

Item Title: Crabtree Creek Watershed Rehabilitation Grant Award

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates a \$2,553,310 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and authorizes the County Manager to execute contracts to conduct the funded scope of work for watershed rehabilitation.

Item Summary:

Purpose: On November 13, 2020 Wake County was awarded a federal grant from USDA-NRCS in the amount of \$2,553,310. 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. Facilities Design & Construction administers capital improvement projects for the flood control structures under the CIP Flood control/Stormwater element.

Board Goal: This action improves public safety, supports the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Initiative and the Wake County Water Partnership Initiative.

Fiscal Impact: This agreement provides \$2,553,310 for participation. There is no matching funds requirement.

Additional Information:

The \$2,553,310 federal grant allocation from USDA-NRCS is designated to the County for the purpose of performing two high hazard dam assessments (HHDA) (\$57,000) and five rehab planning projects (\$2,296,095) at select flood control structures in the Crabtree Creek Watershed. The total allocation is comprised of NRCS reserve funds in the amount of \$200,215. The County expects to enter into two separate funding agreements with USDA-NRCS, one for the HHDA and one for the planning projects. Separate contracts will be entered into with qualified professionals to conduct the specified scope of work at each flood control structure site.

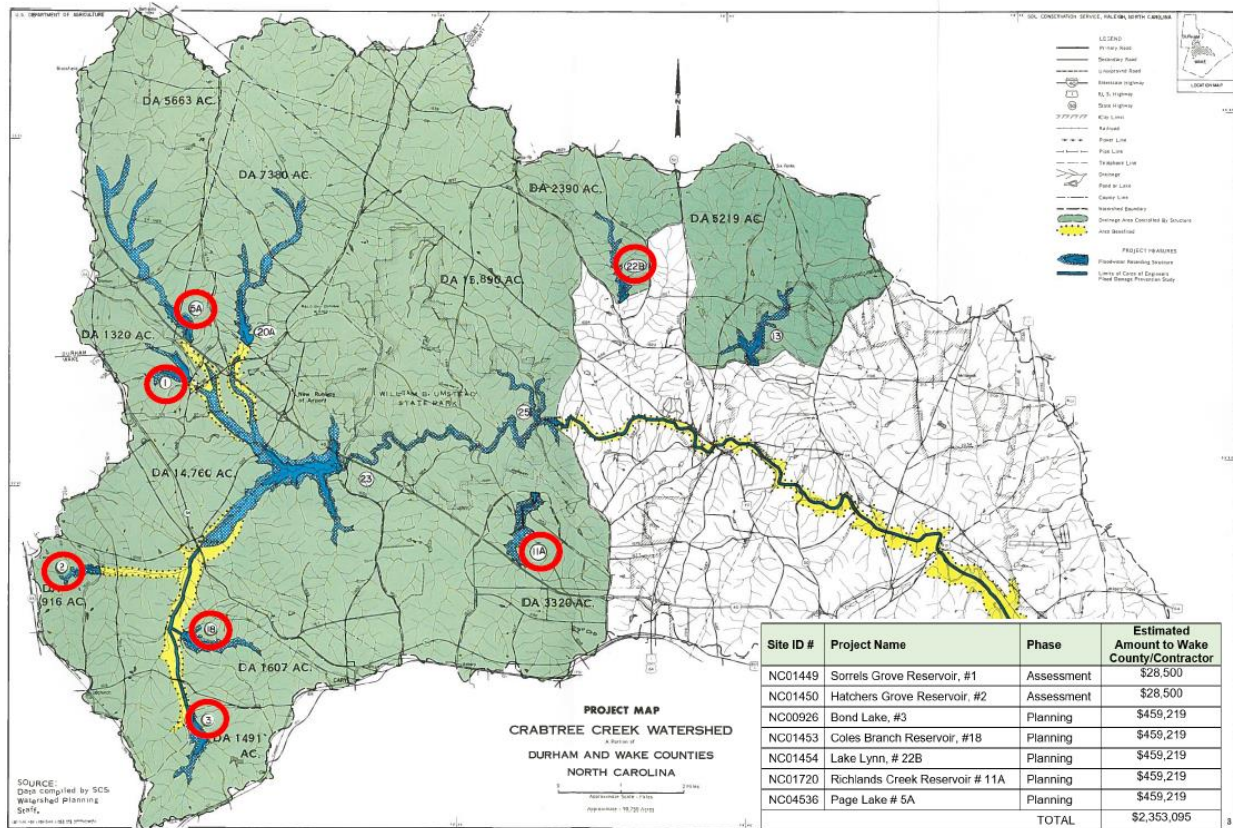
The USDA-NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation program is comprised of four phases: assessment, planning, design, and construction. Each phase is a prerequisite for the following phase. The assessments are high level evaluations of current conditions and problems with the structures. The planning phase is a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

Upon completion of the 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 Floodcontrol/Stormwater element of the Major CIP funding request in the appropriate fiscal year.

A summary of the planned work is provided below:

Site ID #	Project Name	Phase	Estimated Amount to Wake County/Contractor
NC01449	Sorrels Grove Reservoir, #1	Assessment	\$28,500
NC01450	Hatchers Grove Reservoir, #2	Assessment	\$28,500
NC00926	Bond Lake, #3	Planning	\$459,219
NC01453	Coles Branch Reservoir, #18	Planning	\$459,219
NC01454	Lake Lynn, # 22B	Planning	\$459,219
NC01720	Richlands Creek Reservoir # 11A	Planning	\$459,219
NC04536	Page Lake # 5A	Planning	\$459,219
Contingency			\$200, 215
TOTAL			\$2,553,310

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 for early emergency notification, 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. Grant Award Notification
2. Crabtree Creek Watershed Operations & Maintenance Agreement
3. Crabtree Creek Watershed Map
4. Budget Memo