

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2004

**TITLE: Friends of Bolin Creek Report: The Future of the Upper Bolin Creek Corridor**

DEPARTMENT: <b>PLANNING</b>	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u> _
ATTACHMENTS: <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. Bolin Creek Basin Map</b> <b>C. Friends of Bolin Creek report</b> <b>D. Recent correspondence from Friends of Bolin Creek</b>	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: <b>Patricia McGuire, 918-7327</b> <b>Noah Ranells, 918-7326</b>

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to provide an opportunity to the Friends of Bolin Creek to present their report entitled "The Future of the Upper Bolin Creek Corridor". A resolution has been prepared that accepts this report and refers it to staff for evaluation.

### SUMMARY

In mid-January 2003, members of the Friends of Bolin Creek (FBC), a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the Bolin Creek corridor, made a presentation to the Board of Aldermen. The FBC had provided comments to the Board of Aldermen in September 2002 at the public hearing on annexation of the Horace Williams and Winmore tracts and noted their pending request for support for the proposed Bolin Creek corridor master plan. The group offered their proposal to the Chapel Hill Town Council in November 2002. With the exception of the September 2002 annexation public hearing, the purpose of these presentations was to request support and assistance towards the preparation of the master plan for the Bolin Creek Corridor.

The FOBC has refined its original concept and has prepared a proposal for planning the future of the upper Bolin Creek corridor, principally that portion of the creek basin that lies north of Estes Drive in the report entitled "The Future of the Upper Bolin Creek Corridor" (*Attachment C*). This planning is envisioned as a joint effort between the town and county governments and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that is focused on the creation of an "extended park and preserve (more than a greenway) along Bolin Creek." Maps of the proposed park and preserve and an implementation plan are included in the report. Correspondence from Ms Julie McClintock to Mayor Nelson (17 June 2004) and from Ms McClintock to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen (10 Aug 2004) is also provided (*Attachment D*).

This report was originally scheduled to coincide with a report on the Morgan / Little Creeks Local Watershed Planning effort supported by the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its consultant, TetraTech. Given the delay

of that report, Ms. Bonnie Duncan of EEP has requested sufficient time at the Assembly of Governments September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting for the purpose of presenting their report.

A staff evaluation of this FOBC report is needed in order to identify consistency with adopted plans and policies.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Receiving the Friends of Bolin Creek Report does not incur any budgetary impact. Budget implications regarding the implementation of recommendations on Table 1 of the report will require further evaluation by staff.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board accept the Friends of Bolin Creek report and direct staff to evaluate the report.