

October 13, 2022

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

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

Dear Mr. Readus:

The Madison County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) is appreciative of the ongoing support and collaboration from the NRCS, Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program, in helping the County advance its priorities for rehabilitation of the Upper Bear Creek (HUC-12) Watershed. As you know, the Board has been challenged with watershed and stormwater management issues throughout much of the County, particularly in the historically underserved urbanized areas that are downstream of watersheds known to drain a complex network of unstable streams. Given the magnitude of these issues, the County's ability to manage and address its needs in a proactive manner has been significantly impeded by a lack of resources, coordinated planning, and an effective sustainable approach to comprehensive watershed-based stormwater management.

To comprehensively address these complex stormwater management challenges, the Board of Supervisors came together in 2020 to initiate a locally-driven project that would lead to the development of a holistic Countywide Watershed-Based Stormwater Assessment and Management Plan. This proactive initiative led not only to the detailed identification, assessment, evaluation, and prioritization of structural and nonstructural related deficiencies throughout the county watersheds, but also to the development of an actionable short and long-term implementation plan. The County's watershed priorities include floodplain management, flood risk reduction, and the implementation of innovative erosion, sediment, and stormwater treatment measures to protect water quality and ultimately enhance community resiliency throughout the County.

To continue to build upon the progress achieved with this important watershed-based initiative, the MCBOS respectfully submits this letter of intent to request additional technical and financial assistance from the NRCS in order to expand project area to the entire Bear Creek (HUC-10) Watershed System. Upper Bear Creek, which was recently funded by NRCS, is only one of four HUC-12 watersheds that comprise the Bear Creek Watershed. This entire critical watershed system serves as a major groundwater drinking supply source and was identified as the highest priority area in the County. A more comprehensive planning process that encompasses the entire drainage area is critically needed in order to effectively develop and implement a comprehensive watershed protection and restoration plan. Please refer to attached map for more detail.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss further the specifics of this request and how Madison County might continue our partnership with NRCS for the benefit of our common interests to improve the conservation and protection of natural resources in the county, our state, and nation.

Sincerely,

Paul Griffin, Board President
Madison County Board of Supervisors

Bear Creek Watershed

HUC-10 (0806020203)

