

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: January 3, 2006

SUBJECT: Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Project Update

ATTACHMENTS: Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Project Board of Commissioners
Packet Dated December 1, 2005

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Ms. Diane Silver has requested to be allotted time during the January 3 meeting to provide an update concerning the Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Project. A packet with information about this restoration project is attached.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUIRED:

No action is recommended at this time.



Henderson County Center
740 Glover Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792-4470
828-697-4891
www.ces.ncsu.edu/henderson/

Diane Silver
Mud Creek Project Coordinator
diane_silver@ncsu.edu

Mud Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Update to County Commissioners

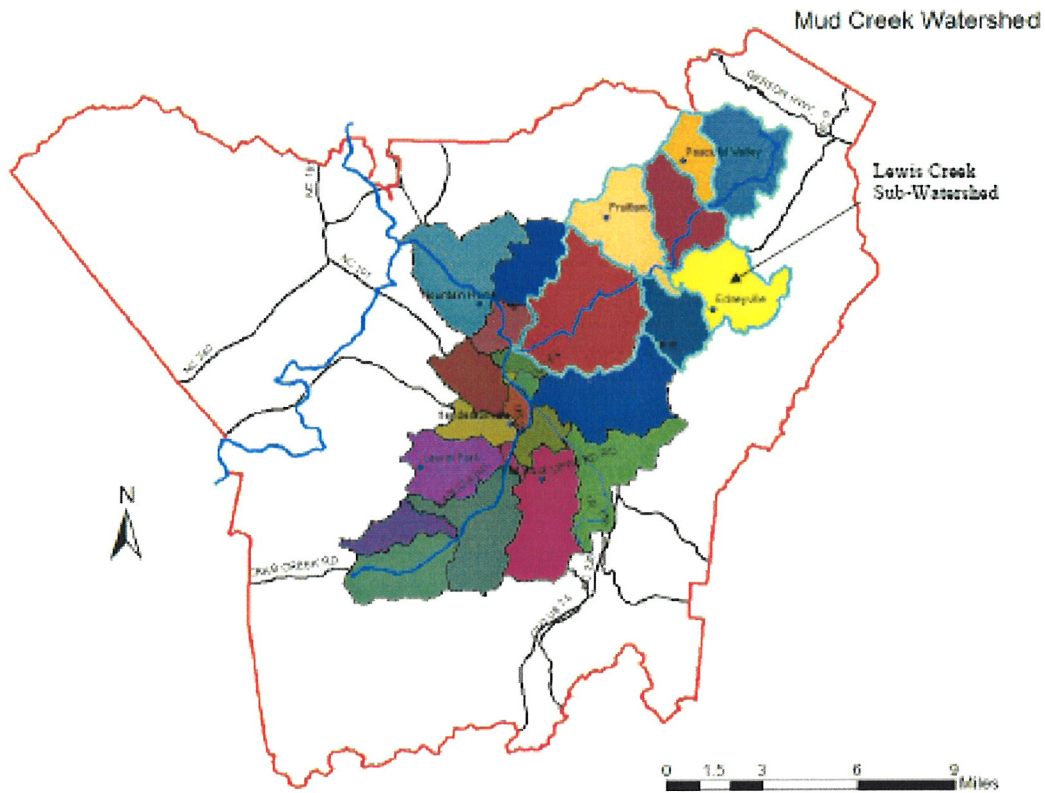
December 1, 2005

1) Federal 319 Grant through NC Division of Water Quality: November 2005 – 2008

Lewis Creek Project.

Total Section 319 Funds Requested	\$427,100
Match funds or in-kind Match Services	\$318,210
Total Project Cost	\$745,310

- Complete a nine-element Watershed Restoration Implementation Plan (EPA requirement).
- Provide funding for three years for a watershed coordinator/project manager to carry out a targeted education strategy aimed at securing cooperation for restoration projects. The request includes funds for accompanying educational materials.
- Provide smart sprayer technology to apple growers in the Lewis Creek Watershed for whom Agricultural Cost Share funding is currently unavailable. This BMP is aimed at reducing pesticide use, and thus reducing pesticide drift and run-off.
- Provide funding for removing abandoned orchards to eliminate a source of pests to adjacent active orchards, using pest scouts to guide pesticide spraying, or using insect pheromones to disrupt pest reproduction. These BMPs are aimed at reducing pesticide use, thus reducing pesticide drift and run-off.
- Provide funding for seeding /planting 1500 linear feet of stream to help stabilize stream banks. This would allow flexibility to experiment with various plant forms and species that might make buffers more palatable to orchard and row crop farmers.
- Complete 1500 linear feet of stream restoration to stabilize streambanks, improve in-stream habitat and restore floodplain functions. This work serves as the matching funds for the project.



Problems in the Watershed – erosion & sedimentation; pollutants carried in run-off:



Solutions:

← Stream restoration, re-vegetation, Best Management Practices.

Stream Dr. Project

Total Section 319 Funds Requested	\$62,760
Match funds or in-kind Match Services	\$46,300
Total Project Cost	\$109,060

Abstract:

Across Western North Carolina, fast-paced land development and recent hurricane damage have increased the incidence of badly eroding streams and the need for stream restoration. This need has created a demand for professionals to carry out this work. While large-scale government-funded projects contract with big engineering firms to restore stream channels in 1/4 mile+ increments, a void exists for homeowners seeking assistance in fixing relatively small-scale blow-outs on backyard and neighborhood streams. At the same time, a danger exists for increasing usage of stop-gap measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good to stream ecosystems.

There is a great need to provide training in stream repair to contractors involved in earthmoving, planting, or landscape design to build local capacity for carrying out small-scale streambank stabilization projects that do not meet the criteria for projects by state agencies.

This grant seeks funding for training workshops, hands-on field work, and advice and consultation from a mentor to train landscapers to do high quality stream repair using established best practices. The goal is to build a cadre of local professionals whom homeowners can hire to assist with backyard stream repair.

2005 Mud Creek Project:

\$65,450

From Abstract

Funding to extend the watershed coordinator position for one year to continue implementation of the plan recommendations. Work will include

- educating local elected officials and key management staff and assisting in development of local government programs;
- working to promote use of BMPs among various constituencies – builders, developers, business operators, residents, growers, etc.;
- using local media, public events, literature distribution, etc. to educate the public;
- providing technical assistance to interested landowners to facilitate BMP implementation and in-stream habitat improvement;
- developing written and visual products and maintaining the Mud Creek project web-site;
- continuing watershed assessment and planning and using GIS resources;
- coordinating and facilitating Mud Creek Council meetings.

TOTAL State/Federal Investment in the Mud Creek Restoration Project 2005 – 2008

\$873,520