

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION / CONTRACT CONTROL FORM

Tracking Number: _____

4.

Date of Request: January 16, 2008

Date Request Received: January 16, 2008

Board Meeting Date Requested: January 22, 2008

Board Meeting Date Assigned: January 22, 2008

Short Title: Update On Black River Restoration Project And Discussion Regarding Rockfish Creek And Sills Creek

Request Status:

- Request is proceeding to Board of Commissioners
- More information is needed – see attached
- Request on hold – no further information needed
- Other:

Background: In May of 2007, the county responded to a citizen complaint regarding the condition of the Black River and related flooding issues. Jason Turner, Soil and Water Conservation-Pender and Project Lead, along with Bill Bailey, NRCS-Pender, and Jimmy Fields, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, began site visits with representatives from the Division of Water Resources and other state agencies to assess the needs of this river. On August 9, 2007 the county was notified by NCDENR - Division of Water Resources of the appropriation of \$100K in Water Resources Development Grant Funds for a Black River Restoration Project; grant money initiated by Rep. Wright. The grant comes with a 1/3 local match that is not currently budgeted. Since that time, there have been numerous site visits, meetings with myriad state agencies and other related activity to determine project needs and the best course of action. A chronology of significant events is attached.

During this same time period, Wallace approached the County with a request for assistance with Rockfish Creek, due to flooding issues the town was experiencing, which they attributed, to some degree, to storm debris on the Pender County side. Issues were also raised about the condition of Sills Creek and the potential of conditions in Rockfish Creek as a contributing factor.

A chronology of significant project events relating to these issues is attached.

Specific Action Requested: Receive update.

Requested by: Lori Brill
Department: Administration
Title: County Manager
Contact Phone: 259-1200
Contact Fax:

(Administrative Use Only)

CONTRACT TYPE

- Renewal
- For Service(s)
- Intergovernmental – County as Grantee
 - Federal Grantor
 - State Grantor
 - Grantor
- County as Grantor
 - County Funds
 - Other Funds:
- Revision
- For Equipment

PURCHASING

Budgeted Item: Yes No
Date Rec'd: Reviewed and Approved
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:
August 20, 2007

Signed:

ATTORNEY

Reviewed and Approved
Date Rec'd: Legal Problem(s)
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:

Signed:

FINANCE

Sufficient Funds Available Not Available
Date Rec'd: Budget Amendment Necessary
 Budgeted Amendment is Attached
 Comments on Reverse

Date Sent:

Signed:

CLERK

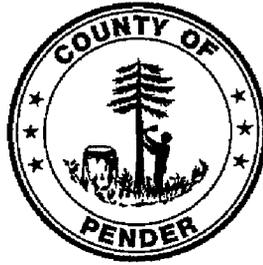
Signature(s) Required:
 Board Chairman/County Manager
 Other:

Date Rec'd Approved by Board: Yes No
At meeting on

County of Pender

Board of Commissioners
J. David Williams, Chairman
Jimmy Tate, Vice-Chairman
Norwood Blanchard
George Brown
F.D. Rivenbark

Lori Brill, County Manager



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January 16, 2008

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Lori Brill, County Manager

Re: Update on Black River Restoration Project

Chronology of Significant Project Events Black River Rockfish Creek

Date	Action	Comments
May 25, 2007	Jason Turner, Soil and Water Conservation District, Bill Bailey, NRCS-Pender, Jeff Burton from the State Div. of Water Resources, Jimmy Fields, and Pete Pridgen tour the Black River to review the condition and assess the needs. Toured from P. Pridgen's home to below Still Bluff Bridge – approx. 6 miles.	According to Jeff Burton from DWR, the issues were navigational; which could be a snag and drag project (cleaned with hand labor and some barge and winch work with minimal disturbance to bank and river);
August 9, 2007	Received notification from NCDENR – Division of Water Resources of the appropriation of \$100K in Water Resources Development grant funds for the Black River Restoration Project.	Requires 1/3 local match (not a budgeted item) based on reimbursement County has until June 30, 2009 to use grant funds. Restoration limited to a snag and drag project (e.g.; a hand project)
August 13, 2007	Jason Turner, Soil and Water Conservation, contacted Jeff Burton from DWR to set up tour of Black River and discuss application process.	A previous site visit by Jeff Burton and staff had determined the issues are navigational issues.
August 22, 2007	Second tour of Black River to view another area with initial crew and two local users.	Put in at Henry's Landing in Bladen County and went past Squalling Bluff to Sandy Bluff.
August 22, 2007	Jason Turner, Bill Bailey and Jimmy Fields take Jeff Burton from DWR on site visit of Rockfish Creek .	Previous site visit of entire stretch of Rockfish Creek indicated that the issues were due to sedimentation, not storm debris. This visit confirmed the sedimentation issue. This is

