



TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN

DROUGHT MITIGATION PROJECT

BOB PUDNEY, MANAGER • RPUDNEY@TOWNOFBEECHMOUNTAIN.COM • 828-387-4236

CURRENT WATER SUPPLY:



THE TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN OPERATES A PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM THAT SERVES ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. THE TOWN RELIES ON A SINGLE SOURCE OF WATER THAT HAS BEEN ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY DROUGHT, A MAJOR HAZARD IN RECENT YEARS, RESULTING IN AN ANNUAL INSUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLY TO SUPPORT SAFE DRINKING WATER AND FIRE PROTECTION.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?



CURRENTLY, THE TOWN'S ONLY SOURCE OF WATER, BUCKEYE LAKE, IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH MINIMUM RELEASE REQUIREMENTS EACH YEAR.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?



- THE WATER SUPPLY WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR 26 DAYS IN 2020 AND 96 DAYS IN 2021, AND THE REQUIRED DOWNSTREAM FLOW FOR ALL FOUR SEASONS WAS NOT MET.
- CURRENT EFFORTS TO MEET THE TOWN'S DEMAND FOR WATER ARE UNSUSTAINABLE AND A LONG-TERM SOLUTION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED TO MITIGATE THE RISK OF DEPLETING WATER SOURCES DURING TIMES OF DROUGHT WHICH ARE COMPOUNDED BY THE ONGOING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** CURRENTLY THERE ARE AREAS OF THE MOUNTAIN THAT DO NOT HAVE CONSISTENT WATER PRESSURE TO SUPPORT FIRE SUPPRESSION, SHOULD A MAJOR FIRE BREAKOUT.

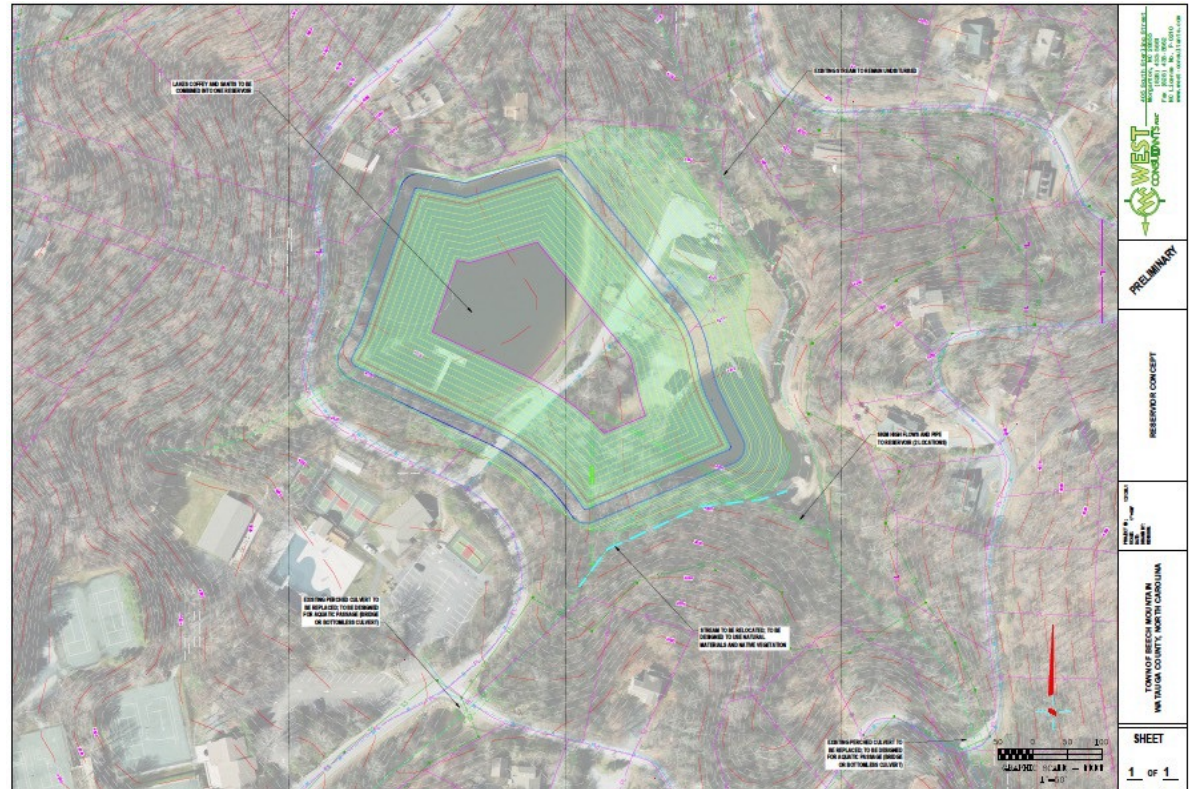
ECONOMIC IMPACT



THE TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN IS HOME TO OVER 60 SMALL BUSINESSES, WHICH EMPLOY 750+ PEOPLE. MORE THAN 90% OF THESE EMPLOYEES DON'T LIVE IN THE TOWN. THEY TRAVEL PRIMARILY FROM AVERY AND WATAUGA COUNTY, MAKING THE TOWN AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR THE REGION.

