

**AGENDA**  
**North Carolina Land and Water Fund**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
August 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held via teleconference and will have a physical location offered on the 4th floor of the Nature Research Center located at 121 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC in room 4508. If any member of the public would like to join the meeting via MS Teams or in person, please contact Terri Murray at [teresa.murray@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:teresa.murray@dncr.nc.gov) or 919-707-9400 in advance for links or directions.

**Board of Trustees:**

John Wilson (Chair), Jimmy Broughton, Ann Browning, Amy Grissom, Clement Riddle, Mike Rusher, Terry Shelton, Darrel Williams, David Womack

**COMMENCEMENT**

**1) Call to Order** (Chair – John Wilson)

a) Welcome

b) Roll call

**c) Compliance with General Statute § 138A-15**

*General Statute § 138A-15 mandates that the Chair inquire as to whether any Trustee knows of any conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to matters on the agenda. If any Trustee knows of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, please state so at this time.*

**d) Please put cell phones on vibrate or turn off, and if you are a guest joining remotely, please mute your audio and turn off your video unless you are called upon to speak**

**e) Revisions, additions, and adoption of the agenda**

**2) Approval of minutes from the May 12, 2025 board meeting** (Chair – John Wilson)

**3) DNCR update** (DNCR Deputy Secretary – Jeff Michael)

**4) Executive Director's update** (Will Summer)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public is invited to make comments to the Board (Chair – John Wilson)

*The NCLWF Guidelines and Practices Manual states that comments shall be limited to subjects of business falling within the jurisdiction of the NCLWF. The NCLWF welcomes public comments on general issues. Comments will not be allowed on individual projects before the NCLWF for funding during the regular meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person.*

## **BUSINESS**

### **1) Consideration of Acquisition Committee recommendations (Chair – Ann Browning)**

The committee will report on the following matter:

#### **a) 2024-062 TRLC Edwards Tract Proposed Budget Amendment (Marissa Hartzler)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for a proposal to amend the budget of an awarded grant contract.

### **2) Consideration of Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee recommendations (Chair – Clement Riddle)**

The committee will report on the following matters:

#### **a) Construction contract extensions (Steve Bevington)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for a request to extend the deadline for construction contracts per statutory requirement.

#### **b) Request to transfer award, 2024-803 Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan (Steve Bevington)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for a request from the Town of Canton to transfer their 2024 planning award to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

### **3) Consideration of Executive Committee recommendations (Chair – John Wilson)**

The committee will report on the following matters:

#### **a) Consideration of additional funding through DEQ (Steve Bevington)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for a proposal to consider additional funds for use on certain projects in the 2025 grant cycle.

#### **b) Consideration of additional funds for Hurricane Helene impacts (Damon Hearne)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for a request to provide additional funding for project 2024-417, Mountain Valleys RC&D “Shade Your Stream” to address increased demand for the program as a result of Helene.

#### **c) Allocation of funding for 2025 applications (Will Summer)**

Staff will present the committee recommendation for allocation of available funding between programs for the October funding meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Action Item****Staff member: Marissa Hartzler**

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**Agenda Item 1a) 2024-062 TRLC Edwards Tract Proposed Budget Amendment****Background**

In 2024, Tar River Land Conservancy ("TRLC") received a provisional award for the acquisition of the Annie Edwards Tract along Billys Creek in Franklin County. At a score of 63, it was the last project considered for provisional funding. In May of 2025, NCLWF provided full funding for the project. This was the fourth application for this project, having not received funding in 2016, 2017, or 2023.

TRLC executed the grant contract within days of notification, allowing them to secure local government funds for the project. They also had a successful award from the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program ("NC EEG"); however, they received the news that their \$100,000 grant of private funds was on indefinite hold due to the outcome of a court case. In late July, the Town of Franklinton ("Town") was awarded \$500,000 of state funds from the Great Trails State grant program administered by the North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation.

With these funding shifts, TRLC and the Town ask to amend the matching sources of the award. They propose shifting funds awarded by the Great Trails State program to acquisition, but as they are other state funds, they score less in NCLWF's application rating system. A change of this type does not normally require Board approval, unless the change would result in a score lower than those funded in that cycle. The attached budget shows the maximum substitution of other state funds TRLC could achieve without losing any matching resources points, and then an additional \$100,000 substitution of other state funds to make up the unexpected loss of the NC EEG funds.

