

**Delivery of a Watershed Coordinator Development Program
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program
FY 2016 Workplan 16-03**

Quarter no. 2 From 01/01/17 Through 03/31/17

I. Abstract

II. Overall Progress and Results by Objective and Task

TASK 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: 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. This is the first quarterly progress report for this new project

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. The contract was signed and the project period began 10/1/16 through 9/30/19 for \$264,790 in federal funding.
- b. TWRI/IRNR and SRS will submit the reimbursement forms at the end of this quarter.
- c. FSRs show that the project has spent through February 28, 2017 - \$548.55 with a remaining balance of \$264,241.45.

1% Complete

Task 1.3: TWRI will host coordination meetings or conference calls, at least semi-annually, 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. The coordination committee is continuing to manage these projects and had a conference call to discuss the upcoming trainings including the Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Training by Dr. Fouad Jaber held on February 2, 2017 in Dallas.

- b. The committee discussed the tentative schedule of trainings for this new project on this call and through following email correspondence.

8% Complete

Task 1.4: TWRI will develop a Final Report that summarizes activities completed and conclusions reached during the project and discusses the extent to which project goals and measures of success have been achieved.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report.

0% Complete

TASK 2: MAINTAIN WEB-BASED WATERSHED PLANNING RESOURCES FOR TEXAS WATERSHED COORDINATORS

TWRI will host and maintain an internet Website for information sharing and use by watershed coordinators.

Subtask 2.1: Watershed Planning Webpage – TWRI will host and maintain an Internet website for information sharing and use by watershed coordinators (<http://watershedplanning.tamu.edu/>). Information presented through the website will include:

- PDF versions of all reports, WPSC materials and presentations generated, and roundtable agendas and summaries.
- Links to:
 1. All cooperating and/or participating agencies.
 2. Links to ongoing Watershed Planning efforts in Texas
 3. Links to EPA tools for Watershed Planning
- Schedule of upcoming programs.
- Resources for Watershed Planning and Implementation

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI continues to maintain the website with training materials and materials related to Watershed planning efforts.
- b. The materials and presentations from the Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Course are online at: <http://naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule/feb-2-2017-green-infrastructure/>

8% Complete

TASK 3: CONDUCT WATERSHED PLANNING SHORTCOURSE

Provide training on development of 9 element plans consistent with EPA Guidance for watershed planners and coordinators throughout Texas and across the nation to ensure consistent, high quality WPPs are developed and implemented and water quality improvements are achieved and sustained

Subtask 3.1: Organize and Deliver one-two WPSC Events – TWRI will continue to coordinate and offer Watershed Planning Short Courses (WPSC). To accomplish this, TWRI with assistance from the Project Team, will identify key instructors for the course, make arrangements for facilities, advertise the WPSC, conduct registration, and facilitate the delivery of two Texas WPSCs to water resource professionals in Texas, the surrounding region, as well as other states. WPSC will be modified to better meet the needs of watershed coordinators and include a shortened agenda (3 days) and more personal setting (smaller class size – 10 participants) and new venue (TWRI, College Station). Certificates will be provided to participants upon completion of the course. A registration fee of \$400 will be charged to WPSC participants. TWRI plans to offer courses every 15-18 mos. but will work closely with the Project Team to assess the timing of these short courses to best meet the needs of the state and region. As needed, travel for speakers will be paid for through project funds.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI is working on reviewing all of the presentations and materials.
- b. Tom Davenport provided comments on the entire course and TWRI is reviewing and incorporating as appropriate.
- c. TWRI is discussing potential future dates and locations for the Short Course to be held in the College Station area.

10% Complete

Subtask 3.2: Administer Questionnaires and Evaluations – TWRI will oversee the administration of questionnaires and evaluations to gauge the knowledge gained and how effective the course was for each course participant. Evaluations will be administered at the beginning and end of selected short courses to demonstrate the course's effectiveness and to identify areas needing adjustment. Questionnaires will be completed at the end of each short course to receive comments and participant input.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report.

0% Complete

TASK 4: PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Provide additional training and coordination opportunities for watershed planners and coordinators throughout Texas to gain continuing education and assistance with developing and implementing WPPs. TWRI will coordinate with Texas A&M University faculty, TIAER, USDA ARS, USDA NRCS, Texas AgriLife – Dallas Center, TAMU SSL, Tarrant Regional Water District and others to provide professional development and training for water resource professionals and watershed coordinators in Texas. A minimum of 9-10 professional training programs are planned on watershed modeling, stakeholder facilitation, watershed monitoring, and other tools for watershed plan development and implementation. It is expected that each course will provide training for at least 10-20 water resource professionals. Finally, based on guidance provided by TSSWCB and watershed coordinator interest in these courses, the trainings offered will be adjusted to best meet the needs of the State and the watershed coordinators. TWRI will work closely with TSSWCB and the Project Team to ensure that the most appropriate and needed trainings are offered.

