

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF SARP STREAMBANK AND RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

DATE: AUGUST 17, 2026 (X) RECOMMENDATION
() POLICY DISCUSSION

BUDGET INFORMATION: () STATUS REPORT
ANNUAL- \$152,722.00 (GRANT FUNDS) () OTHER
CAPITAL- \$0.00

PRESENTED BY: Steven Patrick, UGA Extension Agent

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: September 21, 2026

PURPOSE:

To request approval and ratification of Agreement No. SARP-HABERSHAM-03 between Habersham County and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), providing up to \$152,722 for streambank and riparian enhancement projects in the Upper Chattahoochee River and Lake Lanier watershed. Due to the time-sensitive requirement to return the agreement, Chairman Bruce Harkness executed the agreement and required authorizing resolution prior to Board consideration. This action will ratify that execution and authorize County staff to administer the program in accordance with the agreement.

BACKGROUND / HISTORY:

The Upper Chattahoochee watershed supports one of the largest remaining self-sustaining populations of Shoal Bass and Chattahoochee Bass within the mainstem Chattahoochee River system. Agricultural activity, livestock access to streams, loss of riparian buffers, streambank degradation, and sedimentation have affected water quality and aquatic habitat within portions of the watershed. The Upper Soque watershed, a major tributary, is included on Georgia's Section 303(d) list for biotic impairment.

Regional partners, including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, University of Georgia Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, SARP, and others, have identified streambank stabilization and riparian enhancement as priorities for protecting native black bass populations and improving water quality entering Lake Lanier. The agreement provides funding for Habersham County to implement eligible best management practices on agricultural properties within the watershed.

Because the agreement had to be returned within a limited timeframe, Chairman Bruce Harkness signed it on behalf of the County before the Board could consider it at a regular meeting. The agreement is now presented to the Board for formal approval and ratification.

FACTS AND ISSUES: The agreement provides up to \$152,722 in SARP funding with no County match required. The period of performance is August 15, 2026, through October 31, 2027, and the final report is due November 30, 2027. Expenses outside the performance period are not reimbursable unless the agreement is extended in writing.

The County and UGA Extension Service would identify approximately 10 to 15 eligible landowners or agricultural operations. Projects must follow conservation plans developed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and use accepted best management practices recommended by NRCS or UGA Extension. Individual project costs are expected to range from approximately \$6,000 to \$31,000, with an anticipated average of approximately \$16,000.

The County would reimburse participating landowners for 50% of actual eligible expenditures and then seek reimbursement from SARP/FSEFWA. Requests may be submitted monthly but must be submitted at least quarterly. Requests for work completed during a calendar year must be submitted by December 15 of that year. Unexpended grant funds must be returned at the end of the project period.

The County remains responsible for compliance by participating landowners, vendors, and subcontractors; must maintain financial records for three years after the agreement ends; and must coordinate project announcements and publications with SARP/FSEFWA. Project materials must acknowledge the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and SARP.

Either party may terminate without cause upon 30 days' written notice, and SARP/FSEFWA may terminate for material default or unsatisfactory progress. The agreement includes an indemnification provision while preserving the County's sovereign immunity.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve and ratify the agreement and Chairman Harkness's prior execution of it, and authorize County staff to administer the program.
2. Approve and ratify the agreement subject to specified conditions.
3. Decline to approve and ratify the agreement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: I move to approve and ratify Agreement No. SARP-HABERSHAM-03 between Habersham County and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership for an amount not to exceed \$152,722 for streambank and riparian enhancement projects in the Upper Chattahoochee River and Lake Lanier watershed; to ratify Chairman Bruce Harkness's prior execution of the agreement, required authorizing resolution, and related documents due to the time-sensitive submission requirements; and to authorize County staff to administer the program and submit reimbursement requests and required reports in accordance with the agreement.

DEPARTMENT: Finance / UGA Extension

Prepared by:

Director: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMENTS:** _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager



AGREEMENT
SOUTHEAST AQUATIC RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP

RECIPIENT: HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
AGREEMENT NUMBER: SARP-HABERSHAM-03
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: 8/15/2026 – 10/31/2027

THIS AGREEMENT, ENTERED INTO THIS FIFTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 2026, BY THE SOUTHEAST AQUATIC RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP (SARP OR THE PARTNERSHIP) A PROGRAM OF THE FOUNDATION FOR SOUTHEASTERN FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (FSEFWA OR THE FOUNDATION) AND HABERSHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HEREINAFTER CALLED THE GRANTEE.

FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, THE RECEIPT OF WHICH IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1. STATEMENT OF WORK: THE GRANTEE SHALL FURNISH THE NECESSARY PERSONNEL, SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND MATERIALS FOR PERFORMANCE TO MEET PROJECT OBJECTIVES SUMMARIZED IN THE SCOPE OF WORK (ATTACHMENT A) DESCRIBING THE FOLLOWING PROJECT TITLED:

**STREAMBANK AND RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT FOR NATIVE
BLACK BASS PROTECTIONS IN THE UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE
& LAKE LANIER WATERSHED**

SEE ATTACHED SCOPE OF WORK (SOW) FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AND REQUIRED DELIVERABLES.

ARTICLE 2. AUTHORITY: THIS AGREEMENT IS NEGOTIATED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A GRANT FROM THE BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION TO THE PARTNERSHIP. THE PURPOSE OF THESE GRANTS IS TO FACILITATE WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHATTAHOOCHEE BASINS. THE GRANTEE AGREES TO FACILITATE PROJECTS TO MEET THESE PURPOSES.

ARTICLE 3. PROJECT PERIOD: THE TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL COMMENCE ON 8/15/2026 AND SHALL BE COMPLETED NOT LATER THAN 10/31/2027 ("INITIAL TERM"). THIS AGREEMENT MAY BE EXTENDED IF A REQUEST IS PROVIDED TO SARP PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF THE INITIAL TERM AND APPROVED BY SARP/FSEFWA IN WRITING ("EXTENDED TERM"). THIS AGREEMENT CAN ALSO BE CANCELLED AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT CAUSE WITH A WRITTEN NOTICE PROVIDED 30 DAYS FROM THE REQUESTED PROJECT END DATE BY EITHER SARP/FSEFWA OR GRANTEE. EXPENDITURES WILL BE REIMBURSED AS DOCUMENTED AND INVOICED WITH THE NEW PROJECT COMPLETION DATE.

ARTICLE 4. PROJECT AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURE TERMS: THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST TO THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PERFORMANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT TO EXCEED \$152,722 (THE "GRANT AMOUNT") FOR PAYMENT OF ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET THAT IS INCORPORATED INTO THE PROJECT NARRATIVE (ATTACHMENT A). INVOICES AND BACK UP DOCUMENTATION WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT PER THE PERFORMANCE PERIODS AND DEADLINES OUTLINED IN THE AGREEMENT.

- A. GRANTEE AGREES THAT THE PROJECT AMOUNT SHOWN ABOVE AND IN ATTACHMENT A, (WHICH IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THIS AGREEMENT), AND ANY MATCH REQUIRED WILL BE PROVIDED. THE PARTNERSHIP WILL PROVIDE HABERSHAM COUNTY WITH THE AGREED UPON AMOUNT. THE GRANTEE AGREES TO USE THESE FUNDS TO REIMBURSE LANDOWNERS FOR ELIGIBLE WORK.
- B. GRANTEE SHALL SPEND FUNDS PAID TO IT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT A AND AGREES TO EXPEND THESE FUNDS IN TOTAL ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS INCLUDED THROUGHOUT THE AGREEMENT.
- C. GRANTEE AGREES THAT IT WILL NOT RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR ANY EXPENDITURE FUNDED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. IF JOINT COST SHARE OF SERVICES OR GOODS OCCURS, THE GRANTEE AGREES TO FULLY AND ACCURATELY DOCUMENT WHICH PORTION IS PURCHASED UNDER EACH AGREEMENT AND PROVIDE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO SARP/FSEFWA.
- D. ANY EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE, SUPPLIES OR OTHER PROPERTY PURCHASED WITH FUNDS PROVIDED HEREUNDER, CANNOT BE SOLD, TRANSFERRED OR USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN STATED IN THIS AGREEMENT, WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF SARP/FSEFWA.

