

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. 4 From 10/1/09 Through 12/31/09

ABSTRACT

TWRI and AgriLife Extension continued planning the turfgrass education conference as well as their promotion of the SAFE program in the watershed. A sign designating pesticide disposal, mixing and storage areas for producers was reviewed and the Extension is redoing the design and it will be available soon. The final design will be done and the signs will be purchased this quarter.

TASK REPORT

TASK 1: Project Coordination

Task Status: In progress 60% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 1.1: Project Oversight

- TWRI maintains contact with AgriLife Extension and GLO regarding project activities and deliverables.

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing

- AgriLife submitted three monthly invoices on this project. Invoice #R017683 for October 2009 was for \$1,257.11 and Invoice #R017757 for November 2009 was for \$2,035.28.

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 October 22, 2009 in Weslaco. Meeting discussion included the developments of the turf conference as well as the development of the fact sheet. Future soil testing campaigns were also discussed.

Subtask 1.4: Quarter Progress Reports

- TWRI submitted the second quarterly progress report on July 10, 2009.

Subtask 1.5: Final Report

- No activities to report at this time.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments:

- Other than budget issues and the possible project extension discussed under subtask 1.1, no issues to report.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Set up meeting with County Extension Agents in valley during the next quarter.
- AgriLife will submit monthly 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 40% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 2.1: Signs and Education Materials (300 pesticide disposing signs and 1 Fact sheet)

- Extension further discussed the fact sheet at the October 22 meeting that is to be developed for the project. Soybean production, given it is a new crop in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed and producers do not understand proper use of chemicals (fertilizer, pesticides) for effective and environmentally safe production, is still likely to be the highlight of the publication. TWRI has identified a specialist to lead the effort on developing this general fact sheet on soybean production including safe use of pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation.
- The pesticide disposing sign was drafted in the last quarter and Extension has decided to redo the design. This will be completed within this quarter and the signs will be ordered.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- None to report.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Finalize the sign design.
- Seek bids for production of sign(s).
- Development of soybean fact sheet.

TASK 3: Conduct Turfgrass Production and Management Education Program

Task Status: In progress 20% complete

Major Accomplishments for the reporting period include:

Subtask 3.1: Turfgrass Education Conference

- AgriLife Extension is seeking input from local turfgrass producers regarding the turfgrass education conference and has put together a list of potential speakers and begun to contact them about a speaking commitment. The conference, likely to be a one day event with one half of the day dedicated to turfgrass producers and the other half dedicated to turfgrass managers, is tentatively scheduled for spring 2010.
- Outside speakers/experts on the various subjects are being brought in and some educational materials 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)

- It was discussed that the AgriLife Extension Technician funded to support education activities in the watershed may be able to assist with outreach in the SAFE Program. Specifically, conducting irrigation audits and assisting turfgrass managers with developing better and more effective management practices consistent with the SAFE Program.

Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:

- As mentioned in subtask 1.1, Extension requested that TWRI inquire about a project extension so that the turfgrass education conference (originally intended to be held spring 2009) could be held in spring 2010. GLO agreed that a 3 month extension could be granted while a 6 month extension is not guaranteed, it is possible and the length of the extension will be addressed when the time comes.

Projected Work for Next Quarter:

- Companies for purchase of irrigation equipment have been identified and orders for the equipment will be placed in the next quarter.
- Continue planning for turfgrass education conference.

BUDGET REPORT

Federal Budget	Current CMP Budget	Billed This Quarter	Obligated* CMP Budget	Remaining CMP Budget
Personnel	\$7,733.00	\$2,355.73	\$0.00	\$4,197.77
Fringe	\$2,220.00	\$507.22	\$0.00	\$1,442.46
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,769.51
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	\$17,402.93
Subtotal	\$36,522.00	\$2,862.95	\$0.00	\$30,812.67
Indirect Costs	\$5,478.00	\$429.44	\$0.00	\$4,621.61
Totals	\$42,000.00	\$3,292.39	\$0.00	\$35,434.28

Local Budget	Current Local Budget	Billed This Quarter	Obligated* Local Budget	Remaining Local Budget
Personnel	\$28,681.00	\$7,741.99	\$0.00	\$8,002.36
Fringe	\$7,869.00	\$2,901.79	\$0.00	\$936.61
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	\$10,643.78	\$0.00	\$8,940.97
Indirect Costs	\$5,482.00	\$1,596.56	\$0.00	\$1,340.64
Totals	\$42,032.00	\$12,240.34	\$0.00	\$10,281.61

***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.**