

Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust – Progress Report

Project Name: Assessing the risk to ecosystem health from increasing nitrogen and phosphorus levels in Lavaca Bay

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Contract No.: 0044

Reporting Period: 7/1/23-8/31/23

Task 1: Monthly sampling to characterize nutrient indicators.

Status of the task during this reporting period: not started in progress completed

- Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period.
 - Monthly sampling began in June 2023 with 9 sites visited. After receiving feedback from stakeholders familiar with the bay, sampling locations were adjusted and condensed to 8 sites. We have now recruited a “citizen scientist” volunteer who is helping us with the monthly sampling.
 - Monthly sampling dates: 7/18/2023; 8/15/2023
- List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) completed during this reporting period.
 - Nothing to report.
- Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision). Yes No If yes, please explain:
- Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.
 - Continue monthly sampling as per contract.

Task 2: Experimental bioassays to determine algal response to nutrients.

Status of the task during this reporting period: not started in progress completed

- Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period.
 - The first bioassay experiment was successfully completed August 7-12th.
- List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) completed during this reporting period.
 - Nothing to report.
- Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision). Yes No If yes, please explain:
- Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.
 - Conduct second quarterly bioassay experiment (October timeframe).

Task 3: Stakeholder meetings.

Status of the task during this reporting period: not started in progress completed

- Describe major accomplishments for this reporting period.

- At the Lavaca Bay Foundation on June 15, 2023, L. Beecraft received helpful feedback and comments from meeting attendees, with discussion about incorporating a sampling site north of Port Lavaca to characterize the area around Maxwell Ditch. We incorporated this into our sampling plan during the current quarter.
- List the deliverable(s)/milestone(s) completed during this reporting period.
 - Nothing to report.
- Were there any problems or obstacles encountered during this reporting period (e.g., delays, remedial action taken, schedule revision). Yes No If yes, please explain:
- Briefly describe plans for the next reporting period.
 - Nothing planned. Will share findings with stakeholders as requested.