- c. Upcoming Workshops include:
 - a. Dickenson Bayou on February 27, 2015.
 - b. Leon River on March 12, 2015
 - c. Upper San Antonio River March-April 2015
 - d. Hickory Creek in Denton in May 2015
- d. Additional trainings are being scheduled at future months for workshops and the watershed schedule will be continually updated. See Attached.

68% Complete

Task 2.8: TWRI/IRNR in collaboration with the Riparian Team will develop a series of riparian education presentations of various lengths (15/30/45/60 min.) and provide them to a variety of audiences and venues statewide such as those listed in Subtask 1.4, but also including county and multi-county Extension programs, landowner workshops, SWCD programs, and other suitable venues. Further, key elements of the program will be incorporated into presentations delivered by TFS, TWRI/IRNR, and others on the Riparian Team and delivered to a variety of audiences throughout the state.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI is working to schedule presentations about the program to a variety of audiences including:
 - TWRI presented at the National EPA NPS Conference in Dallas on these Riparian Workshops and the great cooperation between all of the agencies involved in this program on November 19, 2014 to over 197 attendees.
 - TWRI and Texas A&M Forest Service as well as NRCS presented at the Houston Galveston Area Council Riparian Buffers Workshop to over 77 attendees on November 17, 2014.
- b. TWRI will continue to work on presentations of differing lengths about the program for advertising of the program.

68% Complete

Task 2.9: TWRI/IRNR will coordinate annual 2-day agency trainings on assessing proper functioning condition with the NRCS State Riparian Service Team. These programs will provide detailed training on proper functioning condition for agency personnel including TPWD, NRCS, CEAs, TSSWCB, TXDOT, TCEQ, SWCDs, GLO, TWDB, River Authorities, USFWS, and NPS personnel.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has talked with Janice Statts of the National Riparian Service Team on PFC trainings – they are also updating the materials of their training, but they are out of the Northeast. We have requested that they return to Texas to conduct a training on PFC in coordination with NRCS State Riparian Service Team.
- b. TWRI had been coordinating with NRCS, TPWD, Texas A&M Forest Service and the TRA Board to prepare and advertise for a PFC Riparian Assessment Training to be held in Belton, Texas on November 5-6, 2014. One of the two instructors wife was in the hospital and not doing well so the training was cancelled and is being rescheduled in April of 2015.

25% Complete

Task 2.10: TWRI/IRNR will coordinate two statewide riparian conferences in coordination with the Texas Riparian Association, professional organizations, River Authorities, or other entities annual meetings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nikki Dictson is coordinating the pre-conference workshop on Riparian Restoration in Growing Communities and helped coordinate the instructors for the pre-conference workshop Introduction to PFC – A Function Based Riparian Assessment. The Introduction to PFC workshop is being advertised to those who might be interested in attending the upcoming multi-day workshops.
- b. TWRI/TRA are going to start advertising the upcoming Urban Riparian Symposium throughout the state and to all of the attendees of the riparian workshops as one of the two statewide conferences for this program. It will be held in Austin February 11-13, 2015.
- c. Advertising and Planning efforts will continue through this next quarter.

68% Complete

OBJECTIVE 3: CONDUCT DEVELOP WEB-BASED RIPARIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

To expand the reach and participation in the Riparian Education Program via web-based resources.

Task 3.1: Using non-federal funds from private foundations, the NRA will provide web-based, digital delivery of comprehensive riparian information through development of the Remarkable Riparian website. NRA will work with TWRI/IRNR and the Riparian Team to produce high quality audio-visual presentations, targeting both rural and urban audiences, for inclusion on the website. This will expand participation in riparian education programs by 1) supporting different adult learning styles and preferences, 2) providing flexible learning opportunities for interested citizens who have time and/or mobility constraints, and 3) enabling ready access to program resources statewide.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. NRA has updated materials and links on the [remarkableriparian.org](http://www.remarkableriparian.org) multiple times during the quarter.
- b. NRA is working on updating YouTube educational materials for the website and currently is drafting another short module on riparian issues for the website.
- c. NRA has created voice over powerpoint videos for the workshop presentations and they are on both the <http://www.remarkableriparian.org/> and <http://texasriparian.org/>.
- d. NRA has provided the Remarkable Riparian Publication at the Workshops.
- e. Worked with TWRI to post the voice over powerpoint youtube video presentation on *Riparian Considerations for Land Management Operations* at the Junction Riparian Education workshop to the TRA website.