ARTICLE 5. PAYMENT AND REPORTING:

- A. GRANT AMOUNT, MATCH, AND ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES. THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT PAYABLE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT IS THE GRANT AMOUNT OF \$152,722. THE GRANTEE IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE \$0.00 OF MATCHING FUNDS. MATCHING FUNDS CAN BE IN THE FORM OF IN-KIND OR FUNDS SPENT ON THE PROJECT FROM OTHER SOURCES. ANY IN-KIND OR FUNDS USED AS MATCH MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY SIGNED LETTER FROM THE SOURCE OF THE MATCH. ANY MATCHING OR LEVERAGED SOURCES PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT SHALL BE DOCUMENTED AND REPORTED TO THE PARTNERSHIP AS PART OF THE INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS. EXPENDITURES THAT OCCUR BEFORE OR AFTER THE PROJECT PERIOD WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED. SARP/FSEFWA IS NOT COMMITTED TO SEEKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS OR RE-ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AND WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF ANY FACILITY THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED.
- B. PAYMENT TERMS. PAYMENT DUE TO GRANTEE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE APPROVED BY SARP. THE SARP PROGRAM DIRECTOR WILL DETERMINE THE ADEQUACY OF ANY REPORTS PRIOR TO APPROVING THE INVOICE FOR PAYMENT. PAYMENTS TO GRANTEE

WILL BE WITHIN THIRTY (30) BUSINESS DAYS OF THE INVOICE DATE PROVIDED. THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED BY THE COUNTY TO REIMBURSE LANDOWNERS OR VENDORS FOR COMPLETED ELIGIBLE WORK AS DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT A. REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS WILL BE MADE BY SENDING AN INVOICE TO THE SARP/FSEFWA FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR AS LISTED IN ARTICLE 14. REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT MAY BE MADE AS FREQUENTLY AS MONTHLY BUT MUST OCCUR AT LEAST QUARTERLY. REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR WORK DONE IN A PARTICULAR CALENDAR YEAR MUST BE MADE TO SARP/FSEFWA BY DECEMBER 15 OF THAT YEAR. SARP CANNOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT IF THE INVOICE IS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE. ANY FUNDS NOT EXPENDED AT THE END OF THE PROJECT PERIOD WILL BE RETURNED TO SARP/FSEFWA.

- C. PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTING. PERFORMANCE REPORTS, BOTH INTERIM AND FINAL, ARE DUE TO SARP/FSEFWA ON OR BEFORE THE DATE LISTED BELOW. EACH REPORT SHOULD DESCRIBE THE PROJECTS FUNDED (LOCATION, WORK TO BE COMPLETED, TIME FRAME, ETC.), AND ADDRESS THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD BELOW, THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD OBJECTIVES STATED IN ATTACHMENT A, STATUS OF DELIVERABLES, ANY EXPENDITURES AND ANY DELAYS OR CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED. THE FINAL REPORT SHALL SUMMARIZE THE WORK OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT PERIOD. IF POSSIBLE, BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROJECTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORTS. REPORTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO THE PARTNERSHIP'S TECHNICAL AGENT, IDENTIFIED IN ARTICLE 14, AS FOLLOWS:

<u>TYPE OF REPORT</u>	<u>COVERING THE PERIOD</u>	<u>DUE TO SARP</u>
FINAL	ENTIRE PROJECT PERIOD	11/30/2027

- D. FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTING. GRANTEE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING FINANCIAL TRACKING RECORDS FOR THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT. THESE RECORDS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR THREE YEARS FROM THE ENDING DATE OF THE CONTRACT AND MADE AVAILABLE UPON THE REQUEST OF SARP/FSEFWA. THE INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS SHOULD DOCUMENT EXPENDITURES PER APPROVED LINE ITEM AS SHOWN IN ATTACHMENT A AS WELL AS ANY REQUIRED MATCHING FUNDS OR ANY PROJECTS FOR WHICH THESE FUNDS WERE USED AS MATCH.

