



**Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina**

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**Engineering Department**

### **Memorandum**

To: Mayor Cindy Perry and the Town Board of Commissioners

From: Fred Royal, PE, CFM, Town Engineer

Re: USEPA 319 Grant up-date

Date: September 12, 2016

### **Introduction and Background**

In 2013, the Town applied for and was awarded a US EPA 319 Water Quality Grant in the amount of \$161,726 of federal matching funds. The Town and NC State University contribution of cash and in-kind services is \$107,864 for a total project budget of \$269,590.00

Over the past thirteen years, the Town of Pittsboro has participated in cost-share water quality improvement projects call best management practices (BMP's) with the Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) and NC State University's Water Quality Group in various projects. Ninety five percent (95%) of the Robeson Creek Watershed lies within Town limits or it's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

The purpose of these grants are to reduce pollutant loading into Robeson Creek and its tributaries emanating from stormwater runoff from developed/impervious land. The targeted pollutants are sediment, total nitrogen and phosphorous, oil-based products and metals.

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## Discussion

BMP retrofits for existing development are not required by the State of North Carolina. In fact, the legislature has now prohibited local government from enforcing the Jordan Lake Rules for stormwater treatment from new development and re-development. This legislation requires the town to modify its existing Stormwater Management Ordinance in the Jordan Lake Watershed. However, the town and the development community may voluntarily treat stormwater for total nitrogen and phosphorous from new development, re-development and existing development. In order to continue to advance water quality improvements and public education, the Town of Pittsboro is designing and constructing BMP retrofits via the US EPA 319 grant award.

The three BMP retrofit sites and project status are described below:

1. Bioretention cells to capture and treat the runoff generated from the parking lot and roof of Town Hall. Two existing areas have been identified for these designs. As you have followed the construction, the front BMP has been significantly completed. Remaining to do is planting the vegetation, which will be done in Fall 2016. A similar BMP will be constructed in the rear location, also in Fall 2016.
2. A Bioretention facility will be located in the northwest corner of the courthouse square (parking lot area) to capture and treat the runoff generated from portions of rooftops, downtown streets and sidewalks and the parking lot. This project has been designed to 100% complete and is being evaluated by the Main Street Committee for any additional amenities to meet the desires of this committee for downtown visual consistency.

With the modifications, which requires more cement and labor than was awarded, the approved grant funds are limited to the grading and installation of the concrete work of the BMP “boxes” that convey and treat the stormwater runoff, regrade and install the brick sidewalk, connect existing downspout, internal drainage and the vegetation. Depending on the bid amounts received, the parking lot may be milled and resurfaced with 1.25” of asphalt. After three public meetings, the design was delayed and modified to

meet the concerns of the Blair Building owner, the retail space tenants and the Main Street Committee. With final design changes to box heights and vegetation, this project is now ready for bidding. Other aspects identified and desired by the Main Street Committee may take place as deemed appropriate.

This project schedule is bid advertising December – January, 2017, bid award February 2017 and construction March – May 2017. The project must be fully invoiced and completed by June 2017 or the Town will have to fund this project 100%. This design was initially put on-hold for nearly one year due to the courthouse circle redesign project by NCDOT. Thankfully, the Town successfully requested for and obtained an additional one year for the grant. This is June 2017. The property is owned by Chatham County, therefore a drainage easement will have to be obtained from the county prior to construction. The Town will be responsible for all maintenance of the BMP once it is installed.

3. The final project is a constructed water quality channel in the low corner of the gravel parking area behind the downtown businesses on the west side of Hillsboro Street. This property is privately owned and the owner has agreed to the concept plan. Final design and an easement will be worked through with him prior to construction. The Town will maintain this BMP.