



Town of Laurel Park
Town Council Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025, at 9:30 AM
Town Hall - 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park, NC 28739

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes: 10/21/25
6. New Business
 - A. Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant Program - Discussion
 - B. FY26 Budget Amendment - Transfer of ARPA Funds
7. Old Business
 - A. Comprehensive Plan Committee Update - Status Report
 - B. Hurricane Helene Repair Project - Update
8. Staff Reports
 - A. Town Manager
 - B. Public Works
 - C. Police
 - D. Administration
9. Mayor and Town Commissioner Comments
10. Adjournment

Item 5A: Consent Agenda

Presenter: Mayor O'Cain

Attachment(s): Yes/No

- 10/21/25 Minutes

Item 6A: Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant Program - Discussion

Presenter: Buddy Melton, Civil Design Concepts

Attachment(s): Yes/No

- Grant Program Information Sheet

Summary: The American Relief Act, 2025 (PL 118-158) includes Supplemental Appropriations for the State Revolving Funds (SRF) for drinking water facilities and wastewater treatment works impacted by Hurricane Helene and for decentralized wastewater treatment systems in areas affected by Hurricane Helene (SA-HMW). North Carolina's allotment is \$409 million for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF Helene) projects and \$253 million for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF Helene) projects, including administrative costs. There is also approximately \$22 million for the CWSRF program to improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems (CWSRF Helene Decentralized).



Division of Water Infrastructure SRF Funding for Hurricane Helene

Last updated: May 30, 2025

2025

American Relief Act, 2025 (PL 118-158) includes Supplemental Appropriations for the State Revolving Funds (SRF) for drinking water facilities and wastewater treatment works impacted by Hurricane Helene and for decentralized wastewater treatment systems in areas affected by Hurricane Helene (SA-HMW)

Funds are for enhancing infrastructure resiliency

How much funding is available?

North Carolina's allotment is \$409 million for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF Helene) projects and \$253 million for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF Helene) projects, including administrative costs. There is also approximately \$22 million for the CWSRF program to improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems (CWSRF Helene Decentralized).

DWSRF Helene and CWSRF Helene

What types of projects can this program fund?

This program can fund SRF-eligible projects that serve one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce flood risk and vulnerability at drinking water/wastewater treatment works, or
- Enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or natural disasters at treatment works

Who can apply for this funding?

Any local government unit (LGU) or non-profit water/wastewater corporations affected by Hurricane Helene may apply for this funding. LGUs include counties, cities, towns, Sanitary Districts, Water and Sewer Authorities, Metropolitan Districts, etc. Investor-owned drinking water corporations affected by Hurricane Helene may also apply for the DWSRF Helene funds.

What are examples of types of drinking water and wastewater projects that can be funded by SA-HMW?

- Projects that prevent interruption of collection/distribution system operation in the event of a flood or natural disaster
- Projects that prevent floodwaters from entering treatment works or well house
- Projects that maintain the operation of treatment works and integrity of a treatment train in the event of a flood or natural disaster
- Projects that preserve and protect treatment works equipment in the event of a flood or natural disaster
- Projects that make connections from homes served by decentralized wastewater treatment systems to centralized wastewater treatment systems

This is not an all-inclusive list.

What are the program specifics for this funding?

- Funds will be made available as no interest loans, with principal forgiveness applied to the loan.
- Project funding can have 20- to 30-year loan terms based on the anticipated life of the infrastructure.
- Program specifics such as amount of principal forgiveness and funding limits per applicant are described in [draft Intended Use Plans](#) that are receiving public comments in May-June, 2025.

CWSRF Helene Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems

What types of projects can this program fund?

This program can fund CWSRF-eligible projects that serve one or more of the following purposes:

- Improve the resilience of decentralized wastewater treatment systems to flooding
- Assess the potential to connect homes served by decentralized wastewater treatment systems to centralized wastewater treatment systems, or
- To fund such connections.

Repair/replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that meet the requirements above in areas that were affected by Hurricane Helene are eligible.

Who can apply for this funding?

Currently, any local government unit (LGU) or non-profit water/wastewater corporations in areas affected by Hurricane Helene may apply for this funding. Applicants can contract with organizations to manage projects.

What are the program specifics for this funding?

- Funds will be made as 100% principal forgiveness loans. No portion of the funding will be repayable.
- Projects will have potentially up to five years to expend funds.
- Program specifics are described in a [draft Intended Use Plan](#) that is receiving public comments in May-June, 2025.

General Information and Applications

What do I need to know before I apply for SRF SA-HMW funding?

- The primary purpose of the project must be to reduce flood risk and enhance resiliency. Recovery from hurricane damage is only eligible if the recovery includes reducing flood risks or enhancing resiliency.
- The scope of a project seeking SA-HMW funds must include resiliency and must be different from the scopes that received funding from other federal agencies.
- SRF federal crosscutter requirements apply, including Engineering Report approval, Environmental Review, federal and state procurement requirements, American Iron and Steel requirements, Davis-Bacon Wage requirements, etc. Crosscutters will be applicable to the entire project. However, Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirements do not apply to SA-HMW funds.
- Planning and design costs incurred after September 27, 2024 will be eligible to receive these funds if they meet the eligibility criteria for SA-HMW funding and costs were incurred for projects that are/were in compliance with all of the SRF requirements applicable to SA-HMW funds.

