

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st 2018 2nd 2018 3rd 2018 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: Strategic Implementation of Regional Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Turtles at Risk in the Northeast: RCN Opportunity, Initiative 3. Road Mortality Hotspot Identification, Targeted Road Mitigation Assessment, & Best Management Practices. RCN 17-01 GSA 00033

Contractor: Clarkson University

Project Leader: Tom Langen

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to reduce turtle road mortality through improved mortality “hotspot” identification and mitigation strategies, advancing the goals of the Regional Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Turtles at Risk in the Northeast (Initiative 3), which include: (a) Improving our overall approach to identifying turtle road mortality concentrations, (b) Designing effective mitigation strategies and (c) Assessing the mitigation. The project contract was finalized and signed four months ago – this is the first full-quarter.

Accomplishments in this quarter included presentations and discussions with stake-holders and key informants, and initiation of the literature reviews. Next quarter objectives include a survey and follow-up calls with partner agencies on past and current agency and partners’ projects related to turtles and roads. The project is funded through 2022.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes.

Progress Achieved: Conducted initial survey and follow-up calls with partner agencies on past and current agency and partners’ projects related to turtles and roads. Now contacting next set, based on input of first key informant set. Have begun synthesis review of current hotspot identification methods for turtles, and current practices in monitoring turtle road encounters. Have contacted expert working groups on each of the focal turtle species to aggregate their input on predictors of road encounter hotspots, and species-specific considerations on road survey and road mitigation.

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: Other work activities reduced time on the project this quarter. After April, I am fully-focused on this project. Starting this summer, I will have a student on this project.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Next quarter activities include further survey and follow-up calls with partner agencies on past and current agency and partners’ projects related to turtles and roads. I will also synthesize the review of current hotspot identification methods for turtles, and current practices in monitoring turtle road encounters. I will begin traveling to sites to look at some mitigation practices. Will have a draft of a review on locating hotspots of road encounters. Starting in July, will have a graduate student working on this project.

Expected End Date: 31 December 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$1674.60

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$137,500.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

**The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.**

**CLARKSON UNIVERSITY**

By: *Tom Langen*

Name: Tom Langen

Title: Professor, Dept. of Biology, Clarkson University

Date: 14 April 2019