

**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. 4 From 7/1/10 Through 9/30/10

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 the Texas AgriLife Extension Service continued to work on project deliverables during the third 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 continue planning programs for homeowners, will distribute news releases, fact sheets and educational materials, will discuss using rainwater harvesting to control stormwater, and will construct a rain garden.

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	Completed	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	Completed	6. Develop and distribute 4 newspaper articles addressing potential sources of contamination.
4/1/10	Completed	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	Completed	8. Discuss rainwater harvesting at a public meeting as a means of controlling stormwater in Hood County.
5/1/10	Ongoing*	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.

* See *Problems or Obstacles Encountered and Remedial Actions Taken* section below.

Comments:

- A raingarden class and demonstration was held in Granbury on September 21 with 19 participants.

- Two septic system maintenance programs were held, one on September 21 and the second on September 22; there were 19 and 18 participants, respectively.
- All news releases have been completed and submitted to Marty Vahlenkamp, county Extension agent, for distribution. The releases are included at the end of this report in Appendix A.

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	Completed	3. Quarterly Progress Reports
10/10/10	Completed	4. Quarterly Progress Reports
10/10/10	Completed	5. 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 website specifically for the Lake Granbury Water Quality Project. The website can be accessed at the following address: <http://lakegranbury.tamu.edu>

Problems or Obstacles Encountered and Remedial Actions Taken

Although 4 basic septic system maintenance programs for homeowners surrounding Lake Granbury were planned, only 2 were held. Through interaction with a few individuals from neighborhoods surrounding the lake, we found that there is some hesitation to individuals accepting the watershed protection planning process. This hesitation is based on the belief that the process will force costs, such as septic system maintenance or updates that they cannot afford. Due to this opposition, we were unable to host all 4 planned events.

The 2 basic septic system maintenance programs that were held were well attended and received by all who attended. A few individuals from hesitant neighborhoods were present and provided positive feedback. We are optimistic that we will have the opportunity to provide more programs in the area based on the feedback received. In addition to continuing to pursue the additional programs in the area, we will provide educational literature to the homeowners in the area through our 2010 funding.

Work Planned for Next Reporting Period

Task 1: Education

This project is currently completed with all deliverables met. 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 through the 2010 funding received through NRCS (#68-7442-10-495).

Task 2: Administration

This project is now complete with all deliverables met. 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 through the 2010 funding received through NRCS (#68-7442-10-495).