

September 30, 2022

Kurt Readus
State Conservationist
100 W. Capital Street
Suite 1321
Jackson, Mississippi 39269

RE: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – EWP Request

Dear Mr. Readus:

This letter serves as a request for technical and financial assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for the purpose of addressing watershed impairments and hazards to life and property caused by recent historic level rainfall events. This request is part of the Board's continuing efforts to address the detrimental impacts of debris clogged streams and severe erosion throughout Batchelor Creek.

On August 2, 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) records indicate the City of Canton received 8.23 inches of rain in 24 hours. This volume of precipitation is equal to the 50-year recurrence interval projection as reported on the NOAA Precipitation Frequency Data Server (PFDS). Further, NOAA records reflect that Canton received 8.13 inches of rain in a 48-hour period spanning August 24 – August 25, 2022, a volume that exceeds the 25-year recurrence interval projected by PFDS. In total, NOAA reports a rainfall of 24.15 inches for the month of August 2022 in Canton, an amount that lands within the range of uncertainty for the 1000-year recurrence interval.

These historic rains resulted in runoff volumes and velocities in Batchelor Creek, the main arterial floodway through the norther portion of Canton, that could not be contained by the channel which led to widespread flooding, and destruction of riparian habitat. Building upon progress achieved with this watershed-based initiative instituted by this Board in the Fall of 2020, this letter of intent for technical and financial assistance from the NRCS seeks assistance to prevent further infrastructure and property damages in Madison County, MS. Batchelor Creek is experiencing streambank erosion due to the high velocity runoff resulting from the record August rainfall. This erosion contributes to downstream impediments such as sediment and debris that obstruct proper drainage flow and impair water quality and riparian habitat.

Of particular concern is the section of Batchelor Creek immediately downstream of MLK Street and where an un-named tributary of Batchelor Creek which extends northward of MLK Street to Liberty Village. The flooding and resultant erosion along this tributary is impacting residential homes in the area. The section of Batchelor Creek downstream of MLK Street is experiencing poor flow characteristics as a result of sediment and debris in the channel delivered by recent rains.

The projected cost of improvements on the impaired streams is approximately \$3.9 million. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss further the specifics of this request and how Madison County might merge our partnership with the State of Mississippi and NRCS for the benefit of our common interests of conservation and protection of natural resources in the county, state, and nation.

Sincerely,

Paul Griffin, District 5 Supervisor

Board President