

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**ITEM NO. D(3)**

**AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT  
MEETING DATE: October 3, 2006**

**TITLE: A Review of the Report on the Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team's  
Clean Water Management Trust Fund Mini-grant Application**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO <u>X</u></b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Resolution</b> <b>B. Mini-grant Application</b> <b>C. MOA</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> D. Will Autry, <b>918-7326</b> Trish McGuire, <b>918-7327</b>

**PURPOSE**

The Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team needs to conduct a geomorphic analysis in the watershed to identify potential locations for stormwater retrofit projects and stream restoration activities. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund has a Stormwater Mini-grant program for which this activity is eligible. Staff would like to ask the Board for authorization to apply for and perform the functions and obligations of the Mini-grant recipient as set out in a grant agreement that may result from this grant application.

**INFORMATION**

In April 2006 Bolin Creek was selected by the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as one of only seven watersheds in the state to receive assistance through the emerging Restoration Watershed Program. The selection was based on Bolin Creek's ongoing impairment, the existence of restoration planning efforts for the larger Morgan and Little Creeks Watershed(s), and the tremendous local capacity for progressive environmental initiatives that exists in our area. The Bolin Creek Watershed Restoration Team (BCWRT) includes local "champions," Carrboro and Chapel Hill, partnering with DENR and EPA staffs in an effort to effectuate measurable improvements in the water quality of Bolin Creek.

Nancy Guthrie of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) attended a BCWRT meeting on July 20, 2006. She suggested that the Stormwater Mini-grant might be an excellent option to fund the Team's geomorphic analysis. These reimbursement grants include a \$50,000 cap, and a 10% local cash match. Small drainage basin studies are one of three eligible activity types for the Mini-grants. Possible stormwater retrofit and stream restoration sites identified by this geomorphic analysis would then be used by the Team as projects for future Section 319 or other larger grant applications, leading to actual water quality improvements.

Although Carrboro staff intends to apply for and administer this grant, this will be a group effort of the BCWRT. Chapel Hill will be sharing the financial burden of the required local match. This arrangement will be formalized in an inter-local agreement to be executed by both towns (Attachment C). The grant application must be submitted by October 19, 2006 to accommodate the

BCWRT's schedule for preparing a 319 application for May 2007 submission. Staff hopes that Chapel Hill will be able to take the lead in that application, in a similar arrangement as this. However, that may depend on the findings of the geomorphic analysis.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Stormwater Mini-grant proposal seeks \$50,000 for geomorphic analysis and potential project site identification. The CWMTF will reimburse the Town for \$45,000 after successful completion of the grant. This will leave a remaining \$5000.00 local cash match to be paid by the Team. Carrboro and Chapel Hill staff have discussed this, and determined that it would be most equitable to pay the match based on population with \$3,725.00 being paid for by Chapel Hill and \$1,275.00 by Carrboro. Sufficient funds are available in the current year's budget to cover this expense.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution accepting this report and authorize the manager to submit an application for the CWMTF mini-grant and, if the grant is awarded, for staff to perform the functions and obligations of the mini-grant recipient.