

Clean Water Act Section 205(j) Grant

North Carolina



2023 Grant Projects

Water Retention Landscapes: A Community Guide for Restoring Watersheds in the Mountain Region (\$59,037)

Land of Sky Regional Council

The project will address the need for both a practical guidebook and policy guidance to encourage and enable stormwater management and a water retention approach at the outset of any land development activity, not just those that trigger SCM requirements (i.e. > 1 acre of development or disturbance unless more stringent requirements enforced by a local MS4 permit). It will also provide information on restorative practices for already developed areas.

Hunting Creek Watershed Plan Update (\$40,875)

Western Piedmont Council of Governments

The Hunting Creek Watershed Restoration Project was completed in 2011, but no implementation has taken place since 2014. WPCOG proposes to re-establish the Hunting Creek Advisory Committee and update the Watershed Plan with current information and goals, making sure the plan meets all current requirements of a 9-element plan. WPCOG will also produce conceptual designs of stormwater control retrofits or stream restoration and enhancement projects for priority properties with landowner interest. Additionally, the WPCOG will conduct outreach and education to the general public about the plan and water quality issues in the watershed.

Long Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (\$45,000)

High Country Council of Governments

A 9-element restoration plan will be developed for Long Creek, a 303(d) impaired stream in the Yadkin River Basin. The goal of the project is to improve water quality and reduce impairment of Long Creek through development of a document that addresses all 9 required elements of an EPA watershed restoration plan. The plan will provide local agencies with a strategy to implement targeted improvement efforts and establish eligibility for 319 Grant funding, with the ultimate goal being removal of Long Creek for the NC 303 (d) impaired streams list.

High Rock Lake Clean Water State Revolving Fund Sponsorship (\$69,312)

Piedmont Triad Regional Council

The High Rock Lake (HRL) watershed Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) sponsorship development project will bring together a One Water approach for the HRL watershed with a CWSRF funding mechanism used in other states to provide a reliable source of funding for both point source and nonpoint source projects to address the current nutrient issues in HRL and may be an example for future watershed efforts related to nutrient management in both North Carolina and other states. This project will be developed by two partnership-oriented organizations – the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin Association (YPDRBA)

and Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) in a collaborative effort. There are three aspects of the HRL-CWSRF sponsorship program development. These aspects consist of 1) a financial analysis, 2) development of framework alternatives to implement sponsorship and programmatic financing under the CWSRF funding program and 3) an implementation report.

Rocky River Headwaters Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (\$45,000)

Piedmont Triad Regional Council

This project will complete a subwatershed Watershed Action Plan and EPA 9-key element plan for the headwater reach of the Rocky River, in the Cape Fear River Basin. This work will be done in concert with similar watershed planning efforts in the surrounding subwatersheds of the upper Rocky River. This project will perform a more detailed study of potential improvements, restoration and protection methodologies to improve water quality and habitat with the ultimate goal of removing the downstream receiving waters and water supply reservoirs from the impaired waters list and improve Cape Fear shiner critical habitat by reducing pollutant loading. Local project partners will be involved in this planning project as they also are in the planning process for water quality protections due to increased industrial and urban development within their jurisdictions, including the Rocky River headwaters.

Scotts and Savannah Creeks Watershed Action Plan (\$36,475)

Southwest Council

The Southwest Council will complete a 9-element Watershed Action Plan in the Scotts and Savannah creeks watersheds, which are tributaries of the Tuckasegee River in the Little Tennessee River Basin. Scotts and Savannah creeks, as well as the Tuckasegee River downstream, have significant recreation and economic implications for Jackson County and the region. However, their uses are limited due to bacterial issues originating from failing septic systems, aging sewer systems, and/or agriculture. Both streams and a section of the Tuckasegee River downstream are on the state list of impaired waterways due to fecal coliform bacteria exceedances. Other issues are increasing development pressure, poor riparian buffers, significant streambank erosion, and stormwater runoff.

Developing the WAP will include a comprehensive approach to identifying the watershed's issues and solutions and will list strategies and action items that function to improve and protect water quality. The document will also include a schedule of action item implementation, estimated costs, and responsible organizations. It would also justify grant applications and serve as an education & outreach tool.