

Item Title: Appropriate Additional Funding from Cooperative Extension Donations and Camp Fees

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners appropriates \$73,895.28 of revenue from Cooperative Extension donations and 4-H Overnight Camp Fees in the Grants and Donations Fund.

Item Summary:

Purpose: In accordance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, the Board of Commissioners must approve all amendments that increase the budget for a fund.

Background: Cooperative Extension collects donations to support educational programs and outreach activities, including additional revenues collected to support Wake Agriculture Partners initially through the former Wake Agribusiness Council.

Strategic Plan: This action supports the following goals:

- a) Growth, Land Use, and Environment Goal 3: Protect 1,000 acres of green space, including open space, parks, greenways, farmland, and forests by 2029.
- b) Inclusive Prosperity Goal 3: By 2029, nine out of ten residents asked will share that they can find and enjoy enriching experiences that support our community's high quality of life.
- c) Lifelong Learning Goal 2: By 2029, increase by 5% the percentage of residents asked who share that they have access to quality educational opportunities.

Fiscal Impact: The County's proposed appropriations of \$73,895.28 will be funded by available revenues in the Grants and Donations Fund: \$48,982.76 from camp fee revenues and \$24,922.52 from voluntary contribution.

Additional Information:

For over 80 years, North Carolina 4-H has provided youth with life skills through various camping experiences across the state, engaging over 7,000 participants each year. These overnight camps inspire and create productive citizens through these opportunities while promoting diversity and inclusion for all.

The Cooperative Extension 4-H overnight camps are designed to be self-supporting, relying on registration fees, donations, and sponsorships to cover facilitation and program expenses. Camps serve youth ages 8 through 14 and junior counselors (Leaders in Training) ages 15 through 17. Camps are held annually during the last week of June. In 2024, 4-H welcomed 100 youth campers, representing a 25% increase from the previous year. In 2025, 125 youth campers are anticipated.

Wake Agriculture Partners, formerly the Wake Agribusiness Council, supports the agricultural community in Wake County. Through the Cooperative Extension, funds are used to enhance educational programs and outreach activities that benefit local farmers, businesses, and the broader community. This initiative addresses the changing needs of the agricultural sector, providing training, resources, and support to help local farms adapt to new challenges and opportunities. This transition from the Wake Agribusiness Council to Wake Agriculture Partners represents a commitment to ensure that all facets of the agricultural community – from small-scale farmers to agribusinesses are represented and supported.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo – Grants and Donations Fund