

**Item Title:** Crabtree Creek Watershed Rehabilitation Grant – Additional Funding

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners:**

- 1. Accepts and appropriates an additional \$119,160 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS); and**
- 2. Authorizes the County Manager to execute the award agreement and contracts to conduct the funded scope of work for watershed rehabilitation, subject to terms and conditions acceptable to the County Attorney.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** On November 13, 2020 Wake County was awarded two federal grants from USDA-NRCS totaling \$2,353,095. In August 2023, Wake County was awarded an additional \$393,905. In January 2026, Wake County has been awarded an additional \$119,160. Acceptance and appropriation of the grant funds and execution of multi-year engineering contracts requires Board of Commissioners approval.

**Background:** Wake County sponsors 10 flood control structures within the Crabtree Creek Watershed pursuant to an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with USDA-NRCS. Wake County began sponsoring the flood control structures in 1975. General Services Administration maintains and operates the flood control structures within their operating budget administers capital improvement projects for the flood control structures under the Flood Control & Stormwater Program within the County Buildings element of the County Capital CIP Fund.

**Strategic Plan:** This action supports routine County operations.

**Fiscal Impact:** This agreement provides an additional \$119,160 for participation in the program to be appropriated in the Stormwater CIP Program in the County Buildings Element of the County Capital Projects Fund. There is no matching funds requirement.

**Additional Information:**

The current federal grant allocation from USDA-NRCA was designated to the County for the purpose of Project 1) performing two high hazard dam assessments (HHDA) (\$57,000) and Project 2) conducting five rehab planning projects (\$2,690,000) at select flood control structures in the Crabtree Creek Watershed. The County entered into two separate funding agreements with USDA-NRCS, one for the HHDA's and one for the planning projects. Separate contracts were executed with qualified professionals to

conduct the specified scope of work at each flood control structure site. Wake County has completed the two HHDA projects and has made substantial progress on all five rehab planning projects.

In 2025, North Carolina Dam Safety revised their precipitation models for the State, which results in significant impacts to the already completed hydrologic models and calculations associated with the rehab planning projects. This additional \$119,160 funding will allow three of the five models to be revised based on the new North Carolina Dam Safety data. These updated models will provide more accurate data and will allow Wake County to better determine future modifications and improvements to the dams. It was determined that the North Carolina Dam Safety revisions would have minimal impacts on the remaining two dams and no additional funding was requested to update the associated hydrologic models.

The USDA-NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation program is comprised of four phases: assessment, planning, design, and construction. Each phase is a prerequisite for the following phase. The assessments are high level evaluations of current conditions and problems with the structures. The planning phase is a more detailed and technical phase that outlines options to remediate and rehabilitate the dam.

Upon completion of the five planning projects, the County will initiate applications for funding the subsequent design and construction phases for these flood control structures. While NRCS provides 100% funding for the first three phases of this program, the funding for construction is a 65/35 split between NRCS and the sponsor (Wake County). The 35% funding portion for Wake County will be forecast within the Flood control/Stormwater element of the Major CIP funding request in the appropriate fiscal year.

A summary of the planned work is provided below:

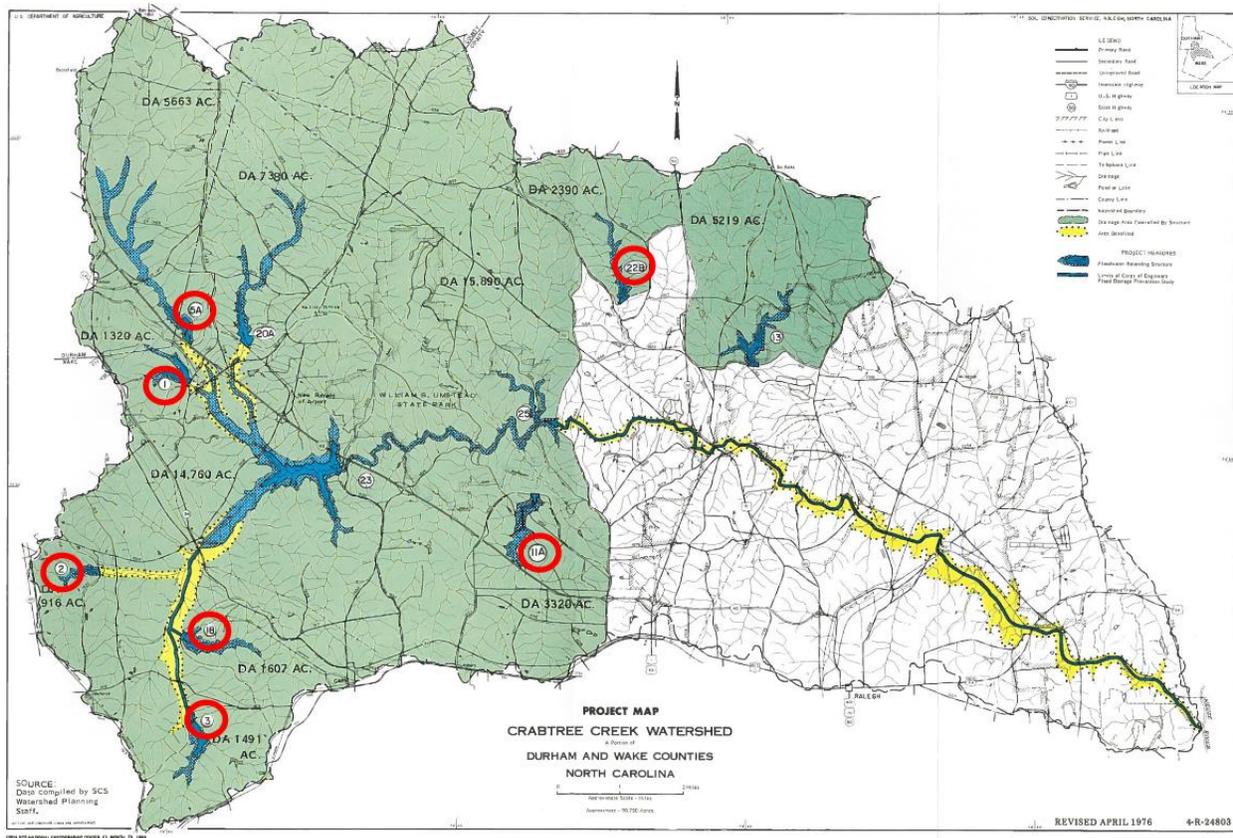
### Project 1

Site ID #	Project Name	Phase	Original Award	Additional Funding	Total Funding
NC01449	Sorrels Grove Reservoir, #1	Assessment	\$28,500	\$0	\$28,500
NC01450	Hatchers Grove Reservoir, #2	Assessment	\$28,500	\$0	\$28,500
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>

### Project 2

Site ID #	Project Name	Phase	Current Funding	Additional Funding	Total Funding
NC00926	Bond Lake, #3	Planning	\$580,000	\$47,000	\$627,000
NC01453	Coles Branch Reservoir, #18	Planning	\$564,000	\$0	\$564,000
NC01454	Lake Lynn, # 22B	Planning	\$580,000	\$36,080	\$616,080
NC01720	Richlands Creek Reservoir # 11A	Planning	\$580,000	\$36,080	\$616,080
NC04536	Page Lake # 5A	Planning	\$386,000	\$0	\$386,000
<b>Project 1 &amp; Project 2 Total</b>			<b>\$2,690,000</b>	<b>\$119,160</b>	<b>\$2,809,160</b>

The grant award stems from a strong, uninterrupted partnership between Wake County and the local USDA-NRCS office since 1975. Acceptance of the award confirms and promotes the long-lasting commitment Wake County has established for maintaining the 10 flood control structures it sponsors within the Crabtree Creek Watershed. Enhancing public safety, monitoring early emergency notifications, and working to minimize downstream flooding are key foundations to the Wake County flood control program. With recent development, growth, and population expansion throughout Wake County, the flood control structures within the Crabtree Creek Watershed produce high qualification scores for grant awards while competing for available funds nationally. The grant funding and resulting work will help the County accommodate future growth and will improve the Crabtree Creek Watershed flood control structures as they reach the 50-year mark of their designed 100-year life span.



**Attachments:**

1. Notice of Grant and Agreement Award – Additional Funds
2. Original Grant Award Notification
3. Additional Funding Amendment (2023)
4. Crabtree Creek Watershed Operations & Maintenance Agreement
5. Budget Memo