Subtask 4.1: Organize and Deliver “Introduction to Modeling” Training – A one-day course will be delivered by TWRI and Texas A&M University System personnel to provide watershed coordinators with an introduction to watershed modeling. Topics of the course will include (1) How Modeling Fits in to Watershed Protection Planning, (2) Purposes and Limitations of Different Models, (3) Factors to Consider when Modeling: Time and Money, (4) Selecting the Correct Model (5) Stakeholder Communications and Modeling Results (6) QAPPs, (7) Literature values vs. monitoring, (8) BMP Modeling and Modeling for Implementation Plan and On-going Water Quality Goals, (9) Discussion and Q&A. A \$100 registration fee will be charged for the training.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI is in discussions to select a date with Dr. Srimi to conduct an Introduction to Modeling Training possibly summer 2017.

10% Complete

Subtask 4.2: Develop and Deliver Training on Ag BMPs – Agricultural BMPs has been identified by watershed coordinators as a training need in Texas. This course will cover establishing and working with ag work groups and producers in developing and implementing WPPs, typical management measures included in WPPs to address agricultural NPS, top BMPs for addressing typical water quality issues, cost share programs for assisting implementation, educational programs available, and other topics. Instructors are expected to include TWRI, TSSWCB, NRCS, and potentially AgriLife Extension and a SWCD director and/or landowner. A \$100 registration fee will be charged for the Ag BMP trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report.

0% Complete

Subtask 4.3: Develop and Deliver Training on Urban BMPs – Urban BMPs has been identified by watershed coordinators as a training need in Texas. This course will cover establishing and working with urban NPS work groups, developers, and cities in developing and implementing WPPs; typical management measures included in WPPs to address urban NPS; top BMPs for addressing typical water quality issues; funding programs and codes for encouraging implementation; educational programs available; and other topics. Instructors are expected to include city planners, AgriLife Extension, TWRI, and potentially a river authority and/or developer. A \$100 registration fee will be charged for the urban BMP trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. In addition to this training TWRI and TSSWCB were able to coordinate Dr. Foaud to conduct a half-day training on Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development and a tour of these practices on February 2, 2017 in Dallas at Dallas AgriLife Center.
- b. The materials and presentations from the Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Course are online at: <http://naturalresourcestraining.tamu.edu/schedule/feb-2-2017-green-infrastructure/>
- c. TWRI has began speaking with several instructors to start the planning for conducting the full day LID training.

30% Complete

Subtask 4.4: Organize and Deliver Training on Social Marketing – Social Marketing is a new communication method that has been identified by watershed coordinators as a training need in Texas. To provide this, TWRI will deliver (2) daylong trainings on social marketing. Topics for the training will include (1) Making Science Excellent in Social Networks, (2) Developing a Social Network Strategy to Fit Organizational Needs, (3) Panel Discussion: strategies, visions, outcomes and engagement case studies, (4) Social Media Primer – basics and best practices, (5) Analyzing Your Social Media Efforts, (6) Analyzing Your Social Media Efforts, and (7) Future Potentials for Natural Resources Science, Conservation, and Citizens. A \$100 registration fee will be charged for the trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has coordinated with Amy Hays of the Noble Foundation to schedule a Social Marketing Training for Natural Resource Professionals on April 13-14, 2017.
- b. TWRI has advertised this training through many outlets.
- c. TWRI coordinated this training with TCEQ in Austin, Texas.

35% Complete

Subtask 4.5: Develop and Deliver Training on Implementation – Implementation strategies and moving from planning to implementation has been identified by watershed coordinators as a training need in Texas. This course will cover topics such as implementing WPPs, maintaining watershed groups, tracking implementation, developing biennial updates, navigating the 4b process, roles of the watershed coordinator, and other topics. A \$100 registration fee will be charged for the WPP Implementation trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report.

0% Complete

Subtask 4.6: Organize and Deliver Training on Water Quality Monitoring – The training developed by TWRI, the Texas Institute for Applied and Environmental Research, and others and will cover monitoring for (1) watershed characterization and (2) evaluation of water quality improvements and BMP effectiveness from implementation activities. Topics of the training will include (1) data quality objectives and Project Planning, (2) Case Study – Defining the problem, monitoring objectives, and data quality, (3) Inventorying and Acquiring Existing Resources, (4) Watershed Characterization and Sufficient Data, (5) Selecting Monitoring Design, (6) Introduction

to Stormwater Sampling, (7) Other Considerations and Review Building a Successful Monitoring plan, (8) Case Study Wrap-up, and (9) Workshop - creating a Monitoring Plan. A \$200 registration fee will be charged for the trainings.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Nothing to report.

