

MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Those present were Chairman William Lapsley, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall, Commissioner Mike Edney, Commissioner Daniel Andreotta, Commissioner David Hill, County Manager John Mitchell, Assistant County Manager Amy Brantley, and Attorney Russ Burrell.

Also present were: Director of Business and Community Development Christopher Todd, Finance Director Samantha Reynolds, Budget Manager/Internal Auditor Sonya Flynn, Engineer Marcus Jones, Tax Director Darlene Burgess, Sheriff Lowell Griffin, Planning Director Autumn Radcliff, Emergency Management/Rescue Coordinator Jimmy Brissie, Budget Analyst Jennifer Miranda, Parks and Recreation Director Carleen Dixon, Assistant Engineer Deb Johnston, and PIO Kathy Finotti – videotaping, Deputy Chris Barber provided security.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

INVOCATION

Pastor Logan Hammond of Biltmore Church provided the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Commissioner David Hill.

RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

2022.32 Proclamation – Child Abuse Prevention Month and Week of the Young Child

The Board received a request from Safelight to proclaim April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention and Week of the Young Child Month in Henderson County. The proclamation sets aside April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Week of the Young Child month in Henderson County.

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
AND
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, child abuse can cause long term psychological, emotional, and physical harm that has lasting consequences for survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, we value our vulnerable children as vital to our state’s future success, prosperity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, as well as both the current and future quality of life of our community; and

Approved:

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities to foster their healthy growth and development; and

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development, and the concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children can foster all children growing to their full potential; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, in 1971 The Week of the Young Child™ was established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world’s largest early childhood education association; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners along with Safelight and other youth-serving agencies of Henderson County are collaborating for public attention to focus on child abuse and ways to improve opportunities for our children and their families. Therefore, we hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and Week of the Young Child and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby supporting early childhood programs and preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Adopted this 16th day of March 2022.

Vice-Chair McCall made the motion to adopt the Proclamation as present. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

INFORMAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Beatrice Park – spoke in opposition to the County funding the Flat Rock Playhouse, due to their vaccination mandate.
2. James Lyon – Stated that he had applied to serve on the Animal Services Advisory Committee and spoke to his professional experience working with animals.
3. Jane Bilello - spoke in opposition to the County funding the Flat Rock Playhouse due to their vaccination mandate.

PUBLIC INPUT – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

There was no public input.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hill requested that Consent Agenda Item E be moved to the first Discussion Item.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

The CONSENT AGENDA consisted of the following:

Approval of Minutes

Draft minutes were presented for Board review and approval of the following meeting:
 March 7, 2022 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Motion:

I move the Board approve the minutes of March 7, 2022.

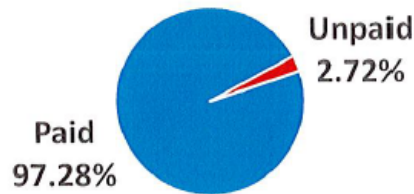
Tax Collector’s Report

The report from the office of the Tax Collector was provided for the Board’s information.

Please find outlined below collections information through March 9, 2022 for 2021 real and personal property bills mailed on August 27th. Vehicles taxes are billed monthly by NC DMV.

Henderson County Annual Bills (Real and Personal Property):

2021 Beginning Charge:	\$88,218,513.92
Discoveries & Imm. Irreg.:	\$1,251,683.00
Releases & Refunds:	(\$333,818.28)
<u>Net Charge:</u>	<u>\$89,136,378.64</u>
Unpaid Taxes:	\$2,427,592.10
Amount Collected:	\$86,708,786.54



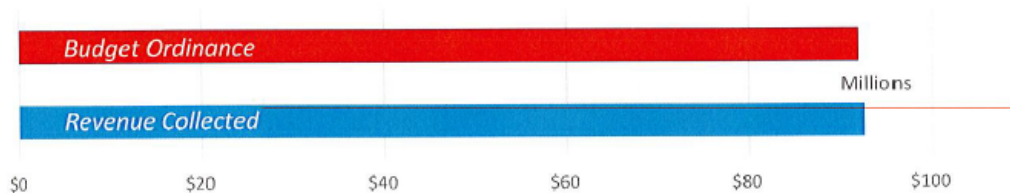
Henderson County Registered Motor Vehicles (As Collected by NC DMV):

Net Charge:	\$5,300,457.35
Unpaid Taxes:	\$10,871.75
Amount Collected:	\$5,289,585.60

99.79%

Henderson County FY22 Budget Analysis:

	<u>Budget Ordinance</u>	<u>Revenue Collected</u>
Ad Valorem:	\$91,127,728.00	\$91,998,372.14
Prior Years:	\$980,000.00	\$707,528.54
Budget Total:	\$92,107,728.00	YTD Revenue: \$92,705,900.68



Request to Apply for Grant Funding for Henderson County Rail Trail Project

In 2020, the Board of Commissioners successfully secured over \$5 million in STBG-DA (Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable) grant funding for sections A-C of the Rail Trail from the French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO). The County has the opportunity to apply for additional funding through STBG and other grant opportunities in the coming months.

Staff is researching multiple grants that the Rail Trail may qualify for and requested the Board direct staff to explore these options. These grant options require a 20% match from the local government. No matching funds are required until the project is implemented and only as the work is completed. The Board of Commissioners has the ability to not accept an awarded grant if they so choose.

Motion:

I move that the Board authorize staff through June 30, 2023, to submit grant applications and all necessary documents including the 20% match requirement documentation for engineering and construction of the remaining unfunded rail trail phases.

Award of Formal Bid DSS Computer Workstations

The Board was requested to approve the bid and authorize staff to proceed with the procurement of sixty-seven computer workstations. Bidding was conducted between January 05, 2022, and February 11, 2022. The bidder with the lowest responsive, responsible bid was Dell for a total price pre-tax of \$121,126.62. Trafera, LLC was the lowest bid at \$110,751 pre-tax; however, they did not meet specifications for warranty and replacement requirements.

Sixty-Seven computer replacements were approved for the Department of Social Services as part of the FY2022 Information Technology listing. \$147,400 was budgeted in the FY2022 Budget for the purchase of these computer workstations.

