



Helene-StRAP Allocation Discussion

Attachment 7A

- Goal: Discuss options for Helene Allocation for future approval (not an action item today)
- Discussion Items:
 1. Available Funding
 2. Dividing Funds between High, Medium, and Low-Need Counties
 3. Prioritization of Project Types
 4. Single Application vs Rolling Application
 5. Review of Applications & Award Process
 1. Prioritizing Streambank Stabilization
 6. Supplemental Awards

- Funding Overview
 - **\$40 million** total funding for Helene-Related Projects
 - \$25 million allocated from General Assembly in Disaster Recovery Bill S.L. 2024-57

SECTION 1D.2. The State Controller shall transfer the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) from the SERDRF to the Helene Fund. The funds transferred pursuant to this section are appropriated for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for purposes in the affected area authorized under the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program created by Article 6 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes. The Department shall not expend funds appropriated by this section on any activities that will be, or likely will be, covered by federal funds.

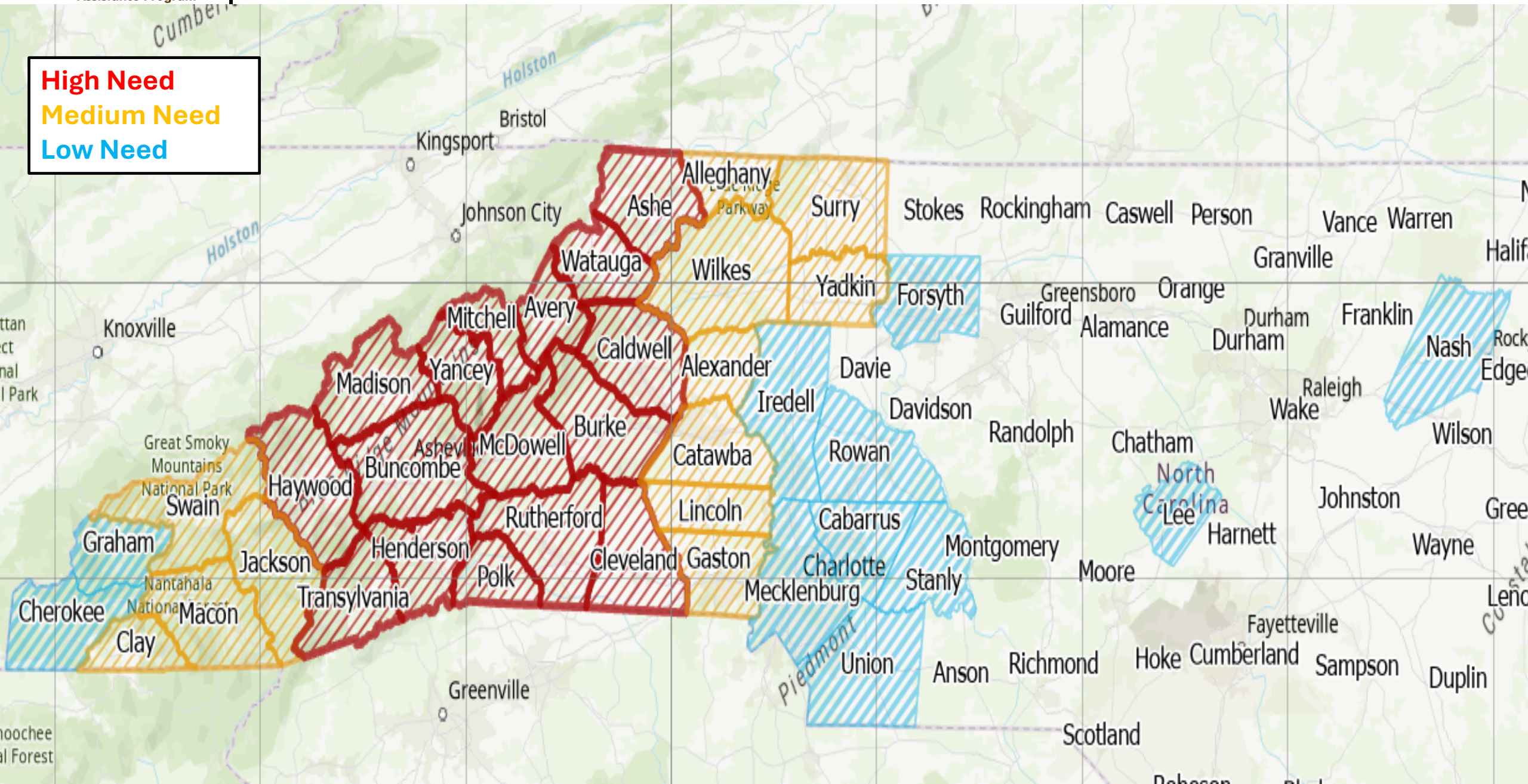
- Additional \$15 million in Disaster Recovery Act of 2025- Part II

Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program to be used in accordance with Article 6 of Chapter 139 of the General Statutes in the affected area.

- DSWC can retain 5% of funds for admin costs
 - Staffing costs (including new hires), inspectors, software, vehicles for site visits, equipment, etc.
 - Leaves \$38 million available.
- Limitation on Helene-funding: “Shall not expend funds ... On any activities that will be, or likely will be, covered by federal funds.” Waiting for site approval by:
 - **FEMA**/Army Corps of Engineers
 - **Emergency Watershed Protection Program** (EWP) through NRCS
- **TO DATE: No funds have been awarded to Grantees**

- Legislation says “the affected area”- see maps on following slides.
- Total eligible grantees (based on [FEMA’s Disaster Declaration](#)):
 - 39 Counties
 - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (geographically falls within the 39 eligible counties)
- Not all counties affected equally
- **Per-county award caps** (maximum awarded in a county) would ensure funding is divided across counties.
 - Cap set based on amount of need from storm
 - Potential metric of need: Most Impacted and Distressed areas [Based on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery \(CDBG-DR\) Funding \(March 26, 2025\)](#)

High Need
Medium Need
Low Need



- Idea for Need Categories:
 - **High Need** (16 counties)- Federally Designated Most Impacted
 - **Medium Need** (12 counties)- State Designated Most Impacted
 - **Low Need** (10 counties)- all other FEMA declared counties
- **Guidance Needed:**
 - Do we need to consider other metrics for classifying counties into need categories?
 - Do we need to subdivide the “high need” category? If so, what factors should we consider?
- **Guidance Needed:** How should we handle unique categories (*if using HUD designations of Impact*):
 - Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 - Mecklenburg County

- Guidance Needed:** What caps should we consider for each need category? What is the maximum that each county should receive?
 - Example assumes all \$38M awarded:*

County Category	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Ratio of county caps in High : Medium : Low need counties	6 : 2 : 1	3.5 : 2.5 : 1	3 : 2 : 1
High Need (and % of funds that would go to this category)	\$1,714,000 per-county cap (73% of funds)	\$1,330,000 cap (57% of funds)	\$1,310,345 cap (58% of funds)
Medium Need (and % of funds that would go to this category)	\$572,000 per-county cap (19% of funds)	\$950,000 cap (33% of funds)	\$873,563 cap (30% of funds)
Low Need (and % of funds that would go to this category)	\$286,000 per-county cap (8% of funds)	\$380,000 cap (10% of funds)	\$436,782 cap (12% of funds)

- Potential Project Types eligible for StRAP:
 - Stream debris removal (please note that FEMA/Army Corps has done significant work on this project type)
 - Streambank stabilization
 - Stream restoration
 - Sediment Removal
 - PL-566 Structure Repair
- Grantees have primarily expressed need for streambank stabilization.
- **Guidance Needed:** Should we prioritize one or more project types?

- Cannot award funding to applicants until they have identified which sites will be covered by EWP.
 - Not all applicants will be ready to start applying for StRAP at the same time.
- Plan: Use a rolling application for StRAP funding as Grantees become eligible
 - StRAP can accept applications from a county as soon as:
 1. FEMA/Army Corps work has finished/identified all sites planned for work.
 2. EWP New Sponsor Deadline has passed.
 3. All EWP Sponsors in that county have completed applications.
- StRAP will appropriately notify counties where we are accepting applications.
- **Guidance Needed:** Does the Commission support using rolling applications?

