

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

SUBJECT: Soil and Water Conservation District – Grant Application

PRESENTER: Jonathan Wallin, Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District Director
Kieran Roe, Conserving Carolina Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study Presentation
2. Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study Grant Application Spreadsheet
3. Resolution for Grant Request to NC Water Resources Development Grant Program
4. No Conflict of Interest Certification
5. Feasibility Study Commitment Letter

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting that the Board approve an application for a Water Resources Development Grant (WRDG) through the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources for a \$6,000 Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study at Dodd Meadows. This study will be accomplished in partnership with the local non-profit organization Conserving Carolina, which will provide the required match funding. Conserving Carolina will study the impaired Bat Fork reach, evaluate restoration options, and develop an implementation plan for restoration and stream corridor management. The Feasibility Study will serve as the basis for future grant applications and community engagement to develop a vision for nature-based recreation and education. This project will serve as a model for other restoration projects in the Bat Fork watershed and surrounding areas of Henderson County. No County dollars will be required.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

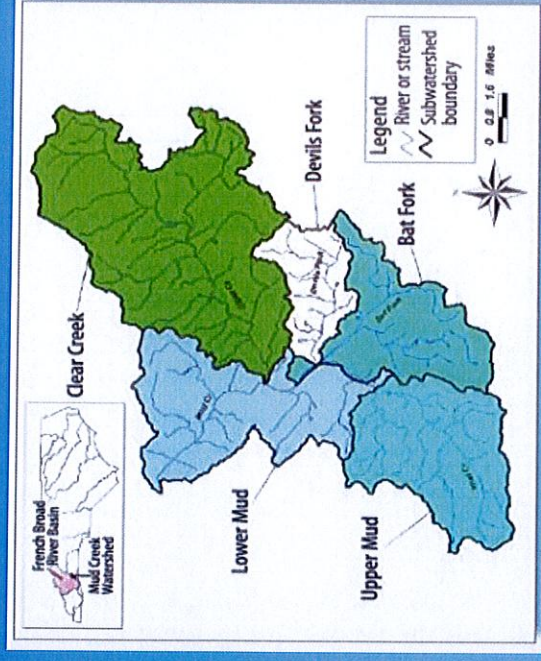
The Board is requested to approve the \$6,000 grant application for the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study at Dodd Meadows with Conserving Carolina. The study will allow for the development of a plan for restoration and stream corridor management.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board of Commissioners approve the \$6,000 Water Resources Development Grant application for the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study with Conserving Carolina.

Request for Cooperation on a NC Water Resources Development Grant: Bat Fork Creek Restoration Feasibility Study

