

# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION / CONTRACT CONTROL FORM

Tracking Number: 14.

Date of Request: May 28, 2008

Date Request Received: May 28, 2008

Board Meeting Date Requested: June 2, 2008

Board Meeting Date Assigned: June 2, 2008

**Short Title:** Discussion Of Drainage Issues : Black River, Sills Creek And County In General

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

**Background:** Commissioner Tate has requested an update on progress being made toward addressing County drainage issues in inland streams and rivers.

**Specific Action Requested:** Discussion based on the attached memo and other information that might be presented at the meeting

(Administrative Use Only)

Requested by: Melinda Knoerzer  
Department: Pender Utilities  
Title: Administrative Assistant  
Contact Phone: 910-259-1521  
Contact Fax: 910-259-1579

## CONTRACT TYPE

- Renewal
- For Service(s)
- Intergovernmental – County as Grantee
  - Federal Grantor
  - State Grantor
  - Grant or
- 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: Signed:

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

Date Sent: Signed:

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

Date Sent: Signed:

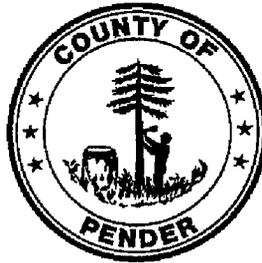
**CLERK** Signature(s) Required:  
 Board Chairman/County Manager  
 Other:

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

County of Pender  
www.pender-county.com

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

County Manager's Office  
Post Office Box 5  
805 South Walker Street  
Burgaw, NC 28425



Telephone: (910) 259-1200  
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David McCole, Interim County Manager

MEMO

TO: INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER  
FROM: MELINDA KNOERZER  
DATE: MAY 13, 2008  
RE: DRAINAGE ISSUES: BLACK RIVER AND SILLS CREEK AND COUNTY  
IN GENERAL

In response to a request made by Commissioner Tate during a presentation featuring two (2) Water Resources Grants on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in Hampstead, I contacted NC Division of Water Resources to inquire if this grant program could be used for inland streams. Mr. John Sutherland, Chief of the Water Projects Section responded, "Yes, the Water Resources Development Project Grant program has a category called *stream restoration* that includes clearing and snagging of streams. The state cost-sharing amount is 66 and 2/3 percent. As examples, we recently have given grants to Jones and Onslow Counties to do snagging of the Trent River and New River respectively." He then pointed me to the grant information at [www.ncwater.org](http://www.ncwater.org).

In addition, Mr. Jeff Bruton of NC Division of Water Resources responded as follows: "The North Carolina General Assembly awarded Pender County a cost-share grant last August (August 9, 2007) in the amount of \$100,000 to remove blockages in the Black River. To date, however, the grant has been inactive because the Division of Water Resources (DWR) has not received a project application from the County. A complete application package is required prior to disbursement of any grant funds. The contact for the Black River project is Jason Turner with the Pender County Soil and Water Conservation District (910-259-9123 #3) and I am sending him a copy of this email. Rather than submitting an application to DWR and competing for new grant funds, if the County's priorities for the removal of blockages from inland streams has changed, the County may wish to consider submitting the required application along with a request that the award for the Black River project be used for the new project. If the County desires to request new funding for a project, the application deadline for the Fall 2008 grant cycle is July 1, 2008.

I spoke with Jason Turner this morning who advises that following two (2) trips down the Black River with state regulatory agencies and engineers (NRCS, Beaver Control, Corps), he is awaiting a cost estimate to complete some clearing on the Black River and expects a response in the near future. DWR has indicated that if there is funding leftover, this could be diverted to another water resources project within the County, but that would have to be evaluated in the application process.

In addition to Sills Creek – which has been recently studied and is determined to be a “clearing and snagging” project, there is also Rockfish Creek which requires the removal of sedimentation – a much more involved process. Mr. Turner advises that Corps and DENR permits are required to undertake this dredging project. In addition to these three (3) locations, Soil and Water Conservation and Mr. Bob Murray with the Beaver Management Assistance Program advise that there are additional creeks and streams throughout the county that affect drainage to the point where homes and agricultural land are or could be affected.

As such, it appears that we need to determine how to confront these issues. If there is funding left over after the Black River, a determination must be made as to “where” best to utilize the resources. There has been talk, over the past few months regarding a “Drainage Advisory Committee” (unofficial title) consisting of USDA Soil and Water Conservation, Beaver Management, Public Works (trackhoe and past experience with drainage projects in the County) and Planning – to name only a few. This committee could assess damage and rank/prioritize projects. These projects would require the dedication of sufficient staffing to insure success and to identify, secure and administer grant funding. In addition, this project would require some level of County funding.

In the interim, if there is a group of landowners along Sills Creek that might be willing to organize and undertake this project and pay the 44 1/3 % required for the match, we will need to identify that group and meet with them to determine if it would be feasible to gather the required information in time to submit application for their own grant on or before July 1, 2008. If there is not a project engineer and a strongly organized property owners association with at least one leader, this project could become very staff intensive.

Once the cost estimates are in on the Black River, this information will be supplemented. I wanted to let the Board know that this is the status at this time.