Motion:

I move the Henderson County Board of Commissioners to accept the lowest responsive, responsible bid from Dell and authorize Henderson County staff to proceed with the purchase of sixty-seven computer workstations in the amount of \$121,126.62.

2022.33 American Rescue Plan – Adoption of Policies and Procedures

The Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan was issued on January 6, 2022. That final rule contains a number of regulations that local governments must follow when expending Federal Funds, including a variety of policies and procedures. Staff is in the process of developing those policies and procedures and will bring those to the Board for adoption once finalized.

Attached are required policies that have been drafted and reviewed by Finance and the County Attorney. The Board is requested to review the policies drafted by Staff and adopt them as presented.

Motion:

I move the Board adopt the Federal Award Policies on Records Retention as presented.

Chairman Lapsley made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as amended. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION**Selection for Engineering Services Clear Creek (Edneyville) Sewer Discharge Permit**

Chairman Lapsley requested that he be recused from this item, as he has a family member involved in the submittal. *Vice-Chair McCall made the motion that Chairman Lapsley be recused from this discussion item. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

As directed by the Board during the February 7, 2022 meeting, staff released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services to assist the County with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit application. The application will be for the proposed wastewater treatment plant discharging into Clear Creek located in Edneyville. The plant will be part of the proposed Clear Creek (Edneyville) Sewer System. The RFQ was compliant with the American Rescue Plan Act.

In accordance with NC General Statute 143-64.31 (Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Surveying Services), staff developed a RFQ and on March 4, 2022, posted it on the County's website and advertised in local newspapers. The responses were received by March 15, 2022.

The Selection Committee for the Engineering services consisted of Facility Services Director Andrew Griffin, County Engineer Marcus Jones, Vice-Chair Rebecca McCall and Commissioner David Hill. They had reviewed the proposal received which was from WGLA Engineering, along with a team WGLA had assembled for this project which included CDM Smith and Clear Creek Environmental.

There was brief discussion of the fact that only one firm had submitted proposals, but with the tight time frame on the permit and the extensive advertisement that had been done to solicit firms, the Board was comfortable making the selection.

Upon Board approval, staff will negotiate an agreement with the selected firm and bring the agreement back to the Board for approval. The cost estimate for the services is estimated at \$225,000.

Motion:

Commissioner Edney made the motion that the Board approve the selection of WGLA Engineering as the most qualified responding firm to assist with the NPDES permit application for the Clear Creek wastewater treatment plant. All voted in favor and the motion carried 4-0.

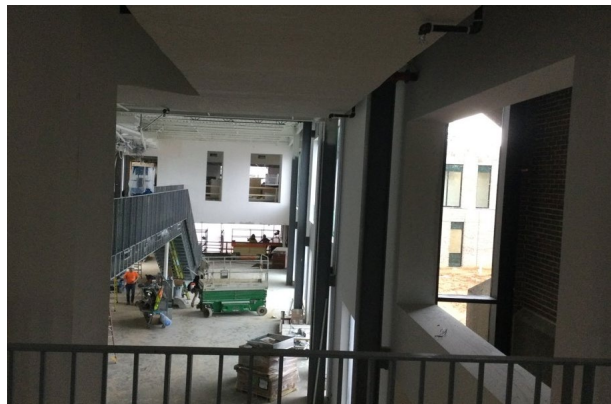
Construction Projects Updates

David Berry provided the Board of Commissioners with an update on the following construction projects around Henderson County. This monthly report was a review of the scope and statuses of assigned construction management responsibilities and includes specific updates in regard to County funded construction activities.

BRCC Patton Building

All trade work is ongoing and, in some areas, nearing completion. Two large clumps of trees in front of the new building had been removed so the building could be seen. That work was absorbed within the landscaping budget and being performed by a local contractor. The project remains on time and under budget.







BRCC POPAT

The POPAT building is almost complete. The HVAC unit and main electrical switchgear that had been on backorder had arrived and been installed and was awaiting Duke Energy for permanent power. Once the permanent power was installed, the facility would be turned over to BRCC. The project was completed within budget.

Hendersonville High School

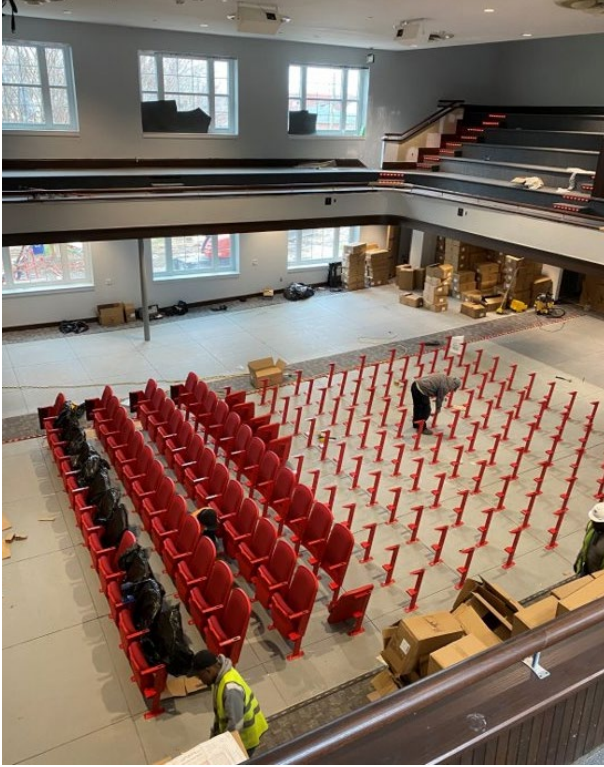
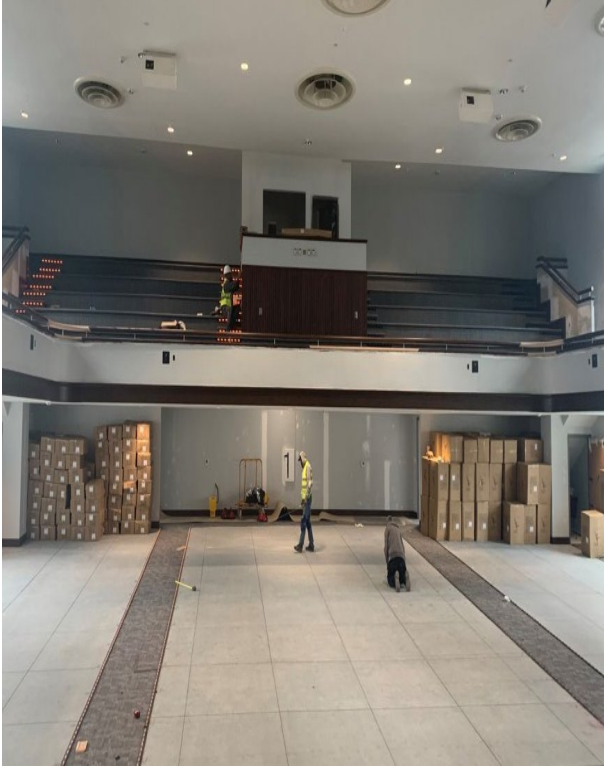
The large majority of the brick veneer exterior of Stillwell had been completed. Masonry work is now focused on completing the new emergency stair towers and rear portico area. Stillwell interior work continues with work inclusive of all trades. The auditorium is scheduled to be completed in time for the spring play, scheduled for April 28, 29 and 30.

