

NORTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM  
2020 GRANT CYCLE

## GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**All Grant Proposal Materials must be received by 11am on Thursday, May 28, 2020.**

*Instructions: Please complete all sections and submit this application form as the cover of the written grant proposal.*

*No incomplete applications will be considered.*

**Section I: General Information**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Organization</b>	Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas
	<b>Contact Person</b>	Kari Raburn, PhD
	<b>Contact Mailing Address</b>	6012 Bayfield Parkway, #200 Concord, NC 28027
	<b>Telephone</b>	704-701-1715
	<b>E-mail</b>	Kari.Raburn@RisingSolutionsPLLC.com
<b>Project</b>	<b>EEG Program Area</b>	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Land acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research, planning, education <input type="checkbox"/> Construction, remediation, restoration
	<b>Project Title</b>	Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development
	<b>County Where Project Located</b>	Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Union Counties
	<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$196,750</b>
<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

**Section II: Project Technical Information**

<p><b>Project Purpose:</b> The project goal is to provide active involvement through educators that will develop knowledge and understanding; build environmental interest and awareness; and implement applied techniques toward enhancing the environment through individuals and multigenerational families along with preparing the future environmental workforce. The project effectiveness will come by teaming with the educators to improve the quality of North Carolina natural resources across seven counties.</p>
<p><b>Project Outcomes (<i>please be specific</i>):</b> For the development of behavior change and adoption of stewardship practices, the project will share knowledge to strengthen awareness; provide hands on activities to create interest and provide a trial experiment on the environmental truths; as well as allow personal evaluations and internal processing of the benefits to influence behavior change and adoption environmental stewardship practices. (continued in addendum)</p>
<p><b>Environmental Impact of Project:</b> Deepen Public Interest in Their Role in Protecting North Carolina's Natural Resources, Identify and Investigate Environmental Address Problems for Communities Affected by Adverse Water Inform Organizations Where Future Environmental Efforts Should be Focused, Providing Long-term Protection of North Carolina's natural resources, Protecting Impaired Surface Waters (details in addendum)</p>

<p><b>Evaluation Measures For Project (i.e. how do you measure success in this project?)</b></p> <p>Quantitative Metrics – number of educators and students involved within the project; number of schools; number of modules and materials created; number of times modules were implemented with students; number of stream monitoring assessment photos submitted; number of college students attending events; number of pollution reports; and number of families involved at school family workshops, storm drain grates monitoring and cleaning, and stream clean ups.</p> <p>Qualitative Metrics- Observations and statements made by educators, students, and family members; types of pollution prevention and illicit discharges reported; evaluations during stream clean ups with participants; and comments.</p>
<p><b>Projected Project Start Date (if known):</b> October 1, 2020</p>
<p><b>Period of Time for the EEG-funded section of Project:</b> 2 year</p>
<p><b>Period of Time for the Whole Project completion:</b> October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2022</p>

**Section III: Project Cost Information**

<p><b>Funding or Resources Provided by the Applicant for the Project (indicate type and approximate amount):</b></p> <p>Outreach Services: \$10,000 Facilitation of outreach and education Environmental Messaging and Outreach Promotion – TV and Radio: \$20,000</p>
<p><b>Other Project Funding Sources (indicate source, amounts requested / committed):</b></p> <p>NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC: \$20,250</p>
<p><b>In-Kind or Volunteer Donations (indicate source, amounts requested / committed):</b></p> <p>Stormwater professionals funding leverage is estimated at \$22,500. Stormwater Professionals from across NC will coordinate with schools, present at teacher workshops, come into the classroom, coordinate and participate in stream clean-ups, share data from their local municipality. The contribution of local municipal for outreach materials and citizen science stream monitoring is estimated at \$4,000</p>

**Section IV: Organization Management and Organizational Information**

<p><b>Organization Type: Check one:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Institution of Higher Education</p>						
<p><b>For Non-Profit Organizations Only</b> <b>Current Assets:</b></p> <p>\$ 95,502.42</p>						
<p><b>For Non-Profit Organizations Only</b> <b>Current Fund Balance:</b></p> <p>\$ 95,502.42</p>						
<p><b>For Non-Profit Organizations Only</b> <b>Total Applicant Expenditures for the last three completed fiscal years:</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>FY 20 -</td> <td>\$ -</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY 20 18</td> <td>\$ 61,071.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FY 20 19</td> <td>\$ 75,705.94</td> </tr> </table>	FY 20 -	\$ -	FY 20 18	\$ 61,071.21	FY 20 19	\$ 75,705.94
FY 20 -	\$ -					
FY 20 18	\$ 61,071.21					
FY 20 19	\$ 75,705.94					

<p>Please list any members of your organization, department or agency that may have a conflict of interest with the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office (conflict of interest as defined as a familial or financial conflict).</p> <p>None, there are no conflicts of interest within the RSPC and the NC Attorney General’s Office.</p>
<p>Is the address above the correct address to use for a Memorandum of Understanding if you were awarded a grant? If no, please list the correct address below.</p> <p>Yes, the address for the Grant PI contact is the correct address for the Memorandum of Understanding.</p>
<p>Please provide the name and title of the individual at your agency who is authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding if you were awarded a grant. Please also provide the name and title of one witness.</p> <p>Signing Authority: Chris Costner, Chair of the Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas Witness: Regina C. Guyer, Rising Solutions, PLLC President</p>

Section V: Experience

<p>Have you previously received a grant award from the EEG Program? If yes, please list the date(s) and project name(s).</p> <p>No, the RSPC has not previously received a grant from the EEG program.</p>
<p>Have you previously submitted a grant proposal to the EEG Program? If yes, please list the date(s) and project name(s).</p> <p>No, the RSPC has not previously submitted a grant proposal to the EEG program.</p>
<p>Did you receive any grant awards from the State of North Carolina or the federal government in the past 12 months? If so, please list the sources, dates, and amounts.</p> <p>No, the RSPC has not received funding from State of NC or Federal Government Grants.</p>
<p>Did you receive any funds from any other public or private grant awards in the past 12 months? If so, please list the sources, dates, and amounts.</p> <p>The RSPC has developed a collaborative project with Johnson C. Smith University who has received a grant from the Water Resources Research Institute – Stormwater Consortium for \$76,924. The project, Empowering underrepresented citizens of Charlotte-Mecklenburg with a voice and role in municipal stormwater program goals, is from February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021. (Note: the RSPC does not receive any of the funding).</p>
<p>Please list any work or projects your organization has done in the last 5 years that are substantially similar to the Project you are proposing.</p> <p>The RSPC members work within their municipalities to provide outreach and education. The largest County and City member municipalities have years of experience providing education and outreach within schools and work collaboratively with universities on water related issues by employees specifically hired to manage these programs. (continued in addendum)</p>

Section VI. Acknowledgements

The Applicant certifies that they have the following documentation or proof that will be provided to NCDOJ if the Applicant is awarded an EEG grant (Please initial the following):

CC Written Conflict of Interest Policy

CC [Non-profit Organization Only] Certificate of Incorporation and by-laws

CC Insurance- Worker's compensation liability insurance coverage with a minimum of \$500,000; Commercial General Liability with a minimum amount of \$1,000,000; and Automobile liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit of \$500,000 bodily injury and property damage and \$500,000 uninsured/under insured motorist, and \$25,000 medical payment

CC A list of organizational, agency, or department staff who will be working on or funded by the project funds

Section VII. Agreement and Certification

Certification: The undersigned hereby do certify that they have read the attached proposal, including all appendices and exhibits, and that the information provided therein is correct and complete. The undersigned do hereby attest that any funds granted pursuant to this proposal will be used exclusively for charitable, scientific, education, conservation, environmental enhancement, or other tax-exempt public purposes. The undersigned do hereby certify that they understand that the requests attached and submitted to the Attorney General are subject to the North Carolina Public Records Act.

