



Coordinating Implementation of the Tres Palacios WPP

Water Body	Tres Palacios Creek (1501, 1502)
Location	Matagorda County, Wharton County
River Basin	Colorado River Basin
Contractor	Texas AgriLife Research, Texas Water Resources In-
Project Period	November 17, 2017 to February 28, 2021
Project Total	\$589,666 (Federal 60% and Local Match 40%)

Background

Tres Palacios Creek is the primary source of fresh-water for Tres Palacios Bay, which opens into Matagorda Bay. Since 2006, the tidal segment of Tres Palacios Creek has been listed on the Texas 303(d) list for having elevated levels of bacteria as well as depressed dissolved oxygen. In 2016, TWRI, Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER), and TCEQ began working with stakeholders to address bacteria impairment in the Tres Palacios Creek. That collaboration yielded a TMDL, I-Plan, and WPP addressing the whole watershed. The watershed is predominantly agricultural lands, specifically hay, pasture, and cropland. Due to this, a large component of the WPP is focused on implementing agricultural BMPs and providing education programs for agricultural producers.

Project Description

Through this project the TWRI will continue to work with key stakeholders and partner agencies to facilitate implementation measures outlined in the Tres Palacios Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). The project will support water resources education, outreach, and participation. This includes organizing new training programs as well as utilizing existing educational statewide programs such as Lone Star Healthy Streams, Riparian Stream and Ecosystems, and Texas Well Owner Network. TWRI will develop publications, an annual newsletter, factsheets, website content, and other materials to promote and communicate watershed pollution prevention efforts. The TWRI will conduct water quality monitoring to estimate instream load reductions.

Current Status

The Tres Palacios WPP was accepted in May 2018. Project activities began in June 2018. A QAPP is being developed to support water quality monitoring. Stakeholder coordination and meetings are



occurring on an ongoing basis. Project staff are working with the City of Palacios to install educational kiosks at the Palacios Pavilion.

Public Participation

This project involves education and outreach programs as well as training programs offered to the public. Stakeholder involvement is utilized in the facilitation and implementation of the WPP. Newsletters, website content and other materials will be provided to inform and update the public.

For More Information

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Project Highlights

- 06/2018 – Post-award meeting held.
- 06/2018 – Tres Palacios WPP stakeholder meeting held.
- 04/2019 – Tres Palacios WPP stakeholder meeting held.