The work in the basement area, the old boiler room, is also being completed with the designed perimeter floor drain trenches, the sump pump cavity structure and pumps are now installed. Work in the open courtyard area and behind Stillwell is scheduled to continue as soon as stair towers and portico walls are completed.

The work on the athletic field is well underway with the installation of the new 48” storm drain under the field now complete. The removal of the subgrade from the entire field and the asphalt has all been completed with only minor grading remaining. The turf company will be on-site on March 21st, and that work is estimated to take approximately three months.









Henderson County Public Schools MRTS

The Maintenance Warehouse Building located at the HCPS Upward Road Maintenance offices was bid on September 2nd. The project was awarded to Cooper Construction. The pre-engineered building has been ordered and site work has begun with grading now complete, and foundations started. That project is scheduled to be completed by June 2022.



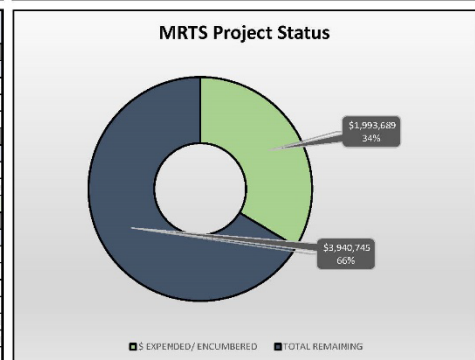
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES

HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
February, 2022

Detailed Project Report

PROJECT	FY22 BOC APPROVED	\$ EXPENDED/ ENCUMBERED	% EXPENDED/ ENCUMBERED	PROJECT STATUS	TOTAL REMAINING
Elementary Schools					
PV-1 Etowah - Paving	\$ 50,000	\$ 53,660	107%	In Progress	\$ (3,660)
PV-1 Hendersonville - Paving	\$ 70,000	\$ 67,205	96%	In Progress	\$ 2,795
ES-4 Upward - Entrance/Cafeteria	\$ 702,000	\$ 46	0%	Not Started	\$ 701,954
Middle Schools					
SC-1 Security Cameras	\$ 350,000	\$ 226,290	65%	In Progress	\$ 123,710
PV-1 Apple Valley - Paving	\$ 40,000	\$ 79,830	200%	In Progress	\$ (39,830)
MS-7 Rugby - Main Entrance	\$ 298,010	\$ 293,745	99%	Complete	\$ 4,265
High Schools					
SC-1 Security Cameras	\$ 400,000	\$ 315,525	79%	In Progress	\$ 84,475
RF-1 East - Gym Roof Replacement	\$ 200,000	\$ 147,565	74%	In Progress	\$ 52,435
HS-2 North - Paving	\$ 130,000	\$ 93,250	72%	In Progress	\$ 36,750
HS-4 West - Paving	\$ 95,000	\$ 57,012	60%	In Progress	\$ 37,988
HS-5 West - Y - Hall Classroom Roofs	\$ 95,000	\$ 150,640	159%	In Progress	\$ (55,640)
HS-6 West - V - Hall Classroom Roofs	\$ 80,000	\$ 99,210	124%	In Progress	\$ (19,210)
HS-7 West - Renovations and Additions	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	0%	Not Started	\$ 2,000,000
System Wide Projects					
SW-3 Contingency	\$ 384,674	\$ -	0%	Not Started	\$ 384,674
SW-4 Project Empower Chromebooks	\$ 300,000	\$ -	0%	Not Started	\$ 300,000
PVAE-1 Paving A&E Services	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,500	104%	In Progress	\$ (500)
MW-1 Maintenance Warehouse A&E	\$ 21,000	\$ 22,281	106%	In Progress	\$ (1,281)
MW-2 Maintenance Warehouse	\$ 350,000	\$ 343,390	98%	In Progress	\$ 6,610
AERF-1 Roofing A&E	\$ 29,750	\$ 29,540	99%	In Progress	\$ 210
BG-1 Bus Garage Planning & Design	\$ 325,000	\$ -	0%	Not Started	\$ 325,000
TOTAL	\$ 5,934,434	\$ 1,993,689	34%	---	\$ 3,940,745

At A Glance - Summary Report



FY22 BOC APPROVED	\$5,934,434
EXPENDED/ENCUMBERED	\$1,993,689
TOTAL REMAINING	\$3,940,745

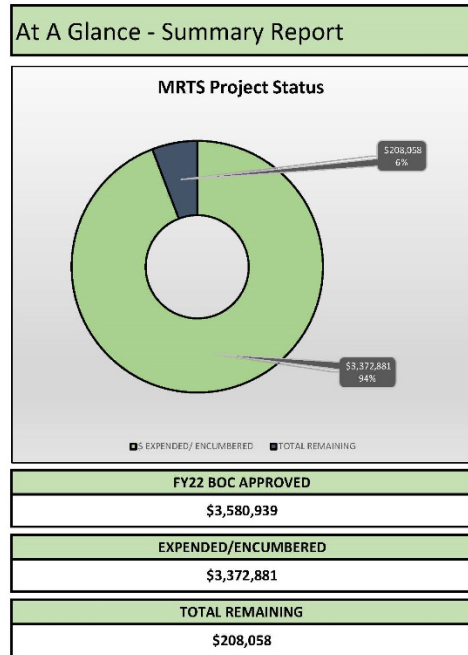
Blue Ridge Community College MRTS



FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR, TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY INITIATIVES

BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
February, 2022

Detailed Project Report					
PROJECT	FY22 BOC APPROVED	\$ EXPENDED/ ENCUMBERED	% EXPENDED/ ENCUMBERED	PROJECT STATUS	TOTAL REMAINING
Flat Rock Building					
FR-1 Classroom and Office Furniture	\$ 338,576	\$ 282,816	84%	In Progress	\$ 55,760
CE-6 Restroom Renovation	\$ 44,263	\$ 44,263	100%	Complete	\$ -
FR-2 Replace Carpet - 1st Floor	\$ 50,186	\$ 45,673	91%	Complete	\$ 4,513
Killian					
K-1 Replace Chiller	\$ 122,660	\$ 121,339	99%	Complete	\$ 1,321
Sink					
SNK-1 Cosmetology Dispensary	\$ 40,000	\$ 33,338	83%	In Progress	\$ 6,662
SNK-2 Boiler Repair	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,541	95%	In Progress	\$ 459
Spearman					
SP-1 Metal Gates	\$ 7,500	\$ 6,864	92%	In Progress	\$ 636
SP-2 Metal Door	\$ 30,000	\$ 33,001	110%	In Progress	\$ (3,001)
SP-3 Concrete Pad	\$ 70,000	\$ 66,206	95%	In Progress	\$ 3,794
SP-4 Upgrade Power	\$ 75,000	\$ 90,110	120%	In Progress	\$ (15,110)
SP-5 Replace Boiler	\$ 80,000	\$ 63,293	79%	In Progress	\$ 16,707
SP-6 Welding Storage	\$ 98,500	\$ 115,830	118%	Not Started	\$ (17,330)
SP-7 Machine Shop HVAC	\$ 100,000	\$ 145,633	146%	In Progress	\$ (45,633)
Health Sciences Center					
HS-1 Paint 1st Floor Offices	\$ 35,000	\$ 32,255	92%	Not Started	\$ 2,745
Henderson Building					
IS-5 Recast Roof	\$ 124,400	\$ 104,000	84%	In Progress	\$ 20,400
Campus Wide Improvements					
CW-1 Wayfinding Signage	\$ 96,000	\$ -	0%	In Progress	\$ 96,000
CW-2 Pavement and Parking Lot Repair	\$ 267,554	\$ 244,078	91%	In Progress	\$ 23,476
Technology Education & Development					
TEDC-1 Replace Chiller	\$ 180,000	\$ 123,340	69%	In Progress	\$ 56,660
Additional Classroom Space					
FC-3 Patton Project Debt Service	\$ 1,811,300	\$ 1,811,300	100%	In Progress	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 3,580,939	\$ 3,372,881	94%	---	\$ 208,058



VFW

McMillian, Pazden and Smith had done some preliminary design work to provide the Board with scope and cost estimates. An RFQ for architectural design work that would be in compliance with requirements necessary for American Rescue Plan funding has been posted, and responses are due on March 30th.

95 Courthouse and Detention Center


The initial study was performed, completed and presented to the Board by Fentress Architects. Following the presentation in January 2022, the Board had directed staff to proceed with the project. An RFQ for architectural services was subsequently posted on January 26th. Fentress Inc was selected as the most qualified firm, and a pricing proposal will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.

Rails to Trails

Chris Todd updated the Board on the progress of the Rail Trail project. There had been a public clean-up day to clear some of the miscellaneous items left after the rails and ties were removed. A brief video was shown of a section of the trail that had been cleared. John Mitchell also noted that as the General Assembly undertook technical corrections to the State budget, an additional \$7.5M had been designated for trail construction.

Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update

Autumn Radcliff provided the Board with an update on the Henderson County 2045 Comprehensive Plan. We are currently still in Phase II of the plan, which involves meeting with local community groups to get their feedback. Work with the consultant behind the scenes remains ongoing. A summary of the results of the survey, requested by the Board, had been completed. Although additional surveys were still being received, with the count now at 6,834 (as of March 15th), nothing recently received had an impact on the summary that had been drafted.



HENDERSON COUNTY 2045

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

PHASE 2

The comprehensive plan is a detailed plan that will take 18 months to complete. The process is broken into three phases. Phase 2 began in January and is anticipated to run through the end of summer 2022.

Phase 3 will begin in the early fall when the plan is drafted.

MARCH 2022 UPDATES

RECENT PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Staff presented information to the Hendersonville Lions Club
- Staff worked with the County's Recreation Advisory Board on drafting goals pertaining to their specialty.
- Staff conducted a stakeholder meeting with the County's Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors to ensure the comprehensive plan's agricultural goals accurately reflect the current issues of the industry
 - Information from other agriculture groups has already been collected.

STEERING COMMITTEE

- The Steering Committee received draft goals at their February meeting and sent staff comments and revisions that will be presented at their March 17th meeting.
- Stewart Consultants will attend their March 17th meeting to further their vision and goals discussion.
- Steering Committee meetings are open to everyone and the public is encouraged to attend.

SURVEY

- All survey results from multiple-choice questions are available as graphs online at www.HendersonCounty2045.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOC UPDATE

- Stewart Inc. will provide an update to the Board of Commissioners at one of their meetings in April.

ONGOING PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Staff's intern crafted a public engagement strategy that includes a demographic analysis, a database of potential community partners, and an action plan for maximum public participation.
- County staff are in the process of meeting with various internal boards and committees as well as active local clubs and organizations.

