

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Grant Award – Emergency Watershed Protection Program

PRESENTER: Betsy Gerwig, Soil and Water Conservation District

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. Budget Narrative
2. Budget Information

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

In February 2025, Henderson County requested to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. EWP is a USDA program to assist communities with recovery from watershed impairments, such as debris-clogged stream channels, undermined and unstable stream banks, and threats to infrastructure.

Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) staff implemented the program with assistance from NRCS. HCSWCD staff promoted the program, scheduled and conducted site visits, documented damage and debris issues, developed evaluation reports, and produced final approval documentations. All sites were evaluated for damage to stream banks, erosion, debris, and infrastructure. The value of the infrastructure must be greater than the cost of the repair to qualify for funding. This resulted in 68 sites requesting approval for funding through the EWP program. The total estimated project budget is \$9,482,840. This includes construction costs of \$8,482,840 and technical assistance costs \$1,000,000. Reimbursement will be based on actual expenditures not to exceed the amount obligated.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to approve the acceptance of the EWP grant funding in the amount of \$9,482,840 and authorize staff to execute all necessary documents required for acceptance of the grant, including any associated budget amendments necessary to support the related expenditures.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board authorize the receipt of the EWP grant funding in the amount of \$9,482,840 and authorize staff to execute all necessary documents required for acceptance of the grant, including any associated budget amendments necessary to support the related expenditures.

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BUDGET NARRATIVE

The official budget described below will be considered the total budget as last approved by the Federal awarding agency for this award.

Amounts included in the Budget Narrative are estimates. Reimbursement will be based on actual expenditures not to exceed the amount obligated.

Total Estimated Project Budget: \$9,482,840.00

The budget includes:

Financial Assistance (FA) Costs:

Construction Costs (100% NRCS \$8,482,840.00): \$8,482,840.00

Technical Assistance (TA) Costs:

NRCS contributes 100% up to: \$1,000,000.00

NRCS pays up to 100 percent of eligible construction costs and Sponsor pays 0 percent of construction costs per NRCS programmatic waiver for the Helene event. NRCS will contribute up to (\$1,000,000.00) of the total construction cost for administration and technical services. It is possible that technical and administrative costs will exceed this amount, requiring the Sponsor to contribute resources to complete technical and administrative work. Construction, administrative, and technical costs incurred prior to the sponsor and NRCS signing this agreement are ineligible and will not be reimbursed, nor will such costs qualify as Sponsor cost-share.

1. NRCS funding for this project is provided to the Sponsor in two separate NRCS funding accounts: one account for financial assistance (FA) and one for technical assistance (TA). FA costs are associated with construction activities; TA costs are associated with services. These expenditures shall be accounted for separately for expenses to be eligible for reimbursement.
2. NRCS will provide FA for actual costs as reimbursement to the Sponsor for approved on-the-ground construction costs, subject to the limits listed. If costs are reduced, reimbursement will be reduced accordingly. Construction costs are associated with the installation of the project measures including labor, equipment, and materials.

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3. NRCS will provide TA reimbursement to the Sponsor for technical and administrative costs directly charged to the project, subject to the limits listed. If costs are reduced, reimbursement will be reduced accordingly. These costs shall include:
 - a. Engineering costs include, but are not limited to, developing a project design that includes analysis, report, construction drawings and specifications, an Operation and Maintenance Plan, a Quality Assurance/Inspection Plan, and an engineer's estimate of the project installation costs in addition to providing necessary quality assurance during construction.
 - b. Contract administration costs include, but are not limited to, soliciting, evaluating, awarding and administering contracts for construction and engineering services, including project management, and verifying invoices and record keeping.
4. The Sponsor will contribute funds toward the total construction costs in either direct cash expenditures, the value of non-cash materials or services, or in-kind contributions. The value of any in-kind contribution shall be agreed to in writing prior to implementation.

BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs

NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.

COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$	\$ 1,000,000.00
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$	\$	\$
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$	\$	\$
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$	\$	\$
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$	\$	\$
6. Project inspection fees	\$	\$	\$
7. Site work	\$	\$	\$
8. Demolition and removal	\$	\$	\$
9. Construction	\$ 8,482,840.00	\$	\$ 8,482,840.00
10. Equipment	\$	\$	\$
11. Miscellaneous	\$	\$	\$
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$ 9,482,840.00	\$	\$ 9,482,840.00
13. Contingencies	\$	\$	\$
14. SUBTOTAL	\$ 9,482,840.00	\$	\$ 9,482,840.00
15. Project (program) income	\$	\$	\$
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$ 9,482,840.00	\$	\$ 9,482,840.00
FEDERAL FUNDING			
17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X 100 %		\$ 9,482,840.00