ARTICLE 6. PROJECT COMPLETION AND TERMINATION:

- A. PROJECT COMPLETION. GRANTEE SHALL COMPLETE THE PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT. FAILURE TO RENDER SATISFACTORY PROGRESS OR TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT TO THE SATISFACTION OF SARP/FSEFWA MAY BE, IN SARP/FSEFWA'S SOLE DETERMINATION, DEEMED AN ABANDONMENT OF THE PROJECT. ANY SUCH ABANDONMENT SHALL BE A MATERIAL DEFAULT (AS DEFINED BELOW) UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. TIME IS AND SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OF THE ESSENCE IN THE AGREEMENT.
- B. TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT AND FOR ANY REASON. UPON A DEFAULT (A "DEFAULT") BY GRANTEE WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATERIAL TERM OF THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING, BREACH OF A WARRANTY UNDER ARTICLE 8 OR AN ABANDONMENT OF THE PROJECT UNDER ARTICLE 6, SARP/FSEFWA MAY GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE TO GRANTEE AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY OTHER RIGHT OR REMEDY AVAILABLE TO SARP/FSEFWA, IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT FOR DEFAULT. IN ADDITION, SARP/FSEFWA MAY TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT FOR ANY REASON, WITH OR WITHOUT

CAUSE, UPON THIRTY (30) DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO GRANTEE. UPON RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN NOTICE OF TERMINATION (A "TERMINATION NOTICE"), GRANTEE AGREES TO CANCEL, PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ANY PROSPECTIVE TERMINATION, AS MANY OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS AS POSSIBLE, AND AGREES NOT TO INCUR ANY NEW OBLIGATIONS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF SARP/FSEFWA.

- C. PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION. SARP/FSEFWA'S SOLE OBLIGATION UPON ANY TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE TO PAY GRANTEE FOR COSTS AND SERVICES PERFORMED WITH RESPECT TO THE PROJECT BEFORE THE AGREEMENT TERMINATION DATE.

ARTICLE 7. SUBCONTRACTS: IF GRANTEE ENTERS INTO SUBCONTRACTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF WORK PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, GRANTEE REMAINS LIABLE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ALL THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT.

ARTICLE 8. REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES AND COVENANTS:

- A. DUE AUTHORIZATION. GRANTEE REPRESENTS AND WARRANTS THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED, EXECUTED AND DELIVERED BY GRANTEE, AND CONSTITUTES THE LEGAL, VALID AND BINDING OBLIGATION OF GRANTEE ENFORCEABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS.
- B. QUALITY OF SERVICES. GRANTEE WARRANTS THAT ITS PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT SHALL CONFIRM WITH THE STANDARDS OF CARE AND PRACTICE APPROPRIATE TO THE NATURE OF THE PROJECT AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT SUCH PERFORMANCE SHALL BE IN ALL RESPECTS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF AND SATISFACTION OF SARP/FSEFWA.
- C. COMPLIANCE WITH PROJECT OBJECTIVES, LAW. GRANTEE REPRESENTS, WARRANTS AND COVENANTS THAT ALL WORK PERFORMED IN RELATION TO THE PROJECT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE OBJECTIVES SET FORTH IN ATTACHMENT A, AND ALL APPLICABLE LAWS, STATUTES, ORDINANCES, RULES, REGULATIONS AND ORDERS ENACTED BY OR PROMULGATED BY FEDERAL, STATE, MUNICIPAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE RELATING TO SAFETY, EMPLOYMENT, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, THE ENVIRONMENT, TAXES AND WITHHOLDING AND LABOR. THIS WARRANTY SHALL EXTEND TO THE GRANTEE'S AGENTS, EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS. GRANTEE FURTHER REPRESENTS, WARRANTS AND COVENANTS THAT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE APPLICABLE STATE(S) OF THE PROJECT AS DEFINED IN ATTACHMENT A, IT IS ITS EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS (I) SHALL BE LICENSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS; (II) SHALL PROCURE ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND LICENSES; (III) SHALL PAY ALL CHARGES AND FEES; AND (IV) SHALL GIVE ALL NOTICES NECESSARY OR INCIDENTAL TO THE DUE AND LAWFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. ALL WORK COMPLETED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE TERMS, CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS CONTAINED IN ANY CERTIFICATE, PERMIT OR LICENSE APPLICABLE TO THE PROJECT.