This the 28 day of May 2020.

Applicant Organization: Regional Stormwater Partnership

By: 

Name: Chris Costner, PE, CSM

Title: RSPC Chairman

All Grant Proposal Materials must be received by **11am on Thursday, May 28, 2020.**

## RSPC 020-PRE2 Application Addendum

### **Project Outcomes Continued:**

The project effectiveness will come by teaming with the educators to improve the quality of NC natural resources across a seven-county region in Central NC.

This will be done within K-12 and College entities by focusing on five main objectives:

1. Building trust and knowledge base with educators.
2. Creating modules and lesson materials to enhance environmental education.
3. Involving students in classroom activities and learning resources.
4. Engaging within school family workshops to enhance environmental perspectives and highlight benefits for individuals, quality of life for communities, and opportunities for environmental careers.
5. Enhancing the environment, improving quality of life and enjoying NC natural resources through participation activities.

### **Environmental Impact of Project Detailed:**

#### *Deepen Public Interest in Their Role in Protecting NC's Natural Resources*

The citizens of NC are a powerful force for protecting natural resources. They have a particular interest in protecting those resources in ways that they can see each day. North Carolinians across the state see storm drains and streams as well as experience rain regularly, but often do not realize their control over the water quality. The provided education and more importantly empowerment of citizen with a voice and opportunity to participate by keeping storm drains grates clean, helping clean streams, and reporting pollution will deepen public interest in their role in protecting NC's water. Empowering future environmental professionals at the college level will bring forth individuals who seek to use their careers in carrying forth best management practices, influencing decisions with environmental data and facts, and many other faucets for protecting NC natural resources.

#### *Identify and Investigate Environmental Changes*

The sheer number of storm drains and streams across NC make it impossible for any municipality to keep within their view every drain and stream in their boundaries. By using a few locations across the region as target locations to teach North Carolinians what to look for in streams and how to keep storm drains grates clean; we will increase our capacity to identify and investigate environmental changes to NC's surface water through involved citizens' science.

#### *Address Problems for Communities Affected by Adverse Water Quality*

In order to understand the problems a community faces, there needs to be a relationship of trust and two-way communication with the community members and the municipal agencies. The voice of citizens, especially those that are most often underrepresented, needs to be heard to address issue which may be easily overlooked, misunderstood, or low priority. Education on environmental issues and solution strategies as well as several positive interactions with local municipalities will empower citizens to create a voice in addressing the problems in their community to municipal agencies.

### *Inform Organizations Where Future Environmental Efforts Should be Focused*

The insights of citizens on how their community is affected by adverse water quality is needed when prioritizing environmental efforts. In addition, environmental efforts are increasingly impactful when more people are invested and participating in the effort and this project allows North Carolinians across the seven-county region to not only be aware but also participate in ongoing environmental efforts. Building an environmentally informed workforce can define and inform organizations now and in the future on environmental efforts, impacts, needs, and benefits.

### *Providing Long-term Protection of North Carolina's natural resources*

Cross generational education and preparation of the future water quality and stormwater professionals of NC provides long-term protection of natural resources.

### *Protecting Impaired Surface Waters*

Storm drainage improvement through physically clearing the storm drains grates of debris prevents litter and other potentially harmful pollutants from entering the streams. Storm drains labeling to inform that the drain leads directly to waterways will discourage improper disposal down the storm drains keeping pollutants out of the stream. Stream litter clean ups, stream watch photo monitoring of visible pollutant levels, and reporting of pollution will allow multi-generational EEG project participants to protect surface water and provide leadership within their communities.

**Substantially similar work done in last 5 years:** Other middle-sized municipalities have employees with education and outreach scope of responsibility but split their time across all the areas of the municipality—not just educational outreach. Small municipalities depend on their stormwater engineer if they have one or even their town manager to reach out to schools and the community. The RSPC brings the combined knowledge across the spectrum of its members. In addition, the RSPC has reached out to citizens via festivals such as the Catawba River Festival. The Rising Solutions team has teaching experience across the elementary and college levels including visiting schools and laboratory experiences related to water quality.



REGIONAL  
**STORMWATER**  
PARTNERSHIP  
**OF THE CAROLINAS**

RSPC 020 PRE2

Environmental Engagement in  
Water Quality and Stormwater  
by Citizens Connected to K-12  
Education and College  
Environmental Professional  
Development

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020

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# 1 Project Description and Technical Specifications

## 1.1 Project goals and objectives

The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas (RSPC) EEG project, *Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K-12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development* will inform classrooms, multigeneration family groups, and collegiate groups on the importance of environmental stewardship and their role in protecting NC’s natural resources within their own communities and spheres of influence. This will be done in a sequential pattern towards adopting behavior change by providing awareness with clear and factual information on environmental topics, creating interest and engaging individuals in “hands on” activities to trial their new awareness, and supporting personal as well as community impact and benefit evaluations. Pattern shown in Figure 1 (Scott, C. et al., 2013).



Figure 1: Information Diffusion Process

The project will address environmental challenges from literature, concerns local municipalities are seeing in their communities, water quality education standards, and environmental needs that are already beginning to surface from working directly with educators and citizens across the central region of NC. One example is that less than one-third of citizens know that while domestic wastewater is treated prior to entering waterways, in most cases urban stormwater is not treated, and that they are carried via different pipes (Dean, A.J., et. al, 2016). Charlotte-Mecklenburg is an area where stormwater goes straight into the waterways via different pipes than domestic wastewater, making it critical to have education include how litter and pollution enters streams through the storm drains. This fact as well as other environmental issues will guide the project in bringing awareness and interest to students and citizens and engaging them in relationships of trust so that they are empowered to use their knowledge. These issues will be addressed by creating new frameworks that link theory (Daft & Lengel, 1984,1986) to adopting behavior change aimed at improving the quality of NC natural resources across a seven-county region in Central NC.

This will be done within K-12 and College entities by focusing on five main objectives:

- 1) Building trust and knowledge base with educators.
- 2) Creating modules and lesson materials to enhance environmental education.
- 3) Involving students in classroom activities and learning resources.
- 4) Engaging within school family nights to enhance environmental perspectives and highlight benefits for individuals, quality of life for communities, and opportunities for environmental careers.
- 5) Enhancing the environment as well as improving quality of life and enjoyment of NC natural resources through participation activities.

## 1.2 Environmental benefits from the project

The RSPC project environmental benefits are focused on empowering students, citizens, and a future environmental workforce who understand environmental issues and take active role their choices play in protecting NC natural resource. In addition, the project will provide experiences to practice enjoying NC's natural resources with responsibility for today and future generations, promote stewardship by example and influence, and create decision makers who are informed about environmental policies. The project will yield immediate environmental improvements as students, families, and citizens participate together in activities for cleaning streams and waterways, removing debris from and labeling storm drains, reporting pollution, and classroom stream evaluations. However, the far-reaching effect will be the informed social capital of each individual with the experiences and knowledge to implement cross generation environmental awareness by fulfilling their roles in protecting all of NC natural resources and the social capital will be multiplied by the those within their sphere of influence.

