



NORTH CAROLINA  
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER

Governor

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Secretary

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Director

April 10, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

**CRC 24-03**

**TO:** NC Coastal Resources Commission  
**FROM:** Mackenzie Todd  
**SUBJECT:** NC Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP)

The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) created the Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) with funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the State Legislature to address local barriers to implementing resilience projects within the state's coastal zone. The RCCP is a voluntary, incentive-based program that builds local government capacity to identify critical assets, assess vulnerabilities, promote equitable community engagement, and help communities plan and implement shovel-ready resilience projects.

The RCCP plays a crucial role in helping coastal communities prepare for and respond to coastal hazards, such as flooding, storm surge, and sea-level rise. By providing funding, technical assistance, and resources, this program enables communities to develop robust resilience plans, implement sustainable practices, and protect vital coastal resources. Since 2019 the state has appropriated approximately \$14 million for the RCCP development and implementation, including a \$10 million appropriation in its 2023-2024 biennial budget.

The RCCP includes four sequential phases: 1) Community Engagement and Risk & Vulnerability Assessment; 2) Planning, Project Identification, and Prioritization; 3) Engineering & Design; and 4) Implementation. In Phases 1 and 2, DCM assigns an external service provider (e.g., a planning firm or Council of Government) to guide them in completing the structured work defined in DCM's RCCP Planning Handbook. A community completing Phases 1 and 2 ends up with a Resilience Strategy, which includes a Project Portfolio of locally identified and prioritized resilience projects. To date, 41 RCCP communities have generated a pipeline of over 250 potential projects.

At the Commission's upcoming meeting, DCM staff will provide a brief program update and allow time for two program participants to speak about their experience in the RCCP. Meg Perry with SWCA Environmental Consultants will speak about her experience working as a contractor for the RCCP where she's provided technical assistance in creating risk and vulnerability assessments and project portfolios for six communities. Lynn Davis from the Town of Belhaven will talk about the town's participation in the RCCP through all four phases. DCM awarded the town approximately \$348,000 to improve overland flooding through improvements along Wynne's Gut. Improvements include the creation of additional floodplain through grading improvements, erosion mitigation through vegetative plantings, and the installation of a pump



system and tidal gate along Wynne's Gut. The floodplain improvements will reduce flooding, while the pumps will lower the water elevation during high water events, particularly during increasingly routine nuisance flooding. This project was identified as a priority during Phase 2 of the RCCP. DCM staff look forward to discussing the RCCP at your upcoming meeting.

The following communities have participated or currently are participating in Phases 1 and 2 of the RCCP:

1. Ahoskie
2. Atlantic Beach
3. Aulander
4. Aurora
5. Beaufort
6. Beaufort County
7. Belhaven
8. Bertie County
9. Burgaw
10. Cape Carteret
11. Carteret County
12. City of Washington
13. Craven County
14. Creswell
15. Currituck County
16. Dare County (Hatteras)
17. Duck
18. Edenton
19. Elizabeth City
20. Hertford
21. Hertford County
22. Holly Ridge
23. Hyde County (Ocracoke)
24. Kitty Hawk
25. Leland
26. N. Topsail Beach
27. Nags Head
28. Navassa
29. Ocean Isle Beach
30. Pamlico County
31. Pasquotank County
32. Pine Knoll Shores
33. Plymouth
34. Sunset Beach
35. Surf City
36. Swansboro
37. Topsail Beach
38. Vandemere
39. Washington County
40. Washington Park
41. Windsor



**Table 1: Phase 3 Engineering & Design Awards (2022-2023)**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Award Amount (\$)</b>
Aurora	Wetland Restoration at Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$74,885
Beaufort County	Low Impact Development Site-Beaufort County Community College	\$64,130
Belhaven	Wynne's Gut Tidal Gates and Flood Attenuation	\$84,800
Bertie County	Cashie River Drainage System	\$45,000
Cape Carteret	Cape Carteret Flood Mitigation Planning Project	\$85,000
Craven County	Living Shoreline Prioritization & Engineering Design	\$45,000
Currituck County	Baxter Lane & Old Tulls Road Drainage	\$35,000
Dare County	Hatteras Village Stormwater Improvements	\$45,000
Duck	Duck Neighborhood Floodwater Management Plan	\$45,000
Hertford	Jennies Gut Drainage Improvement Feasibility Study	\$45,000
Hyde County	Ocracoke Stormwater Management Plan	\$45,000
Leland	Mallory Creek Drive Drainage Improvements	\$20,000
Nags Head	Town of Nags Head Drainage Infrastructure Improvements	\$45,000
New Bern	Duffyfield Community Resilience Improvement-Basin Restoration and Enhancement	\$45,000
Pine Knoll Shores	Town-Wide Nature-Based Stormwater Solutions	\$45,000
Sunset Beach	Green Infrastructure-40th Street Erosion	\$49,865
Swansboro	Water Street Rehabilitation	\$45,000
Topsail Island (Surf City, N. Topsail Beach, and Topsail Beach)	Topsail Island Roadside Stormwater Project	\$135,000



Vandemere	Improving Stormwater Culverts and Drainage	\$45,000
City of Washington	Jack's Creek Floodplain and Greenway Improvements	\$61,480
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1.1M</b>

**Table 2: Phase 4 Construction & Implementation Awards (2023-2024)**

Community	Project Name	Award Amount (\$)
Belhaven	Wynne's Gut Tidal Gates & Flood Attenuation	\$263,200
City of New Bern	Duffyfield Community Resilience-Rose Street Basin Restoration	\$175,320
Pine Knoll Shores	Tree Street Swales	\$300,000
Vandemere	Vandemere Drainage Improvements	\$250,000
City of Washington	Jack's Creek Floodplain & greenway Improvements	\$263,200
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1.25M</b>