- Information Sessions prior to applications beginning and continuing through Application process.
- Will announce as we begin accepting applications in each county.
 - Maintain list of where applications are currently being accepted on StRAP website.
- 5-6 Week application window for each county/batch of counties.
- **Guidance Needed:** How would you like us to encourage Non-District applicants to communicate with Districts?
 - In previous funding rounds, SWCC has mentioned wanting to find ways to have Districts more involved and have non-district grantees coordinate with Districts.

- Use Survey123 EWP/StRAP Application Tool
 - Simultaneous EWP & StRAP Site Assessments
 - Sites denied for EWP can apply for StRAP

EWP Combined Survey

Form and Location Details

This survey captures detailed damage information for the EWP Field Data Report and Damage Survey Report and the DSWC Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program. **Fill out Page 2, the FDR section, for ALL programs. Fill out the second and third page for the DSR and StRAP as relevant.**

Select the Desired Forms

A site may be considered for both EWP and StRAP, but can only receive funding from one.

☐ EWP Field Data Report
 ☐ EWP Damage Survey Report
 ☐ StRAP

Site ID - **Required ***
Unique, district-defined site identifier.

Site Location

35.783°N 78.643°W ± 20.0 m

1 of 4

EWP Combined Survey

General Information & FDR Form

1. Background Information
2. Site Eligibility/Defensibility
3. Initial Engineering Cost Estimate for Repair Measures
4. Estimated Structure Value (Houses, bridges or other structures)
5. Pictures and Descriptions

Additional Comment Space
For District Internal Use Only.

EWP Combined Survey

StRAP Form

Stream Length Needing Repair <small>Estimated length in feet.</small>	Total Cost Estimate <small>Total estimated cost including engineering, permitting and administrative costs.</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

▼ StRAP Points

+

Number of Habitable Structures Benefitted	Number of Utility Structures Benefitted
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Linear Feet of Roadway Benefitted	Acreage of Farmland Benefitted
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other Estimated Benefits
Describe all flood risk and erosion reduction, or other benefits to all structures, utilities, roadways, farmland and other properties.

- Review total amount request by grantee, and rank total planned work.
 - Will not rank individual projects
 - Will look at cumulative cost and potential benefits of planned work.
 - Potential benefits: structures, roads, utilities, farmland benefiting from planned work
- Grantees will receive funding based on total requested amount.
- Funding awards in one county/batch of counties will not affect the application process in other counties.
- If multiple organizations in a county apply and request more than county cap, funds will be divided between organizations based on ranking of total application per grantee.
- Award Process:
 1. Grantees are notified of total award amount.
 2. Grantees will submit an updated Scope of Work, outlining which sites from the application they will use awarded funds on. *We anticipate not being able to fully fund many grantee's full requests.*
 3. Grantees sign and accept StRAP Contract.

	Option 1- 0% Held	Option 2- 12.5% Held	Option 3- 20% Held
Total Available to Award (5% admin withheld)	\$38,000,000	\$38,000,000	\$38,000,000
Initial Award	\$38,000,000	\$33,250,000	\$30,400,000
Supplemental Award	\$0 (unless counties request less than cap)	\$4,750,000 (12.5% of funds)	\$7,600,000 (20% of funds)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All funds could be implemented more quickly. • Less ability to reallocate based on need. • Only supplemental funding would come from counties that did not request more than the cap. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller initial awards. • Would have largest amount available for reallocation to highest need. • 20% of total funds could be supplemental allocations to highest need (regardless of county caps)

- **Guidance Needed:** How much would you like withheld for supplemental allocations?

- September Commission Meeting- Information item to update Commission
- Sept-Nov:
 - DSWC finalizes application plan based on Commission's feedback
 - Preliminary meetings to announce upcoming funding round
- November: Action item for SWCC to vote to start accepting StRAP applications
- November:
 - Additional information sessions
 - Begin accepting applications in counties that have completed EWP enrollment
- Once all batches of applications are completed, unallocated funding will be awarded based on need
- **Guidance Needed:** We welcome feedback at September work session and business session. Please feel free to reach out to StRAP staff before November Commission meeting.