- f. At the Corpus Christi Training for the three watersheds Nueces River Authority re-recorded 2 of the presentations for the voice over powerpoints and recorded the video of Steve Nelle explaining lanes balance.

65% Complete

Task 3.2: NRA will track usage of Remarkable Riparian website and report it with each quarterly report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Visitation counter installed on remarkable.riparian.org: had a total of 2,522 visits recorded this quarter, including 1,345 visits in Oct, 1001 in November unique visitors, and 772 visits in December.

68% Complete

Task 3.3: The Nueces River Authority will also participate on Riparian Team assisting with development, marketing, and delivery of riparian landowner programs, annual conferences, and other trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. NRA discussed strategies for development, marketing and delivery as well as website materials with TWRI during multiple calls and through correspondence during the quarter.
- b. At the Corpus Christi Training for the three watersheds Nueces River Authority re-recorded 2 of the presentations for the voice over powerpoints and recorded the video of Steve Nelle explaining lanes balance.
- c. NRA provided the quarter web statistics to TWRI for inclusion in the report.
- d. NRA continues to stay in contact with TWRI about the project, workshops, and web based education.

68% Complete

OBJECTIVE 4: EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RIPARIAN EDUCATION TRAININGS AND WEB-BASED RESOURCES

To measure both knowledge and behavior changes of individuals participating in the program.

Task 4.1: TWRI/IRNR will conduct pre- and post-training evaluations (for both group instruction and web-based trainings) to assess increased knowledge of participants on the nature and function of riparian zones, their benefits, and BMPs for protecting them and minimize NPS pollution; to evaluate participant satisfaction with the program; and to evaluate participant's intentions to change their behavior as a result of the program. Additionally, TWRI/IRNR will deliver a follow-up assessment via email (6-month follow-up for both watershed-based and computer-based trainings) to ascertain behavior changes actually adopted by participants.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has developed a set of questions based on the materials, a set of demographic questions and a survey of the program for the pre and post-surveys.
- b. TWRI conducted pre and post surveys at all of the Workshops including:
 - Plum Creek in Lockhart on June 25, 2013.
 - Leon River in Moody on Sept. 12, 2013.
 - Geronimo and Alligator Creek in Seguin on Sept. 17th, 2013.
 - Upper Llano River on October 16th, 2013.
 - TRA Junction Workshop on November 1, 2013.
 - Carters and Burton Creek on November 21, 2013.
 - Lavaca River Basin on February 28, 2014.
 - San Bernard River on March 18th, 2014
 - Arroyo Colorado on April 24, 2014
 - Cedar Bayou on May 8, 2014
 - Upper Guadalupe River on May 13, 2013.
 - Double Bayou on September 24, 2014
 - Lower Nueces River on October 8, 2014
 - Petronila Creek on October 8, 2014
 - Oso Creek on October 8, 2014
 - Eagle Mountain Lake on October 14, 2014
 - Pedernales River on December 5, 2014.
- c. The 6-month post survey has been developed and reviewed and approved. It has been conducted for the Carters, Lavaca, San Bernard, Arroyo, Cedar, and Upper Guadalupe River workshops during this quarter.

68% Complete

Task 4.2: TWRI/IRNR will analyze results obtained from the pre-/post-tests and 6-month follow-up assessment using descriptive, correlational, and analysis of variances statistical procedures. Results will be used to periodically evaluate and modify riparian education program materials and incorporated into the final report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. All of the workshop results have been compiled and analyzed.
- b. The workshop results have been analyzed through statistical software and the summary statistics.

68% Complete

Expected Work for the Next Quarter:

- TWRI will continue to work on preparing educational materials for upcoming workshops.
- TWRI will conduct workshops Dickenson Bayou, Leon, Hickory Creek, Upper San Antonio, Attoyac Bayou, among others.
- TWRI and NRA will continue to develop the websites for the program and the online educational tools.
- TWRI will continue conducting presentations for a variety of audiences as needed.

- TWRI will continue contact with watershed coordinators to continue scheduling workshops across the state.
- TWRI will schedule a Riparian Planning Team Meeting to discuss and plan upcoming workshops.