***Henderson County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board Meeting
December 14, 2020***

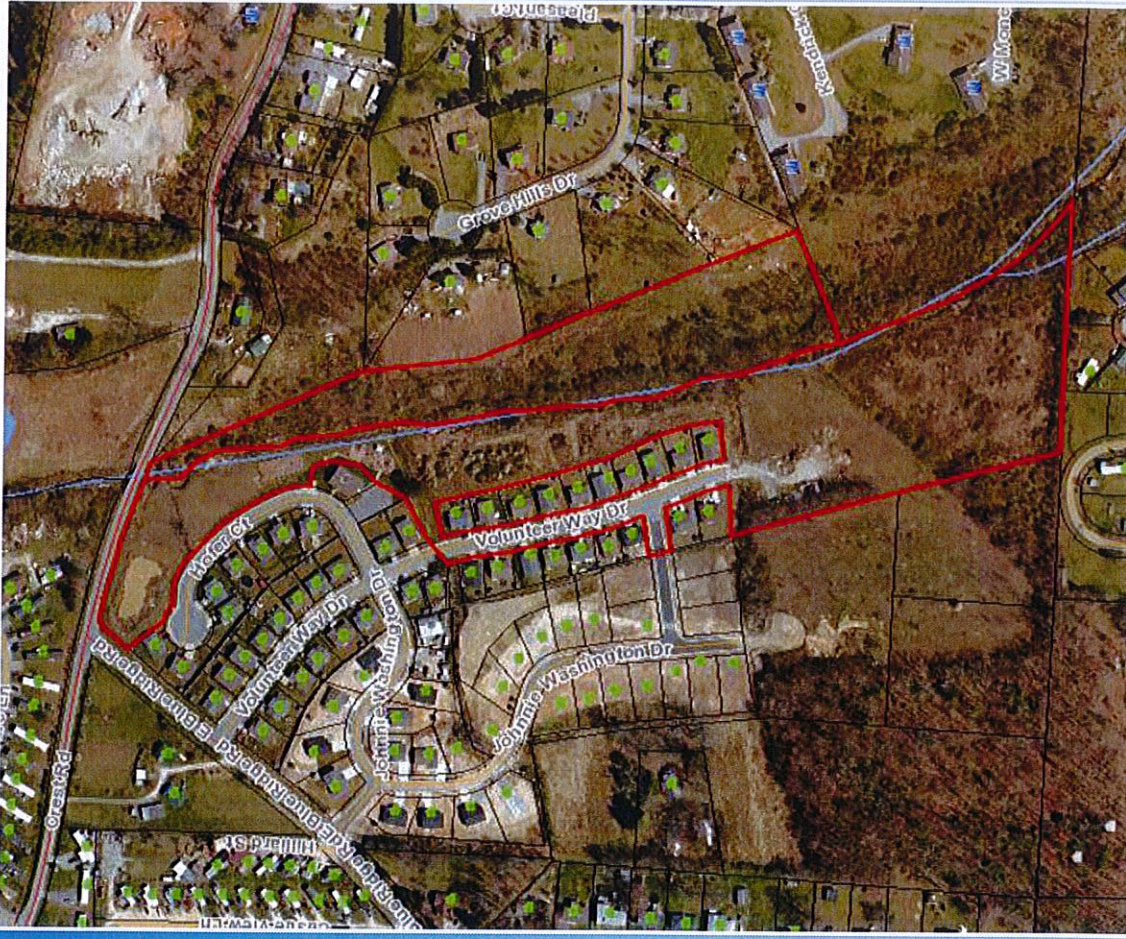




Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study at Dodd Meadows

Existing Conditions:

1. Location: 1,900 linear feet of Bat Fork located East of Dodd Meadows Community Center (LAT, LON 35.28870, -82.40971).
2. Watershed Drainage Area: 1.8 square miles (1,150 acres) draining from South to North where it eventually drains into Mud Creek.
3. Stream Reach Stability: Channel is incised with excessive bank erosion on approximately 70% of streambanks contributing approximately 400 tons per year of sediment to the watershed.
4. Riparian Buffer Conditions: Low density shrubs and trees with high percentage of invasive plants (mostly privet and pear).
5. Site Constraints: Residential housing to the West, sewer lines, overhead power transmission lines.
6. Permitting Requirements: USACE/DWR 401/404 Environmental Permits; NCEMLR ESC and Stormwater Permits; County Floodplain Development Permit.

