CALDWELL COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

120 HOSPITAL AVENUE NW., LENOIR NC 28645

Friday, December 22, 2023

Dear Caldwell County Board of Commissioners;

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) provides grants to projects that help reduce flooding by protecting and restoring the drainage infrastructure of North Carolina's waterways. The program was created by the NC General Assembly, which approved $38 million in funding for StRAP in the budget appropriations bill for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This year the NC General Assembly has approved $20 million in non-recurring funds for a second round of StRAP funds. The program is administered by the state's Soil & Water Conservation Commission, working closely with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation within the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

In 2022, Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District received $259,437 in StRAP funds in which all but $12,837 have been expended. The funds were used to remove stream debris from 9,127 linear feet of streams in Caldwell County. This included complete removal from the floodplain entirely and draining of a 10-acre beaver pond. These projects will help reduce flooding along Lower Creek from Google to the furniture complex and has opened right of way access to Little Gunpowder Creek utility crossings near the fairgrounds.

In 2024, the Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to request additional StRAP funds up to the amount of $500,000. Caldwell Soil and Water staff are gathering data for new projects that could help reduce flooding in more areas across our county.

Sincerely,

Rusty Dellinger
Soil & Water Board Chairman
Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District
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828-758-1111