

1 15A NCAC 07L .0503 is readopted as published in 34:09 NCR 763 with changes as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 07L .0503 PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

4 (a) The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) program provides funding for coastal planning and management
5 projects to assist local governments in the 20 counties as defined in G.S. 113A-103(2) in the refining and implementing
6 of plans and management strategies for their coastal resources. In funding local planning and management grants,
7 DEQ shall select projects that address Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) management goals pursuant to 15A
8 NCAC 07B .0702(d)(2) or topics contained within Subparagraphs (a)(1) through (6) of this Rule. Priority management
9 topics shall be designated on an annual basis following consultation with the CRC. Projects may include education
10 and outreach, planning efforts, improvements in intergovernmental coordination, research or studies, and the
11 development of local ordinances. ~~Projects shall be focused on coastal resources or issues, related to coastal concerns,~~
12 ~~and shall not violate State or Federal law.~~ Projects selected for funding by DEQ shall further the CRC's goals for the
13 following designated topics:

- 14 (1) Public Access: Maximize public access to the beaches and the public trust waters of the coastal
15 region.
- 16 (2) Land Use Compatibility: Ensure that development and use of resources or preservation of land
17 balance protection of natural resources and fragile areas with economic development, avoid risks to
18 public health, safety, and welfare.
- 19 (3) Infrastructure Carrying Capacity: Ensure that public infrastructure systems are sized, located, and
20 managed so the quality and productivity of AECs and other fragile areas are protected or restored.
- 21 (4) Natural Hazards: Conserve and maintain barrier dunes, beaches, flood plains, and other coastal
22 features for their natural storm protection function and their natural resources giving recognition to
23 public health, safety, and welfare issues.
- 24 (5) Habitat Enhancement: Maintain, protect, and enhance coastal habitats.
- 25 (6) Other Topics or Special Issues: developed areas and working waterfronts, urban waterfront
26 revitalization, economic growth and development, redevelopment and revitalization, recreation and
27 tourism, historic and cultural resources, public trust rights, water use and water quality, stormwater
28 management, erosion control, shoreline protection and management, open space, parks and
29 recreation, storm recovery, farmland preservation and management, stakeholder and citizen
30 participation, and transportation.

31 (b) DEQ shall take into consideration the following factors listed in order of importance to establish priorities for
32 individual projects:

- 33 (1) a project's contribution towards meeting CRC's prioritized management topics and associated
34 management goals pursuant to 15A NCAC 07B .0702(d)(2) or topics contained in Subparagraphs
35 (a)(1) through (6) of this Rule;
- 36 (2) the extent to which the project includes measures of environmental protection beyond the Areas of
37 Environmental Concern (AEC) standards of Subchapter 15A NCAC 07H;

- 1 (3) the applicant's urgency of need;
- 2 (4) the history of applicant's implementation of planning and management grant program activities, if
- 3 any;
- 4 (5) the feasibility of completion of the project as described by the applicant;
- 5 (6) the applicant's experience with land use planning and implementation projects, as well as present
- 6 management and administrative capabilities as described by the applicant;
- 7 (7) the applicability of the project to other coastal area municipalities and counties; and
- 8 (8) the geographic distribution of applicants.

9 (c) Matching fund requirements are based on the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Tier designations, as
10 outlined by G.S. 143B-437.08. Local government contributions for planning and management projects shall be at least
11 25 percent of the project costs. However, Tier 1 designated counties and their respective municipalities shall have a
12 local government contribution of at least 10 percent of the project costs. At least one half of the local contribution
13 shall be cash match; the remainder may be in-kind match.

14 (d) Any local government whose plan is not certified by the CRC pursuant to 15A NCAC 07B .0803(a)(3) due to
15 failure to meet the criteria listed in 15A NCAC 07B or that has not submitted the most recent required periodic
16 Implementation Status Report as described in 15A NCAC 07B .0804, shall not receive further funding under this
17 program until these inconsistencies are corrected.

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19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-112; 113A-124;*
20 *Eff. August 1, 2002;*
21 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2017; March 1, 2016;*
22 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*