

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Sheldon Lake State Park Prairie Wetland Restoration

FY 10 CWA 319(h)

TSSWCB Project 10-05

Quarter no. 2 From 1-1-11 Through 3-31-11

I. Abstract

A significant amount of effort for this quarter focused on outreach and the preparation of outreach materials. In addition, this quarter marked the beginning of the restoration planting as supported under this grant.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

Task 1 – Project Administration and Coordination

Subtask 1.1: AgriLife Extension 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 posted on the project website and distributed to all project partners.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Extension) per this document completes the second quarterly report submittal.

18% complete (11 quarterly reports total for project)

Subtask 1.2: AgriLife Extension 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. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Subtask 1.3: AgriLife Extension 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. AgriLife Extension 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. Extension has contacted the TSSWCB representative via email and phone to coordinate appropriate activities related to the grant.

18% complete (11 scheduled coordination meetings total)

Subtask 1.4: AgriLife Extension will attend and participate in public meetings as appropriate in order to communicate project goals, activities, and accomplishments to affected parties. Such meetings may include, but are not limited to, Galveston Bay Council and subcommittee meetings, Clean Rivers Program Basin Steering Committee and Coordinated Monitoring meetings, Texas Forest Service Wetland/BMP Coordinating Committee meetings, TMN Gulf Coast Chapter meetings, and watershed stakeholder meetings for certain TMDLs and WPPs.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Subtask 1.5: AgriLife Extension will develop (Months 1-3), host and maintain (Months 4-36) a project webpage for the public dissemination of project materials.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Extension currently hosts and updates the Wetland Restoration Team NING website with up-to-date information regarding the project. (<http://wetlandteam.ning.com>). In addition, Extension began draft copy of the webpage to include within the Texas Coastal Watershed Program website, specific to the Sheldon Lake SP project.

25 % complete

Subtask 1.6: AgriLife Extension will develop and disseminate project informational materials, including, but not limited to, flyers, brochures, letters, news releases, and other appropriate promotional publications. TSSWCB must approve all announcements, letters and publications prior to distribution.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Extension has drafted a 2-page brief flyer regarding the Sheldon Lake SP Prairie Wetland project (see attached).

0% complete

Subtask 1.7: AgriLife Extension will develop a Final Report.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Task 2 – Wetland Plant Propagation

Subtask 2.1: AgriLife Extension will collect local native wetland plants (within 50 mile radius of Sheldon Lake SP) to restore the wetland site. Collection will be conducted using ecologically sound methodologies to ensure the integrity of native wild populations.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Approximately 2,000 native wetland plants were collected as part of the restoration effort this quarter (species include: *Canna glauca*, *Iris virginica*, *Sagittaria* spp. and *Thalia dealbata*)

18 % complete

Subtask 2.2: AgriLife Extension will propagate all collected native wetland plants. All plants will remain on Sheldon Lake SP.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. The afore-mentioned collected material was placed into prepared above-ground grow out ponds located at Sheldon Lake State Park with the intent of allowing the material to double or triple in quantity.

18 % complete

Subtask 2.3: AgriLife Extension will work with TMN to train Wetland Restoration Team members to be mentors for the restoration process. Training will include classroom and field instruction as well as practicals (i.e. outdoor labs).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Task 3 – Wetland Restoration

Subtask 3.1: AgriLife Extension will train and organize with TMN to prepare mentors for completing restoration (planting) of constructed site.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Extension has conducted 12 Wetland Team workday as part of the ongoing wetland team mentor training for the Master Naturalist volunteers.

18 % complete

Subtask 3.2: AgriLife Extension and TPWD will produce an engineering design for this restored wetland system. The design will include a description specifying physical dimensions and functionality such as total area, through-flow, water depth(s), type and amount of vegetation, and the maintenance, recreational, educational infrastructure to be installed at the site. The drawings will also include detailed descriptions of the materials used in the construction of the wetland system and all its structures and the location, density and type of vegetation of all vegetated areas in the wetland. The design shall be consistent with NRCS conservation practice standards for Wetland Restoration (657) and Constructed Wetland (656).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

90% complete

Subtask 3.3: AgriLife Extension will include in the Final Report maps that delineate the contributing watershed for the restored wetland and a description of current and historic land use of the wetland and its contributing watershed.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Subtask 3.4: TPWD shall obtain all necessary local, state, and federal permits that apply before the restoration is conducted. Texas water rights permits and Clean Water Act § 401/404 permits may be required.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

