



**North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services**  
*N.C. Forest Service*



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**Pittsboro Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Request and Information Packet**

Meeting date: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Submitted by: Nancy Stairs, NC Forest Service; Brooke Massa, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Kacy Cook, NC Wildlife Resources Commission; Allison Weakley, NC Natural Heritage Program

Items included in agenda packet: Summary of the Redesign Grant Proposal and a copy of the draft Redesign grant proposal

We respectfully request that the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners reconsider providing a non-binding statement of support of the Redesign Grant Project from the Town of Pittsboro.

Summary of the Redesign Grant Proposal

***Redesign Overview:***

Grant is awarded by the USDA Forest Service to the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) to improve outcomes of tree canopy and forest resource management and conservation relating to local government land use planning. The NCFS would be solely responsible for administering the grant, grant reporting and for meeting in-kind match requirements.

***In-Kind Match:***

Grant partners hold no legal responsibility for in-kind match. The NCFS is solely responsible for meeting in-kind match requirements internally. The in-kind match for the grant is not a required cash match. In-kind match can consist completely of documented time spent working on the project. In-kind match in the form of time is noted as a dollar amount in the grant, but this dollar amount is an estimate for the value of time spent on the project and is not a financial commitment.

We hope that Pittsboro staff and board members will provide input to this project so that it can benefit the town and to provide a real world case study. We want to tailor this project to suit the needs of the Town of Pittsboro. Any time that the Town of Pittsboro staff or board members spend providing input to and reviewing the products produced from this grant can count as in-kind match.

***Purpose of Proposal:***

To assist Pittsboro in the creation of recommended conservation standards, model ordinance and zoning language, and land use planning recommendations to enhance its natural resource base and the integrity of the natural resources services provided to its citizens by healthy forests. This project will provide resources and information to help inform land use decisions and policy for Pittsboro. It will not obligate the Town of Pittsboro to adopt any particular policy. This project could help the Town of Pittsboro get out ahead of anticipated growth and have Pittsboro be recognized as a leader on the forefront of finding innovative ways to balance natural resource conservation and economic growth.

### ***Summary of Major Components:***

- Pittsboro's interests will be incorporated through input by town leaders, staff and public in project components.
- Work with an environmental consultant to update data on natural resources in Pittsboro's ETJ and use it to identify and prioritize land important for conservation. This consultant will make recommendations to enhance the land use plan's conservation measures to be used as and when the town chooses.
- Work with the Chatham Conservation Partnership to develop a public forum website and host public meetings devoted to increasing participation of the public in developing conservation recommendations for land use planning and education in urban forestry issues.
- Work with a legal consultant to provide options for model ordinance and zoning language that address natural resource conservation. Pittsboro would be able – but not obligated - to consider incorporating these measures in the town's ordinances.
- Conduct an economic analysis to explore the economic benefits and costs of incorporating forest conservation measures into land use planning policies.
- Document and publicize the process to serve as a model for other municipalities.

### ***Costs:***

- The North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) is the recipient of the grant and will be responsible for meeting the 50% in-kind match. The NCFS can meet this match internally and through documenting the time that partners spend on the grant.
- No partners are responsible for providing any funds to meet this in-kind match. No partners are legally liable if they fall short of documenting time spent on the project as in-kind match.
- Pittsboro is in no way obligated to meet a match requirement. However, it is recommended that planning staff be involved in reviewing the work of the consultants in order to ensure that the work will address the needs of the town.

### ***Partners:***

Partners that have an interest in being involved in the proposed project include: NC Forest Service, Robeson Creek Watershed Council, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Natural Heritage Program, Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, the School of Government and the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina, Triangle Land Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District, Chatham Conservation Partnership, and NC State University Cooperative Extension.

### ***Expectations of Town of Pittsboro:***

We are excited about the possibility of collaborating with the Town of Pittsboro, and we are prepared to commit substantial resources to this project to make it a success. In order to proceed with this grant application and the project, we need some assurance that the Town is supportive of the project goals, is interested in exploring options for conserving natural resources through land use policies and procedures, and is willing to try to invest sufficient Town staff time to working on this project (with the understanding that town staff may need to respond to higher priorities). We do not require or expect a legally binding commitment of time, resources, or policy, but we seek a statement of interest in working with us in good faith toward a common goal.