While the remainder of the funds from the Great Trails State program grant and additional funds expected from Franklin County would be used for trail construction and opening the property to the public as the new Franklinton Nature Preserve, these funds cannot be counted as match for the NCLWF award.

**Committee recommendation**

The committee recommends amending the grant contract's matching resources to allow for the substitution of NC Great Trails State grant funds in lieu of NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program funds as presented in the attached proposed matching resources.

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.

*Attachments: original and proposed matching resources*

2024-062 TRLC Edwards Tract

Original and proposed matching resources:

Original Matching Resources Scoring					
Line Item	Source	Amount	Percent	Multiplier	Points
Local government	Federal/Local Government funds	\$ 325,000	27%	0.18	4.853
NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program	Private funds	\$ 100,000	8%	0.22	1.825
Private foundations	Private funds	\$ 217,500	18%	0.22	3.969
Bargain sale	Private funds	\$ 10,000	1%	0.22	0.182
Total	-	\$ 652,500	-	-	11

Proposed Matching Resources Scoring					
Line Item	Source	Amount	Percent	Multiplier	Points
Local government	Federal/Local Government funds	\$ 255,500	21%	0.18	3.815
NC Great Trails State Program	Other State funds	\$ 209,500	17%	0.14	2.433
Private foundations	Private funds	\$ 177,500	15%	0.22	3.239
Bargain sale	Private funds	\$ 10,000	1%	0.22	0.182
Total	-	\$ 652,500	-	-	10

**Action Item****Staff member: Steve Bevington**

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**Agenda Item 2a) Request to extend the date to enter into a construction contract for an existing Restoration Program Grant.****Background**

NCLWF stormwater and restoration construction projects approved after January 1, 2006 are subject to General Statute §143B-135.238(e), which requires grant recipients to enter into a construction contract for the project within one year after grant contract execution. The statute states that the award is withdrawn unless the NCLWF Board of Trustees finds that the applicant has good cause for failing to meet this requirement, and if so, the board must set a new date by which the grant recipient must take action or forfeit the grant.

The following grant recipient has submitted information summarizing the reasons for their delay in entering into a construction contract and has proposed a new date for doing so.

<b>Project Number &amp; Name</b>	<b>Current Construction Contract Deadline</b>	<b><u>Proposed</u> Construction Contract Deadline</b>
2023-407 CMSWS Reedy Ck above I-485	11/6/2025	6/30/2026

Staff support this extension request as the delay is reasonable given the complications of acquiring land agreements for the project. Land acquisition is expected to be completed this fall allowing construction bidding to be done in spring of 2026. Otherwise, the project remains on schedule, and they have a clear timeline for completion of the Project by the original contracted completion date of October 31, 2027.

**Committee recommendation**

The committee recommends approving the request to extend the date to enter into a construction contract for Project 2023-407 to June 30, 2026.

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.

*Attachment: Request from Grantee to extend the date to enter into a construction contract for project 2023-407.*

Request to extend the date to enter into a construction contract.

Change Request: 4000073887, 2023-407 CMSWS Reedy Ck above 485 Rest		Back				
Save   Cancel   Refresh						
<b>Request</b>						
Version:	0000000001	Last Changed By: 2BSIKES				
View:	CWMTF - Change Request	Change Date: 07/23/2025 14:39:54				
Project Description:	2000073975 - 2023-407 CMSWS Reedy Ck above 485 Rest					
Program ID/Description:	2023 NCLWF RESTORATION	Budget Revision: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No				
Grant Administrator:	Will Price					
Agreement Number:	2000073975	Project Number: 2023-407				
Agreement Period From:	11/06/2024	Agreement Period To: 10/31/2027				
Grant contract date to enter into a construction contract (if applicable):	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Current</th><th>Proposed Revision</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>11/6/2025</td><td>6/30/26</td></tr></tbody></table>		Current	Proposed Revision	11/6/2025	6/30/26
Current	Proposed Revision					
11/6/2025	6/30/26					
Revise Agreement Expiration Date:	Proposed Revision					
Reason for change:	Easement acquisition has delayed the project but we are schedule to bid the project spring 2026.					

