

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2012

SUBJECT: Mud Creek Watershed Program

PRESENTER: Diane Silver, Mud Creek Watershed Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Letter

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Mud Creek Watershed Restoration project is a consortium of local governments, state agencies, non-profits, and business partners working to protect and improve the quality of Mud Creek and its tributaries through voluntary efforts.

Since 2003, the Mud Creek Project has been hosted by Henderson County Cooperative Extension, funded through grant funds from the Division of Water Quality. The current grant expires Dec. 31, 2012. Applications for funding for 2013 are due May 24, 2012.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to discuss the Mud Creek Project in Cooperative Extension, and provide direction to Staff regarding whether or not it wishes to support the application. If the Board does wish to support the application, the grant application would be submitted through the County, and the County would serve as the fiscal agent if the grant is awarded.

Suggested Motion:

Option 1: I move the Board support and direct Staff to submit the application.

Option2: I move the Board not support submission of the application.

MEMORANDUM

To: County Commissioners, via Amy Brantley, via Ivy Olson
From: Diane Silver
Date: April 10, 2012
Re: Support for continued grant funding for the Mud Creek Watershed Project

The Mud Creek Watershed Restoration project is a consortium of local governments, state agencies, non-profits, and business partners working to protect and improve the quality of Mud Creek and its tributaries through voluntary efforts.

Since 2003, the Mud Creek Project has been hosted by Henderson County Cooperative Extension, funded through grant funds from the Division of Water Quality. The current grant expires Dec. 31, 2012. Applications for funding for 2013 are due May 24. I am working on pulling together the details for a proposal.

This memo is to request confirmation that the Commissioners will continue to support hosting the Mud Creek Project in Cooperative Extension by submitting the grant application through the County and serving as the fiscal agent if the grant is awarded.

Details:

Grant Source: Federal EPA 319 program. Funds are awarded to the state (DENR, Division of Water Quality), and then allocated to projects by DWQ.

Summary of proposed work:

The Mud Creek project is shifting focus from the agricultural land use of Clear Creek to the urban land use of Brittain Creek, to begin addressing the impacts of urban stormwater run-off. Primary deliverables will be installation of voluntary stormwater management practices in the Brittain Creek sub-basin, to stem the massive volume of run-off that is causing erosion and sedimentation of Brittain Creek, and subsequently contributing to sedimentation of Mud Creek.

3 projects will be proposed in collaboration with specialists from NC-State. These involve installation and monitoring of bio-retention areas (engineered raingardens) at community sites: two at Opportunity House on US 25, and one at Calvary Baptist Church on Rte 191. Both have big parking lots that contribute significant stormwater to Brittain Creek, both are highly visible and have lots of community traffic and therefore would be great sites for educational outreach, and both are eager to participate. A fourth site may be proposed at The Oaks development off Rte. 191. This would be a small bioretention area adjacent to the creek, where a stormwater outflow is located.

We also plan to propose installation of ~15 backyard stormwater practices (raingarden or cisterns) at single-family homes through the CCAP program, administered by Soil and Water, and to conduct a "downspout disconnect" campaign in the relevant neighborhoods.

In addition, the grant would support continuation of the education programs currently underway through the Mud Creek project, namely:

- the Kids-in-the-Creek program for 8th graders
- the Master Stream Steward class, aimed at volunteers who are interested in water quality (similar to the Master Gardener classes)
- constituent service (responding to requests for assistance related to stream problems)
- all the miscellaneous work I do as an Extension agent.

The grant would also support continued monthly monitoring of 14 stream sites in the Mud Creek watershed through the VWIN program. The county has supported VWIN for many years.

The total grant request will be close to, and definitely not exceed, \$250,000 for a 2-year grant period. Exact budget is in the works.

Please respond as to whether the County will support submission of this grant proposal.

Thank you.

Diane Silver
Mud Creek Watershed Coordinator