## 1.3 Description of project activities in detail, including individuals, organizations, or contractors responsible for project completion

The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolina (RSPC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit made up of 20 municipal/government agencies members. These entities are the City of Belmont, Bessemer City, City of Charlotte, Town of China Grove, Town of Cramerton, Town of Dallas, City of Gastonia, Gaston County Natural Resources Department, Town of Harrisburg, Village of Lake Park, Town of Landis, City of Lowell, Mecklenburg County, City of Monroe, Town of Mooresville, City of Mount Holly, City of Shelby, Town of Stallings, Town of Stanley, and the City of Statesville. The RSPC will contract with the Rising Solutions, PLLC team, who functions as the RSPC facilitators, to provide management and scope of work for the EEG project. NC AmeriCorps/ Resilience Corps NC members will develop materials, conduct classroom outreach, and perform other activities within the EEG project scope. Within the project, Vimeo or a superior hosting service that includes storage and training capabilities and a media agency to optimize the on-demand interface for K-12 educators, students, and their families will be incorporated.

The RSPC project will provide active involvement with educators to develop knowledge and understanding; build environmental interest and awareness; implement applied techniques toward enhancing the environment through individuals and multigenerational families; and prepare the future environmental workforce. It will include activities in each of the five main objectives within the K-12 programs and college academic programs (Section 1.1). Descriptions of the project activities are described below for these programs.

### 1.3.1 K-12 Schools

A strong relationship with the teachers needs to be in place in order to have the opportunity to educate students and their families. Contact information of science educators at more than 175 Title 1 K-12 schools in the seven-county region has been compiled. Title 1 schools are the focus of the outreach as the need to improve trust and build two-way communication in municipalities within these underserved communities is a critical across NC.

The K-12 project methodology includes:

- 1) Building trust and knowledge base with K-12 teachers.
- 2) Creating modules and lesson materials to enhance environmental education.
- 3) Working with K-12 teachers for classroom involvement with students.
  - a) Creating an Environmental Day with guest speakers and enrichment activities on a variety of topics where students can interact and learn. These environmental topics may include air quality, water quality, stormwater, trash and recycling, wastewater, engineering, etc. (One per County).
- 4) Creating materials for Family Nights within the schools to enhance environmental perspectives and provide understanding of environmental stewardship benefits.
- 5) Participation activities for teachers, students, and families to improve their environment.
  - a) Storm drain grates labeling and debris removal
  - b) Stream watch and clean-up
  - c) Reporting pollution

The RSPC project is implementation ready starting with the current development of a database of Title I School contacts. Considering the current concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, our project is well timed for teaming with educators and developing environmental educational modules/lesson resources which can be used within schools or through live streaming and on-demand to ensure the health and safety of our NC students, educators, families, and citizens.

The project seeks to engage with teachers and students in fifty K-12 schools within RSPC member municipalities. Educational modules will be created to align with NC Department of Public Instruction Science standards across grades K-12. These modules would be brought directly into K-12 classrooms and/or provided online for remote learning and homeschooling families--adapting to the structure and needs of each school. An educational repository is being built with access via a website, which will be optimized for the target audience of students in K-12 and their families.

Teachers will be contacted first via email in order connect them with the online resources specific for their students' grade level and determine interest in environmental lesson resources. A team of teachers will be involved in a beta testing of the online opportunities to ensure the interface works well for K-12 students, their families, and teachers.

The RSPC project aligns with the Environmental Enhancement Grant objectives and provides depth past education and outreach into a needed area within the NC school systems for parental / student education involvement. Research has shown students with involved parents, are more likely to: i) Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs; ii) Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits; iii) Attend school regularly; iv) Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and v) Graduate and go on to post-secondary education. (Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, 2002). A report, Parent Involvement in the Appalachian Region: NC, resulted in one primary recommendation for the state: "Develop and implement a statewide framework for parent involvement." (Edvantia's Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center (ARCC), October 2008).

The parental student involvement depth of the RSPC research includes providing outreach and participation invitations to families at school organized family events within RSPC member municipalities. The outreach and participation will create an awareness and understanding of environmental stewardship benefits on quality of life and provide experience for enjoyment of NC natural resources while minimizing human negative impacts. This will allow family evaluations for environmental impacts and benefits as a progressive path to change behavior.

#### *1.3.1.1 Cross-generational Participation Events while Enhancing the Environment*

Participation activities will allow teachers, students, and families to improve the environment around them creating a continuum for changing behaviors, setting examples, and influencing others. The inclusion of families in the participation aspect of the student learning expands this project to be a cross-generational effort to develop a personal commitment for an individual's role in protecting NC's natural resources. Areas of participation events are planned to include: Storm drain grates debris removal, labeling of storm drains to inform that the drain leads directly to waterways, stream area litter clean up, stream watch with photo monitoring of streams, and reporting pollution training.

Enhancing the environment occurs through:

- 1) Storm drainage improvement via physically clearing the storm drains grates of debris thus preventing litter and other potentially harmful pollutants from entering the streams.
- 2) Storm drains labeling to inform that the drain leads directly to waterways and discourage improper disposal down the storm drains. Keeping pollutants out of the stream.
- 3) Stream litter clean up
  - a. Family involvement: having each member of the student's family to pick up at least five pieces of litter nearby.
  - b. Community involvement: stream clean-ups to allow family participation to understand the implications of pollution and yield behavior change and an increased role in the stewardship of NC natural resources.
- 4) Stream watch photo monitoring of visible pollutant levels. When the students are invited to go with their families to one of the closest stream sites (up to 20 locations), the signage will direct them to take pictures of the stream and send feedback about stream cleanliness with the pictures to project organizers.
- 5) Increased reporting of pollution as well as building a relationship of trust between municipality employees and their citizen to increase communication.

As students receive the experience of learning in the classroom about water quality and sharing back information about the conditions of storm drains drainage capabilities, labeling storm drains, and stream conditions, there will be multiple positive two-way communication experiences to build trust and empower citizens to use their voice in protecting the environment by reporting pollution to their local municipality.

#### *1.3.2 Colleges*

Preparation of the future water quality and stormwater professionals of NC through interactions at colleges will provide for long-term protection of NC natural resources. The RSPC project will engage with students at both community college and four-year universities by providing "Hands

On” environmental training and “Real World” professionals perspectives. The College project area aims to educate, changing behaviors, set examples, and influence others to become future environmental professionals in NC.

The college project methodology includes:

- 1) Building trust and sharing knowledge base with professors.
- 2) Working with professors for classroom/laboratory involvement with students to ensure a “hands on” environmental experience.
- 3) Developing and coordinating environmental professionals to be guest speakers to provide real world perspectives of their academic endeavors.
- 4) Networking event for professionals and students - including environmental professionals in a panel discussion to highlight career in environmental fields and to engage students in understanding the importance and benefits as future environmental professionals for protecting our NC natural resources.
- 5) Participation in activities to improve quality of life and enjoyment of NC natural resources – connect college students with the K-12 Environmental Days, school family nights, and/or family participation events. (See Section 1.3.1)

#### 1.4 Geographic location of the project, including the county and the area or communities to be served by the proposed project

The project will span across seven counties in Central NC—Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Union counties. There are 20 municipalities and government entities within these counties which will be served by and participate in the project: City of Belmont, Bessemer City, City of Charlotte, Town of China Grove, Town of Cramerton, Town of Dallas, City of Gastonia, Gaston County Natural Resources Department, Town of Harrisburg, Village of Lake Park, Town of Landis, City of Lowell, Mecklenburg County, City of Monroe, Town of Mooresville, City of Mount Holly, City of Shelby, Town of Stallings, Town of Stanley, and the City of Statesville. There are over 1.4 million citizens within the research area who could benefit from the improved environmental efforts within these communities. The impact is especially helpful to the estimated 32.3%, which rely on ground water for their potable supplies as well as commercial and industrial uses (US Geological Survey, 2002).

