

## BRIEFING FOR CCAP APPROPRIATION

- Polluted stormwater washing from impervious surfaces is a major cause of water body degradation in North Carolina; it contains high fecal bacteria counts that are a human health hazard and lead to severe economic losses through shellfish bed closures, cause harmful algae blooms, and degrade fish habitat.
- North Carolina's Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is the only program specifically designed to address non-point source water pollution emanating from stormwater coming from existing developed non-farm areas.
- Session Law 2006-78 authorizes the state's 96 Soil and Water Conservation Districts to conduct education and outreach activities directed at reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff, provide technical assistance to non-farm land owners interested in reducing or treating stormwater from developed areas, and share the cost of installing approved stormwater management practices with non-farm landowners on a 75% - 25% basis.
- The first recurring appropriation of \$200,000 was made for Program Year (PY) 2008; however the \$200,000 level has been flat since then including the current FY 2017. This amount is required to support a "CCAP Coordinator" in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, leaving only \$136,937 per year to be shared by 96 districts (30 of which have urban densities) to cover the costs of local staff and designing and installing stormwater treatment facilities.
- In FY 2007 grant funds from three sources totaling \$1,768,425 were available to share the costs of installing stormwater treatment facilities. Combined with the owners' 25% match, \$2,232,872 was invested by 74 districts in CCAP stormwater management facilities in the first two fiscal years of the program; however, no further grants to support the program have been made.
- With the limited funding, most districts have had to divert or extend existing staff to identify, scope, and oversee urban style non-farm practices, and urban/suburban stormwater programs are very labor intensive. Some districts with successful programs, e.g., Onslow, have succeeded because staff spent personal time working on CCAP projects.
- Further, limited staff translates into little or no education or outreach effort. Only New Hanover took advantage of supplemental funding from the City of Wilmington Stormwater Services, as part of the city's Phase II NPDES to deliver well-conceived, consistent stormwater education programs in the public schools.
- Each cost-shared project successfully put in place requires items such as contract templates, average unit costs, priority ranking requirements, and protocols for facility design, inspections and cost recovery were developed during the startup period. The complete system is available and ready to be deployed by districts in the event that capital funds become available.
- Since PY 2008, the soil and water conservation districts have identified viable potential projects requiring over \$15,364,000 of state funds, and there is currently a documented backlog of requests for "shovel ready" projects needing \$1,900,000 of public funding.
- It is recommended that the General Assembly make a recurrent appropriation of \$6,500,000 of which up to \$3,000,000 would be committed to meeting the cost of Community Conservationists statewide, and \$3,500,000 for meeting the State's share of the cost of installing Best Management Practices in identified high priority watersheds.