Request to authorize application for a Sec. 319 grant

The City of South Portland and the Town of Cape Elizabeth have been working jointly to make improvements to the Trout Brook Watershed, which has been designated an urban impaired stream. Grant funding supported creation of the Trout Brook Management Plan. Representatives from both communities are now eager to apply for a 319 grant to make improvements consistent with the plan recommendations.

The proposed grant application, due September 12th, and prepared by the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), involves several improvements to mitigate stormwater flows from two Cape properties on the common municipal boundary. The improvements would be located on the Equestrian Center, located at 35 Ocean House Rd, and the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, located at 29 Ocean House Rd. Both property owners have met with staff and are supportive of the improvements.

The improvements include construction of a manure storage shed, collection of roof water on the horse barn, construction of two gravel wetlands upland of the brook, rehabilitation of 1 detention basin upland of the brook and installation of an underdrain planted soil filter to capture parking lot stormwater before it enters the brook. The grant would also include public outreach and education components.

The grant requires a 40% cash match. The Town of Cape Elizabeth proposes to use $22,000 of the Trout Brook Community Fee Utilization Program (CFUP), which is a fee paid by a developer in the Trout Brook watershed and must be used to improve water quality in the watershed and also an in-kind match. Use of the CFUP funds for this project not only meets the intent of improving Trout Brook, but also dovetails with the town’s goals for promoting agriculture. The Equestrian Center will be contributing up to $10,000 in cash match and $7,000 in in-kind match.

A draft of the complete grant application will be available at the meeting and a representative from CCSWCD will attend to answer questions.