90% complete

Subtask 3.5: AgriLife Extension and TPWD will develop (Months 1-12) an operation and maintenance plan for the restored wetland. TPWD will implement (Months 13-36+) the O&M plan for the designed life of the restored wetland. The O&M plan shall be consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards for Wetland Restoration (657) and Constructed Wetland (656).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

50% complete

Subtask 3.6: AgriLife Extension and TMN will plant the constructed restoration site with trained mentors and student volunteers under the guide of the trained mentors.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Subtask 3.7: AgriLife Extension will conduct vegetation transects to determine wetland plant stand establishment. Criteria for determining stand establishment shall be consistent with the engineering design (Subtask 3.2) and NRCS Conservation Practice Standards.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. First quarterly assessment of vegetation establishment was conducted in March 2011.

18 % complete

Task 4 – Outreach and Education

Subtask 4.1: AgriLife Extension and TPWD will conduct 4 field days at the restored wetland site (2 per year) to highlight the innovative construction methods and utility of the restored wetland. Targeted audiences should include 1) other entities in the Galveston Bay area considering conducting wetland restoration, 2) TPWD staff from other State Parks, and 3) media including TV and newspapers.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. An approximate time has agreed upon by major partners for the first field session in 2011. Our tentative date is September 2011.

5 % complete

Subtask 4.2: AgriLife Extension will make presentations on the restored wetland at local and regional meetings, including 1) GBEP meetings, 2) TSSWCB Southeast and South Central Texas Regional Watershed Coordination Steering Committee, and 3) HGAC NRAC, CRP, and BIG meetings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. Extension requested and received approval from TSSWCB to attend and present at the Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting in Port Aransas.

5 % complete

Subtask 4.3: *AgriLife Extension and TPWD will explore the applicability of enrollment of this restored wetland system in the Wetland Reserve Program, a USDA Farm Bill program. AgriLife Extension will develop outreach materials promoting participation in WRP targeted to entities in the Galveston Bay area.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

Subtask 4.4: *TPWD will develop and install interpretive signage at Sheldon Lake SP highlighting the restored wetland system. TPWD will develop educational materials for distribution to visitors (general public and youth) at Sheldon Lake SP highlighting the restored wetland system.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. A draft layout for interpretive signage was submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in order to request internal staff to generate actual on-the-ground interpretive materials.

5% complete

Subtask 4.5: *TPWD will 1) publish an article on this project in the quarterly TPWD Wetland News, and 2) produce a short program on this project for TPW-TV.*

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- A. No activity to report this quarter.

0% complete

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

Anticipated expectations regarding tasks were delayed because the time anticipated for review of materials or other specific action items was longer than expected. Thus, some anticipated tasks were not completed within this first quarter.

IV. Project Work for Next Quarter

- Task 1. Extension will submit 3rd quarterly report for the project and complete 27% of this subtask. Extension expects to submit our first invoice for the project, through Contracts and Grants office. Extension expects to conduct another scheduled coordination meeting with our TSSWCB project manager. Additionally, we expect to coordinate with TSSWCB project manager regarding upcoming press releases. Extension expects to

contact committee heads/leader for several of the stakeholder groups and schedule presentations at local meetings. Extension will submit a draft webpage to TSSWCB project manager for review.

- Task 2. Extension expects to submit documentation of volunteer hours and effort showing hours spent in propagation or collection of native plant materials. Extension expects to collect native wetland plants and directly plant them into excavated basins. Extension expects to conduct workdays which involves some training for the Wetland Restoration Team.
- Task 3. Extension expects to have set dates for the 2011 Plant Identification training class for the Wetland Restoration Team. Extension will continue discussion of the feasibility of modifying the existing Master Plan to a more-condensed specific O&M guide for the restored wetlands. Extension will continue planting of the restored wetland site within the next quarter. Extension will conduct second quarterly monitoring cycle.
- Task 4. Extension will select a specific date for the first field day visit at Sheldon Lake SP, and coordinate the date with TSSWCB staff. Extension will complete first meeting presentation of the Sheldon Lake SP Prairie Wetland project. Extension will contact the appropriate TPWD staff to discuss plans for interpretive signage at the site.