Bat Fork Creek and French Broad River State Allocation Request

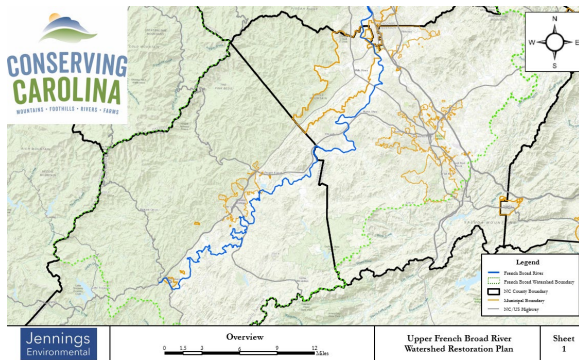
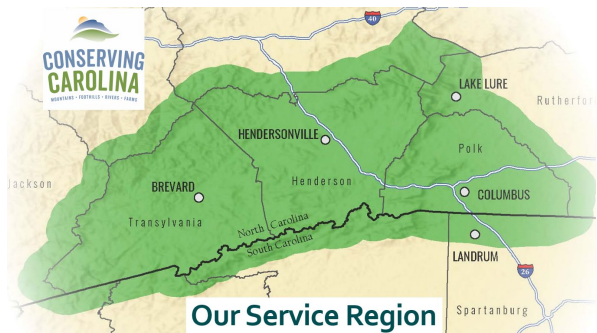
Henderson County received funding through the State of North Carolina budget for stream restoration projects on Bat Fork Creek and the French Broad River. Kieran Roe with Conserving Carolina provided an overview of potential stream restoration projects within those areas.

Disaster Resiliency in Henderson County: Floodplain Restoration in the Upper French Broad River Watershed

Kieran Roe, Executive Director
Conserving Carolina
March 16, 2022



for over a Decade of Partnership!



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

SENATE BILL 105
RATIFIED BILL

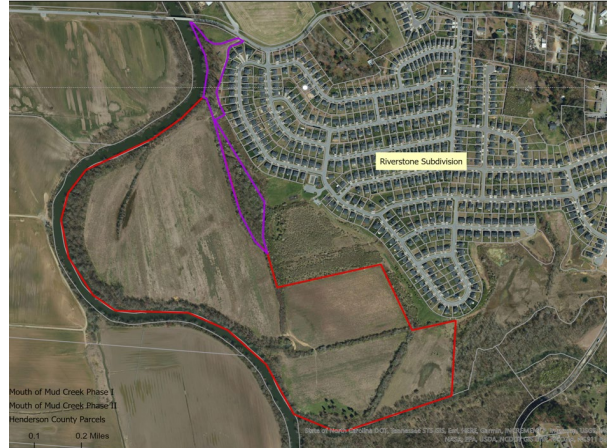
AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 5.7.(b) This section is effective June 30, 2021.

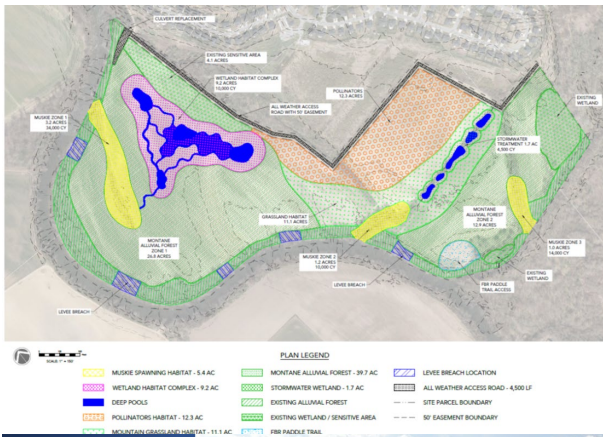
2021 DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY/MITIGATION/RESILIENCY
SECTION 5.9.(a) Allocations. – The funds appropriated in Section 2.2.(i) of this act for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and resiliency shall be allocated as follows:

- (30) \$32,342,000 to the Department of Public Safety to provide directed grants to the following entities in the following amounts:
 - i. \$1,000,000 to Henderson County for a flood resilience project on the French Broad River at Pleasant Grove.
 - o. \$950,000 to Henderson County for the Bat Fork stream restoration and flood resilience project.

Mouth of Mud Creek Phase I & II



Restoration: Grading and Construction



Backwater Slough into French Broad River



Sloughs: Habitat for Muskie and other Aquatic Species



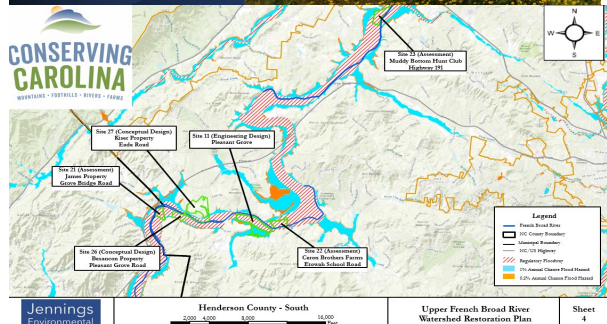
Wildlife at Mouth of Mud Creek Site

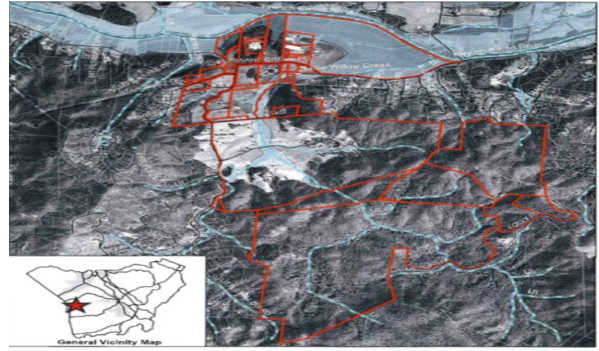
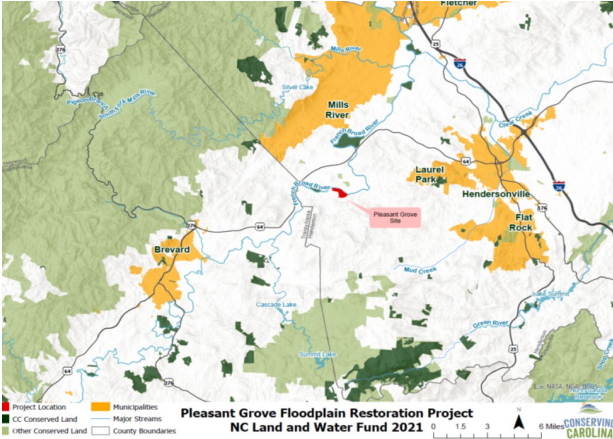


