



Potential Emergency Watershed Protection Grant

October 14, 2024

- Grant Overview
- Past EWP Success
- Potential Funds for TS Debby Relief at Siple Ave.
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Next Steps



- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program
- NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (NCDA&CS)



- EWP – USDA Federal Emergency Recovery Program
 - Provides technical and financial assistance
 - Does not require a federal or state disaster declaration
 - Assist communities with recovery from watershed impairments
- Various activities include:
 - Remove debris from stream channels, road culverts and bridges;
 - Reshape and protect eroded streambanks;
 - Establish vegetative cover on critically eroding lands;
 - Repair certain conservation practices;



- EWP Project Criteria:
 - Provide protection from flooding or soil erosion;
 - Reduces threats to life and property;
 - Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment;
 - Economically and environmentally defensible.
- Through EWP, NRCS pays up to 75% of construction cost of ***eligible*** recovery measures.
- Remaining cost come from Sponsor.



- Eligible Recovery Measures
 - Sediment & Debris removal
 - Bank stabilization
- Not Eligible though EWP
 - Repairs to Infrastructure (e.g. Repairing Roads, Bridges, Water/Sewer lines, Storm sewer)



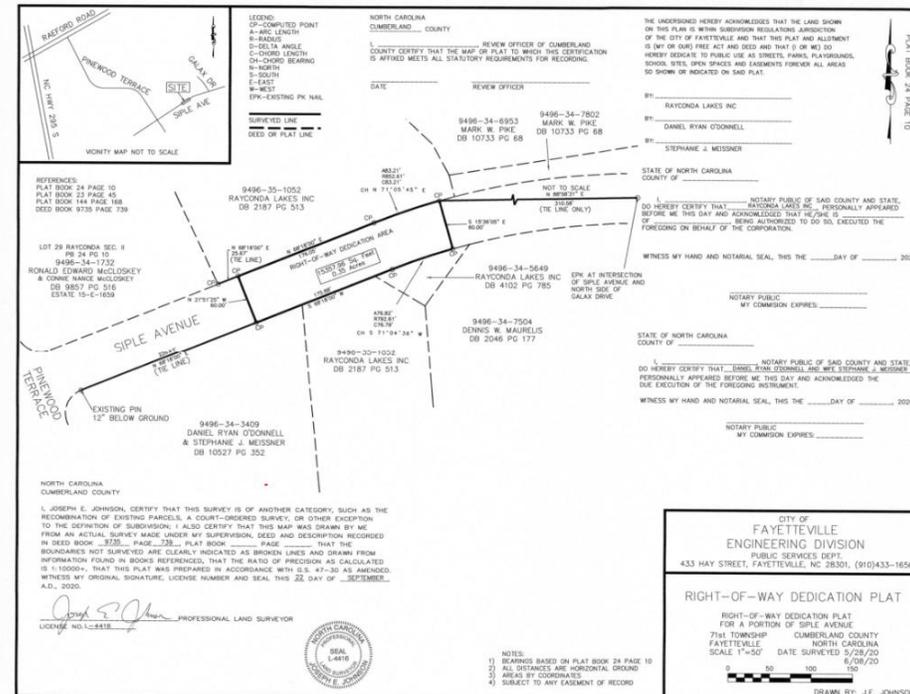
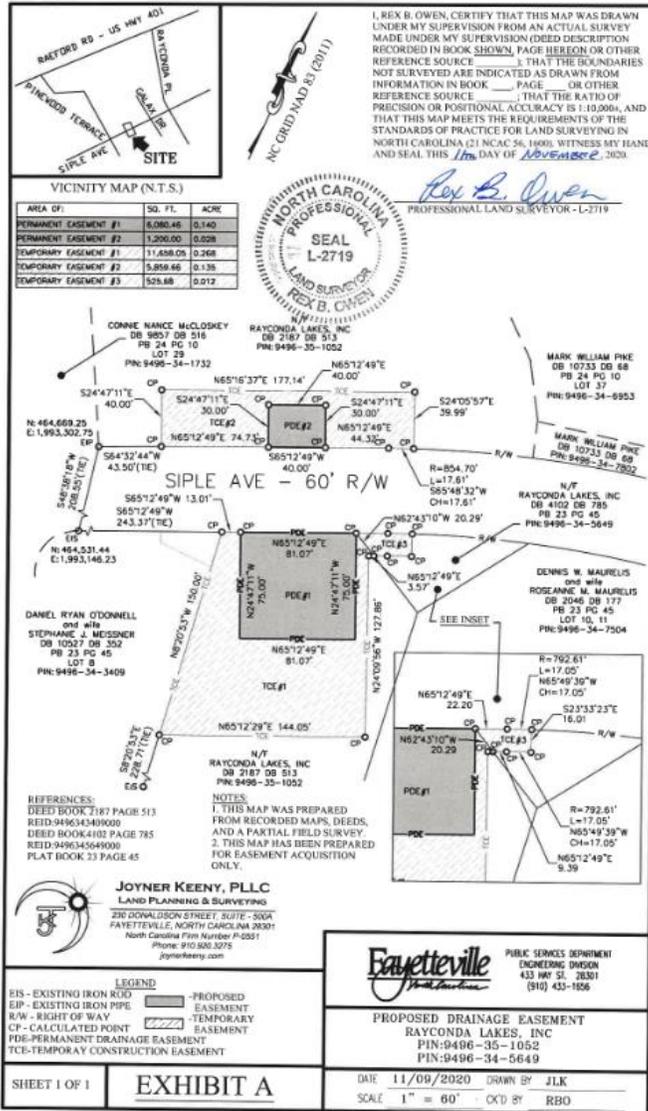
- 2020 City was awarded \$2,145,400 from NRCS – EWP for watershed impairments attributed to Hurricane Florence.
- Received an additional \$715,133 from NCDA&CS to cover the Sponsor's share.
- Constructed multiple bank stabilization and sediment/debris removal projects throughout the City.





- Siple Ave was an approved site for this funding in 2020 but the project was not constructed. Property Owners declined to participate.

- City had requested the right of way to be re-dedicated.
- City had requested both temporary construction and permanent drainage easements for the existing culvert for maintenance.





- Area of failure on Siple Ave is not public right of way (R2015-065)
- Identify the scope of the project
 - NRCS would not pay for full reconstruction of the road.
 - NRCS could potentially pay for 75% of sediment/debris removal and stabilization of the area.
- Where would Sponsor match of grant funds would come?
 - HOA? Potential State funds?
- Connectivity Analysis (Rayconda was re-evaluated):
 - Council desire for roadway reconstruction?
 - Not identified as a high priority when evaluated under criteria.
 - Not ranked pre failure; Ranked outside of top 17 scores (64 sites score higher)
- Environmental Benefits
 - Removal of sediment deposits and debris reduce potential clogging of stream channel
 - Further erosion and undermining mitigated
 - Improvement of water quality in the stream.



- Submit formal request for EWP assistance (Staff Recommendation if mitigation is desired)
 - Needed to trigger a site visit from NRCS to perform a damage survey report (DSR).
 - Does not commit the City to any financial responsibility.
 - DSR provides a damage description, proposed action, environmental evaluation, economic considerations, social considerations, and cost estimates for corrective action
 - Scope of the project is limited to sediment & debris removal and stabilization efforts to mitigate further erosion in the watershed.
 - Sponsor share of funding would need to be identified (recommend pursuing state grant funds or HOA).
- Conduct assessments of additional sites in the City to see if they would potentially be eligible for EWP funding at this time (Need Council direction on).
 - This would take additional time before submitting request for assistance.
 - Sponsor share of funding would need to be identified.



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