

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: July 18, 2007

SUBJECT: Hancock County Fund designation

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On December 5, 2005, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in the gulf region, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution adopting Hancock County, Mississippi as a Sister Community. On January 18, 2006, the Board entered into a Donor Advised Fund Agreement with the Henderson County Community Foundation to create a fund for Hancock County to allow citizens a means of making donations to be used in Hancock County. To date, the fund has received \$5,000.

The Community Foundation has identified a fund that fits the Board's intention of helping our "sister county". The "Build Back the Coast Fund" would accept the funds with a conditional designation that they only be used to assist in the care and coordination of volunteers working on projects to rebuild the community in Hancock County.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve that the \$5,000 available in the Hancock County Fund be disbursed by the Community Foundation to the "Build Back the Coast Fund".

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board of Commissioners approve the \$5,000 available in the Hancock County Fund be disbursed by the Community Foundation to the "Build Back the Coast Fund".



Board of Directors March 16, 2007

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Mr. Steve Wyatt, County Manager
Henderson County Board of Commissioners
100 North King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Steve:

Within only a few weeks of your arrival, Henderson County asked that the Community Foundation open a fund to receive donations to assist a "sister-County" in Mississippi after experiencing the devastating hurricane Katrina. The County Commissioners passed a resolution to this effect accepting that you, as County Manager, would be the advisor to this fund at their direction. The Community Foundation agreed to oversee the technical elements of receiving donations and distributing grants from this fund, as well as being in contact with those providing charitable services in the Hancock County area.

To date the fund has received \$5,000 via one donor. The Community Foundation had agreed to limit our fee to 0.75% as a pass-thru but in the case of this small of an amount we are suggesting that we waive this fee all together to have a round figure be distributed. I have been in touch on a number of occasions with groups working in Hancock County, MS and with some of the volunteer efforts involving people from Henderson County, NC. In each respect, persons involved report that the volunteer efforts have been one of the most effective ways of assistance in re-building the community with the least amount of complications.

I have identified a fund, "Build Back the Coast Fund," and a group of citizens overseeing many projects using volunteer assistance to "build back" the Gulf Coast area, including Hancock County, MS. They are willing to accept funds with a conditional designation that they be used to assist in the care and coordination of volunteers working to re-build community only in Hancock County, MS. With the amount of the funds we would have to send, \$5,000, it would primarily be used to provide meals for the volunteers working on the projects in Hancock, MS. This would be our recommendation that best suits the needs in Mississippi and seems to fit the effort that our County Commissioners had in mind for helping a "sister county."

Please review this recommendation and let me know how we may further serve the charitable interest of this fund. We would like to see these dollars soon invested in the community work in Hancock, MS.

Sincerest best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "McCray V. Benson", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name and title are printed.

McCray V. Benson
President/CEO