How do I apply for the funds?

Application materials will be available after the State Water Infrastructure Authority finalizes the priority rating system by which applications will be prioritized after reviewing public comments. Application materials will be posted on the [Division's Application Forms and Additional Resources](#) webpage by the end of July 2025. Applications will be accepted year-round on a rolling basis until all funds are awarded.

Prior to July 2025, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to submit projects for consideration using a simple pre-application form at

<https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/SA-HMW-Pre-Application-Form>



Item 6B: FY26 Budget Amendment - Transfer of ARPA Funds

Presenter: Finance Officer Kidd

Attachment(s): Yes/No

Summary: To reallocate the remaining ARPA funds from Section E (Investing in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure) to Section C (Replace Lost Public Sector Revenue) for the purpose of funding government services consistent with ARPA guidelines.

Town of Laurel Park

Fiscal Year 2026, Amendment #3, Transfer of Remaining ARPA Funds

Whereas, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided funds to local governments to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to make necessary investments in infrastructure and public services; and

Whereas, the remaining balance of Ninety-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars and Ninety-Two Cents (\$96,823.92) currently allocated under Section E - Investing in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure for the purposes of improving access to clean drinking water, supporting vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expanding access to broadband internet, remains unexpended; and

Whereas, it has been determined that the remaining ARPA funds are needed under Section C – Replace Lost Public Sector Revenue, allowing the use of such funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Now, therefore be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Laurel Park that the following budget amendment be made:

Proposed Budget Amendment

Account	Description	To	From
24-9880-0001	Transfer to General Fund	\$96,823.92	
24-4510-4450	Contracted Services		\$96,823.92

Purpose: To reallocate the remaining ARPA funds from Section E (Investing in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure) to Section C (Replace Lost Public Sector Revenue) for the purpose of funding government services consistent with ARPA guidelines.

Adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

J. Carey O’Cain, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie K. Banks, Town Clerk

Item 7A: Comprehensive Plan Committee Update - Status Report

Presenter: Philip Wiehe

Attachment(s): Yes/No

Item 6B: Hurricane Helene Repair Project - Update

Presenter: Town Manager Reeves

Attachment(s): Yes/No

- Senate Bill 449

Summary: Town Manager Reeves has updates related to Hurricane Helene Repairs and Funding.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

**SESSION LAW 2025-97
SENATE BILL 449**

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENTS AND TO MAKE
OTHER CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. DISASTER RECOVERY MODIFICATIONS

GOLDEN LEAF – HURRICANE HELENE BRIDGE LOAN MODIFICATIONS

SECTION 1.1.(a) Section 4C.3 of S.L. 2024-53 reads as rewritten:

"...

"SECTION 4C.3.(b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

...

- (2) Interest-only period. – A period of time, not to exceed 12-24 months from the date that a loan is awarded, within which a qualifying business may make interest-only payments on a loan.

...

"SECTION 4C.3.(c) Use of Funds. – The following shall apply to the program and to loans made under the program:

...

- (2) ~~A loan provided~~ The total amount loaned to a qualifying business under the program is limited to no more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$100,000) per qualifying business. (\$150,000).

- (3) The term of the loan shall not extend beyond June 30, ~~2030~~ 2032.

...

- (5) A lender, as authorized by Golden LEAF, may take prudent and commercially reasonable efforts to remedy a default, a likelihood of default, or bankruptcy filing by a business, including restructuring the terms of a loan and entering into settlement agreements, provided that, if a loan is restructured, the following requirements are met:

...

- b. The term of the loan is not extended beyond June 30, ~~2030~~ 2032.

"SECTION 4C.3.(e) Reporting. – Beginning ~~December~~ March 15, 2025, 2026, and continuing every six months thereafter, Golden LEAF shall submit a report on the program to the Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The duty to report pursuant to this section shall cease after the submission of the report following when Golden LEAF has remitted the entirety of the net loan funds to the Office of State Budget and Management. Each report shall contain, at a minimum, all of the following:

...."

SECTION 1.1.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies retroactively to all loans made under the program.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM MODIFICATION

SECTION 1.2.(a) Section 2B.1(b) of S.L. 2025-26 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 2B.1.(b) Criteria; Uses. – OSBM shall disburse grants to eligible recipients under a damage per capita formula developed from FEMA's damage estimates and reports in the affected area from Hurricane Helene. The grants shall be used for capital projects to repair, renovate, or replace infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene. These capital projects must be projects that have been denied eligibility are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement. OSBM shall consult with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, to confirm each project's ineligibility for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement."

SECTION 1.2.(b) This section is retroactively effective on June 27, 2025, and applies to grants applied for, disbursed, or obligated on or after that date under the Hurricane Helene Local Government Capital Grant Program.

