

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Soil and Water Conservation District – 2021 Grant Awards
PRESENTER: Betsy Gerwig, Conservation Engineer
ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Budget Amendment
2. Grant Award Letters

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting that the Board approve grants awarded in the 2021 budget year to the department for Rugby Middle School – Mill Pond Creek Stream Restoration Project. The project will include stream bank stabilization, establishment of a riparian buffer and native vegetation, and the creation of an educational access point/outdoor learning lab. Remaining grant funds from the previous stream restoration project at Rugby Middle School are being included. The amounts awarded to the department for this project are in the table below:

Grant Funder	Award Amount
NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources: Water Resources Development Grant	\$71,600
Community Foundation of Henderson County	\$10,000
Duke Energy Foundation Powerful Communities: K-12 Education Grant	\$20,000
Remaining Previously Approved Grant Funds	\$4,881
TOTAL	\$106,481

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve the 2021 grants which will allow for stream bank stabilization, establishment of riparian buffer and native vegetation, and an educational access point at the Rugby Middle School, and the associated Budget Amendment.

Suggested Motion:

I move the Board of Commissioners approve the 2021 grants for the stream restoration project at the Rugby Middle School, and the associated Budget Amendment.

ROY COOPER

Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN

Secretary

S. DANIEL SMITH

Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

September 22, 2020

Andrew C. Brannon, Chair
Henderson Soil & Water Conservation District
61 Triple Springs Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Chairman Brannon,

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) is pleased to announce that **\$71,600** in financial assistance for a project located in your jurisdiction has been approved by the State of North Carolina.

We congratulate the Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District on its sponsorship of the **Mill Pond Creek Stream Restoration-Phase 2 Project**. This grant will provide financial assistance to restore approximately 425 linear feet of degraded stream, 0.5 acres of riparian buffer and construct outdoor educational facilities at Rugby Middle School. Your ongoing efforts to improve the condition of water resources in your district are to be commended.

DWR will be contacting District staff soon concerning the administrative requirements, including the signing of a grant contract with the State, for the use of state funds for this project. This award letter is not a guarantee of funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other unanticipated events that could reduce current appropriated state funding, any contracts shall be subject to availability of funding.

We look forward to working with you on this project. If you have questions, please contact Amin Davis at 919-707-9132 or via email at: amin.davis@ncdenr.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Daniel Smith".

Danny Smith
Director, Division of Water Resources

ECc: Betsy Gerwig, Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District
Caroline Wicker, Henderson Soil and Water Conservation District
Amin Davis, Division of Water Resources
Andrew Moore, Division of Water Resources



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
512 North Salisbury Street | 1611 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1611
919.707.9000



May 20, 2021

Mr. Drew Brannon
Henderson County Soil and Water Conservation District
61 Triple Springs Rd
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. Brannon:

At the most recent meeting of the Community Foundation Board of Directors, a grant in the amount of \$20,000.00 was approved to be used toward the Mill Pond Creek Restoration project.

Enclosed you will find a grant agreement. Please review this document, sign and return to the Community Foundation. Upon receipt of this signed agreement, we will issue payment.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Foundation office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mauricio Rojas".

Mauricio Rojas
Database/Program Associate

Congratulations on your Duke Energy Foundation Grant

DeBrew, Craig <Craig.DeBrew@duke-energy.com>

Thu 10/1/2020 8:33 AM

To: Caroline Wicker <CWicker@Hendersoncountync.gov>; betsy.gerwig@usda.gov <betsy.gerwig@usda.gov>; Jonathan Wallin <jonathan.wallin@nc.nacdnet.net>
Cc: Chuck Edwards <Chuck.Edwards@ncleg.net>; Chuck McGrady - NC House Dist 117 <Chuck.McGrady@ncleg.net>; jake.johnson@ncleg.net <jake.johnson@ncleg.net>; McLaughlin, WKevin <WKevin.McLaughlin@duke-energy.com>; Minto, Ryan James <Ryan.Minto@duke-energy.com>

Duke Energy

Good morning, I wanted to share some good news. The Duke Energy Foundation has announced \$522,400 in grants to fund environmental projects creating access to nature and protecting species, habitats and water quality in North Carolina. I am happy to inform you that the **Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District's** grant application to help restore and stabilize 425 feet of the upper portion of Mill Pond Creek at Rugby Middle School was approved at the \$10,000 level. We are excited that in addition to protecting water quality, the project gives students an opportunity to study watershed issues, to understand processes that degrade a stream system, and to learn ways to improve the quality of the stream and the associated habitat.

Below is more information on our grant announcement. Congratulations and we look forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Thank you for all you do,

Craig

Craig DeBrew, District Manager, Local Government and Community Relations
Kevin McLaughlin, Vice President, Government Affairs and External Relations
Ryan Minto, Director, State Government Affairs



News Release

Contact: Shawna Berger

24-Hour: 800.559.3853

Twitter: @DE_ShawnaB

Duke Energy powers vitality of natural resources in North Carolina through \$522,400 in grants

- 22 organizations receive funds to protect, restore wildlife and natural resources

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Duke Energy Foundation today announced \$522,400 in grants to fund environmental projects creating access to nature and protecting species, habitats and water quality in North Carolina.

One of the ways Duke Energy builds powerful communities is through protecting and restoring wildlife and natural resources that communities and future generations depend on.

"We're pleased to support projects that protect and expand access to North Carolina's natural treasures, especially as more people are engaged in outdoor activities," said Stephen De May, Duke Energy's North Carolina president. "Our company is committed to the environment of our great state."

One of this year's grantees, Asheville GreenWorks, will receive funding for its Everybody's Environment program to promote racial equity in the environmental field.

"Asheville GreenWorks' Urban Forestry program grew tremendously over the past several years due in large part to generous funding from the Duke Energy Foundation," said Dawn Chavez, executive director, Asheville GreenWorks. "GreenWorks and many other environmental and conservation organizations in western North Carolina have been working together as part of Everybody's Environment to advance racial equity in our organizations and programs. The recent nature grant from the Duke Energy Foundation helps to build our capacity to effect meaningful change in equity, diversity and inclusivity in the environmental field."

11/5/2020

Mail - Caroline Wicker - Outlook

Duke Energy is committed to investing in and working alongside our community partners to ensure future generations enjoy the immeasurable benefits of our natural resources.

A list of the grantees receiving more than \$10,000 can be found [here](#).

Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to meet the needs of communities where Duke Energy customers live and work. The Foundation contributes more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts, and is funded by Duke Energy shareholder dollars. More information about the Foundation and its Powerful Communities program can be found at duke-energy.com/foundation.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of the largest energy holding companies in the U.S. It employs 30,000 people and has an electric generating capacity of 51,000 megawatts through its regulated utilities, and 3,000 megawatts through its nonregulated Duke Energy Renewables unit.

Duke Energy is transforming its customers' experience, modernizing the energy grid, generating cleaner energy and expanding natural gas infrastructure to create a smarter energy future for the people and communities it serves. The Electric Utilities and Infrastructure unit's regulated utilities serve approximately 7.7 million retail electric customers in six states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky. The Gas Utilities and Infrastructure unit distributes natural gas to more than 1.6 million customers in five states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The Duke Energy Renewables unit operates wind and solar generation facilities across the U.S., as well as energy storage and microgrid projects.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2020 "World's Most Admired Companies" list, and Forbes' 2019 "America's Best Employers" list. More information about the company is available at duke-energy.com. The [Duke Energy News Center](#) contains news releases, fact sheets, photos, videos and other materials. Duke Energy's [illumination](#) features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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