**Action Item****Staff member: Steve Bevington**

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**Agenda Item 2b) Request to transfer award, 2024-803, Canton Mill Site Floodplain Plan from the Town of Canton to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.****Background**

On October 2, 2024, the Town of Canton was awarded \$218,400 by NCLWF for a project to address flooding and water quality concerns in a riverside portion of downtown Canton, NC. The project, not yet under contract, is to identify opportunities for riparian improvements compatible with floodplain restoration, aquatic barrier removal, passive riverside recreation, and the educational goals of the community.

During contract negotiations the Town of Canton made it clear that while they fully support the project and are committed to implementing the results of the planning document, they feel that administering this grant will be a difficulty given ongoing recovery work following Hurricane Helene. The Town is presently stretched thin by administrative responsibility to other larger grants including two FEMA projects.

Given their heavy workload, the Town has requested that project partner, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC), be designated as the grant awardee and administer the grant directly. No budget or scope changes are requested or anticipated. SAHC has agreed to administer the grant and take responsibility for completion of project scope.

SAHC has been involved in the project from its inception and has successfully administered many NCLWF grants in the past. Staff supports the request to transfer the award of \$75,000 for planning Project 2024-803 from the Town of Canton to SAHC.

**Committee recommendation**

The Committee recommends that the request to transfer the award of \$75,000 for planning Project 2024-803 from the Town of Canton to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy be approved.

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.

**Attachments:**

- *Letter from Town of Canton.*
- *Letter from Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.*



July 31, 2025

To: NC Land and Water Fund, attn.: Steve Bevington

**Re: Request to Transfer NCLWF Grant Award for 2024-803 - Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan**

Dear Mr. Bevington and NCLWF,

On behalf of the Town of Canton, thank you for the approval of the \$75,000 grant from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund in support of our project, 2024-803 - Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan. This funding is instrumental in enabling the Town to reimagine and restore the floodplain in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Tropical Storm Fred, and the closure of the local paper mill. The project represents a critical step toward long-term community resilience and stewardship.

The purpose of this letter is to formally request the transfer of the grant award to our project partner, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC). Following two recent FEMA disaster declarations, the Town's staff capacity is currently stretched, and transferring grant administration responsibilities to SAHC would significantly alleviate the burden on our team.

Please note that this transfer will not alter the scope, objectives, or the Town's continued commitment to the project. Our involvement and support remain unchanged. As project lead, SAHC has been an engaged and knowledgeable partner throughout the process and is already well-acquainted with both the project and NCLWF grant administration requirements.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and remain grateful for your continued support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,  
  
Lisa Stinnett

Town Manager



# Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

Protecting Mountains – Farms – Clean Water – Habitat

July 31, 2025

To: NC Land and Water Fund, attn.: Steve Bevington

Re: **Request to Transfer NCLWF Grant Award for 2024-803 - Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan**

Dear Mr. Bevington and NCLWF,

On behalf of SAHC, thank you for the approval of the \$75,000 grant from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund to the Town of Canton in support of the project, 2024-803 - Canton - Mill Site - Floodplain Plan.

The purpose of this letter is to formally request the transfer of the grant award from the Town of Canton, our project partner, to Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC). As project lead, SAHC is already well-acquainted with both the project and NCLWF grant administration requirements. We are willing to assume full grant administration responsibilities for this project, recognizing that doing so will not only ease the burden on the Town's staff but also improve overall efficiency for our staff by aligning both the project lead and grant lead within the same organization.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our area.

Sincerely,

 *Carl Silverstein*

Carl Silverstein

Executive Director

**Action Item****Staff member: Steve Bevington**

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**Agenda Item 3a) Consideration of Supplemental Funding from the NC Flood Resiliency Blueprint****Background**

In 2024, at the direction of the Board, NCLWF entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) to fund additional work on 11 Flood Risk Reduction Projects and to fund flood reduction related work on four 2024 NCLWF projects. This MOA provided a total of up to \$9,047,404 in additional funding from the NCDEQ Flood Resiliency Blueprint.

NCDEQ staff have identified three additional opportunities in 2025 grant applications where supplemental funding could enhance the flood risk reduction benefit of NCLWF projects and is prepared to provide up to \$1,139,351 in supplemental funds to support the flood risk reduction efforts of the NCLWF.

