

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** March 7, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Recreation Trails Grant Support Letter

**ATTACHMENTS:** No

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Western North Carolina Alliance has asked Henderson County to write a letter supporting their Recreation Trails Grant application to develop a paddle trail along the French Broad River.

The paddle trail proposed along the French Broad River would run from Transylvania County to Madison County with a couple of campsites established along the way with willing land owners. The Henderson County section of the French Broad River would be a part of the paddle trail.

No county funding has been requested or offered for the project. The Western North Carolina Alliance has simply asked that a letter of support for their grant application be written by the county.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Staff is supportive of the work to create a paddle trail along the French Broad River. It is requested that the county signs a letter of support for the application by the Western North Carolina Alliance to the Recreation Trails Grant.

A letter has been prepared by staff supporting the application. The letter also states that no county funding will be available for the paddle trail project. The trail would be enhanced by the current county river access points at Blantyre Park and Westfeldt Park.

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move that Henderson County write and sign a letter to support for the application from the Western North Carolina Alliance for a Recreation Trails Grant to establish a paddle trail along the French Broad River.*

DRAFT LETTER for Henderson County Support for French Broad River Trail

Hartwell Carson, French Broad Riverkeeper  
Western North Carolina Alliance  
29 N. Market Street, Suite 610  
Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Mr. Carson,

Please accept this letter of support for the Recreation Trails Grant application being submitted by the Western North Carolina Alliance. The grant application to establish a French Broad River paddle trail would add an exciting recreational resource to Henderson County.

We understand that the Western North Carolina Alliance would be in charge of all work necessary to establish such a trail. The grant funds would be used to make improvements on a few campsites. It is understood that the paddle trail would follow the French Broad River from Transylvania County to Madison County and that campsites might be established in Henderson County with willing land owners.

Henderson County believes that the French Broad River is a unique asset and hopes that this paddle trail might further educate the public of the wonderful water resource that runs through the county.

Please understand that the county is offering its support for your grant application but is not able to allocate any financial resources. There will be no county funding available for this project. We hope that the current county river access facilities at Blantyre Park and Westfeldt Park in Henderson County will become an integral part of the paddle trail. The paddle trail along the river would highlight the Blantyre, Etowah, Horse Shoe and Mills River areas as the French Broad River flows north through the county.

We wish you the best of luck with your application and this exciting project to create a paddle trail along the French Broad River.

Sincerely,

Henderson County