

Texas Water Resources Institute

**Pesticide Education in the Coastal Zone of the Arroyo Colorado Watershed
Coastal Management Program, Cycle 13
General Land Office Agreement No. 09-047-000-3364**

Quarter no. 1 From 1/1/09 Through 3/31/09

ABSTRACT

Because this project just started, work during this quarter focused on planning and developing our efforts to achieve these tasks during the next year. A second planning meeting will be held during the next quarter to assign specific tasks and begin activities.

TASK REPORT

TASK 1: Project Coordination

Task Status: In progress 15% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight

- TWRI worked with AgriLife contracts and grants division to ensure the correct budget was allocated per the agreement. When a discrepancy was discovered, TWRI worked with GLO and submitted a budget amendment request which was approved on April 6, 2009.
- Upon receipt of correct budget, TWRI developed subaccount notifications for AgriLife Extension District 12 to provide the County Extension Agents with their funding and deliverables per this award.

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing

- AgriLife did not submit an invoice for the quarter (January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009). Due to initial contractual budget issues, no funds were expended during this quarter. Funds will be charged to the project during the next quarter.

Subtask 1.3: Regular Meetings

- TWRI held project planning meetings with project participants (County Extension Agents in Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy Counties) as well as the district extension administrator for district 12 on December 17, 2008. Meeting discussion included the upcoming start of this project and what activities will be required per this award (e.g. soil testing campaign, turf education conference, promotion of SAFE field day, etc.)

Subtask 1.4: Quarter Progress Reports

- TWRI submitted the first quarterly report on May 7, 2009. The first quarter report was late. Future reports will be on time.

Subtask 1.5: Final Report

- No activities to report at this time

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- Initial contract had incorrect budget as stated above in subtask 1.1 report. Therefore, the set up of the subaccounts was delayed, which held up all project activities (see report in task 2 and 3 for more detail on project delays).

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Host second project planning meeting in April for discussion of activities and future efforts.
- AgriLife will submit quarterly invoices per the contract.
- TWRI will submit quarterly reports for the contract.

TASK 2: Supplement Integrated Farm Management System Education Programs

Task Status: In progress 5% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 2.1: Signs and Education Materials

- AgriLife Extension began discussion on the type and use of pesticide disposal signs.
- Extension also discussed the fact sheet for the project. Soybean production is a new crop in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and producers do not understand proper use of chemicals (fertilizer, pesticides) for the most effective and environmentally safe production. A general fact sheet on soybean production including safe use of pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation. Other fact sheets were also discussed and Extension is still deciding what will be the most effective fact sheet for this program.

Subtask 2.2: Soil Testing Campaign

- Due to the delay in the start date of the project, the soil testing campaign for 2008/2009 was already started when this project began. Therefore, project funds budgeted to cover soil testing were not entirely used this year.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- Because the soil testing campaign starts in October and this award did not come thru until January 1, 2009, AgriLife Extension had to use other funds to cover the soil testing campaign and related expenses. Therefore, the funds originally budgeted for the 2008-2009 campaign were not used, which will likely result in excess funds. To resolve this, AgriLife Extension reviewed the possibility to extend this project so that it could possibly cover a third year of the soil testing campaign (that is 2010-2011). TWRI will discuss this possibility with GLO.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Develop draft sign(s) as well as seeking bids for production of sign.
- Identify Extension resources to assist in development of soybean fact sheet.
- Finish out 2008-2009 soil testing campaign purchases and analysis.

TASK 3: Conduct Turfgrass Production and Management Education Program

Task Status: In progress 5% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 3.1: Turfgrass Education Conference

- AgriLife Extension briefly discussed the one-day education program for turfgrass producers and managers during their December 17 meeting. It was determined that it would likely be a one day event with one half of the day dedicated to turfgrass producers and the other half dedicated to turfgrass managers. Outside speakers/experts on the various subjects will need to be brought in and some educational materials will need to be produced for the conference. Given the delay in the start of the project, the possibility to push the conference to next spring (2010) was discussed and AgriLife Extension requested TWRI to inquire about the possibility of such extension for the turfgrass education conference and the project.

Subtask 3.2: Assisting Turfgrass Managers (SAFE Program)

- No activity to report at this time.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- Due to the delay in project start and the issues that followed with the project budget and requesting budget amendments, the subaccounts were delayed and thus, project activities were delayed. The turfgrass education conference (Subtask 3.1) could not have been a successful program in the spring of 2009 as originally planned with the short planning period of a few months. Therefore, AgriLife Extension will likely request a no-cost extension on this project to ensure a successful and effective program is held. This request will be discussed with GLO soon and an official request will be submitted, if possible, by AgriLife Contracts and Grants at a later date.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Order irrigation audit kit materials for County Extension offices.
- Set up a planning committee to begin planning the turfgrass education conference.

BUDGET REPORT

Double Click on budget tables to activate Excel

| Federal Budget | Current CMP Budget | Billed to Date CMP Budget | Obligated* CMP Budget | Remaining CMP Budget |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Personnel | \$7,733.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,733.00 |
| Fringe | \$2,220.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$2,220.00 |
| Travel | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| Supplies | \$3,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| Equipment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Contractual | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | \$18,569.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$18,569.00 |
| Subtotal | \$36,522.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$36,522.00 |
| Indirect Costs | \$5,478.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,478.00 |
| Totals | \$42,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$42,000.00 |

| Local Budget | Current Local Budget | Billed to Date Local Budget | Obligated* Local Budget | Remaining Local Budget |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Personnel | \$28,681.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$28,681.00 |
| Fringe | \$7,869.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$7,869.00 |
| Travel | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Supplies | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Equipment | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Contractual | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Subtotal | \$36,550.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$36,550.00 |
| Indirect Costs | \$5,482.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$5,482.00 |
| Totals | \$42,032.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$42,032.00 |

*Obligated includes - funds that have been incurred by the recipient but have not been paid by the recipient, such as contract agreements or supplies/materials/equipment acquired, but not invoiced.