#### 1.5 How the proposal meets the objectives of the EEG Program

The project aligns with Attorney General Stein and the Department of Justice high priorities of “encouraging good stewardship of our natural resources and protecting North Carolinians from polluters who harm our health and economy.” (NCDOJ Website, 2020). The objectives of this research will help the EEG Program meet six of their main objectives:

##### *Deepen Public Interest in Their Role in Protecting NC’s Natural Resources*

The citizens of NC are a powerful force for protecting natural resources. They have a particular interest in protecting those resources in ways that they can see each day. North Carolinians across the state see storm drains and streams as well as experience rain regularly, but often do not realize their control over the water quality. The provided education and more importantly empowerment of citizen with a voice and opportunity to participate by keeping storm drains grates clean, helping clean streams, and reporting pollution will deepen public interest in their

role in protecting NC's water. Empowering future environmental professionals at the college level will bring forth individuals who seek to use their careers in carrying forth best management practices, influencing decisions with environmental data and facts, and many other facets for protecting NC natural resources.

#### *Identify and Investigate Environmental Changes*

The sheer number of storm drains and streams across NC make it impossible for any municipality to keep within their view every drain and stream in their boundaries. By using a few locations across the region as target locations to teach North Carolinians what to look for in streams and how to keep storm drains grates clean; we will increase capacity to identify and investigate environmental changes to NC's surface water through involved citizens' science.

#### *Address Problems for Communities Affected by Adverse Water Quality*

In order to understand the problems a community faces, there needs to be a relationship of trust and two-way communication with the community members and the municipal agencies. The voice of citizens, especially those that are most often underrepresented, needs to be heard to address issue which may be easily overlooked, misunderstood, or low priority. Education on environmental issues and solution strategies as well as several positive interactions with local municipalities will empower citizens to create a voice in addressing the problems in their community to municipal agencies.

#### *Inform Organizations Where Future Environmental Efforts Should be Focused*

The insights of citizens on how their community is affected by adverse water quality is needed when prioritizing environmental efforts. In addition, environmental efforts are increasingly impactful when more people are invested and participating in the effort. This project allows North Carolinians across the seven-county region to not only be aware but also participate in ongoing environmental efforts. Building an environmentally informed workforce can define and inform organizations now and in the future on environmental efforts, impacts, needs, and benefits.

#### *Providing Long-term Protection of North Carolina's natural resources*

Cross generational education and preparation of the future water quality and stormwater professionals of NC provides long-term protection of natural resources.

#### *Protecting Impaired Surface Waters*

Storm drainage improvement through physically clearing the storm drains grates of debris prevents litter and other potentially harmful pollutants from entering the streams. Storm drain labeling to inform that the drains lead directly to waterways will discourage improper disposal down the storm drains keeping pollutants out of the stream. Stream litter clean ups, stream watch photo monitoring of visible pollutant levels, and reporting of pollution will allow multi-generational EEG project participants to protect surface water and provide leadership within their communities.

## 1.6 Identification of any monetary or nonmonetary partners or community involvement

The 20 municipalities/government RSPC members' communities will be involved with the project (See Section 1.4). The monetary involvement of the RSPC is described in the Budget - Section 3 with additional details within Attachment 1 – Budget Narrative and Budget.

## 1.7 Description of how the proposal addresses NC's current environmental needs

The importance of the RSPC project is evidenced by its capabilities to bring a depth of environmental knowledge through “hands on” interactions which stimulate evaluations on impacts and benefits by individuals, families, and communities. This knowledge will bring understanding and allow students to influence their families and neighbors which is instrumental for bringing forth behavior change and enhancing the environment by the improvement of water quality and protection of our NC natural resources.

Current environmental needs include

- 1) Prevention of litter and other harmful items from entering the streams as well as stormwater drainage to prevent flooding will be accomplished through physically clearing storm drain grates.
- 2) Protection of stormwater drains from being used as a “dumping” site for pollutants. Informing unintentional polluters by labeling storm drains to clarify that they lead directly to water ways will discourage dumping of pollutants.
- 3) Removal of litter, tires, furniture, and debris from NC streams through stream cleanups.
- 4) Incorporation of Citizen Scientist to engage with stream evaluations and storm drain grate cleaning to strengthen their role and stewardship of NC natural resources. The RSPC project builds the social capital and knowledge base of local community citizens through interactions with their children and families within stream watch photo monitoring.
- 5) Providing a “Voice” to local citizens in reporting pollution which needs to engage the municipalities staff and community leadership in building trust and two-way communication.

## 2 Results Measurement

### 2.1 Performance measurements to be used upon completion

The evaluations to measure success of this project will be similar for each of the five objectives given in Section 1.1 as well as the six EEG objectives given in Section 1.5. The evaluations to measure success of this project include quantitative and qualitative metrics.

Quantitative Metrics – number of educators and students involved within the project; number of schools; number of modules and materials created; number of times modules were implemented with students; number of stream monitoring assessment photos submitted; number of college students attending events; number of pollution reports; and number of families involved at school family workshops, storm drain grates monitoring and cleaning, and stream clean ups.

Qualitative Metrics- Observations and statements made by educators, students, and family members; types of pollution prevention and illicit discharges reported; evaluations during stream clean ups with participants; and comments.

## 2.2 Outcomes of the project, include benchmarks and milestones

As the EPA and NC Department of Environmental Quality has guided, environmental impact minimization will best result from a synergistic approach of documented public education, outreach, involvement, and participation (NCDEQ, 2020). The RSPC project will provide environmental education to meet the changing needs of our school systems with modules, teacher classroom resources, and on-line learning. It will encourage family style learning with environmental activities and experiments to enhance a broader understanding by students and families on their role in protecting North Carolina's water quality. It will also reach out to and provide awareness and participation experiences for rising environmental leaders in colleges (See Attachment 2 – Timeline and Benchmarks.)

## 2.3 Project sustainability, replication, continuance in other parts of NC and after the grant is completed

The project will be implemented throughout a seven County Region with input from 20 municipalities/government entities on how to best achieve the project objectives and providing clarity on educational outreach with their stormwater expertise. Fifty schools will collaborate in clarifying procedures and strategies for achieving maximum student interactions and opportunities for learning engagement. The focus and mission of the RSPC ensures that the project will be sustainable and continue past the grant period as members work with educators building classroom interactions and sharing resources developed through the EEG project.

The RSPC has been accomplishing the objectives of the grant on a smaller scale for over 20 years. The online education modules will be useful after the grant is completed and for areas beyond the seven County region of NC. The trained teachers will be especially suited to continue to use the educational lesson each year as their science learning to cover the NC Department of Public Instruction required standard. The project will seek to “Train the Trainer” which allows for continued environmental education implementation within the classroom.

## 3 Project Costs and Budget

The RSPC 020-PRE2 project is requesting \$120,000 from the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. The budget includes personnel at \$78,000; project materials of laboratory supplies, sampling materials, Enviroscope, grade level tubs, stream signage, outreach materials, incentives, teacher tool kits, food, and stream clean up supplies at \$32,300; professional services for repository hosting and website interface optimization at \$6,200; and \$3,500 mileage. Details are provided in Attachment 1: Proposed Budget and Budget Narrative.