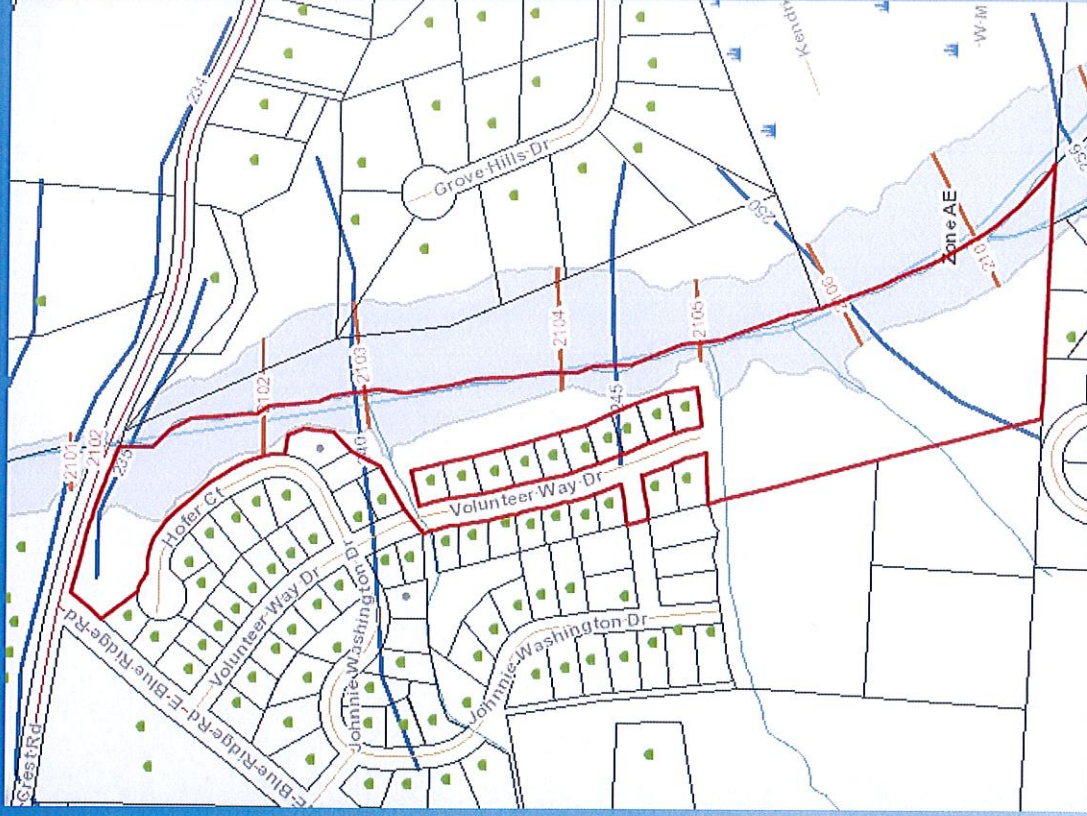


Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study at Dodd Meadows

Objectives:

1. Collect and analyze information describing the Bat Fork project reach to understand stream impairment conditions, site constraints, and stakeholder interests in stream corridor stewardship.
2. Evaluate stream restoration options to improve water quality and ecosystem services through natural channel morphology adjustments, in-stream structures, and riparian buffer enhancements.
3. Develop an implementation plan for design, permitting, construction, and long-term management of the restoration project including education and recreation uses of the stream corridor.

Conserving Carolina will work with an engineering contractor and local stakeholders to study the impaired stream reach, evaluate restoration options, and develop an implementation plan for restoration and stream corridor management. The Feasibility Study will serve as the basis for future grant applications and community engagement to develop a vision for nature-based recreation and education. This project will serve as a model for other restoration projects in the Bat Fork watershed and surrounding areas of Henderson County.

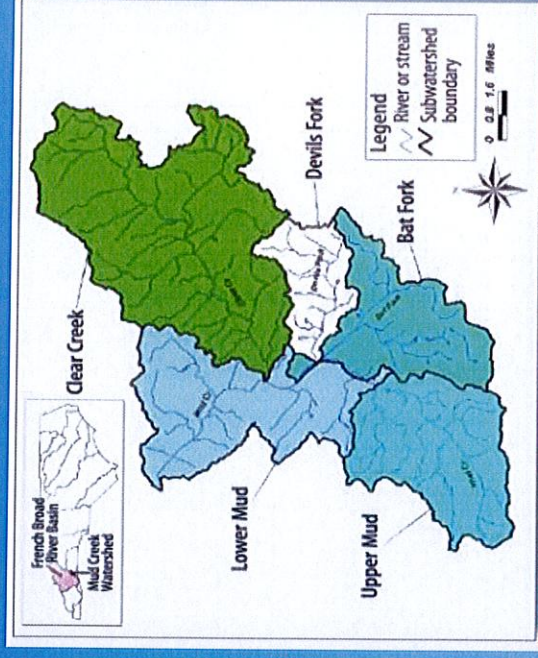


Bat Fork Creek Restoration Feasibility Study

Project Budget			
Expense	Amount		
Restoration Design	10,000		
Project Administration	2,000		
Total	<u>12,000</u>		
Income	Amount	Status	
NC Water Resources Development Grant Program	6,000	To Be Requested	
In-Kind Services (Jennings Environmental)	5,000	Committed	
In-Kind Services (Conserving Carolina)	1,000	Committed	
Total	<u>12,000</u>		

Request for Cooperation on a NC Water Resources Development Grant: Bat Fork Creek Restoration Feasibility Study

*Henderson County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board Meeting
December 14, 2020*