CASHFLOW LOAN PROGRAM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MODIFICATION

SECTION 1.3.(a) Purpose. – Notwithstanding Section 4E.5 of S.L. 2024-53, as amended by Section 1F.1 of S.L. 2024-57, the Department shall make modifications to the cashflow loan program for eligible communities consistent with this section.

SECTION 1.3.(b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Affected area. – As defined in Section 1.4 of S.L. 2025-26.
- (2) Affected city. – A city, as defined in G.S. 160A-1, that has a population of 10,000 or fewer and has a preliminary damage estimate of greater than one hundred percent (100%) of the city's 2024-2025 budget.
- (3) Affected county. – A county, as defined in G.S. 153A-1, that (i) has a population of 25,000 or fewer based on the 2023 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer, and has a preliminary damage estimate of greater than fifty percent (50%) of the county's 2024-2025 budget, or (ii) contains within its territory an unincorporated area that suffered catastrophic damage.
- (4) Budget. – As defined in G.S. 159-7(b)(1).
- (5) Cashflow loan program. – The program operated by the Department in accordance with Section 4E.5 of S.L. 2024-53, as amended.
- (6) Catastrophic damage. – Damage caused by Hurricane Helene that qualifies, in whole or in part, for FEMA Public Assistance Categories C through G.
- (7) Department. – The Department of the State Treasurer.
- (8) Eligible community. – An affected city or county or an affected county that has within its territory an unincorporated area located within the affected area that suffered catastrophic damage.
- (9) FEMA. – Federal Emergency Management Agency.

SECTION 1.3.(c) Terms of Loans. – An eligible community that receives a loan under the cashflow loan program shall not be required to repay any portion of such loan until the occurrence of the latest of (i) June 30, 2030, (ii) the final declination of FEMA coverage or reimbursement, or (iii) receipt of FEMA reimbursement funds.

SECTION 1.3.(d) Existing Loans. – At the request of the borrowing eligible community, the Department shall renegotiate the terms of a loan issued under the cashflow loan program prior to the effective date of this section for conformity with the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 1.3.(e) Use of Funds. – The loan requirements set forth in Section 4E.5(a)(1), (1a), (2), and (3), as amended by Section 1F.1 of S.L. 2024-57, apply to loans issued under this section. If an affected county applies for a loan under this section for an unincorporated

area, then those funds shall only be spent in that unincorporated area and not elsewhere within the affected county.

SECTION 1.3.(f) Reporting. – The reporting requirements set forth in Section 4.1(g) of S.L. 2025-2 apply to loans issued under this section.

SECTION 1.3.(g) Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes law.

EXTENSION OF TREE ORDINANCE RESTRICTION IN DISASTER DECLARED COUNTIES

SECTION 1.4.(a) Section 1D.8 of S.L. 2024-57 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 1D.8.(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 160D, Article 6 of Chapter 153A, or Article 8 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes or any local act of the General Assembly, no local government in the affected area may enforce any ordinance regulating the removal, replacement, and preservation of trees on private property, including tree removal, trimming, or maintenance activities, or require a permit for those activities, on the portion of any private property that is more than 10 feet from the property boundary.

"SECTION 1D.8.(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a local government may: (i) enforce an existing ordinance, or provision of an ordinance, regulating the removal, replacement, and preservation of trees on private property, including tree removal, trimming, or maintenance activities, or require a permit for those activities, solely for the purpose of protecting life or property from damage resulting from natural hazards, including, but not limited to, mudslides, slope failures, or flooding, and (ii) adopt and enforce such an ordinance pursuant to authority granted by this subsection, which shall be narrowly tailored to protect life or property from such hazards. Existing and newly adopted ordinances authorized pursuant to this subsection shall not regulate trees for aesthetic or general environmental purposes, except as required pursuant to State or federal law in accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section.

"SECTION ~~1D.8.(b)~~–1D.8.(c) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

- (1) An imminent threat to public safety, as determined by a certified arborist or other local authority.
- (2) Areas where tree removal or maintenance activities are prohibited by State or federal law, including endangered species habitats, riparian buffers, and wetlands.

"SECTION ~~1D.8.(c)~~–1D.8.(d) This section expires ~~March 1, 2025~~October 1, 2026."

SECTION 1.4.(b) Section 5.1(3)c. of S.L. 2025-2 is repealed.

SECTION 1.4.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies only to local governments located in the affected area that qualify, in whole or in part, for FEMA Public Assistance Categories C through G.

MODIFY EXTENSIONS OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT APPROVALS AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY HELENE

SECTION 1.5.(a) Section 1D.3 of S.L. 2024-57 reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 1D.3.(a) Definitions. – As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Development. – The division of a parcel of land into two or more parcels; the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or other structure or facility; or any grading, soil removal or relocation, excavation or landfill, or any use or change in the use of any building or other structure or land or extension of the use of land.
- (2) Development approval. – Any of the following approvals issued by the State, any agency or subdivision of the State, or any unit of local government,