THE LODGING INDUSTRY IN 2022 BROUGHT IN OVER \$24 MILLION IN GROSS RECEIPTS. THE THREE LARGEST ATTRACTORS ON THE MOUNTAIN ARE THE BEECH MOUNTAIN RESORT, THE OVERLOOK BARN, AND THE LAND OF OZ. THEY ADDED AN ESTIMATED \$20+ MILLION IN GROSS RECEIPTS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY AS WELL, WITH MOST OF THIS REVENUE COMING FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION AND STAYING IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

THE SOLUTION FOR WHICH WE NEED SUPPORT?



THE PROJECT CONSTITUTES CONSTRUCTION OF A SECONDARY, 30-MILLION-GALLON RESERVOIR AS AN EMERGENCY WATER SOURCE BY COMBINING TWO SMALL LAKES IN THE COMMUNITY, LAKES COFFEY AND SANTIS, INTO ONE LARGER LAKE. THE TWO LAKES WILL BE DEEPEMED AND WIDENED, AND A PUMPING SYSTEM WILL BE INSTALLED TO CONVEY WATER TO THE EXISTING WATER TREATMENT PLANT.

THE SOLUTION FOR WHICH WE NEED SUPPORT?



FOR THE TWO LAKES IDENTIFIED TO CREATE THE NEW RESERVOIR, ONE WHOLLY BELONGS TO THE TOWN OF BEECH MOUNTAIN, AND ONE WHOLLY BELONGS TO THE LOCAL SKI RESORT. THE TOWN IS SECURING THE RIGHTS TO THE SECOND LAKE TO SUPPORT CREATION OF THE RESERVOIR WHICH, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE FULLY OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE TOWN OVER A 99-YEAR LEASE PERIOD. THERE ARE NO WATER RIGHTS ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAKES IDENTIFIED FOR THE SECONDARY RESERVOIR.

THE SOLUTION FOR WHICH WE NEED SUPPORT?



- THE RESERVOIR PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL STANDARDS, AND WILL NOT HAVE ADVERSE UPSTREAM OR DOWNSTREAM IMPACTS.
- THE PROPOSED PROJECT COST IS \$14 MILLION AND WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OVER A PERIOD OF 36-48 MONTHS. THIS IS A ONE-TIME INVESTMENT, AND NOT A REOCCURRING SUM. THE TOWN WILL OWN AND MAINTAIN ALL ASSETS CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT IN PERPETUITY.

THE ASK



- THE TOWN HAS A DEMONSTRATED TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVING RECENTLY OVERSEEN MORE THAN \$10 MILLION FOR A NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT, WATER AND SEWER REHABILITATION, AND A NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY. THE TOWN WILL DRAW ON THIS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE TO EXECUTE THE DROUGHT MITIGATION PROJECT.
- THE TOWN PREVIOUSLY APPLIED FOR FEMA'S BUILDING RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITIES (BRIC) PROGRAM TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE DROUGHT MITIGATION PROJECT AND WAS DECLINED. IN JANUARY, THE TOWN WORKED WITH THE NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) TO APPLY FOR FEMA'S HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, HOWEVER, A DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE REGARDING THE PROJECT'S CANDIDACY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND NC DPS HAS INDICATED THAT THE STATE WILL NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH FUNDING THROUGH THE HMGP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT ALL PROJECTS THAT WERE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION.

THE ASK



- WE ARE REVIEWING AND CONSIDERING OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND FEMA'S GRANT PROGRAMS TO SECURE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THIS PROJECT.
- WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE STATEWIDE THAT GOVERNOR COOPER ANNOUNCED LATE LAST YEAR. IT'S OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THROUGH RECENT FEDERAL FUNDING LEGISLATION, THE STATE IS POISED TO INVEST \$3.2 BILLION DOLLARS IN WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE OVER TWO YEARS. HOW IS THAT FUNDING BEING ALLOCATED AND IS THERE A MECHANISM BY WHICH THE TOWN CAN SUBMIT THE DROUGHT MITIGATION PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION?
- ARE THERE RESOURCES ADMINISTERED BY NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ) THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT AND IS THERE A BEST POINT OF CONTACT AT NC DEQ WHOM WE SHOULD ENGAGE WITH?