

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSONCOUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: December 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Agriculture Development & Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Grant

PRESENTER: Mark Williams

ATTACHMENTS: No

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

NCDA&CS has announced an appropriation of \$1.7 million for each of the next two fiscal years through the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund. Grants can be awarded to secure agricultural conservation easements on lands used for agricultural production; to support public and private enterprise programs that promote profitable sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestland activities; and for the development of agricultural plans. All applicants must be non-profit conservation organizations or county agencies. Farmers, landowners, and others interested in applying must partner with a non-profit conservation organization or county agency.

The Henderson County Agri-Business Development Board has voted in favor of the County applying for a grant for "Agricultural Development". This type grant is restricted to programs that will promote profitable sustainable farms by assisting in developing and implementing plans for the production of food, fiber, and value-added products, agritourism activities, marketing and sales of agricultural products produced on the farm, and other agriculture-related business activities. Requests are limited to \$100,000 per application and as a Tier Three Enterprise County (as defined in G.S. 143B-437.08) with a NCDA&CS approved County Farmland Protection Plan a minimum match of 15% of the ADFP Trust Fund monies received is required. A Letter of Commitment from matching fund sources is also required.

The intent is to leverage grant funding for Agri-Business Development, primarily to be used for marketing efforts, including a campaign to promote buying of Henderson County grown products, branding, website development, advertisement and general funding for agribusiness development. Our request will be a maximum of \$100,000 with the exact amount to be determined during the application process. The 15% match requirement would total \$15,000 or less.

The commitment or match from the County can be satisfied from the \$134,289 already budgeted for Agri-Business Development in the 2011/2012 Economic Development account. The grant funding appropriations pay out may carry over into the next fiscal year, which would require a commitment of funds extending beyond the 2011/2012 budget cycle.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board authorize Agri-Business Development, as a County department, to make application for the ADFP grant, not to exceed \$100,000. As a requirement of the grant it is also requested that the Board provided a Letter of Commitment for the match funding, which can be accomplished by reflecting the total amount already budgeted for Agri-Business Economic Development for 2011/2012 and the previously proposed amount for 2012/2013.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board authorize Agri-Business Development, as a County department, to make application for the ADFP grant, not to exceed \$100,000. I further move the Board authorize the Chairman to execute a Letter of Commitment for the match funding, using funds already available in the FY12 budget.