

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Jones County, MS-Flood and Storm Damage Reduction Study**

**by Agency: Pat Harrison Waterway District**

**Locations: MS**

**Date Submitted: 08/20/2018**

**Confirmation Number: 3bd55852-7ed4-48d1-b2ee-b7ebfd3667a7**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
PHWD&Jones County-7001-LOS.pdf	08/20/2018
PHWD&Jones County Map.pdf	08/20/2018
PHWD&Jones County-City&Business-LOS.pdf	08/20/2018

**2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Pat Harrison Waterway District(Primary)	<p>The Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD) and the Jones County, MS Board of Supervisors (BOS) are pleased to submit the attached 2018 proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014). We respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to conduct a feasibility study, which we believe would support our interest in a flood and storm damage reduction project to protect its citizens and property and restore downstream aquatic ecosystems in the Leaf and Pascagoula Rivers. This problem has longstanding, multi-jurisdictional support. The PHWD, Jones County and its municipalities have been working to resolve significant flooding issues since the early 1960's. Together, they have expended over \$2,500,000 seeking a multi-use multi-purpose project to reduce flood damages. Yet, flooding in 2011, 2015 and 2016 still closed and damaged county roads and bridges and damaged homes. These recurring floods disproportionately impact the socially and economically disadvantaged living in low lying communities. For instance, the March 2011 flood displaced 120 households in the City of Laurel alone, the majority of which had the lowest average incomes in the City. An expedited solution to this flooding problem is critical. The PHWD and the Jones County BOS are anxious to cooperate with the COE via the 7001 proposal to quickly identify, validate and hopefully implement a comprehensive, long-term, economically viable solution to recurring flooding. Your staff participated in two meetings by the PHWD, Jones County BOS and the Jones County Economic Development Authority on February 20 and April 26, 2018 to learn about the flooding's impact on Jones County, its cities, and industries. The PHWD agrees to be the non-Federal sponsor for this project with the Jones County BOS as the co-sponsor. We understand the responsibilities of a non-Federal sponsor and are prepared to provide the necessary non-Federal match</p>

**3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.**

[x] Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

This project is to evaluate sustainable, long-term flood and storm damage reduction to protect life and property in Jones County, MS. A secondary purpose is to restore downstream aquatic ecosystems. Widespread, recurring flood and storm damage in Jones County and the Cities of Ellisville, Laurel, Sandersville and Soso is well documented since the 1960s. The National Weather Service's (NWS) Tallahala Creek gage at Laurel provides the best hydrographic data (<https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=lurm6&wfo=jan>). The NWS set flood categories at this gage as: Major Flood-19 ft. Moderate Flood 16.5 ft.; Flood Stage 13 ft. and Action Stage 12 ft. On March 11, 2011 Tallahala Creek crested at 20.77 ft. causing Jones County's worst flooding in 38 years. Since then, the NWS reported nine crests above flood stage on Tallahala Creek from May 5, 2013 (14.52 ft.) till April 6, 2017 (14.70 ft.) including two major floods on April 9, 2014 (19.36 ft.), and March 13, 2016 (19.98 ft.). Creeks flow through or are adjacent to Jones County's largest cities which exacerbates these floods human and economic impact. Besides damaging public infrastructure and businesses, the floods disproportionately impact minority and economically disadvantaged households in low lying areas. The March 2011 flood displaced 120 households in Laurel, most of which had the City's lowest average incomes. The flood also caused the closure of twenty-four county roads cutting off evacuation routes. In 2011, FEMA adopted more stringent regulations which substantially increased the costs of new construction in most of urban Jones County. Changing precipitation patterns have fundamentally altered the natural hydrograph in Jones County. The hydrograph is much spikier with faster, more frequent and dynamic changes between floods and droughts. Droughts adversely impact downstream aquatic ecosystems (i.e., migration of endangered Gulf Sturgeon).

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$90,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$120,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

**6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.**

The monetary and non-monetary benefits of this study to protect human life, property, economic opportunity and aquatic ecosystems from flood and storm damages has not been quantified. a.Transportation: Monetary and non-monetary benefits from flood\_storm damage protection to reduced frequency and severity of damage to low-lying sections of federal and state highways and county and municipal roads and bridges. Additional benefits to Jones County's economically distressed and minority communities which are often located in low-lying areas where roads and bridges that connect them to vital evacuation routes are the first to flood. b.National Economy: Flooding and storm damage impacts Jones County and its Cities contributions to the national economy in three ways: 1) national monetary losses suffered by the County and City governments, homeowners and commercial property owners and their insurers and the national government caused by flood and storm damages; 2) monetary losses from disrupted commercial access to\_from Jones County's major national industries in domestic production of; a) transformers\_ballast and Personal Commuters; and b) poultry production, processing and shipping; and 3) Lost economic and job creation potential caused by the inability to build or expand businesses or industries due to persistent flooding. c.Environment: Restoring the natural hydrograph in the rivers and streams would enhance aquatic ecosystems in the Leaf and Pascagoula Rivers. Restoring minimal\_environmental flows in the Pascagoula River basin and tributaries may help the recovery of the federally listed Gulf Sturgeon.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