ARTICLE 9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: GRANTEE AGREES THAT THE SERVICES PERFORMED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE SECULAR IN NATURE AND SHALL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR PROMOTE OR DISCOURAGE ADHERENCE TO RELIGION IN GENERAL OR PARTICULAR REGIONAL BELIEFS. GRANTEE SHALL HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, GENDER, GENDER IDENTIFICATION OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. SARP DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON

THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, OR DISABILITY IN OUR PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES (40 C.F.R 5.140 AND 7.95).

ARTICLE 10. NO LOBBYING: GRANTEE AGREES THAT NO PORTION OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE USED FOR ANY LOBBYING OR PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY OR FOR ACTIVITIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE LEGISLATION OR THE ELECTION OR DEFEAT OF ANY CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OFFICE.

ARTICLE 11. INDEMNIFICATION: NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS A WAIVER OF THE GRANTEE'S SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. THE GRANTEE AGREES TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS (INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES) SARP/FSEFWA, ITS AFFILIATES, AND EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND VOLUNTEERS AGAINST ANY AND ALL JUDGEMENTS, DEMANDS, CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, SETTLEMENTS, DAMAGES, AND LIABILITIES OF ANY KIND ARISING IN ANY MANNER FROM OR RELATED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY GRANTEE, ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OR SUBCONTRACTORS, OR GRANTEE'S, ITS AGENTS', EMPLOYEES', OR SUBCONTRACTORS' PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

ARTICLE 12. OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/PUBLICATION:

- A. NON-PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT ANY NON-PROPRIETARY INFORMATION DEVELOPED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.
- B. CREATIVE WORK. ANY CREATIVE WORK DEVELOPED BY THE GRANTEE UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING ALL WRITTEN, GRAPHIC, AUDIO, VISUAL, AND ANY OTHER MATERIALS, CONTRIBUTIONS, APPLICABLE WORK PRODUCT AND PRODUCTION ELEMENTS CONTAINED THEREIN, WHETHER ON PAPER, DISK, TAPE DIGITAL FILE OR ANY OTHER MEDIA (THE "CREATIVE WORK"), SHALL REMAIN THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF THE GRANTEE, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT THE GRANTEE HEREBY IRREVOCABLY GRANTS TO SARP/FSEFWA, AND MEMBER STATES, A PERPETUAL, ROYALTY-FREE, NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO COPY, DISTRIBUTE, USE, AND PREPARE DERIVATIVE WORKS FROM THE CREATIVE WORK FOR ANY PURPOSE, IN ANY MEDIA, AND IN ANY TERRITORY FOR NON-COMMERCIAL USE.

ARTICLE 13. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:

- A. PUBLICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. FSEFWA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ANNOUNCE THIS GRANT AWARD PUBLICLY WITH COORDINATION FROM THE GRANTEE. THE GRANTEE AGREES NOT TO ISSUE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL ALL SIGNATURES ARE SECURED ON THIS AGREEMENT AND ANY COMMUNICATION DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT WILL BE COORDINATED WITH SARP/FSEFWA.
- B. COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS. GRANTEE AGREES TO PROVIDE SARP/FSEFWA WITH A COPY OF ANY ARTICLE, REPORT, MEDIA INTERVIEW OR OTHER PUBLICATION RELATING TO ACTIVITIES COVERED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND TO CONSULT WITH SARP/FSEFWA PRIOR TO RELEASE OF ANY PUBLICATION INCLUDING WITHIN THIS SECTION. ALL ORAL AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER PRODUCTS MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION AND THE SOUTHEAST AQUATIC RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP.

ARTICLE 14. AGENTS: THE PRINCIPAL AGENT FOR THE SOUTHEAST AQUATIC RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP ON FINANCIAL MATTERS SHALL BE ANGELYN MEWBORN, FSEFWA/SARP FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER, AND ON TECHNICAL MATTERS SHALL BE TODD EWING, SARP PROGRAM MANAGER. THE AGENT FOR THE GRANTEE ON FINANCIAL MATTERS SHALL BE TIM SIMS, HABERSHAM COUNTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER. THE AGENT FOR THE GRANTEE ON TECHNICAL MATTERS SHALL BE STEVEN PATRICK, UNIVERSITY EXTENSION FOR HABERSHAM COUNTY.

