

**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. 2 From 4/1/09 Through 6/30/09

**ABSTRACT**

TWRI and AgriLife Extension continued planning the turfgrass education conference as well as their promotion of the SAFE program in the watershed. Meetings with a planning committee will occur next quarter to plan the turfgrass conference. A sign designating pesticide disposal, mixing and storage areas for producers was drafted and bids will be accepted soon.

**TASK REPORT**

**TASK 1: Project Coordination**

**Task Status:** In progress 30% 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.
- Realizing project activities are behind due to delay in project start date, TWRI discussed possible extension of the project with GLO especially considering a large budget item was the soil testing campaign and the 2008-09 campaign only had 1 month left when this project started. While other funds covered the campaign and allowed it to take place, the delay in this project left additional funds in the project budget that will need to be spent or the project could be extended to cover a soil testing campaign in 2010-11. It is doubtful a 2010-11 campaign can happen as GLO was only able to agree to a 3 month (6 month at most) project extension. The extra funds and meeting our deliverables in a timely manner will be addressed as project continues and deadlines get closer.

Subtask 1.2: Fiscal/invoicing

- AgriLife submitted three monthly invoices on this project. Invoice #R017226 for April 2009 was for \$1,567.94; Invoice #R017282 for May 2009 was for \$702.08; and Invoice #R017371 was for \$334.45. A delay in spending has occurred while project personnel initiate activities.

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 April 27, 2009 in Weslaco. Meeting discussion included the development of a steering committee for the turf conference as well as the development

of the fact sheet. The soil testing campaign results were also discussed and were provided to TWRI.

Subtask 1.4: Quarter Progress Reports

- TWRI submitted the first quarterly report on July 15, 2009.

Subtask 1.5: Final Report

- No activities to report at this time

**Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of 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.

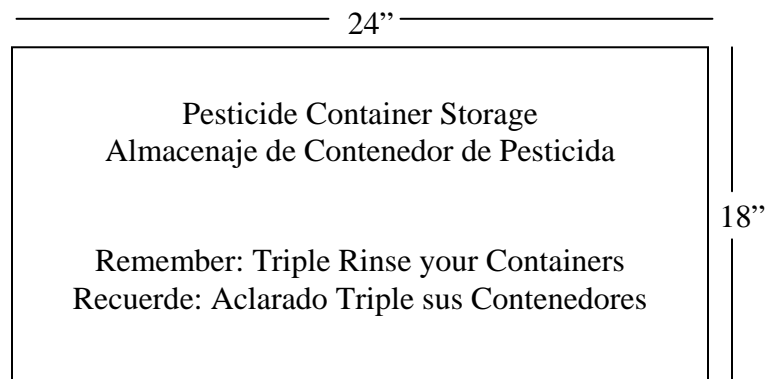
**TASK 2: Supplement Integrated Farm Management System Education Programs**

**Task Status:** In progress 20% 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 April 27 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 is working to identify 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 (see Figure below) and bids will be sought during the next quarter.



**Figure:** Draft Pesticide disposal signs to be developed and distributed to producers.

#### Subtask 2.2: Soil Testing Campaign

- The soil testing campaign conducted to provide ag producers scientific data of nutrient levels present in soil and recommendations on fertilizer levels needed to produce a sustainable crop was completed and a total of 337 samples were processed. Soil samples received by county through the campaign (includes only those that go through the Extension Office and does not include samples that go thru NRCS) was as follows: Cameron County – 67 samples; Hidalgo County – 167 samples; Willacy County – 98 samples; Starr County - 5 samples.

#### **Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable of Unusual Developments:**

- Other than budget issues associated with the fact that project was not able to fund 2008-09 soil testing campaign and thus, excess funds remain (discussed in previous quarterly report), not issues to report.

#### **Projected Work for Next Quarter:**

- Seek bids for production of sign(s).
- Identify Extension resources to assist in development of soybean fact sheet.

### **TASK 3: Conduct Turfgrass Production and Management Education Program**

**Task Status:** In progress 10% 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 will put together a steering committee to guide the conference. 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 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)

- 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 and 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:**

- Bids for irrigation audit equipment will be sought during the next quarter and ordered.
- Set up a planning committee to begin planning the turfgrass education conference.

**BUDGET REPORT**

Double Click on budget tables to activate Excel

<b>Federal Budget</b>	<b>Current CMP Budget</b>	<b>Billed to Date CMP Budget</b>	<b>Obligated* CMP Budget</b>	<b>Remaining CMP Budget</b>
Personnel	\$7,733.00	\$707.70	\$0.00	\$7,025.30
Fringe	\$2,220.00	\$160.50	\$0.00	\$2,059.50
Travel	\$5,000.00	\$230.49	\$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	\$18,569.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$36,522.00</b>	<b>\$1,098.69</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$35,423.31</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$5,478.00</b>	<b>\$339.71</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,138.29</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$42,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,438.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$40,561.60</b>

<b>Local Budget</b>	<b>Current Local Budget</b>	<b>Billed to Date Local Budget</b>	<b>Obligated* Local Budget</b>	<b>Remaining Local Budget</b>
Personnel	\$28,681.00	\$7,537.68	\$0.00	\$21,143.32
Fringe	\$7,869.00	\$2,126.01	\$0.00	\$5,742.99
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
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$36,550.00</b>	<b>\$9,663.69</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$26,886.31</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>\$5,482.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,482.00</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$42,032.00</b>	<b>\$9,663.69</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$32,368.31</b>

\*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.