

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(5)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 7, 2005

**TITLE:** Prioritization of Ecosystem Enhancement Program Stormwater Projects

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _ X _</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. EEP Site Summary Information</b> <b>C. EEP Watershed Benefit Scores</b> <b>D. Staff Rank for Carrboro Sites</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Noah Ranells, 918-7326</b>

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to present a staff assessment of the stormwater projects listed in the Morgan & Little Creeks Local Watershed Plan Targeting of Management Report that was produced by the Ecosystem Enhancement Program of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

### SUMMARY

The NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP; formerly Wetlands Restoration Program) in its Targeting of Management Report noted 12 stormwater best management practices and 3 stream restoration sites in the Town of Carrboro planning jurisdiction. In early February, EEP representatives Deborah Amaral and Perry Sugg visited selected BMP and restoration sites in Carrboro and presented the "Targeting of Management" report to town staff as part of the Development Review process. EEP representatives indicated that they are interested in pursuing BMP and restoration activities in Carrboro and seek input from the Town on which sites may be prioritized for subsequent landowner contact, design, and construction. A complete set of EEP site evaluations is provided (*Attachment B*)

While 12 sites were evaluated by EEP, staff has only evaluated the sites that merited an EEP 'Benefit Score' of greater or equal to 9 (*Attachment C*). Proposed high priority sites have the potential to provide long term improvements in aquatic habitat and water quality within the Town watersheds, as well as enhancing water quality protection in Jordan Lake. Through an active BMP implementation program, it is anticipated that the Town will derive enhancements to the ongoing NPDES Stormwater Phase II Permit as well as realize important nitrogen and phosphorous reductions that will assist in fulfilling the proposed nutrient management strategy for Jordan Lake.

While parcels owned by the Town of Carrboro pose immediate opportunity for consideration, parcels owned by the local school system as well as privately owned parcels offer opportunity for the Town of Carrboro to provide a facilitating role in encouraging projects to improve water quality. Staff has prepared a document that distills critical information for use in prioritizing sites based on the interests of the Town of Carrboro (*Attachment D*).

Staff has evaluated Site 11 – ‘Carrboro Tracks’ and consulted with the town engineer regarding appropriateness and feasibility of this site. While the anticipated development upstream from that site may limit its suitability for EEP funding, placement of a BMP at this location will address a significant portion of the impervious area in downtown. Based on the current delineation for the BMP site, there will be no conflict with the town cemetery. Following thorough evaluation, staff recommends that the Aldermen authorize the Town Manager to proceed with preliminary formal submission of Site 11 – ‘Carrboro Tracks’ to EEP for consideration of BMP implementation.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact to proceeding with BMP implementation for Site 11 ‘Carrboro Tracks’. The Town of Carrboro may be responsible for maintenance 5 years after accepting the report and that is estimated to be \$439 per year for Site 11 ‘Carrboro tracks’.

Directing staff to serve a facilitation role in informing relevant property owners of EEP opportunities would require a minor dedication of staff resources and time.

For BMP and restoration projects on private lands, the EEP bears the cost of conservation easements, design, and construction, as well as 5 years of monitoring. On town owned land, the EEP traditionally requests donation of the conservation easement, but the EEP funds the design and construction project phases, as well as 5 years of monitoring. Customarily, the EEP requests that municipalities accept the operation and maintenance responsibilities for sites owned by the Town of Carrboro and this would have fiscal impact to the Town of Carrboro. It is relevant to note that inspection, operation, and maintenance of stormwater BMPs will also be mandated by the Town’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Stormwater Permit.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Town Manager to sign the EEP ‘Site Proposal Form’ for Site 11 – ‘Carrboro Tracks’ which indicates to EEP that the town wishes to proceed to the next level in planning a stormwater BMP for that site. In addition, the Board of Aldermen directs staff to provide a facilitation role for other sites that received a “high” staff ranking.