### 3.1 Define or describe how the project may be leveraged with other projects or funding

The EEG Program funding for NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC members will be supplemented by NC AmeriCorps Program funds of \$20,250 for the members salary, benefits, and training support. NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC members provide an even greater value for the project when compared to employee work hours salary, estimated at \$64,847 (2,550 hours x hourly volunteer wage value of \$25.43/hr). (Campbell, 2019)

The RSPC will provide \$10,000 funding for a portion of expenses related to personnel for the facilitation of outreach and education including but not limited to management of NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC member, outreach and education development and logistics. The RSPC has television and radio media campaign funding of \$20,000 to provide environmental messaging and educational promotion. Extra media coverage is provided via WCCB ads, Rising News Spotlight in-studio interview, and Carolina InSight in the field news coverage with an estimated value of \$36,950.

Local municipalities will provide outreach materials for schools and citizen science stream monitoring with an estimated value of \$4,000 ( $\$200 \times 20 \text{ members} = \$4,000$ ).

Stormwater professionals and municipalities in-kind leverage is estimated at \$22,500. Stormwater Professionals will coordinate with schools, come into the classroom, coordinate and participate in stream clean-ups, share data from their local municipality. It is estimated that an average of 15 hours/RSPC member will be contributed at an average salary rate plus benefits \$75/hour ( $15 \text{ hours} \times 20 \text{ members} \times \$75 = \$22,500$ ).

## 4 Organizational Structure and Management

The Regional Stormwater Partnership was formed through collaboration with stormwater professionals and the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) in 2007 with a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant. It was developed as a regional stormwater partnership to address our public's water quality concerns and implement strategies that protect and promote water quality. In 2012, the partnership moved to UNC Charlotte allowing membership expansion beyond the CCOG area. By 2017, its functions and efficiencies had been further expanded by contracting with Rising Solutions, PLLC consulting engineering firm to provide facilitation services to create organizational structures (e.g. officers, bylaws, annual/quarterly meetings), an administrative home for the partnership, and initiate becoming a nonprofit. The RSPC made up of 18 municipal/government agencies became Non-profit 501(c)(3) within the State of NC on 9/28/18 at 3:19pm as noted from NC State Secretary, Elaine F. Marshall.

### 4.1 Current projects

The RSPC is currently collaborating with Johnson C. Smith University on the Water Resources Research Institute (NC State University Entity) – Stormwater Consortium (WRRI-SWC) grant project, *Empowering underrepresented citizens of Charlotte-Mecklenburg with a voice and role in municipal stormwater program goals*. The project will foster community engagement and enhance community-municipal partnerships to address linkages between stormwater and trash, litter and/or illicit discharges in the Charlotte NC Stormwater Consortium (SWC) member municipality. Knowledge and perspective from community members will be acquired through focus groups and surveys. The project will provide opportunities for comprehensive community engagement at six neighborhood leadership planned educational outreach opportunities and a minimum of six stormwater-focused participation events developed by project participants.

#### 4.2 Mission statement, goals, and objectives

The mission of the RSPC is to educate and bring awareness to the public, local businesses and education centers of our region about stormwater issues and their impact on water quality and our environment. We further aim to unite local stormwater programs by sharing information and ideas in order to collaborate, discuss and address similar stormwater issues on a regional level. The RSPC goal is committed to the betterment of our region through the improvement of water quality and takes an active stormwater leadership role in achieving that vision.

#### 4.3 Qualifications for the proposed project and previous similar projects

The RSPC will be able to draw upon the expertise and experience of its members in developing a meaningful educational program, share resources and ideas, and overcome issues through problem solving discussions. The largest county and city member municipalities have years of experience providing education and outreach within schools and work collaboratively with universities on water related issues by employees specifically hired to manage these programs. Other middle-sized municipalities have employees with education and outreach scope of responsibility but split their time across all the areas of the municipality—not just educational outreach. Small municipalities depend on their stormwater engineer if they have one or even their town manager to reach out to schools and the community. The RSPC brings the combined knowledge across the spectrum of its members. In addition, the RSPC has reached out to citizens via festivals such as the Catawba River Festival. It is this collaborative 20 municipalities resource which brings added value to the EEG project.

The Rising Solutions, PLLC team consists of: Regina C. Guyer, President, a licensed Professional Engineer in NC with over 20 years' experience in the environmental field having a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering and a M.S. Degree in Engineering with a focus in Environmental Engineering. Kari M. Raburn, Vice-President of Chemistry and Engineering who holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering and a M.S. Degree in Technology and Engineering Education with 8 years of college teaching experience. Gina K. Ratajc, Vice-President of Education and Outreach who holds B.S. Degrees in Elementary Education and Spanish with nearly 15 years of elementary teaching experience.

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REGIONAL  
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RSPC 020-PRE2

# Attachment 1: Proposed Budget and Budget Narrative

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020

**Project Name:** Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K-12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development

**Project Narrative:** The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas (RSPC) EEG project focuses on providing clear and factual information on environmental topics, engaging trial activities for individual involvement, allowing evaluations for impacts and benefits, and seeking to change behavior. The project will inform classrooms, multigeneration family groups, and collegiate groups on the importance of environmental stewardship and their role in protecting North Carolina's natural resources within their own communities and spheres of influence.

**Total Budget Requested:** \$120,000

**Projected Budget Line Items**

**Personnel Total: \$78,000**

**Director (1101)** – \$32,000

Regina C. Guyer, P.E., Rising Solutions, PLLC will be the RSPC project facilitator for this project and provide management to ensure the project scope is met and on schedule. She will be actively involved in planning and facilitating the educational outreach within the project.

**Principal Investigator (1102)** – \$20,500

Kari Raburn, Ph.D., Rising Solutions, PLLC will lead the development of the online repository, website interface optimization, and on-demand training. She will review the education modules for alignment with NC Department of Public Instruction Standard based on her expertise with an M.S. degree in technology and engineering education and college and HS science teaching experience. She will also be actively involved in the planning and management of stormwater professionals speaking to college students and the laboratory experiences.

**Administrative and Education Specialist (1103)** – \$7,500

Gina Ratajc, Rising Solutions, PLLC will review the education modules for alignment with NC Department of Public Instruction Standard and match to child development based on her expertise with B.S. Degrees in Elementary Education and Spanish. Her experience teaching in elementary schools will enable important expertise for the EEG project. She will translate materials to Spanish. Gina Ratajc or other team members, Rising Solutions, PLLC will provide grant administration and educational facilitation support They will process grant documentation for reimbursement requests on grant expenditures.

**NC AmeriCorps / Resiliency Corps NC Member (1201)** – \$18,000

Daisha Williams, current NC AmeriCorps member, along with other NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC member will be actively involved throughout the project with specific assignments for meeting project scope through specific assignments in online module development, classroom visits, materials preparation, and other scope assistance items as requested.

**Project Materials Total: \$32,300**

**Laboratory Analysis (2101)** – \$5,000

Water-quality testing kits for college laboratory experiences

**Sampling Materials (2102)** – \$2,500

Materials used for sampling and testing such as containers, pH strips, etc.

**Enviroscape (2103) – \$1,500**

Enviroscape to bring the classes and stream clean up events for education.

**Grade-level tubs (2104)– \$2,400**

Tubs with hands-on learning matched to Department of Public Instruction standards for K-12 related to water quality, stormwater, and environmental topics.

**Stream Signs (2105) – \$500**

Signage to put up next to streams directing citizens to take pictures of the stream and pick up litter nearby.

**Outreach Materials (2106) – \$7,400**

Supplies such as workbooks, crayons, pens, and pencils to provide to students and educators.

**Incentives (2107) – \$4,000**

Rewards for top participating classes at each school matched to the students' motivation, but potentially including class pizza party or purchase of class games.

**Teacher Tool Kits (2108) – \$2,000**

Tool kits with materials to match Department of Public Instruction standards for K-12 related to environmental topics (i.e. water quality, stormwater, air quality, recycling) to give to teachers.

