



Engineering and Environmental Services

August 16, 2019

Ms. Sarah G. Zambon
Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice

Dear Ms. Zambon:

This letter indicates the intent of Durham County to submit a proposal for funding by the Attorney General's 2019 Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. The County seeks \$300,000 to fund the development of a Watershed Management Plan for the Flat River/Lake Michie Watershed in Durham County under the Research, Planning, and Education Program Area. The planning area is approximately 16,000 acres in the Neuse River watershed and includes streams that provide water to significant drinking water reservoirs, Lake Michie and Falls Lake. Data-rich and field-verified, the watershed management plan will be used to make important decisions with regards to land conservation priorities, best management practices, stormwater control measure locations, and educational opportunities.

Durham County is subject to the Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy. As such, a watershed management plan is the first step to define and develop methods for meeting the Strategy's requirements. The funds from this grant will be combined with the County's Watershed Mitigation Fund resources (available immediately) and its forthcoming stormwater utility fee (anticipated August 2020) to support the proposed watershed management plan as well as implementation of the plan's identified water quality improvement measures. With the anticipated storm water fee Durham County is fiscally committed to the long-term protection and improvement of our water resources and will greatly benefit from a Watershed Management Plan.

Currently, there is no specific adopted land conservation or water quality planning document for the Flat River/Lake Michie watershed in Durham County. This grant project is an opportunity to change that by identifying vulnerable areas for protection and restoration and to further improve water quality in Falls Lake and the Neuse River. Durham County looks forward to working with the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program toward that end.

Sincerely,

Ryan D. Eaves, PE
Stormwater and Erosion Control Division Manager
Durham County Engineering and Environmental Services Department