

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(6)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: January 20, 2009

TITLE: A Request to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing Submission of a 319 Grant Application for Watershed Restoration

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING YES _ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS A. Resolution B. Grant Proposal	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Randy Dodd – 918-7326 Patricia McGuire – 918-7327

PURPOSE

In 2008, the Board of Aldermen approved a successful cooperative grant application with Chapel Hill for watershed restoration under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act, through the NC Division of Water Quality and EPA. The purpose of this agenda item is to request BOA approval for a new 319 application from the Town to continue to pursue watershed restoration efforts. Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution that authorizes staff to submit the grant proposal.

INFORMATION

Town staff have continued to work with the Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team and other local stakeholders to pursue projects that help improve the water quality and ecological integrity of Bolin Creek. This direction is an outcome of long term watershed stewardship interests, and specific results of the study funded from a Clean Water Management Trust Fund sponsored study in 2007 that prioritized sites and recommended pursual of 319 funds. As a follow up to the successful grant application submitted in 2008 to pursue watershed restoration efforts, staff have identified two potential projects to pursue, as summarized below. In addition to NCSU, staff have worked with Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools, Friends of Bolin Creek, and other BCWRT members to develop the attached proposal. Staff have also contacted residential landowners along Dry Gulch to inform them of this potential project.

Submittal of this proposal would:

1. Continue the cooperation amongst all members of the BCWRT, with core support from the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, North Carolina State University (NCSU), and NCDENR.
2. Demonstrate Carrboro's restoration commitment to BCWRT team members and the community-at-large.
3. Include three components: 1) installation of a cistern and bioretention area at McDougle School (with associated curriculum integration and community outreach/education); 2) streambank stabilization/restoration along a short section of Dry Gulch; 3) continuing to

monitor runoff from Pacifica to measure the effectiveness of stormwater management and LID practices.

4. Complement the current 319 project that includes most notably in Carrboro, restoration and stormwater management at Baldwin Park; creation of a demonstration rain garden; completion of a comprehensive 9 step watershed restoration plan; and watershed monitoring to demonstrate measureable improvements from projects and improve baseline information.

STAFF AND FISCAL IMPACT

The proposal has been developed to require no cash match from Carrboro. About 10% of the Environmental Planner's time would be devoted to the project for 2-3 years, beginning in the fall of 2009, with some support from other staff. The federal match requested is \$210k, and the total project value is \$365k.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution (*Attachment A*) that authorizes the submittal of the grant proposal to NCDENR and EPA..