**Food (2109) – \$2,500**

Water and snacks for stream clean-up events and college networking events.

**Clean-up supplies (2110) – \$4,500**

Waders, trash bags, gloves, and other supplies related to cleaning streams and storm drains

**Professional Services Total: \$6,200**

**Repository for Online Hosting (3101) – \$1,200**

Vimeo or a superior hosting service that includes storage and training capabilities for the two years of the project

**Website Interface Optimization (3102) – \$5,000**

Project with The Agency to optimize the on-demand interface for K-12 educators, students, and their families

**Transportation Total: \$3,500**

**Mileage (4101) – \$3,500**

Mileage covers transportation costs associated with driving to over 50 schools and at least seven stream clean up events. It includes mileage for obtaining supplies, driving to training, administrative meetings, and media services.

**Other Sources of Funding/Leverage of Project Total: \$76,750**

**NC AmeriCorps / Resiliency Corps NC (5101) – \$20,250 funding.**

The EEG Program funding for NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC members is projected to be supplemented by NC AmeriCorps Program funds of \$20,250 for the members salary, benefits, and training support. NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC members provide an even greater value for the project when compared to employee work hours salary, estimated at \$64,847 (2,550 hours x hourly volunteer wage value of \$25.43/hr). (Campbell, 2019)

**Stormwater Professionals (5102) – \$22,500**

Stormwater Professionals will coordinate with schools, come into the classroom, coordinate and participate in stream clean-ups, share data from their local municipality. It is *estimated* that an average of 15 hours/RSPC member will be contributed at an average salary rate plus benefits \$75/hour (15 hours x 20 members x \$75 = \$22,500)

**Resources from local municipalities (5103) – \$4,000**

Local municipalities will donate outreach materials for schools and citizen science stream monitoring with an estimated value of \$4,000 (\$200 x 20 members = \$4,000).

**Outreach Services (5104) – \$10,000**

The RSPC will provide \$10,000 funding for a portion of expenses related to personnel for the facilitation of outreach and education including but not limited to management of NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency Corps NC member, outreach and education development and logistics.

**Environmental Messaging and Education Promotion (5105) – \$20,000**

The RSPC has television and radio media campaign funding of \$20,000 to provide environmental messaging and education promotion. Extra media coverage is provided via WCCB ads, Rising News Spotlight in-studio interview, and Carolina InSight in the field news coverage with an estimated value of \$36,950.

RSPC 020-PRE2 Budget Narrative and Budget

**RSPC 020-PRE2 Project Budget**

Line Item	Description	Budgeted
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$120,000</b>

1101	Director: Rising Solutions	\$32,000
1102	Principal Investigator: Rising Solutions	\$20,500
1103	Admin. and Education Specialist: Rising Solutions	\$7,500
1201	AmeriCorps Members	\$18,000

**Total Personnel: \$78,000**

2101	Laboratory Analysis Supplies	\$5,000
2102	Sampling Materials	\$2,500
2103	Enviroscape	\$1,500
2104	Grade Level Tubs	\$2,400
2105	Stream Signs	\$500
2106	Outreach Materials	\$7,400
2107	Incentives	\$4,000
2108	Teacher Tool Kits	\$2,000
2109	Food	\$2,500
2110	Stream Clean Up Supplies	\$4,500

**Total Supplies: \$32,300**

3101	Repository Hosting Trainings and Live Streaming	\$1,200
3102	Website Interface Optimization	\$5,000

**Total Professional Services: \$6,200**

4101	Mileage	\$3,500
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**Total Mileage \$3,500**

**RSPC 020-PRE2 Project Leverage of Funding**

<b>Leverage Project Funding</b>		
5101	AmeriCorps Program	\$20,250
5102	Stormwater Professional Volunteer Time	\$22,500
5103	Resources from Local Municipalities	\$4,000
5104	Outreach Services	\$10,000
5105	Environmental Messaging and Educational Promotion	\$20,000
<b>Total Leverage Funding</b>		<b>\$76,750</b>

**RSPC 020-PRE2 Project Leverage of Value-Added Components**

<b>Leverage Additional Value-Added Components</b>		
5101	AmeriCorps Program Volunteer Value \$64,847	\$26,597
5105	Environmental Messaging and Education Promotion	\$36,950
<b>Total Leverage Additional Value-Added Components</b>		<b>\$63,547</b>



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RSPC 020-PRE2

# Attachment 2: Proposed Timeline and Benchmarks

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020

## Timeline

The overall project timeline will be October 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2022 as shown in Table 1 for development of environmental engagement activities.

*Table 1: Project Timeline*

Project Items	Oct - Dec 2020	Jan - Mar 2021	Apr - June 2021	July- Sept 2021	Oct- Dec 2021	Jan - Mar 2022	Apr - June 2022	July- Sept 2022
Contact with K-12 Science Teachers	X							
Optimize offerings to K-12 needs	X							
Online resources available	X							
Go into K-12 schools		X	X					
Stormwater Professional Speaker at Colleges		X	X					
Storm drain labeling		X	X					
Litter pick-up near streams		X	X					
Storm Drain and Stream Assessment Monitoring		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Optimize offerings to college needs					X			
Online resources available					X			
Go into K-12 schools						X	X	
Environmental Days (1/County)				X	X	X	X	
Laboratory experience in colleges						X	X	
Storm drain labeling						X	X	
Litter pick-up near streams						X	X	
Invite Families during school family engagement event*								
Stream Clean-ups**								

\*Scheduling of family engagement events will be done through the schools

\*\*Stream clean-up schedule will be developed soon after the school family engagement event

## **Benchmarks:**

The project benchmarks will be the environmental educational and outreach programs including participation events as shown in the scheduled timeline (Table 1).

Benchmark measurement evaluations include:

Quantitative Metrics – number of educators and students involved within the project; number of schools; number of modules and materials created; number of times implemented in the classroom; number of stream monitoring assessment photos submitted; college students

attending events; number of pollution reports; and families involved at school family workshops, storm drain grates monitoring and cleaning, and stream clean ups.

Qualitative Metrics- Observations and statements made by educators, students, and family members; types of pollution prevention and illicit discharges reported; evaluations during stream clean ups with participants; and comments.

The objective of educating families with K-12 students will be gauged successful based on the number of students in classes, number of families submitting storm drain pictures, number of storm drains labeled at schools, number of families picking up litter, and number of families submitting stream pictures.

Storm drainage improvement measurements will be the number and effectiveness of storm drain grate cleaning as evidenced by pictures submitted by families along with the number of storm drains labeled. Stream watch photo monitoring effectiveness will be measured by the pictures and descriptors of streams in each of the school districts (with signs) and number of pieces of litter picked up. Measuring the increased reporting of pollution will be done by a comparison of water quality related calls before and after research period.

Quarterly reports will be provided to summarize the project activities and the measurements of success data. The reporting will include details on the project status, database of school contacts and interactions, resources provided to educators, number of students, details on modules and on-line student resources, upcoming events, college speakers and laboratory interactions, opportunities to engage with students and families, and participation event details with results, stream monitoring summaries, and budget expenditures. The modules and on-line student resources will be developed and available at <https://regionalstormwater.org/>



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RSPC 020-PRE2

# Attachment 3: Organizational Materials

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020



REGIONAL  
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**OF THE CAROLINAS**

Chris Costner, Chairman  
6012 Bayfield Parkway, Suite #220  
Concord, NC 28027  
May 26, 2020

Attorney General Josh Stein  
Environmental Enhancement Grant Program  
Sarah Zambon, Assistance Attorney General  
114 W. Edenton St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Attorney General Josh Stein and EEG Program team:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas (RSPC) to submit a proposal for an Environmental Enhancement Grant. The RSPC fully supports the research project, *Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K-12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development*. The RSPC leadership role for the research as the nonprofit grant receiving agency to provide educational opportunities through outreach and family/community events is in alignment with stormwater programs initiatives within the 20-member municipal/government agencies.

