

# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** January 18, 2006

**SUBJECT:** County Sponsorship of Lewis Creek Restoration/Nature Trail Project

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1) Project Description  
2) Resolution

### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the French Broad Training Center have requested that the County sponsor a grant application for the Lewis Creek Restoration/Nature Trail Project. A project description is attached. Please note that no County funds are involved or committed through this sponsorship. The local match referenced in the attached documentation will be obtained from sources other than the County as outlined in the attached resolution.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S COMMENTS\RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommend adoption of the attached resolution.

## Lewis Creek Project Description

The Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the French Broad Training Center are seeking state funding to implement planning, design and interpretive signage for the Lewis Creek Nature Park in Henderson County in the state of North Carolina. The 8.6 acre park is located off North Ridge Road adjacent to Lewis Creek and contains a 6.5 acre Southern Appalachian Bog Community.

Planning and design are needed for the preservation and further restoration of the bog community and also for the proposed recreational trails along Lewis Creek. Planning and design will include monitoring hydrology of the bog community, and the outcome will be the creation of a management plan for the bog that will incorporate stormwater management to reduce impacts from adjacent landowners. Trails and common areas will be designed to minimally impact the fragile natural areas. Interpretive signage is planned to educate visitors about preserving water resources and about the native plants and animals found in the park.

The Lewis Creek Nature Park is owned by the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and is protected by a conservation easement held by the State. The park is a portion of a trail system that is planned through the Edneyville community that will eventually connect with other residential developments as well as the Edneyville Community Center. The water quality in the bog is directly affected by the new housing development uphill, which emphasizes the need for education and a bog management plan, including a stormwater management component. Lewis Creek is also being investigated as a potential stream restoration site.

The total project cost is \$17,000, and the grant request is for \$8,500.

	<b>DWR</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Total</b>
Planning and Design	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 13,000
Interpretive Signage	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
Inkind Labor		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Total Request</b>	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500	\$ 17,000

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## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners desires to sponsor the planning, design, and educational signage for the Lewis Creek Nature Park on behalf of the French Broad Training Center. The project would restore habitat, provide streamside recreation, and enhance educational opportunities about water resources and stormwater management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Board requests the State of North Carolina to provide financial assistance to the County for the project in the amount of \$8,500 or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lesser amount;
- 2) The Board delegates the French Broad Training Center, as the sole partner for the administration and supervision of the project; and for obtaining the balance of the project costs;
- 3) Under the administration and supervisory responsibility of the project stated in item 2, above, the French Broad Training Center will be responsible for obtaining all necessary State and Federal permits;
- 4) The Board will see that the French Broad Training Center complies with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds;
- 5) Under the administration and supervisory responsibility of the project stated in item 2, above, the French Broad Training Center will assure compliance with permit conditions and will assure safe and proper construction according to approved plans and specifications;
- 6) The Board will assure that the project is open for use by the public on an equal basis;
- 7) The Board, the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, and the French Broad Training Center will hold the State harmless from any damages that may result from the construction, operation and maintenance of the project;
- 8) The Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy accepts responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.
- 9) Participation in this project by the Board is contingent upon items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 above being completed by the French Broad Training Center. The Board will bear no responsibility for the grant deliverables or other items pertaining to the project should the French Broad Training Center not fulfill its obligations as outlined above.

Adopted by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2006.

William L. Moyer, Chairman  
Henderson County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Elizabeth W. Corn  
Clerk to the Board