



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Ralph Clark, Interim City Manager
Dwan Bell, Public Utilities Director
Jon Hawley, Grants Administrator

Date: February 24, 2022

Re: Consideration - Application to Golden LEAF Flood Mitigation Program

BACKGROUND:

The neighborhoods on Dawson, Hunter, Morgan and nearby streets have long experienced repetitive flooding. Many factors contribute to this flooding, including low elevation, proximity to Charles Creek and the Pasquotank River, and limited or deteriorated drainage infrastructure. To the latter point, a large drainage ditch between Southern Avenue and Hunter Street is badly eroded and contributing to flooding of nearby properties.

To design and build effective stormwater control measures, the City needs a full understanding of this drainage basin and its infrastructure. This includes an elevation survey, watershed assessment, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, and other work before developing stormwater projects.

To fund this work, the City applied to the Water Resources Development Grant Program under the NC Division of Water Resources last year for the "Dawson-Hunter Street Stormwater Improvement Study." City staff presented this proposal to the Council on June 28, 2021. The WRDG Program is a 50-50 matching program generally providing up to \$100,000. DWR issued the City an award letter for this project on February 18, 2022; contractual and other start-up documents are forthcoming.

This memo proposes applying to the Golden LEAF Foundation Flood Mitigation Program for additional assistance in completing this study.

ANALYSIS:

The Golden LEAF Foundation, based out of Rocky Mount, has been appropriated \$25 million in state funds for the Flood Mitigation Program. As the name indicates, this program may fund: construction of new or improvement of existing stormwater

infrastructure; repair and upgrade of existing stormwater infrastructure damaged by flooding; and engineering expenses related to flood mitigation measures. The maximum grant is \$250,000; there is no matching requirement.

City staff have already confirmed with Golden LEAF that the Dawson-Hunter study is an eligible project *and* Golden LEAF funds may be used to match WRDG dollars. We therefore propose to seek Golden LEAF support for the scope of work proposed in our WRDG application.

There is not a strict deadline to apply to the Flood Mitigation Program, but applications should be submitted in early/mid 2022 before funding is depleted. City staff would like to submit in early March so our proposal may be considered during the next Golden LEAF Board of Directors meeting on April 6-7.

Golden LEAF will allow multiple applications, and it is City staff's intent to submit additional applications as projects are identified. We are starting with the Dawson-Hunter study because the work is needed, it is not yet fully grant-funded, and supporting documentation is already compiled, thanks to the WRDG application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, authorize City staff to apply to the Golden LEAF Foundation for additional funding for the Dawson-Hunter Street Stormwater Improvement Study.

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

S. DANIEL SMITH
Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

February 18, 2022

Bettie J. Parker, Mayor
City of Elizabeth City
306 E. Colonial Avenue
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Dear Mayor Parker,

The Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) is pleased to announce that **\$100,000** in financial assistance for a project located in your jurisdiction has been approved by the State of North Carolina.

We congratulate the City of Elizabeth City on its sponsorship of the **Dawson-Hunter Street Stormwater Improvement Study**. This grant will provide financial assistance to evaluate stormwater infrastructure in residential areas south of the Pasquotank River and Charles Creek to identify and prioritize new drainage/flood control projects for mitigating repetitive flooding within this 89.4 acre watershed. Your ongoing efforts to improve the condition of water resources in your jurisdiction are to be commended.

DWR will be contacting your staff soon concerning the administrative requirements, including the signing of a grant contract with the State, for the use of state funds for this project. This award letter is not a guarantee of funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic or other unanticipated events that could reduce current appropriated state funding, any contracts shall be subject to availability of funding.

We look forward to working with you on this project. If you have questions, please contact Amin Davis at 919-707-9132 or via email at: amin.davis@ncdenr.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Daniel Smith".

Danny Smith
Director, Division of Water Resources

ECc: Dwan Bell, City of Elizabeth City
Amin Davis, Division of Water Resources
Chris Pullinger, Division of Water Resources



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
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