GRANTEE:

TIM SIMS
HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
130 JACOB'S WAY, SUITE 302
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523
TSIMS@HABERSHAMGA.COM
706-839-0202

STEVEN PATRICK
EXTENSION AGENT
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
STEVEP@UGA.EDU
706-839-0255

SARP:

TODD EWING
SARP PROGRAM COORDINATOR
3437 APPLE MEADOW DR.
FUQUAY-VARINA, NC
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984-212-0768

ANGELYN MEWBORN
SARP/FSEFWA FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
PO BOX 646
HARTWELL, GA 30643
ANGELYNM@SOUTHEASTAQUATICS.NET

SIGNATURE PAGE
AGREEMENT NO: SARP-
HABERSHAM-03

IN WITNESS THEREOF, THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE EXECUTED THIS CONTRACT
AS OF THE DAY AND YEAR APPEARING AT THE TOP OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS
AGREEMENT:

BY THE SIGNATURE HEREUNDER, GRANTEE REPRESENTS THAT IT HAS THE
LEGAL STATUS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT AND THAT THE
PERSON SIGNING IS AUTHORIZED TO DO SO AS EVIDENCED BY THE
RESOLUTION ATTACHED HERETO.

 / 

BRUCE HARKNESS

DATE

CHAIRMAN

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HABERSHAM COUNTY, GA

Todd Ewing /

Digitally signed by Todd Ewing
DN: cn=Todd Ewing, gn=Todd Ewing, c=US, United States, l=US,
United States, o=SEAFWA, ou=SARP, e=todd@southeastaquatics.net
Reason: I am the author of this document
Location:
Date: 2026-08-13 12:10:04:00

TODD EWING

DATE

SARP PROGRAM MANAGER

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

STREAMBANK AND RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT FOR NATIVE BLACK BASS PROTECTIONS IN THE UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE & LAKE LANIER WATERSHED

Project Description: Through partnerships and collaboration, this project aims to build off an established interagency workgroup facilitating riparian and streambank enhancement through the implementation of best management practices with farmers for Shoal Bass protections.

Location: Upper Chattahoochee River Basin (HUC 03130001).

Statement of Need: The Upper Chattahoochee watershed is home to the largest and one of the only remaining self-sustaining Shoal Bass and Chattahoochee Bass populations within the mainstem Chattahoochee River system. However, habitat alteration within the watershed are thought to be major factors affecting populations of these species in the watershed. Much of the watershed is affected by agricultural practices. The Upper Soque watershed, a major tributary, is on the state 303(d) list for biotic impairment. Poor stormwater management and allowing cattle direct access to streams has resulted in the loss of riparian zone function and degradation of streambanks. This results in excessive sedimentation in the downstream habitat. The protection of the population has become a priority for regional partners, including the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, University of Georgia Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, SARP, and others.

Purpose: This proposal plans to capitalize on the current momentum to increase conservation opportunities in the Upper Chattahoochee and Lake Lanier watershed. Through partnerships and collaboration, this project aims to build off an established interagency workgroup facilitating riparian and streambank enhancement through the implementation of best management practices with farmers for native black bass protections and water quality improvements for Lake Lanier.

Methods/Approach: SARP will contract with Habersham County, Georgia (the County) to implement these improvements. The County, in partnership with the UGA Extension Service, will identify landowners or agricultural operations whose properties/activities are contributing to water quality issues in the basin and willing to implement BMPs. The County will then contract with individual farmers to implement BMPs and water quality improvements on their property. Eligible activities include those BMPs as recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or University of Georgia Coop Extension Service. Designs and procedures will be consistent with those used by NRCS and standard accepted BMPs. The county will reimburse the landowner for supplies purchased to implement the BMPs.

The county will contract with approximately 10-15 landowners to implement BMPs on their property. BMPs will be consistent with conservation plans developed for each landowner by the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service. Landowners will be selected by the county and University of Georgia Extension Service. The average cost per landowner is expected to be approximately \$16,000 (range \$6,000 to \$31,000). However, SARP/FSEFWA acknowledges that some projects may be more or less costly.

Financial Management: Habersham County will reimburse landowners at 50% of actual expenditures. Habersham County will seek reimbursement from SARP/FSEFWA at least quarterly.

Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u>	<u>SARP Funds</u>
Contractual – Habersham Co, GA	0	\$152,722