

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Water Resources Institute**

Provide Assistance to Improve Water Quality in Hood County

FY 09 Federal Appropriated Funds
USDA-NRCS Agreement # 68-7442-9-486

Quarter no. 2 From 1/1/10 Through 3/31/10

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal for this project is to provide a mechanism to educate local stakeholders about water quality issues that are affecting Lake Granbury. This project will provide an assessment of existing and potential water quality threats related to on-going non-point source (NPS) water pollution within the Lake Granbury Watershed. The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Texas AgriLife Extension Service will also assist BRA and TCEQ in developing a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), aimed to improve and protect water quality within the Brazos River Basin. Educational information developed from this project will provide Federal, State and local decision makers with a variety of mechanisms that can be employed to prevent additional degradation of water quality in the watershed.

Key objectives of this project include:

- Holding public meetings to educate stakeholders and clients within the watershed about water quality and its protection
- Providing public educational programs to help achieve improved water quality
- Conduct training events on proper operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment systems and collective facilities

Progress in Meeting Project Milestones and Output Commitments

Task, Deliverables, and Schedules

The Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) and Texas AgriLife Extension Service continued to work on project deliverables during the second quarter. Project efforts focused upon conducting educational/outreach events for local residents.

In looking forward to the next quarter, Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists and the local County Extension Agent will present water quality information at various meetings and events in conjunction with local groups, conduct stakeholder meetings in conjunction with BRA and TCEQ, and continue to develop educational resources.

The status of tasks, milestones and deliverables will be defined using the following terms:

Pending	Work has not started on the deliverable
Initiated	Work has started
Completed	The objectives were achieved and deliverables are finished
Deferred	Work has started, but further action is delayed pending other information, the completion of another objective, staff restraints, etc.
Ongoing	Work will continue throughout the term of the contract

Task 1 Education

Date	Status	Deliverables
10/1/09	Ongoing	1. Attend Lake Granbury Watershed Protection Plan meetings.
12/7/09	Completed	2. Print 5,000 copies of fact sheet titled “What is the Fate of Your Rainfall?”
1/20/10	Completed	3. Print 300 copies of the publication titled “What is the Fate of Your Rainfall?: Leader Guide.”
1/20/10	Completed	4. Print 300 copies of the publication titled “What is the Fate of Your Rainfall?: Flip Chart.”
12/3/09	Completed	5. Print a minimum of 1,000 copies of the factsheet titled “Lawn Fertilization: Environmental Impacts.”
11/15/09	Ongoing	6. Develop and distribute 4 newspaper articles addressing potential sources of contamination.
4/1/10	Ongoing	7. Distribute “Pet Waste Management”, “Lawn Fertilization: Environmental Impacts” and “Onsite Wastewater Treatment System” fact sheets to homeowner associations surrounding Lake Granbury for distribution to their members.
4/1/10	Initiated	8. Discuss rainwater harvesting at a public meeting as a means of controlling stormwater in Hood County.
5/1/10	Initiated	9. Host 4 basic septic system maintenance programs for homeowners surrounding Lake Granbury.
2/16/10	Completed	10. Develop a 1 page (double sided) fact sheet detailing what individuals can do to help keep Lake Granbury Clean.

Comments:

- On January 14, 2010, the Lake Granbury Watershed Protection Planning Meeting was attended by Texas AgriLife Extension.
- The Texas AgriLife Extension Service hosted an Analyzing Wastewater Treatment Systems Training Course on March 30-31, 2010 in Granbury, TX. 21

people attended the two day training. Overall results were very positive. According to the retrospective pre-post evaluations, participant knowledge was increased by 79% and 100% of the participants reported that they gained knowledge. All participants stated that they would recommend this course to other wastewater professionals.

- A publication titled “Living on the Water’s Edge” was printed on February 16, 2010. The fact sheet summarizes the potential sources of pollution to Lake Granbury and the steps that homeowners can take to minimize their environmental impact and improve water quality. This publication is the basis for the news article that was developed and released addressing wildlife as one of the potential sources of bacteria to the lake and steps that can be taken to minimize environmental impact. Additional news releases will address other potential sources of pollution and steps that homeowners can take to minimize their environmental impact and improve water quality.
- The Hood County Extension Agent showed and described the publications and educational material developed in association with this project on a local television program.
- Distribution of printed project publications and educational material to the public has started and will continue.
- Scheduling programs for the discussion of rainwater harvesting as a means of controlling stormwater in Hood County at local public meetings has begun.
- Initial planning for the Basic Septic System Maintenance programs for homeowners surrounding Lake Granbury has started.
- To aid the comprehensive water quality education plan for Hood County, supporting material, developed through another project, will be utilized to assist with homeowner education. The two fact sheets to be utilized are titled, “Checking My Aerobic System” and “Living with an Aerobic Treatment Unit and Spray Field.”

Task 2 Administration

Date	Status	Deliverables
1/10/09	Completed	1. Quarterly Progress Reports
4/10/10	Completed	2. Quarterly Progress Reports
7/10/10	Pending	
10/10/10	Pending	
10/10/10	Pending	3. Final Report

Comments:

- TWRI continues to update and distribute the one-page fact sheet, developed during the previous funding period, which provides an overview of the project. The fact sheet identifies project needs and goals and will be used to gain stakeholder involvement and publicize project activity.

- The Institute continues to maintain an Internet Web site specifically for the Lake Granbury Water Quality Project. The Web site can be accessed at the following address: <http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu>

Problems or Obstacles Encountered and Remedial Actions Taken

None to report at this time.

Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

Task 1: Education

Texas AgriLife Extension Service will continue working with BRA, TCEQ, the local County Extension Agent and local watershed stakeholder group to develop and present information on water quality. Texas AgriLife Extension Service has scheduled the following events listed below and are currently planning additional activities:

- Planning for the Basic Septic System Maintenance programs for homeowners surrounding Lake Granbury will continue.
- Additional news releases will be developed and distributed regarding potential sources of contamination to Lake Granbury.
- Scheduling will continue for the discussion of rainwater harvesting as a means of controlling stormwater in Hood County at local public meetings.

Task 2: Administration

TWRI will continue working with BRA, TCEQ, NRCS and Texas AgriLife Extension Service in moving forward with project deliverables and publicizing the project to raise awareness of water quality issues within the study area.