

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT
MEETING DATE: September 5, 2006**

TITLE: A Review of the Report on the Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Bolin Creek Champion Memo, 03/16/06	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: D. Will Autry, 918-7326 Trish McGuire, 918-7327

PURPOSE

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to maintain a list of impaired waters. In January 2006 the NC Division of Water Quality released the most recent draft 303d list. Although more downstream portions of Bolin Creek had been on the list in previous cycles, this year's list extended the impaired rating upstream to Pathway Drive in Carrboro's jurisdiction. Based on the rating, Town staff was invited by NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources staff to participate in a watershed restoration effort. Staff would like to advise the Board on this ongoing effort and ask the Board's support for continued participation in this project.

INFORMATION

Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is a grant program for non-point source projects. In an effort to show measurable improvements in water quality, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) staff are selecting "restoration watersheds" in which they are working with "champions" to help them obtain 319 and other funding to improve water quality. Based on a number of factors (See Attachment B), Carrboro and Chapel Hill have been chosen as champions to work with EPA and DENR in an effort to remove Bolin Creek from the 303d list.

Carrboro and Chapel Hill staff have participated in several meetings with DENR staff since being chosen as champions in early April. These Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team (BCWRT) meetings have resulted in a multi-step plan designed to achieve the primary goal of winning a Section 319 grant with a May 2007 application. Funding from this grant would be used for stormwater retrofit design and construction within the watershed and monitoring to demonstrate water quality improvements.

The efforts of the BCWRT are consistent with or complimentary to a number of ongoing activities and policies of the Town. The assistance from DENR provides a great opportunity for the Towns to procure substantial funding for projects like those that will almost surely be required by the pending Jordan Lake rules, and which will not be eligible for such funding once the Jordan rules take effect. In order to achieve the goal of removing Bolin Creek from the 303d list, this endeavor will take a number of years, require significant staff effort, and likely require the provision of some matching funds from Carrboro.

FISCAL IMPACT

Although the Team is making every effort to secure outside funding from multiple partners for matches required to be eligible for grants, and “in-kind” efforts such as staff time and ongoing monitoring costs are considered a valid match for 319 grants, some Town funding will be necessary in coming fiscal years.

Of immediate concern, the team plans to apply for a \$50,000 Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) mini grant by October 19, 2006. The mini grant would require a \$5000.00 match, for which Carrboro will be responsible for a portion during the current fiscal year. An additional application to the EPA for assistance is being submitted at this time. No match would be required for this assistance. The purpose of the mini grant and EPA study would be to conduct geomorphic analyses and identify potential stormwater retrofit sites in the watershed. The results of these studies would strengthen the Team’s 319 grant application for submission in May 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution accepting this report and pledging to support the BCWRT efforts to the maximum extent possible.