City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

Staff Resources: William A Hart, III, Director of Water Resources

Action Requested: Adoption of resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a multi-year Agreement with the Mills River Partnership, Inc., for the Mills River Watershed Best Management Practices project for a not-to-exceed amount of $180,000 over three (3) fiscal years contingent upon funding each year.

Background:

- In 2023, City Council authorized a three year agreement between the City of Asheville Water Resources Department and the Mills River Partnership (MRP) for a not-to-exceed amount of $180,000 to provide financial support of projects intended to protect and/or improve water quality in the Mills River Watershed.
- The department desires to continue to partner with the MRP to help fund water quality projects in the Mills River Watershed.
- The Water Resources Department is willing to provide cost-share funding for projects that are directly related to water quality protection and/or improvement.
- These activities include selection and installation of Best Management Practices to control contamination of the river from storm runoff, and educational materials and activities.
- The City of Asheville has an ongoing interest in watershed management. Water quality in the upper watershed continues to be excellent and overall water quality indices have improved during the past 10 years.
- The strategy now is to focus on efforts to protect and improve water quality.
- Funding initiatives are to be considered with an understanding of their long-term impact on water quality.
- The level of participation recommended is an amount up to $60,000.00 per fiscal year with the understanding that funding is project-specific and subject to the appropriation of funds.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Safe, Clean, Healthy Environment

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- $60,000 per year over a three (3) year contract with a total maximum cost of $180,000.
- The cost for Year 1 of the contract will be part of the FY 2026-27 Water Resources operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a multi-year Agreement with the Mills River Partnership, Inc., for the Mills River Watershed Best Management Practices project for a not-to-exceed amount of $180,000.00 over three (3) fiscal years contingent upon funding each year. The level of participation recommended is an amount up to $60,000.00 per fiscal year for a maximum of three fiscal years with the understanding that funding is project-specific and subject to the appropriation of funds.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an multi-year agreement with the Mills River Partnership, Inc., for the Mills River Best Practices project

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-20.1, the City of Asheville may enter into contracts with private entities to carry out any public purpose the City is authorized to engage in; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville the Water Resources Department has the opportunity to partner with the Mills River Partnership to strategically address areas of concern in the Mills River Watershed; and

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Asheville, is hereby authorized to execute the multi-year Agreement with the Mills River Partnership Inc., for the Mills River Watershed Best Practices project not-to-exceed amount of $180,000.00 over three (3) fiscal years contingent upon funding each year. The level of participation recommended is up to $60,000.00 per fiscal year for a maximum of three fiscal years with the understanding that the funding is project-specific and subject to the appropriation of funds.

Read, approved and adopted this 12th day of May, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk