

Texas Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Education Project
CWA 319(h) NPS Grant Program
TSSWCB Contract No. 15-04

Quarter no. 1 From 10/01/15 Through 12/31/15

I. Abstract

In this quarter the project work primarily focused on advertising, coordinating, conducting and preparations for the following workshop: Attoyac Bayou. The other major effort was in updating and preparing materials, website, coordinating registration and conducting the new updated agenda. This included coordinating the workshops with agency partners and the Planning Team, to put together instructors, updating the course materials (powerpoints and evaluations), website and advertising materials. Work also continued on contacting watershed coordinators to plan future workshops across the state for 2016. Tasks also included updating webpages, gathering educational materials/presentations /evaluations, and visiting with some of the watershed coordinators about this program.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Objective and Task

OBJECTIVE 1: PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

To effectively administer, coordinate and monitor all work performed under this project including technical and financial supervision and preparation of status reports.

Task 1.1: Project Administration – TWRI will prepare electronic quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for submission to the TSSWCB. QPRs shall document all activities performed within a quarter and shall be submitted by the 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. TWRI developed the QPR framework for the project for the first reporting process.

8% Complete

Task 1.2: TWRI and SRS 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. SRS and TWRI have set up the accounts and subaccount for Texas A&M Forest Service.
- b. To date this project has spent \$21,927 through January 5, 2016 or 5%.

8% Complete

Task 1.3: TWRI 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 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 to update the agenda, presentations, and schedule upcoming trainings.
- b. TWRI and TFS met with TSSWCB for an initial contract Kick-off meeting in College Station on October 30, 2015.

8 % Complete

Task 1.4: TWRI 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 presented about the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Training at the October 2015 Watershed Planning Short Course October 18-22, 2015.
- b) TWRI presented about the upcoming Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Trainings at the January 11, 2016 Watershed Coordinators Roundtable in College Station.

8 % Complete

Task 1.5: TWRI and TRA will continue to host and maintain (Months 1-36) the <http://texasriparian.org> website to serve as a public clearinghouse for project-related information and the riparian program website and online RSVP system at <http://nrt.tamu.edu/courses/texas-riparian/>. These program websites 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 has continued to update the website and advertise the trainings and program through the website, listserv, blog and facebook.
- b) TWRI has added information about the upcoming SW Stream Restoration Conference too.
- c) TWRI has included the workshops on the online RSVP system on the Natural Resource Training System.

8 % Complete

Task 1.6: TWRI will develop a Final Report that summarizes activities completed and conclusions reached during the project and discuss the extent to which project goals and measures of success have been achieved.

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 will continue to coordinate the existing Riparian Team to direct this synergistic project. The Riparian Team includes TWRI, TFS, TPWD, NRCS, TRA, NRA and TTU-LRFS. The Riparian Team will continue to 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 coordinated a Riparian Work Day to review and update the Agenda, presentations and materials for the next trainings in October 2015.
- b) TWRI has continued to communicate with the planning team by email and phone throughout the quarter.

8 % Complete

Task 2.2: TWRI will work in coordination 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. 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 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 has been working with watershed coordinators and TSSWCB to start scheduling trainings.
- b) Attoyac Bayou Training was held on December 3, 2015.
- c) TWRI is working to schedule trainings in the following watersheds:
 - o Lampasas River Watershed
 - o Big Cypress Basin/Lake O' The Pines
 - o Fort Worth Area
 - o Lavaca Navidad River Basin

- Navasota River Basin
- Gilleland Creek

8% Complete

Task 2.3: The TWRI and Riparian Team will continue establishing 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 had all CEUs reviewed by the appropriate entities to see if any changes in the number of hours needed to occur with the new Agenda and times.
- b) TWRI is in the process of searching for new opportunities to provide CEU credits.

8% Complete

Task 2.4: TWRI, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will actively market riparian education trainings through news releases (AgriLife News and local media outlets), internet postings, listserv, facebook, 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) Press release sent through AgriLife today for Riparian Trainings can be found online at: <http://today.agrilife.org/2015/11/19/riparian-and-stream-ecosystem-workshop-set-for-dec-3-in-nacogdoches/>
- b) Emailed to various press agencies in Nacogdoches, Rusk, San Augustine, Shelby counties to advertise Attoyac Bayou training.
- c) Advertised on the website, web blog, Facebook and Listserv.

8 % Complete

Task 2.5: TWRI, with assistance of the Riparian Team, will deliver 24 riparian education training events in prioritized watersheds (Subtask 2.2) during the project period with approximately 8 per year. Certificates of completion will be provided to all participants in the trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a) Conducted Attoyac Bayou Riparian and Stream Education Workshop, December 3, 2015 – Nacogdoches for 50 Attendees. Agenda is attached.
- b) TWRI is working on scheduling trainings for the following:
 - Lampasas River Watershed
 - Big Cypress Basin/Lake O' The Pines
 - Fort Worth Area
 - Lavaca Navidad River Basin
 - Navasota River Basin

- Gilleland Creek

5 % Complete

Task 2.6: TWRI in collaboration with the Riparian Team will update 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, 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 presented on Riparian and Stream Management for an hour presentation at the Burnett County Hay Show for over 49 attendees.
- b) TWRI presented at the Texas Watershed Planning Short Course for 25 on Riparian and Stream Ecosystems.
- c) TWRI will provide an update on upcoming Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Trainings at the January 11, 2016 Watershed Coordinators Roundtable.
- d) TWRI is also scheduled to present at the Capital Area Erosion Control Network in Austin on January 28, 2016.