Pollinator Meadow



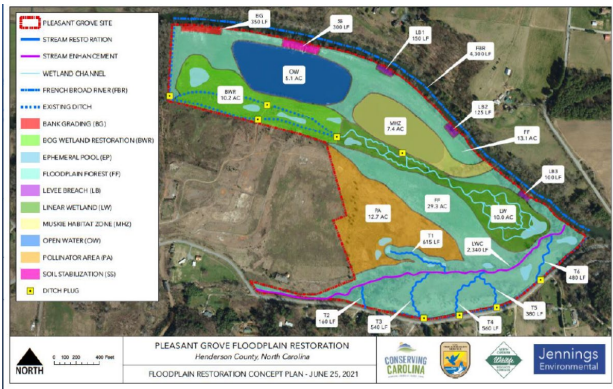
Braided Wetland Controlling Runoff from Adjacent Properties





Seven Falls Golf & River Club
 DEVELOPER & OWNER: Mountain Development Company, LLC
 ZONING: OLI
 WATERSHED: None
 WATER SYSTEM: Private Well and/or Community
 SEWER SYSTEM: Private Septic and/or Community
 ROAD SYSTEM: Private

Map Created by the Henderson County Planning Department on 4/2/21
 (Use Address Only for exact location of project and more information)



Expense	
Design and Engineering	\$90,000
Permitting	\$60,000
Construction	\$640,000
Vegetation and Plantings	\$50,000
Trail/River Access Development	\$60,000
Educational Signage	\$10,000
Long-Term Conservation	\$50,000
Project Management	\$40,000
Total Expense	\$1,000,000

Bat Fork Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project Goals:

1. Restore Water Quality and Natural Habitat along a 2,000-foot section of Bat Fork Creek, a tributary to Mud Creek.
2. Create a recreational trail and nature preserve for the enjoyment and benefit of residents of Dodd Meadows.
3. Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation into the impaired Mud Creek Watershed.
4. Convert a Degraded, Weed-Infested Eyesore into a Beautiful Community Amenity.
5. Create an Opportunity for Nature Education Programs and Volunteer Involvement for the Children and Families of Dodd Meadows.



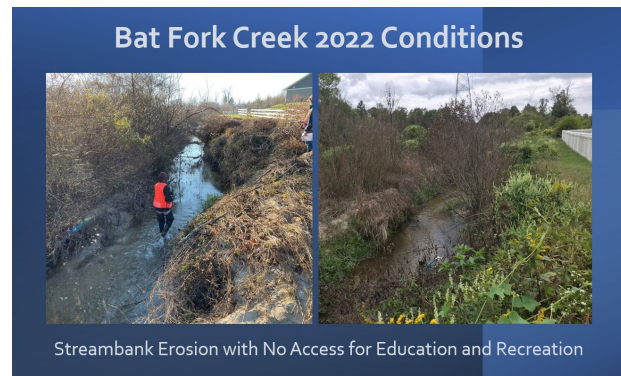
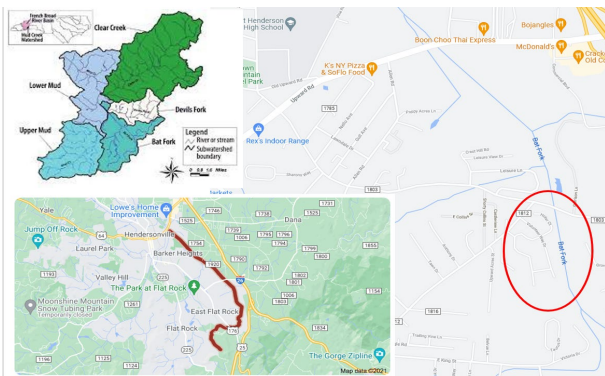
Dodd Meadows on Bat Fork Creek:

Dodd Meadows is the latest Habitat for Humanity community development in Henderson County. It is located at the corner of Crest Road and East Blue Ridge Rd in East Flat Rock, NC, making it close to schools, churches, shopping, and community resources.

Dodd Meadows, once completed, will serve as the home for 114 families and an estimated 400 children. Many of these children will be the first generation to grow up in a home owned by their family.

Begun in January 2013, this community will consist of two-, three-, and four-bedroom homes, and will be open to senior citizens and those with disabilities as well as to families. As is true of all Henderson County Habitat for Humanity Homes, Dodd Meadows homes are designed to meet the highest standards of energy, efficiency, and safety.

Dodd Meadows will consist of park areas, playgrounds, sidewalks, walking trails, ponds, and bright cottage architectural homes.



Streambank Erosion with No Access for Education and Recreation

Bat Fork Creek Ecosystem Restoration Plan

- 2000 Feet of Stream Stabilization for Water Quality and Safety
- Native Plants for Wildlife
- Educational and Recreational Opportunities

Expense	
Design and Engineering	\$85,000
Permitting	\$60,000
Construction	\$560,000
Vegetation and Plantings	\$65,000
Trail Development	\$30,000
Educational Signage	\$5,000
Long-Term Trail and Habitat Management	\$50,000
Long-Term Conservation	\$45,000
Education and Community Programs	\$25,000
Project Management	\$25,000
Total Expense	\$950,000



Streambank Erosion with No Access for Education and Recreation

BRCC Facility Update and Workforce Presentation

Dr. Laura Leatherwood, President of Blue Ridge Community College, provided the Board with an update on college facilities, and a presentation of workforce development efforts at the college.

Apprenticeship Programs

- Currently offer apprenticeship programs in **automotive, business & banking, electrical, and manufacturing.**
- Coming in 2023: **horticulture, welding, plumbing, and public safety.**





HOW WE WILL GET THERE

-  Staffing
-  Facilities
-  Students ✓



HOW WE WILL GET THERE: FACILITIES




FACILITIES



Facilities Master Plan

- Student Union (Replacement of Killian and Henderson Buildings)
- Maintenance Building
- Town of Fletcher Classroom Building


Health Sciences Center



HOW WE WILL GET THERE: STAFF




HOW WE WILL GET THERE: STUDENTS



Questions

Email: leatherwood@blueridge.edu
Phone: 828.694.1705



EDUCATION ELEVATED

BlueRidge
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
blueridge.edu

Dr. Leatherwood noted that the two biggest challenges facing the College are staffing and facilities. Chairman Lapsley asked about the issue with facilities, particularly expansion in Fletcher, given that the new Patton Building was about to come on-line. Dr. Leatherwood explained to remain competitive as a County, it is going to be strategically important that BRCC be positioned in that growing area. She stated that long term investment needs to be in Fletcher. Chairman Lapsley stated that the Board had recently received a letter from the Fletcher Mayor indicating the Town was interested in BRCC expanding into the area. The Chairman suggested he and Vice-Chair McCall, along with Dr. Leatherwood, meet with the Mayor to discuss what opportunities we might want to explore. It was the consensus of the Board to have the Chair and Vice-Chair begin that conversation.