Date	Action	Comments
		<p>clearly a dredging project, which is extraordinarily difficult to get permitted for, as well as very costly and a challenge for equipment operators.</p> <p>Duplin County SWCD techs visited the creek at the request of Wallace and Duplin county. They also determined that the flow was impeded by sedimentation.</p>
August 27, 2007	Volunteer takes canoe into areas on Black River that were not accessible near The Three Sisters.	
September 10, 2007	Jason initiates contacts with all relevant state permitting agencies to set up a meeting to discuss the project, permitting requirements, and tour the river.	
October 24, 2007	<p>Meeting with all state agencies is held in Pender County; including Wildlife, DWQ, Corps of Engineers, Coastal Management, NRCS and DWR. Most participated in tour of the Black River. Also discussed and viewed slide presentation of Rockfish Creek.</p> <p>Black River is listed as an Outstanding Resource Water of State.</p> <p>There were no significant blockages creating drainage issues noted.</p> <p>Recommended a hydrological study of Rockfish Creek to determine what is causing the flooding.</p> <p>Potentially a storm water issue in Wallace</p> <p>Restrictions for Black River Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Clearing of limited areas • Cannot remove anything from the bottom of the river bed; no stumps, etc. • Can only remove debris that is <u>above the normal water line</u> of the river only if these items create a navigational hazard; • Black River is a scenic river that must be left alone in its natural state; 	<p>Were not able to visit all areas due to boat mechanical issues; consensus of group was for a very limited snag and drag project. Tour of areas Mr. Pridgen expressed concern about were indicated very minor navigational issues but little evidence of project need, according to state agency reps.</p>
Current Status		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with DWR on application process 2. Tour of River on January 22 to

Date	Action	Comments
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GPS Debris Sites and get project cost estimate

Other Related Activities:

Beaver Dam Removal: Sills Creek

- According to Bob Murray, Sills Creek is beaver free from the split at Crooked Run and Sills Creek (as of 3-4 weeks ago); Crooked Run tributary has been cleared; responding to complaints on Rockfish as they occur.
- Bob cautions that with current rainfall beavers are becoming more active.
- According to Bob, the issue on Sills Creek is primarily due to aquatic vegetation.
- Bob will be available for questions.

Development of County Program to Address Ditches and Stream Cleanup

The condition of our rivers, streams and ditches and the flooding the county experiences is as much a stormwater issue as it is an issue with beavers and storm debris. The improvement and maintenance of our waterways requires a multi-faceted approach that is guided by a stormwater management plan. Stormwater runoff causes sedimentation in the rivers, which impedes water flow and feeds aquatic weeds. Consequently, the county will address the development and implementation of a program to address these needs as part of the development of our Stormwater plan.

- Stormwater was identified as one of the BOCC's top priorities for FY 07-08
- Original Stormwater Plan was completed in January 2002, but never implemented.
- Existing plan contains a solid foundation to build upon, but must be updated to incorporate:
 - Review and evaluation of current Pender County ordinances, plans, policies and procedures.
 - Changes in State Stormwater regulations, requiring local compliance by late 2009.
 - BOCC's desire to formalize a local ditch and stream maintenance program that provides for needs evaluation and annual budget supplements.
- Updated plan will provide:
 - Suggested amendments to local ordinances, plans, policies and procedures to incorporate mandated stormwater regulations.
 - Potential maintenance strategies for ditches, streams and waterways, including staffing, equipment and funding resources.
 - Recommendations to improve future stormwater management planning efforts including water quality and water quantity issues (i.e. ordinances, legal authority for implementation of improvements, funding structures and outside funding resources, etc.).
 - Estimated 12 months to completion with a series of public meetings to educate and get feedback on stormwater and flooding related issues.
- Due to technical nature of this project, county has recently completed a Request for Qualifications to invite qualified firms to submit proposals for updating the existing plan. Planning committee reviewing proposals estimates bringing recommendation before the BOC for approval in February.
- Future consideration:
 - Implementation will have budget impact due to staffing and professional needs associated with oversight for this program.
 - Recommend the county explore the creation of stormwater districts as a means to provide adequate and ongoing funding to address the water quality improvement needs countywide.

Aquatic Weed Management

- According to Wayne Batten, there have been no additional actions since the last update.