A resilient regional partnership has been pursuing a long-term solution to Jones County's flood and storm water issues since the early 1960s. The Pat Harrison Waterway District and the Jones County Board of Supervisors have spearhead the flood\_storm project in close cooperation with the City of Laurel, City of Ellisville, City of Sandersville and the City of Soso. The Jones County Economic Development Authority has represented private sector concerns about flood and storm water damage reduction in these efforts. Two of the largest employers in Jones County have provided letters of support for this most current effort to engage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in identifying feasible, comprehensive solutions to this major, persistent threat to the continued growth and prosperity of Jones County.

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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**PHWD&Jones County-7001-LOS.pdf**

17 JM TATUM INDUSTRIAL DRIVE  
SUITE 120  
HATTIESBURG, MS 39401



Telephone  
601-318-1215

## PAT HARRISON WATERWAY DISTRICT

August 14, 2018

Colonel Sebastian Joly  
Commander, Mobile District  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

RE: Letter of Support WRDA 2014 § 7001 Application

Dear Colonel Joly:

The Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD) and the Jones County, MS Board of Supervisors (BOS) are pleased to submit the attached 2018 proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014). We respectfully request the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to conduct a feasibility study, which we believe would support Jones County's interest in a flood damage reduction project to protect its citizens and property as well as provide secondary downstream water quality and quantity benefits in the Leaf and Pascagoula Rivers.

This problem has longstanding, multi-jurisdictional support. The PHWD, Jones County and its municipalities have been working to resolve significant flooding issues since the early 1960's. Together, they have expended over \$2,500,000 seeking a multi-use/multi-purpose project to reduce flood damages. Yet, flooding in 2011, 2015 and 2016 still closed and damaged county roads and bridges and damaged homes. These recurring floods disproportionately impact the socially and economically disadvantaged living in low lying communities. For instance, the March 2011 flood displaced 120 households in the City of Laurel alone, the majority of which had the lowest average incomes in the City. An expedited solution to this flooding problem is critical. The PHWD and the Jones County Board of Supervisors are anxious to cooperate with the COE via the 7001 proposal to quickly identify, validate and hopefully implement a comprehensive, long-term, economically viable solution to recurring flooding. Your staff participated in two meetings by the PHWD, Jones County Board of Supervisors and the Jones County Economic Development Authority on February 20 and April 26, 2018 to learn about the flooding's impact on Jones County, its cities, and industries.

The PHWD agrees to be the non-Federal sponsor for this project with the Jones County Board of Supervisors as the co-sponsor. The PHWD and the Jones County BOS understand the responsibilities of a non-Federal sponsor and are prepared to provide the necessary non-Federal match.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Don Pittman in blue ink.

Don Pittman, President  
Pat Harrison Waterway District

Handwritten signature of Mr. Jerome Wyatt in blue ink.