Beaver Management Assistance Program

The North Carolina Beaver Management Assistance Program was established in 1992 to address the public health and safety issues arising from the wild beavers, as well as minimize the property damage caused by their behavior. BMAP is primarily administered through the USDA Wildlife Service in conjunction with the NC Wildlife Service Resource Commission, the NC Department of Transportation, and participating counties. Funding for BMAP comes from NCWRC, the NC Department of Transportation, USDA-Wildlife Services, participating counties, and cost-share collections from private landowners.

Henderson County has participated in the Beaver Management Assistance Program in previous years. This program is a cost-share program and is managed through the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Citizens who elect to participate in the program are able to take advantage of a much lower cost for dealing with beaver management. Henderson County’s share of the program is \$6,000. The program year begins October 1, 2022 and runs through September 30, 2023. It was the consensus of the Board to get additional information about the program and include as part of FY23 budget discussions.

The North Carolina Beaver Management Assistance Program

Origin & Purpose

- ▶ The North Carolina Beaver Management Assistance Program was established in 1992 to address the public health and safety issues arising from the wild beavers, as well as minimize the property damage caused by their behavior.

Sources of Funding

Wildlife Services
Protecting People | Protecting Agriculture | Protecting Wildlife

- ▶ BMAP is primarily administered through the USDA Wildlife Service in conjunction with the NC Wildlife Service Resource Commission, the NC Department of Transportation, and participating counties. Funding for BMAP comes from NCWRC, the NC Department of Transportation, USDA-Wildlife Services, participating counties, and cost-share collections from private landowners.


Cost to Residents

- ▶ Residents of participating jurisdictions have access to below-market price services administered by the USDA Wildlife Service. The cost-sharing collection fee for these residents is \$25 per visit and, if necessary, \$125 per dam removal.

Program Participation

- ▶ Counties can participate in the program with a \$6,000 yearly service fee. The County may choose to work with USDA Wildlife Services to provide additional services.

Return on Investment



- ▶ According to BMAP, during the 2020-2021 period, every dollar of spending on beaver management translated to \$6.42 of avoided property and infrastructure damage. These savings came in the form of protected natural resources such as timber and crops, as well as reduced maintenance costs on public infrastructure such as roads/bridges and public utilities.

Broadband Discussion

The North Carolina Budget has appropriated \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the GREAT Grant program. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opened January 31st, and applications are due April 4th.

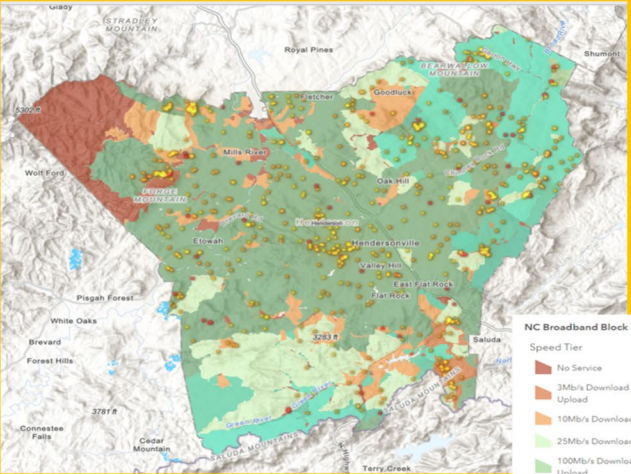
Awards can be made within eligible economically distressed counties in areas unserved with broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical. The program encourages partnerships with counties, nonprofits or other internet service providers. Grants require matching investments from private broadband provider grantees, leveraging funding to deploy infrastructure to N.C. households, businesses, and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state.

Chris Todd presented the following information. He noted that the red areas on the below map indicate no service, while the green and blue areas indicate underserved areas. He noted that one problem with the map is that it is grouped by census tracts, and that different households within those census tracts may experience very different broadband access. The second map indicates areas that are either ineligible, a high priority, or potentially eligible. Because Henderson County is a Tier 3 county, the entirety of the County cannot be supported by the GREAT Grant. It can only be used in Henderson County to serve rural areas.

Henderson County

Data in the North Carolina portal to represent unserved areas will become increasingly important

ncbroadband.gov



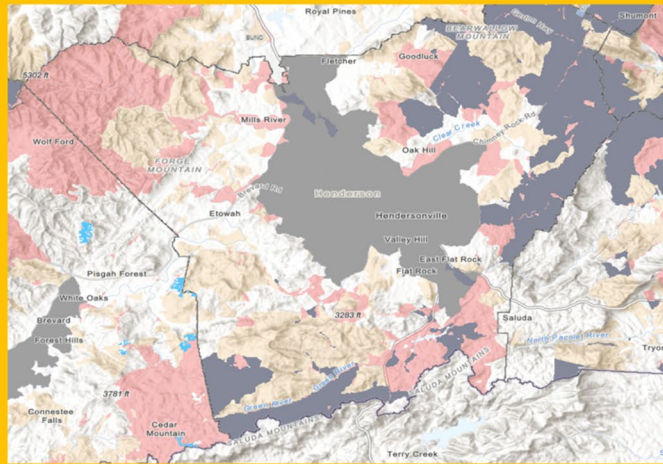
Speed Tier
No Service
3Mb/s Download and 768 kb/s Upload
10Mb/s Download and 1Mb/s Upload
25Mb/s Download and 3Mb/s Upload
100Mb/s Download and 3Mb/s Upload
300Mb/s Download and 10Mb/s Upload