0% Complete

Subtask 4.7: Administer Evaluations – TWRI will oversee the administration of evaluations to gauge the knowledge gained and how effective the course was for each course participant.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has conducted an evaluation with Dr. Jaber on the Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development held on February 2, 2017.

8% Complete

TASK 5: ORGANIZE AND FACILITATE TEXAS WATERSHED COORDINATOR ROUNDTABLES

Provide coordination opportunities for watershed planners and coordinators throughout Texas to ensure consistent, high quality WPPs are developed and implementation and water quality improvements are achieved and sustained.

Subtask 5.1: Facilitate Watershed Coordinator Roundtables – TWRI will continue to coordinate with the TSSWCB, TCEQ, and EPA to organize and facilitate a total of six (6) semi-annual Watershed Coordinator Roundtables. These face-to-face Roundtables will build upon the fundamental knowledge conveyed through the WPSC and establish a continuing dialogue between watershed coordinators in order to facilitate interactive solutions to common issues being faced by watershed coordinators statewide. Periodically, TWRI, in conjunction with the Project Team will review the continued need for semi-annual Roundtables as well as their specific timing. As such, these Roundtables are tentatively planned to be held in January and July at various locations around the state. In general, the January meetings will be primarily for open discussion among the coordinators and the July meeting will primarily be to provide presentations on critical issues being faced by watershed groups around the state. As needed, travel for speakers may be paid for through project funds.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI has started discussing with the committee locations to hold the next roundtable in July 2017.

8% Complete

Subtask 5.2: Administer Evaluations – TWRI will oversee the administration of evaluations to gauge the knowledge gained and how effective the Roundtable was for each participant. Evaluations will be administered at the end of each Roundtable to determine future topics of discussion.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. TWRI is reviewing the previous evaluation to see if any questions need to be added to receive information from the coordinators.

5% Complete

Expected Work for the Next Quarter:

- a. TWRI will conduct the Social Marketing Training with Amy Hays in Austin, Texas on April 13-14, 2017.
- b. TWRI will coordinate on locations and dates for other professional trainings and the watershed coordinators roundtable for July 2017.
- c. TWRI is reviewing the Watershed Short Course Training to make updates to the material.

Appendices: Trainings/Meeting Schedule

Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development Workshop – Dallas

February 2, 2017
8:30 am - 12 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Center at Dallas
17360 Coit Rd
Dallas, TX 75252

- [Participant List](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Bioretention and Permeable Pavement Maintenance presentation](#)
- [Stormwater Green Infrastructure: Evaluation, Performance and Modeling presentation](#)
- [Rain Garden Photo](#)

Green infrastructure for stormwater or low impact development (LID) refers to practices that manage stormwater in an urbanized setting in a way that minimizes impact to the environment, while increasing cost effectiveness and sustainability. Best management practices include bio-retention, green roofs, rainwater harvesting and permeable pavement. These help reduce the volume and pollutant load carried by surface storm water runoff into rivers and lakes.

This training will provide background information on LID and provide a tour of LID structures at the AgriLife Center, which include bio-retention/rain gardens, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, and permeable pavement.

Draft Agenda:

8:30 - 9:00 AM -- Registration
9:00 - 10:00 AM -- Introduction to Low Impact Development Practices
10:00 - 10:15 AM -- Break
10:15 - 11:15 AM -- LID design and maintenance
11:15 - 12:00 PM -- Tour of LID structures

For more information or questions please contact Nikki Dictson at 979-575-4424 or n-dictson@tamu.edu.

The Texas Water Resources Institute and the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources are part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Finding Success for Science through Social Media – Tips, Tools, and Tactics for Natural Resource Professionals

April 13-14, 2017

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Room 201A, Building B
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, TX 78753**

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The Web is now more than 25 years old from the first design by Tim Berners-Lee to what we know today in 2017. Things have changed dramatically in design, writing standards and searchability. In addition, smart devices have outsold desktops significantly in the last 5 years. What does that mean to those in outreach and education? It means we have to continue to grow our expertise in learning how to connect the consumer to the important information we provide. We need to understand how content is found, how conversations and learning networks start, how to be discovered and what constitutes quality outreach. We have to know where to post, when to post and what to build on our websites. We have to learn how to reach our traditional clients as well as new clients. There are many successful models that can be used and applied in natural resource outreach and education that can help us down the road of discoverability.

Registration is \$100 for both days! Bring your own device.

April 13th: 1 PM-4 PM

Finding your Tribe –This half day is designed to help you figure out who is using what platforms and why. One of the most common missteps in your social media plan is using the wrong platforms for your goals. Find out what research and user-data tells you about where to put your resources and efforts. We will do some hands-on learning to discover where your tribe is and how your message can reach them. We will look at some of the new platforms as well as your materials and where you want to use them. We will cover accounts, designing strategies, learning best practices, analyzing outreach and planning schedules.

