



December 5, 2012

**To:** Mayor Randy Voller and the Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners

**RE:** Letter of support for the Town of Pittsboro's request for a review of the 0.75 mgd discharge into Robeson Creek

Honorable Mayor and Commissioners,

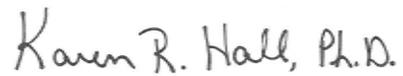
The Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) is comprised of stakeholders, including representatives of federal, state, and local agencies that have worked together since 2001 to find solutions to the water quality issues in the Robeson Creek watershed. The Robeson Creek watershed drains all of the incorporated limits of the Town of Pittsboro as well as the majority of the ETJ. We appreciate the Town's continued support and participation in the RCWC.

Robeson Creek was first placed on the North Carolina State Impaired Waters List (303(d) list) in 1998 for chlorophyll *a* violations and for a biological impairment on the main stem of Robeson Creek. A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for total phosphorus was developed for Robeson Creek in 2003 to address the chlorophyll *a* violations in the Robeson Creek cove of Jordan Lake. The TMDL calls for a 71 % phosphorus reduction from urban runoff as well as from the Pittsboro WWTP. Robeson Creek continues to be listed on the 303 (d) both upstream and downstream of Pittsboro's WWTP for impaired aquatic life.

After much consideration and discussion of the water quality issues faced by Robeson Creek, the RCWC would like to express our support for a review of the dual discharge permit the town received in June 2011 for a 0.75 mgd discharge to Robeson Creek and a 2.47 mgd discharge to Haw River. We understand that the current permitted discharge of 0.75 mgd into Robeson Creek is based on the USGS hydrologically based 7Q10 flow, which is the lowest 7-day average flow in a ten-year period. Robeson Creek like many Carolina slate belt streams tends to have a low flow especially during the summer months, but unlike many of the surrounding creeks, Robeson Creek generally does not go dry. Currently there is no flow data for Robeson Creek upstream of the WWTP for the basis of the 7Q10. We fully support scientific study of Robeson Creek's stream flow in this critically important stream to more accurately determine this creek's flow so that appropriate discharge flows into the creek can be agreed on.

The RCWC would be willing to work with Pittsboro and NCDENR on a watershed-based study to evaluate the possibility of increasing the discharge to Robeson Creek. Ultimately our hope is for the continued restoration and protection of the ecological integrity of Robeson Creek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Deininger".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen R. Hall, Ph.D.".

Catherine Deininger and Karen Hall, Ph.D.  
Co-Coordiators of the Robeson Creek Watershed Council