**Committee recommendation**

The committee recommends amending the 2024 NCDEQ-NCLWF MOA and accept \$1,139,351 from NCDEQ's Flood Resiliency Blueprint funds to apply to the following NCLWF 2025 applications should they be funded at a later NCLWF award meeting.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>RiverBasin</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
2025-408	CWA Stony Run Corridor Restoration	Carolian Wetlands Association	Cape Fear	\$270,500
2025-411	HWA Flood Resiliency -Pigeon River	Haywood Waterways Association	French Broad	\$210,500
2025-1003	Smithfield - College Pond Retrofit	Town of Smithfield	Neuse	\$658,351
<b>Total:</b>				<b>\$1,139,351</b>

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.

**Action Item****Staff member: Damon Hearne**

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**Agenda Item 3b) Consideration of additional funds for Hurricane Helene impacts****Background**

On October 2, 2024, Mountain Valleys RC&D was awarded \$218,400 by NCLWF for project 2024-417 to work with landowners to plant native vegetation along exposed streambanks to prevent erosion and increase stream stability. This was the second award to Mountain Valleys RC&D for their “Shade your Stream” program.

The contract requires work to stabilize at least 12 stream reaches and at least 15,840 linear feet of stream through planting of stream banks on moderately degraded sites throughout the Mountain Valleys RC&D service area (eight counties of western NC surrounding Asheville NC). To date the project is ahead of schedule, exceeding project scope and nearing completion on 31 stream reaches and 18,480 linear feet of stream.

After the events of Helene, countless streambanks in western NC were stripped of riparian vegetation and either heavily eroded or left in a condition vulnerable to further soil erosion. As a result, Mountain Valleys RC&D’s stream re-vegetation project has developed a large backlog of willing landowners ready to begin the process of stream revegetation to achieve stability and prevent further erosion. They have a waiting list of 28 additional sites, totaling 19,536 linear feet of stream that could be stabilized if additional funding is secured. Barring additional funding this year, these sites could be the subject of a potential NCLWF application in 2026 but would then be planted no earlier than 2027.

Mountain Valleys RC&D requests an additional \$194,750 to increase the contract scope to include the full project backlog of an additional 28 sites and 19,536 linear feet of stream enhancement.

Staff believes that this request represents a unique opportunity to expand an existing contract scope to stabilize raw streambanks denuded by Hurricane Helene that would otherwise be untreated for at least 18 months. No other open NCLWF contract provides such an efficient and rapid response to the problem of many erosion prone streambanks of western NC. Staff recommends that existing contract 2024-417 be amended with an increase in scope and award as requested utilizing unused funds from the previous grant cycle that are available now.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The committee recommends that Mountain Valleys RC&D’s request to increase the award for project 2024-417 by \$194,750 and to increase the project scope to include an additional 28 sites and 19,536 linear feet of stream enhancement utilizing unused funds from the 2024 grant cycle.

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.

**Action Item****Staff member: Will Summer**

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**Agenda Item 3c) Allocation of Funding for 2025 Applications****Background**

In advance of the funding meeting each year, the Executive Committee allocates anticipated available funds to each funding committee and directs staff how to handle additional revenue and returned funds after the meeting. For the last four years, the board allocated 80% to the Acquisition Committee and 20% to the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee, generally reflective of the demand for those years. For the eight years prior to that, the board allocated 75%/25% to those committees, respectively.

For the past seven years, the Executive Committee has recommended that the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater and Planning Committee be responsible for determining the funding between their three program areas at the board meeting based on the merit of the applications, rather than determine a set percentage ahead of the review meeting.

Staff recommends that the committee continue with a similar recommendation as in recent years, adjusting the percentages as they determine appropriate.

The breakdown of the 2025 applications between the programs is as follows:

	# of apps	% by number	requested \$	% by amount requested
Acquisition	78	63.4%	\$ 108,034,636	88.6%
Restoration	27	22.0%	\$ 11,554,314	9.5%
Innovative Stormwater	5	4.1%	\$ 1,521,442	1.2%
Planning	13	10.6%	\$ 873,511	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>		<b>\$ 121,983,903</b>	

**Committee recommendation**

The Committee recommends for the 2025 grant cycle that all available funds be allocated as follows: 80 % of funds to the Acquisition Committee, 20% of funds to the Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee. The Acquisition Committee will be charged with allocating funding for the Donated Minigrant Program. The Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee will be charged with allocating funding for each of their three program areas based on the merit of the applications during project review. All returned or unspent grant funds received after the funding meeting will revert to their respective programs to be used for provisional awards for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Board action needed**

Approve, amend, or deny the committee recommendation.