The RSPC seeks to educate and bring awareness to the public, local businesses and education centers of our region about stormwater issues and their impact on our water quality and our environment. RSPC further aims to unite local stormwater professionals and stormwater programs by sharing information and ideas in order to collaborate, discuss and address similar stormwater issues on a regional level.

As the Chair of the RSPC organization, I look forward to the opportunity to work with RSPC members and Rising Solutions, PLLC along with NC AmeriCorps/Resiliency NC members on this EEG project. The EEG funding will provide opportunities to present information on environmental topics, engage trial activities for individual involvement, allow evaluations for impacts and benefits, and seek to change behavior. The project will inform classrooms, multigeneration family groups, and collegiate groups on the importance of environmental stewardship and their role in protecting NC's natural resources within their own communities and spheres of influence. The work will enhance the environment by informing others of its value, importance, and how every

individual can make a difference. As we deal with environmental issues in parts per million, parts per billion; its critical to deliver a message that each of us are those one in a million!

In addition, the EEG project will enhance the overall educational capabilities by expanding lesson modules through online and live streaming capabilities which is so critical during the COVID-19 Pandemic in keeping students and their families safe and healthy. As school systems are evaluating protocols for the upcoming year, the RSPC research team will become valuable contributors in creating the environmental resources for the new normal.

There are several ways which the City of Monroe and other RSPC members may provide assistance to the research project:

- Expertise leadership throughout the project
- Participate in the development of educational modules
- Provide speakers for classrooms and college panels
- Present information and activities on environmental topics
- RSPC will provide project support with their currently budgeted outreach facilitation funding.

The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas is prepared to collaborate within the research project and look forward to the opportunities which will evolve as the meaningful work moves forward with educators, students, and their families. The opportunity to work with college students and influence future environmental professionals will create project benefits for years to come.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (704) 282-4537 or email me at [ccostner@monroenc.org](mailto:ccostner@monroenc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Costner".

Chris Costner, P.E., CSM

RSPC Chairman

Stormwater Engineer, City of Monroe



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**OF THE CAROLINAS**

6012 Bayfield Parkway, Suite #220  
Concord, NC 28027  
May 26, 2020

The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas is not required to have an annual independent audit at this time. The revenue is based on dues and there are no employees.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 21 2019**

REGIONAL STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP OF  
THE CAROLINAS  
C/O ROBINSON BRADSHAW & HINSON PA  
TY SHAFFER  
101 NORTH TRYON STREET STE 1900  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28246

Employer Identification Number:  
82-4563496  
DLN:  
17053077339009  
Contact Person:  
PETER A ORLETT ID# 31436  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:  
June 30  
Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:  
No  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
September 28, 2018  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

REGIONAL STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP OF

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen A. Martin".

Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Annual Budget

Fiscal Year: 2019-2020

Account	Last Year Actual 2018- 2019		Current Year			Coming Year Budget Officers Estimate	Variance	
			Budget 2019-2020	Actual to May 6 2019	Estimated Entire Year			
1	Facilitation Services	\$ 39,138.00	\$ 41,019.00	\$ 30,764.25	\$ -	\$ 42,020.00	\$ 10,254.75	
2	Advertising	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 10,600.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 10,900.00	
3	Quarterly Meetings Supplies	\$ 1,186.96	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 534.90	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 965.10	
4	Printing and Supplies	\$ -	\$ 2,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	
5	Postage - UPS Box	\$ 228.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 228.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 122.00	
6	Promo Items	\$ 2,640.42	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,236.17	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (236.17)	
7	Events	\$ 1,807.43	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,248.07	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,251.93	
8	Misc. Fees	\$ 153.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 350.00	
9	Professional Fees	\$ 8,662.13	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,227.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,273.00	
	Intern	\$ -	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 4,750.00	\$ -	\$ 4,750.00		
10	<b>Expenditures Totals</b>	\$ 75,015.94	\$ -	\$ 80,469.00	\$ 51,988.39	\$ -	\$ 84,670.00	\$ 28,480.61
<b>Advertising</b>								
11	Website	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00		
13	WFAE Radio Ads	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00		
15	Television Placement	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00		
17	Google Ad Words	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00		
		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 21,500.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 10,600.00	\$ -	\$ 21,500.00	
	<b>Revenues (Dues)</b>	\$ 64,250.00	\$ 66,125.00	\$ 65,375.00				
	Projected Transfer from Reserves	\$ 10,765.94	\$ 14,344.00	\$ 15,094.00		\$ 19,295.00		
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 75,015.94	\$ 80,469.00	\$ 80,469.00				
	Organizational Balance as of July 1, 2019	\$ 82,115.81						
	Dues Collected	\$ 65,375.00						
	Expenditures	\$ 51,988.39						
	Current Balance	\$ 95,502.42						
	Projected Balance as of June 30, 2020	\$ 67,021.81						

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Annual Budget Estimates - Revenues

Fiscal Year: 2019-2020

Agency	Current Year			Dues 2018
	Tier	Dues	Date Paid	First Year Discount
Charlotte	7	\$ 17,500.00	8/29/2019	\$ 17,500.00
Mecklenburg County	6	\$ 12,000.00	8/14/2019	\$ 12,000.00
China Grove	1	\$ 750.00	7/24/2019	\$ 750.00
Dallas	1	\$ 750.00	7/29/2019	\$ 750.00
Lake Park	1	\$ 750.00	7/24/2019	\$ 750.00
Landis	1	\$ 375.00	10/8/2019	\$ 375.00
Lowell	1	\$ 750.00	7/31/2019	\$ 750.00
Bessemer City	2	\$ 1,500.00	7/26/2019	\$ 1,500.00
Cramerton	1	\$ 1,500.00	7/25/2019	\$ 1,500.00
Belmont	3	\$ 2,500.00	8/16/2019	\$ 2,500.00
Harrisburg	3	\$ 2,500.00	8/13/2019	\$ 2,500.00
Mt. Holly	3	\$ 2,500.00	8/2/2019	\$ 2,500.00
Shelby	3	\$ 2,500.00	7/25/2019	\$ 2,500.00
Stallings	3	\$ 2,500.00	7/25/2019	\$ 2,500.00
Monroe	4	\$ 4,000.00	7/26/2019	\$ 4,000.00
Mooresville	4	\$ 4,000.00	8/9/2019	\$ 4,000.00
Statesville	4	\$ 4,000.00	9/13/2019	\$ 4,000.00
Gastonia	5	\$ 5,000.00	8/1/2019	\$ 5,000.00
Town of Stanley	1	\$ 750.00		\$ -
			Outstanding	\$750.00
		\$ 66,125.00	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 65,375.00



REGIONAL  
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RSPC 020-PRE2

# Attachment 4: Letters of Support

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020

NC Water Resources Research Institute  
NCSU Campus Box 7912  
Raleigh, NC 27695-7912

May 26, 2020

Attorney General Josh Stein  
Environmental Enhancement Grant Program  
Sarah Zambon, Assistance Attorney General  
114 W. Edenton St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Attorney General Josh Stein and EEG Program team:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a letter of support for the Environmental Enhancement Grant proposal entitled “Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K-12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development” and for the applicant, the Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas (RSPC).