10 % Complete

Task 2.7: TWRI 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. TWRI is co-chairing the planning committee for the SW Stream Restoration Conference with Resources Institute to be held in San Antonio June 1-3, 2016.
- b. TWRI is advertising this upcoming conference at meetings, through the website, facebook, and the listserv.
- c. TWRI and Riparian Planning Team Members are participating on the planning committee.

10 % Complete

OBJECTIVE 3: The Texas A&M Forest Service's Role in the Riparian and Ecosystem Education Program

Participate on Riparian Team and assist with planning program development, marketing, and delivery of riparian landowner programs, annual conferences, and other trainings as appropriate.

Task 3.1: TFS will participate on Riparian Team by attend meetings/conference calls and reviewing program materials.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TFS participated in the project kickoff meeting with TSSWCB.
- TFS participated in riparian education program work sessions to update the workshop design and content.

10% Complete

Task 3.2: TFS will assist with development, marketing, and delivery of riparian landowner programs, annual conferences, and other trainings. TFS will update Forestry and Urban presentations as appropriate for 15 trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TFS presented at the Attoyac Bayou Riparian Education Workshop.
- TFS participated in the planning of the Southwest Stream Restoration Conference

10% Complete

Task 3.3: TFS will assist by providing information for quarterly progress reports, annual reports, and final reports.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- TFS submitted accomplishments for the quarterly progress report.

8% Complete

OBJECTIVE 4: EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RIPARIAN EDUCATION TRAININGS

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

Task 4.1: TWRI will conduct pre- and post-training evaluations 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. Evaluate the potential of rapid stream bioassessments by volunteer citizen scientists and the benefit of this additional method. Additionally, TWRI will deliver a follow-up assessment via email post follow-up to ascertain behavior changes actually adopted by participants.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a) TWRI conducted pre and post evaluations at the Attoyac Bayou Watershed Training on December 3, 2015.

4 % Complete

Task 4.2: TWRI will analyze results obtained from the pre-/post-tests and post 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:

- b) TWRI entered all of the data from the pre and post evaluations and statistically analyzed the data to show that the increase in knowledge, demographics and satisfaction questions from the Training

4 % Complete

Expected Work for the Next Quarter:

- Schedule and conduct Stream and Riparian Trainings around the state with watershed coordinators.
- Continue to present at meetings and market the upcoming trainings.
- Continue planning and advertising the SW Stream Restoration Conference.
- TWRI will continue to update the website with relevant materials, trainings, and links.
- TWRI will advertise upcoming scheduled trainings and conduct registration for them all.

Attoyac Bayou Agenda



Attoyac Bayou Watershed – Agenda December 3, 2015

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- 8:00 Meeting Registration
- 8:15 Welcome & Introductions
- Ricky Thompson, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Nacogdoches County
- 8:30 Program Overview, Watershed & Riparian Management & Water Quality
- Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 9:15 How Creeks Function & Bear Creek Example
- Melissa Parker, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Riparian Vegetation
- James Rogers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 11:00 Management Practices, Local Resources and Photo Monitoring of Streams
- Nikki Dictson, Texas Water Resources Institute
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:00 Attoyac Bayou Watershed Protection Plan
- Lucas Gregory, Texas Water Resources Institute
 - Anthony Castilaw, Castilaw Environmental Services, LLC
- 12:15 The Role of Forests and Trees in Watershed Protection
- Todd Thomas, Texas A&M Forest Service
- 1:00 Lanes Balance Presentation
- 1:30 Trip to the Bayou (Split into 3 groups for 40-45 min stations)
- Bayou Walk
 - Assistance for Improving the Health of Creeks – Kyle Wright, NRCS
 - Feral Hogs – Mark Tyson, AgriLife Extension Service
- 4:00 Wrap Up Evaluation and Head for Home!

<http://texasriparian.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/TexasRiparianAssociation>





Riparian & Stream Ecosystems

Attoyac Bayou Watershed

December 3, 2015

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Annex

203 W. Main Street, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

Online RSVP and Agenda: naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule

For more information and to register please contact Nikki Dictson at 979-458-5915 or n-dictson@tamu.edu.

Continuing Education Units available: Texas Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicators License – 3 CEUs; Texas Water Resources Institute – 1 CEU; Texas Nutrient Management Planning Specialists –6 hours; Texas Board of Architectural Examiners “Acceptable for HSW credit”; and may also be used for CEUs for Professional Engineers.

The Nacogdoches County AgriLife Extension and Attoyac Bayou Watershed Partnership are hosting this workshop. Instruction includes both indoor classroom presentations and outdoor field portion along the bayou to discover the role of riparian vegetation in properly functioning riparian systems. A catered lunch is available from C.C.’s Smokehouse for \$10 with RSVP prior to November 27 and \$15 after the 27th payable at the door. Please remember to select either the catered lunch or if you will bring your own lunch. RSVP online at the link above and send in a check or credit card authorization form for lunch payment by email to ndictson@tamu.edu or by mail by completing the form below and send to Nikki Dictson, 1500 Research Pkwy, Ste 110, College Station, TX 77843-2260.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Org./Employer: _____ Lunch Options: I would like the \$10/\$15 lunch
 I would like to bring my own

