



Agenda Action Form Overview

Approval Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 21BCC000091 to Recognize \$188,000 Grant Revenue from The City of Durham to Soil and Water Department and Increase the Expenses to Implement the Southeastern Sustainability Community Fund Project

Background/Justification

The Bionomic Education Training Center (BETC) Program was adopted in 2009 by the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District. The Program is a proven environmental and agriculture education program that reinforces core curriculum standards and provides hands-on investigation for participants while improving water quality in Durham County. It is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills through inquiry-based experiential activities, engaging them in designing and installing Best Management Practices (BMPs). This Program's instructional approach leads to better-prepared graduates who have a greater understanding of the sciences' importance to the agriculture industry and trains them for jobs in Green Infrastructure. The Program has received several state and national awards for its advancement of E-STEM education and natural resources protection. Award examples include:

- *Outstanding Achievement in Local Government Innovation Award from the Alliance of Innovation at the Transforming Local Government Conference, Tacoma WA, April 6, 2018.*
- *The Underwriters Laboratories Innovative Education Award and Finalist by the North American Association of Environmental Educators in 2016.*
- *N.C. Source Water Protection Award for Education & Leadership March 17, 2016.*

In 2020, the County staff co-authored a grant proposal with City staff from the Public Works Energy & Sustainability Section. The grant application requested \$300,000 from the Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) to implement a climate change project. The proposal reduces stormwater runoff, streambank erosion, and flooding in low-income neighborhoods in the Ellerbe Creek Watershed of Durham and improving energy and water efficiency in homes in these same neighborhoods. The grant was initially awarded to the City in 2020, but due to COVID 19, the City & County's interlocal agreement was postponed. The City Council approved the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Durham and the Durham County Soil & Water Department on February 15, 2021.

The Soil and Water Department requests that the BOCC approve the City of Durham's agreement for the \$188,000 to be used as outlined in the grant request (see attached final grant document & budget). In summary, \$100,800 would be allocated to the Durham Public Schools Career & Technical Education to pay for extended employment contracts for teachers to supervise the BETC STEM program implementation and provide students with stipends. \$30,000 would be used to purchase supplies and materials; \$57,200 would be allocated to the Department for Contract services for Best Management Practices(BMPs) implementation.



Policy Impact

This action allows the County to meet its full financial obligation to the City Interlocal Agreement to implement the BETC program and the SSCF grant funds as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement.

Procurement Background

N/A

Fiscal Impact

There will be no fiscal impacts on the County. The grant will support all expenses that will occur.

County Manager's Recommendation

The County Manager Recommends that the Board approves Budget Amendment No. 21BCC000091 recognizing \$188,000 in grant revenue from the City of Durham to Soil and Water Department and Increase the expenses to implement the Southeastern Sustainability Community Fund Project.