GREAT Eligibility

Grey areas ineligible

Red areas high priority

Tan areas- potentially eligible by address



North Carolina is putting ~\$1 billion of ARPA funds (and \$30 million of state funds) towards broadband and digital inclusion. Goals of these programs will be to get 98% of North Carolina at least 100/20 Mbps

• Infrastructure

- GREAT Grant- \$350M
- Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)- \$400M
- Stop Gap Solutions- \$90M
- Make Ready Accelerator (Pole Replacement)- \$100M

GREAT GRANT- Federal

- [N.C. Session Law 2021-180](#) appropriates \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the GREAT Grant program. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opens Jan. 31, and applications are due April 4.
- Awards can be made within eligible economically-distressed counties in areas unserved with broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical. The program encourages partnerships with counties, nonprofits or other internet service providers. Grants require matching investments from private broadband provider grantees, leveraging funding to deploy infrastructure to N.C. households, businesses and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state.
- A single grant award shall not exceed \$4 million. No combination of grant awards involving any single county may exceed \$8 million in a fiscal year. The maximum matching requirement is 50 percent.

Only broadband providers are eligible to apply for GREAT Grant funding, but providers can seek the support of local governments to endorse those applications. The Board has the option to endorse applications without any sort of financial contribution, but also has the option to provide some sort of financial support, potentially utilizing ARP funding. The GREAT Grant has \$350 million available, and Henderson County would be limited to \$8 million that providers could seek.

Mr. Todd noted that applications are due April 4th, and he anticipates three providers possibly making application. Each applicant can only receive up to \$4 million, so in theory two providers could receive full funding through the State. Following additional discussion about how the Board might wish to support the applications, the consensus was to hold a special called meeting including closed session for the providers to present information to the Board that is protected by trademark.

Motion:

Commissioner Andreotta made the motion to schedule a special called meeting that will include closed session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 6:00pm to hear from broadband providers seeking County support for GREAT Grant applications. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

2022.34 FY 2023 Consolidated Agreement - NC Department of Health & Human Services (NC DHHS)

The Henderson County Department of Public Health requested approval of the Consolidated Agreement with the NC Department of Health & Human Services for FY 2023. This agreement is presented to the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis. Services are required to be provided by the Health Department, and the agreement allows for funding for those services from the federal government. The required signatures include a County Official (Chairman of Board of Commissioners or County Manager), County Finance Officer, and Health Director (see page 17 and 18). There are no significant changes with the agreement requirements as compared to the FY 2022 Consolidated Agreement. The Summary of Changes document highlights the changes for FY 2023.

The Henderson County Board of Health reviewed and approved the proposed agreement at their February 8, 2022, meeting with guidance to forward the agreement to the Henderson County Board of Commissioners for their consideration and final approval.

The document was also shared with the County Attorney and County Finance Director.

Motion:

Commissioner Edney made the motion to approve the FY 2023 Consolidated Agreement between the NC Department of Health & Human Services and the Henderson County Department of Public Health. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

2022. 35 State Capital Investment Fund (SCIF)

At the March 7, 2022 meeting, the Board approved a grant application for State Capital Investment Fund (SCIF) grants. The County had received that grant, and Staff is requesting the Board approve a budget amendment for those grants, which will be used to partially fund playground equipment at Jackson Park (\$200,000) and soccer fields (\$300,000). With regard to the Playground equipment, the Board had previously approved the playground design consultant, with a contract to be approved April 4th. A ribbon cutting could be anticipated just prior to Labor Day.

Motion:

Chairman Lapsley made a motion the Board approve the application for the use of SCIF Grant funding to partially fund playground equipment at Jackson Park (\$200,000) and soccer fields (\$300,000). All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Animal Services Advisory Committee – 1 vac.
Chairman Lapsley nominated James Lyons for appointment to position #5. All voted in favor and the motion carried.
2. Child Protection and Fatality Prevention Team – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
3. EMS Peer Review Committee – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
4. Henderson County Board of Equalization and Review – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
5. Henderson County Tourism Development Authority – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
6. Hendersonville Planning Board – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
7. Hendersonville City Zoning Board of Adjustment – 1 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
8. Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
9. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council – 2 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.
10. Nursing/Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – 10 vac.
There were no nominations, and this item was rolled to the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Edney joined Commissioner Hill in recognizing Bill Patterson, who had passed away last week. He was a local surveyor and an icon in the industry, who will be missed by the community.

Vice-Chair McCall stated that the next Litter Sweep event will be held in mid-April. There is a lot on debris on the side of the roads and this is a great opportunity to clean it up for the spring and summer.

Chairman Lapsley noted that he had attended the third session of the Leadership Forum for Western NC, where they had good discussion about affordable housing issues in the region. There are two more meetings scheduled.

Chairman Lapsley also noted that he had attended a recent drug bust with the Sheriff's Department and expressed his appreciation for the work they did and are doing to keep drugs out of Henderson County. He urged the community to remember that if you see something, say something. Citizen involvement helps the Sheriff's Department in their mission.

Commissioner Edney stated that with respect to Shepherd's Funeral Home, the receivership would be in place once the judge's order was signed. The parties involved had agreed to the receivership, and in the meantime, services were still being conducted with the cooperation of partners in the County.

Vice-Chair McCall noted that Denisa Lauffer was absent from today's meeting, as she was at the annual Clerk's Conference. Also at that meeting was former Clerk to the Board Terry Wilson, who was receiving an award from the Association.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

County Manager John Mitchell noted that the General Assembly had met on technical corrections to the State Budget. For Henderson County, the impact included both additional funding for the Rail Trail project, as well as funding for our local farmers for crop damage. The short session would begin in May.

He thanked the members of the Joint Schools Facilities Meeting for setting aside time on March 21, 2022 at 10:00am, to discuss upcoming MRTS projects. He noted the We Are Hope event that was held last week with the participating students from the Henderson County middle and high schools and stated that he would be in touch regarding a ribbon cutting for the POPAT at BRCC.

IMPORTANT DATES

There was no discussion.

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(3)(4) and (5).

1. To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. §143-318.11(a)(3)
2. To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. §143-318.11(a)(4)
3. To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease §143-318.11(a)(5)

Commissioner Edney made to motion to go out of closed session and adjourn at 12:50p.m. All voted in favor and the motion carried 5-0.

Amy Brantley, Acting Clerk to the Board

William Lapsley, Chairman