The 20 member municipalities of the RSPC, and RSPC facilitator Rising Solutions and president Regina Guyer, have established careers and expertise in stormwater, water quality, and education which equip them to encourage K-12 and college students to practice environmental stewardship.

WRI has worked with members of the RSPC in various capacities over the years and recognizes their leadership, environmental expertise and collaborative skills that would be a significant asset to any project that calls for them. WRI’s most recent engagement is through work on a grant that was co-developed by the RSPC, Rising Solutions, Johnson C. Smith University, and the WRI-managed Stormwater Consortium. Through that grant, “Empowering underrepresented citizens of Charlotte-Mecklenburg with a voice and role in municipal stormwater program goals,” the RSPC had demonstrated critical capabilities in communication, listening, understanding, and developing project scope to match citizens and stakeholder needs through two-way communication. This experience and expertise will be instrumental for the EEG project as they work with educators to understand and listen in order to develop lessons and educational resources that can be implemented in accordance with new protocols for the academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22, particularly given changes related to COVID-19.

The RSPC project is capable of building a wealth of knowledge about interactions between people and the environment. It will also allow individuals to more fully understand impacts and benefits of their various actions, and lead citizens to understand and adopt key behaviors needed to protect our state’s natural resources through improved water quality. This will be done through proven and effective means of educating students and empowering them to engage their families and neighbors in their learning and in building influence to generate meaningful behavior change. I support the RSPC and Rising Solutions team in this EEG opportunity and believe our state will benefit from the support of this grant application.

Sincerely

Nicole Wilkinson McIntosh (electronically signed 5/26/2020, 12:26 p.m.)

Coordinator for Research & Outreach  
NC Water Resources Research Institute  
North Carolina State University  
[nicole.mcintosh@ncsu.edu](mailto:nicole.mcintosh@ncsu.edu)

**THELMA BYERS-BAILEY, Esq.**  
District 2 Representative and Vice-Chair  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education  
ThelmaB.Bailey@CMS.K12.NC.US  
(980) 272-1943  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Attorney General Josh Stein  
Environmental Enhancement Grant Program  
Sarah Zambon, Assistance Attorney General  
114 W. Edenton St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Attorney General Josh Stein and EEG Program team:

The Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas (RSPC) project, **Environmental Engagement in Water Quality and Stormwater by Citizens Connected to K-12 Education and College Environmental Professional Development**, will bring knowledge, and strengthen environmental stewardship for protecting North Carolina's natural resources. As they work with educators and develop lesson resources, it will enable a teacher – student dialogue on issues that affect us within our families, homes, and communities. The project will strengthen the student's learning with its enrichment activities for stream watching to visually monitor for pollutants and storm drainage awareness to prevent flooding.

The project involvement over seven counties in the region could easily be further implemented into the NC public school system through the internet media resources (e.g. Live streaming of lessons, online modules, online environmental education lessons). These types of resources may have an increasingly important role to be implemented into new protocols for the upcoming school years.

As the President of the Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Association, I have worked with Johnson C. Smith University and the RSPC along with Rising Solutions, PLLC team members on a research project, **Empowering underrepresented citizens of Charlotte Mecklenburg with a voice and role in municipal stormwater program goals**. They have demonstrated competences and qualifications to work with others, build collaborations, share knowledge and experiences, and facilitate educational opportunities. I have attended the RSPC Elected Officials Workshop which enabled me to understand important environmental concepts on minimizing stormwater impacts within my community.

I submit this letter of support for the RSPC's project which can communicate the importance to our students and their families within our communities to achieve an active role in protecting our North Carolina natural resources.

Sincerely,

*Thelma Byers-Bailey, Esq.*

Thelma Byers-Bailey, Esq.

cc: File

Attorney General Josh Stein  
Environmental Enhancement Grant Program  
Sarah Zambon, Assistance Attorney General  
114 W. Edenton St.  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Attorney General Josh Stein and EEG Program team:

May I state that one of our most important assets in NC is a body of elected officials, educated to conservation of our natural resources, most importantly, clean water. Water will be the next battleground is what we are hearing. If our colleagues in the Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas can expand their outstanding work to other important stakeholders in our communities, life for all NC residents will improve and our threatened environment will have a better chance.

Over the last 20 years, I have attended multiple sessions of this outreach in Charlotte, as a Charlotte City Council Member and as a Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. I can proclaim that I always come away 1. better educated (visuals of projects, new BMP's, insights on better communication of issues) 2. better connected (meeting other elected officials and sharing problems and solutions, finding out where common concerns and projects are, interfacing with those who are experts in this field and who earn my trust) 3. better motivated (knowledge gained there makes me a better functioning MSWCD Supervisor, advocate for the environment and BMP's, and citizen, responsible for my own consumption/practices regarding water/stormwater).

There are two innovative points in this grant which are winners. Expanding this opportunity to educators will exponentially increase the vital message in our communities. Children have a wonderful way of absorbing important information, particularly about the environment, and becoming the very best advocates for best conservation practices. The other point is off site education as well. This quarantine situation has taught all of us so much about the potential of interactive at-home meetings and receiving valuable information and connections via the internet.

I am delighted and proud to endorse the grant application of the RSPC and truly hope they will garner your support...for they will achieve their goals, quod.

Most sincerely,

Nancy Carter (electronic submittal on Thu, May 21, 2020 at 12:12 PM)

Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, Vice Chair  
National Association of Conservation Districts' Urban and Community Resource Policy Group, Vice Chair



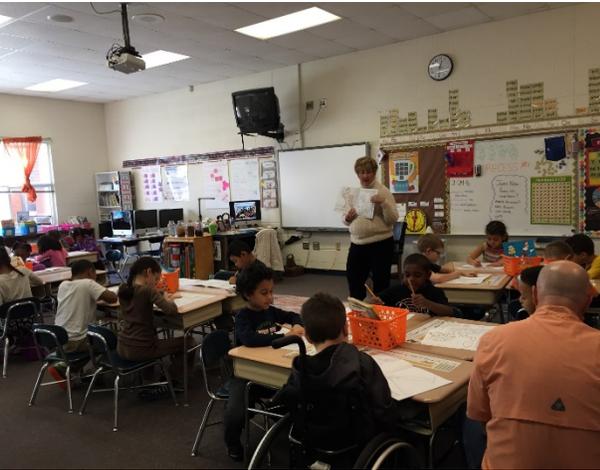
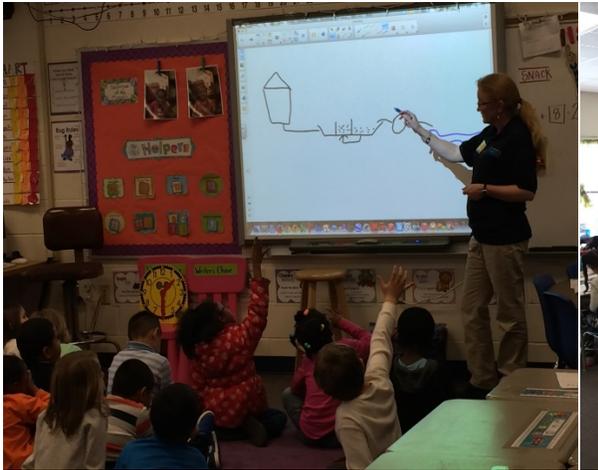
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**OF THE CAROLINAS**

RSPC 020-PRE2

# Attachment 5: Descriptive Documentation

Regional Stormwater Partnership of the Carolinas  
Kari M. Raburn, PhD  
5-27-2020

# K-12 Environmental Education





Figures 1-8: Engaging with students on environmental topics of engineering, solid waste/recycling, community growth and design, water, wastewater, environmental stewardship, and air quality.