AGENDA

North Carolina Land and Water Fund

Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning Committee Meeting

September 15, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, this meeting will only be available to the public by teleconference. Please contact Sydney McDaniel at <u>sydney.mcdaniel@ncdcr.gov</u> or 919-707-9121 to request a teleconference meeting invitation/call-in.

Committee Members:

Renee Kumor (Chair), Ann Browning, Mike Rusher, Darrel Williams, John Wilson

1) Call to Order (Chair)

- a) Welcome
- b) 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.

c) Revisions, Additions, and Adoption of the Agenda

2) Public Comments (Chair)

The Public Is Invited to Make Comments to the Committee – (Three Minutes per Person)

3) Review of 2021 Cycle Applications – Restoration

Staff will give presentations for 2021 Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning applications and the committee will develop funding recommendations for 2021.

- a) Review of Planning Applications
- b) Review of Innovative Stormwater Applications
- c) Review of Restoration Applications
- **4) Consideration of no-cost budget amendment for project 2017-409, NCDPR Hydrilla Treatment** Staff will present a request to add a line item to a previously funded grant to permit a new expense.
- 5) Adjourn

Action Item

Staff member(s): Steve Bevington

Agenda Item 3) Review of 2021 Cycle Applications – Restoration, Innovative Stormwater, and Planning

34 applications for restoration, innovative stormwater and planning projects have been ranked by staff for the committee to review for grant awards. The committee needs to review the 2021 applications and make funding recommendations.

Each trustee was given application review materials via Air Table with application scores and links to applications, project summaries, and PowerPoint presentations.

PowerPoint presentations will be given by staff during the Committee Meeting.

Actions needed from committee

1) Recommendation to full board of a prioritized list of applications to be funded from the currently available funds.

2) Recommendation to full board of a prioritized list of applications to be funded as additional funds become available from license plate fees, funds currently encumbered to projects that may become unencumbered before July 1, 2022, and additional appropriated funds.

Action Item

Staff member(s): Steve Bevington

Agenda Item 4) NC Division of Parks and Recreation Amendment Request – 2017-409

In 2017 NCLWF awarded a grant of up to \$225,000 to the NC Division of Parks and Recreation (NCDPR) to remove an infestation of hydrilla the northwest end of Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County. This award was a second phase of the hydrilla control project, first funded as 2015-408 for \$250,000.

Hydrilla is an invasive species that threatens the great and unique diversity of aquatic organisms in Lake Waccamaw. The project work is in the form of chemical treatment of approximately 600 acres of lake bottom for the elimination of hydrilla. To date the project has gone well with hydrilla no longer observed in the project area. Efforts to control resprouting of the persistent weed continue.

NCDPR has raised the concern that hydrilla, now mostly controlled in the lake, may return through contact with recreation boats brought to the lake. An accepted practice to reduce the chances of reinfestation is to provide a boat washing station at each boat ramp. NCDPR proposes use a portion of grant funds (\$80,000 of \$204,000 remaining) to purchase and install two boat washing stations on Lake Waccamaw. This request is a no-cost modification of the budget but would mean the addition of a new line item to the project budget. A letter describing this change and its benefits is attached below.

Staff has discussed this proposal with NCDPR staff and determined that this is an important step in protecting Lake Waccamaw as well as supporting NCLWF's previous efforts to protect the lake. Further, staff has determined that the success of the two phases of this effort have left the project budget in a place where the transfer of \$80,000 from hydrilla control to prevention will not threaten ongoing control efforts.

Staff recommendation

Approve the no-cost budget amendment with a new line item of up to \$80,000 for two boat washing stations and the reduction by \$80,000 in the line item for hydrilla control to \$145,000.

Committee action needed

Recommendation to the Board to approve, deny, or amend staff recommendation.

Attachment: Request to modify 2017-409 project budget.



Division of Parks and Recreation NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

August 20, 2021

Steve Bevington, Restoration Program Manager Clean Water Management Trust Fund

RE: Change of Scope grant 2017-409

We are requesting a change of scope for the Lake Waccamaw Hydrilla grant 2017-409. The hydrilla control project on Lake Waccamaw has been successful beyond my expectations. We have reduced hydrilla in the lake to undetectable levels such that we have suspended chemical treatments and begun a watchful waiting mode.

This has come at a huge cost, over \$4 million. Clean Water has been instrumental on helping us get there. Clearly it is in everyone's interest to prevent reinfestation by hydrilla, or the next invasive. The technical advisory team has identified the large boat ramp as the likely location of hydrilla introduction into the lake.

We would like to install boat washing stations at both boat ramps on the lake to reduce the likelihood of introduction of invasives species. We have investigated various boat cleaning techniques and technologies and have found a reasonably priced system that has shown good results in other locations. It also has the advantage of not requiring a water hook up and can operate on a self-contained solar array.

Currently We have \$204,000 remaining in this grant that expires 1/31/2023. We have been holding the funds in contingency should we need to quickly restart treatment, fortunately we have not had to. We are requesting a change of scope of this existing grant to allow us to spend approximately \$80,000 on two boat washing stations.

Sincerely,

Jon Blanchard

Jon Blanchard, Program Head of Natural Resources

Dwayne Patterson, Director NC Division of Parks and Recreation 1615 MSC - Raleigh, NC 27699-1615 919.707.9300 / ncparks.gov