Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Engineering Department

Memorandum

To: Mr. Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager

From: Mr. Fred Royal, PE, Town Engineer

Re: USEPA 319 Grant Application proposal

Date: May 8, 2013

Over the past ten years, the Town of Pittsboro has participated in in-kind cost-share projects with the Robeson Creek Watershed Council (RCWC) and NC State University's Water Quality Group in various water quality improvement activities in the Robeson Creek Watershed. Ninety five percent of this watershed is within Town limits or it's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).

To-date, RCWC has taken the lead as grantee to fund various projects including watershed studies, water quality monitoring, public education and involvement and best management practice (BMP) retrofit design and installation. There are currently seven BMP's installed and operational in Pittsboro as a result of successful 319 grant applications.

Due to the anticipated Jordan Lake Rules, requiring BMP retrofits for existing development, and in order to advance water quality improvements and public education, the Town of Pittsboro staff proposes to take the lead role as grantee for this US EPA 319 grant cycle with RCWC/NC State University as a technical partner. The Town Engineer, Town Planning Director and RCWC Chair Dr. Karen Hall have identified multiple BMP retrofit sites suitable for this application cycle.

1. Bioretention facilities 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.

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2. A bioretention facility to be located in the northwest corner of the courthouse circle to capture and treat the runoff generated from a rooftop, downtown streets and a parking lot. This area currently is a combination of planter boxes and paved areas in-between the existing parking lot and the brick sidewalk. Ownership of this narrow area is not clear but will be determined and addressed prior to moving forward with design. According to a local business owner, the Town has made improvements in this area in the past, including the brick sidewalk and the brick planter boxes. It was brought to our attention that there also exists a flooding/drainage problem in that immediate sidewalk area that is a hazard to the public. This project would be designed to mitigate this hazard as well.
3. A cistern to capture roof runoff for the irrigation of landscaping.
4. A bioretention facility in the corner of a parcel located behind downtown businesses.

The grant application deadline is May 23rd. Submittal approval from the Town Board of Commissioner's is required as a part of the grant application submittal. RCWC/NC State University has agreed to take the role as technical support and monitoring.

In order to be competitive, the project will require a 40 percent local cost share. We are proposing that this cost-share include in-kind services only and no cash. The actual values will be calculated as time spent between Town forces and NC State University staff. Further calculations to refine project cost and local cost-share will take place before the final grant is submitted. Estimated costs are provided on the draft application (attached).

Over the proposed three-year grant cycle, we believe that town staff could participate in this project by providing technical and other services and constructing services for the two proposed bioretention facilities at Town Hall and one proposed behind the downtown businesses. We are proposing that the grant provide funding for construction of the more complex bioretention facility at the northwest quadrant courthouse circle.

The project cost estimates are as follows:

1. US EPA 319 Grant funding request: $150,000
2. Local 40% in-kind match: $100,000

Total Grant Application Value estimate: $250,000