STATE & LOCAL PROJECTS		PROJECT CERTIFICATIONS	
Included	Required Items	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Required Application Sheets Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scaled Conceptual Project Plan/Map	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed Official Resolution Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed No Conflict of Interest Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basis For Claimed Value of Land Donations (For Land Donations Only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Transfer Documentation (For Land Acquisitions & Donations Only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request For Payment of Appropriation Form (Special Appropriations Only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supplemental Items (Not Required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relevant Data, Reports, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multimedia (Videos, Drone Imagery, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please click all relevant check boxes above to indicate item is included			
NRCS-EQIP STREAM RESTORATION PROJECTS			
Included	Required Items	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Required Application Sheets Completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scaled Conceptual Project Plan/Map	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed Official Resolution Forms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed No Conflict of Interest Certifications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed Agency No Conflict of Interest Policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed & Completed Resolution Affirmation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed NRCS-CPA-1155 Conservation Plan or Schedule of Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	EQIP Eligible Practices Spreadsheet (If Non-Eligible Stream Practices)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please click all relevant check boxes above to indicate item is included			

Resolution for Grant Request to NC Water Resources Development Grant Program

WHEREAS, the Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District desires to partner with Conserving Carolina in sponsoring the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study at Dodd Meadows, a project to study an impaired section of Bat Fork Creek, evaluate restoration options, and develop an implementation plan for restoration and stream corridor management,

AND WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has established the N.C. Water Resources Development Grant Program to provide cost-share grants and technical assistance to local governments throughout the state for stream restoration and water management projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) The Henderson County Board of Commissioners requests the State of North Carolina to provide financial assistance to Henderson County for the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study in the amount of \$ 6,000 or 50% percent of nonfederal project costs, whichever is the lesser amount;
- 2) Conserving Carolina assumes full obligation for payment of the balance of the study costs (or non-federal portion);
- 3) The Board will comply with all applicable laws governing the award of contracts and the expenditure of public funds by local governments.

Adopted by the Henderson County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January, 2021.

Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

William Lapsley, Chair

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

No Conflict of Interest Certification

Henderson County hereby certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, there are no present or currently planned interests (financial, contractual, organizational, or otherwise) relating to the work to be performed as part of the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study project that would create any actual or potential conflicts of interest (or apparent conflicts of interest) for any of its employees, contractors, subcontractors, designees or other entities or individuals involved in the Bat Fork Stream Restoration Feasibility Study project (including conflicts of interest for immediate family members: spouses, parents, or children) that would impinge on its ability to render impartial, technically sound, and objective assistance or advice or result in it being given an unfair competitive advantage.

In this certification, the term "potential conflict" means reasonably foreseeable conflicts of interest. Henderson County further certifies that it has and will continue to exercise due diligence in identifying and removing or mitigating, to the NC Department of Environmental Quality's satisfaction, any such conflict of interest (or apparent conflict of interest).

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

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William G. Lapsley
Chairman
Rebecca K. McCall
Vice-Chairman



J. Michael Edney
Daniel J. Andreotta
David H. Hill

January 4, 2021

Mr. Amin Davis
NC Division of Water Resources, NC DEQ
512 N. Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

Mr. Davis:

On behalf of Henderson County, we sincerely appreciate your consideration of this grant request for feasibility study for the restoration of the Bat Fork Stream at Dodd Meadows. The purpose of the study is to analyze the impaired Bat Fork reach, evaluate restoration options, and develop an implementation plan for restoration and stream corridor management. Currently, over 400 tons of sediment is being contributed to the watershed annually as a result of excessive bank erosion. This study will allow experienced stream restoration engineers and ecologists to collect and analyze information describing the Bat Fork project reach to understand stream impairment conditions, site constraints, and stakeholder interests in stream corridor stewardship.

With this feasibility study, the project team will develop an implementation plan for design, permitting, construction, and long-term management of the restoration project including education and recreation uses of the stream corridor. Goals will include: the reduction of sediment entering the waterway, aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancements, construction of a scenic walking trail, and construction of opportunities for outdoor educational access.

The feasibility study will determine the efforts required for the stream restoration, the creation of a riparian buffer, and the educational access areas surrounding the stream. It is hoped that these projects would be completed within two years of the end of the study. Funding sources, stakeholder involvement, and weather-related events may impact the timeline.

Thank you for your consideration of our feasibility study to restore 1,900 linear feet of the Bat Fork stream. Please do not hesitate to contact the Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

William G. Lapsley, Chairman
Henderson County Board of Commissioners