

EDA DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING



To: Brunswick County Board of Commissioners
From: Wes MacLeod, AICP, ASLA – Cape Fear Council of Governments
cc: Kirstie Dixon, County Planning Director
Date: February 4, 2020
Re: Waccamaw River Watershed Study Grant Request

GRANT SOURCE

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced availability of funds to support recovery from recent disasters, including Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Through this disaster supplemental funding, EDA will award investments in regions experiencing severe economic distress or other economic harm resulting from Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

EDA recognizes that urgent infrastructure rebuilding needs exist throughout disaster impacted regions. In EDA's experience with post-disaster recovery, the most effective rebuilding efforts are based on long-term regional development or redevelopment strategies that leverage Federal funding in coordination with state, local, and private sector resources.

EDA will review and make awards until funds are expended. EDA will thoroughly review all applications submitted and expects to notify applicants of their status generally within 70 days of receipt. Each grant recipient is responsible for satisfying the required 20% match. For this proposed regional project, each of the four participating counties – Horry County, SC; Brunswick County, NC; Columbus, NC; and Bladen County, NC – is requested to provide \$20,750 for the total \$83,000 match. A total of \$415,000 is sought to complete the study.

GRANT PROPOSAL

Hurricane Florence caused tremendous damage to communities within the Waccamaw River Watershed from the Waccamaw River flooding. Completing a Regional Waccamaw River Watershed Study will equip communities with a greater understanding of regional flooding issues, enable them to be more hurricane resilient, and advance their local economies. Cape Fear Resource and Conservation Development is leading the grant submittal effort and will be responsible for administering the funds once received. A qualified multi-disciplinary engineering firm will be solicited to complete the regional study.

Study Goals:

1. Identify the region's vulnerabilities to flooding from the Waccamaw River.

2. Develop benchmarks for problem areas.
3. Prioritize capital improvements addressing identified problem areas and/or vulnerabilities.
4. Reduce economic vulnerabilities related to the Waccamaw River.

Scope of Work:

1. Identify the Waccamaw River Watershed Region's flooding vulnerabilities and associated externalities using Atlas 14 data.
2. Identify best management strategies for flood hazard mitigation within the Waccamaw River Watershed while using hydrologic and hydraulic modeling.
3. Evaluate and prioritize flood hazard mitigation strategies to improve community resilience and economic advancement.
4. Identify funding for implementing flood hazard mitigation strategies and long-term maintenance.
5. Provide a comprehensive Flood Mitigation Plan.

Study Area:

The study area begins in the headwaters of the Waccamaw River in Bladen County, NC. It will continue through each tributary of the Waccamaw River through Columbus County, NC and Brunswick County, NC, terminating at the City of Conway, SC in Horry County, SC.