

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: October 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Regional Brownfields Initiative Coalition

PRESENTER: Kate O'Hara, Land-of-Sky

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. 2012 Brownfields Assessment Grants Information
2. Draft Letter

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Kate O'Hara, Brownfields Program Manager with Land-of-Sky Regional Council, will be present to present information to the Board about Brownfields Assessment Grants. The Board is requested to hear the presentation, and to consider participating as a member in the Regional Brownfields Initiative Coalition.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to hear the presentation from Land-of-Sky, and to direct Staff accordingly. If the Board desires for Henderson County to become a member of the Coalition, the following motion is suggested:

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board authorize the execution of the attached letter, agreeing to Henderson County becoming a member of the Regional Brownfields Initiative Coalition for the purpose of applying for and the subsequent award of a community-wide USEPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$1 million.

2012 Brownfields Assessment Grants

It is becoming increasingly evident that in order to be competitive this funding year, LOS needs to make significant changes to the Regional Brownfields Initiative.

- We anticipate a 40% cut in funding- equal to approximately 112 assessment grants getting funded – **nation-wide**.
- EPA is placing a great deal of importance on formal *partnerships* and private investment.
- Suggested program improvements for this year's application:
 - Apply as a Coalition" for \$1million;
 - Our 4 counties & the City of Asheville would act as our coalition partners;
 - The basic structure of the program will remain the same with the RBI administering the program;
 - Through a MOU, each coalition member will be assured of a portion of the assessment funds for their County/City;
 - The Internal Team will bring some recommendations to the Brownfields Advisory Group on Oct. 6:
 - The filing of a Coalition application rather than two proposals- a regional application and one for the City of Asheville;
 - 25% cash investment from prospective developers;
 - As an incentive to redevelopment, a portion of the private investment is returned when a Brownfields Agreement is put into place;
 - Increased participation is required from our coalition members- we plan to hold the Advisory Group meetings in the 4 counties;

What I am requesting:

- 5 minutes on the 9/28 agenda to talk about the Coalition application;
- Letter of support from the LOSRC Board to apply for a Coalition grant;
- Recommendation from the Board that our member governments place a resolution on the October agenda for a letter of intent to be a Coalition member. (applications are due Nov. 15 & letters must be attached)
- Support of our board members to encourage their County Boards to pass the Coalition resolution.

Respectfully,



Kate O'Hara

Joe C. McKinney
Executive Director
Land-of-Sky Regional Council
339 New Leicester Hwy. Ste. 140
Asheville, NC 28806

RE: Agreement to be a member of the Regional Brownfields Initiative Coalition for the purpose of applying for and the subsequent award of a community- wide USEPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$1 million.

Dear Mr. McKinney:

This letter is written to verify that Henderson County, NC agrees to be a member of the Regional Brownfields Initiative Coalition for the purpose of applying for and the subsequent award of a USEPA Brownfields Assessment Coalition Grant in the amount of \$1 million for community-wide assessment in the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (LOSRC) area. Henderson County is an eligible applicant due to its status as a municipal government.

Henderson County agrees that LOSRC will be the lead member of the Coalition for the purpose of this grant application and subsequent award. Land-of-Sky Regional Council will be responsible to administer the grant and if awarded, be accountable to USEPA for the proper expenditure of funds, and be the point of contact for Coalition members.

Further, it is our understanding that Coalition members are not eligible in this grant round as applicants for additional community -wide or site - specific assessment grants, and that a Coalition member wishing to apply as a separate applicant must withdraw from the Coalition to be eligible for individual assessment funds.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Edney
Chairman, Board of Commissioners