Mr. Jerome Wyatt, President  
Jones County, MS Board of Supervisors

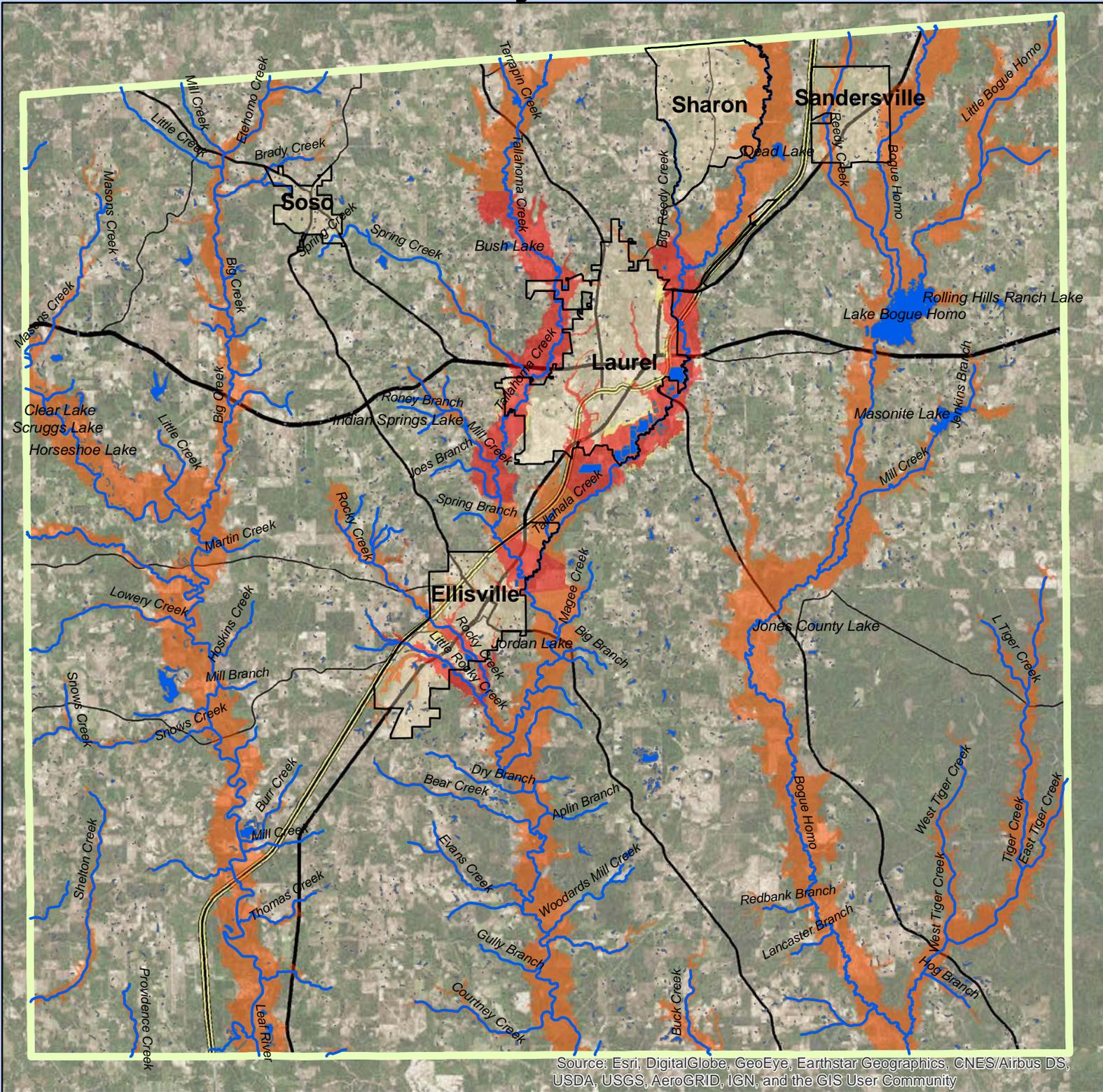
CC: Senator Roger Wicker  
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Congressman Steven Palazzo

# Map Document

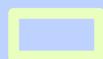
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**PHWD&Jones County Map.pdf**

# Jones County Flood Hazard



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  Jones County     |  Interstate Hwy | <b>FEMA Flood Zones</b>  |   |
|  Cities           |  U.S. Hwy       |  |  Zone X (500 year) |
|  Rivers & Streams |  State Hwy      |  |  Zone A (100 year) |
|  Water Bodies     |  County Hwy     |  Zone AE (100 year) |   |

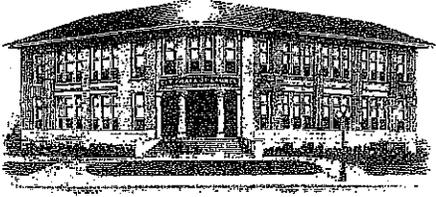


Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS,

# Additional Proposal Information

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**PHWD&Jones County-City&Business-LOS.pdf**



# The City of Laurel Mississippi

Johnny Magee  
Mayor

June 12, 2018

Danielle Ashley  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Jones County Board of Supervisors  
P. O. Box 1468  
Laurel, MS 39441

Re: Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD)

Dear Ms. Ashley,

The City of Laurel and Mayor and City Council applaud the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, PHWD, and the Mobile District for relaunching an attempt to validate Jones County's water resource needs and pursuing a Plan Assistance to the State of Mississippi's request in August 2017.

Jones County has many inter-related surface and groundwater issues that have and are impacting the quality of life and economic development and job creation opportunities. Jones County has sought federal assistance to resolve these issues since the early 1960's through the Tallahala Creek Dam and Reservoir Project (Authority by Public Law 90-483 (1968).

Primary documented water issues in no particular order are; 1) recurring flooding; 2) recurring flooding in the cities of Laurel and Ellisville that impact minority and economically disadvantaged populations; 3) updated flood zone map; 4) water supply; 5) water quality; 6) maintaining minimum stream flows in the Leaf River; 7) fish and wildlife enhancement; and 8) recreation.

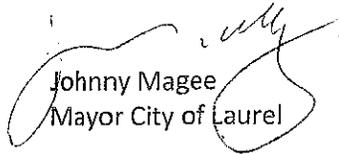
Additionally, the city of Laurel has experienced severe flooding in and around some of our major industries, such as Wayne Farms and area of Masonite whereby it is impossible for employees to get to work, because of the flood waters. There is also flooding in low income neighborhoods, forcing them from their homes which is both an inconvenience and a health hazard.

We urge the Corps, PHWD, and the Supervisors to identify any pursue any and all opportunities to aggressively verify, validate and quantify these water resources issues and identify sustainable, cost-effective projects to remedy these issues.

We also strongly urge you to make every effort to include Jones County Water Resources in any and all potentially relevant programs receiving funding under a Federal Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriation pertaining to Hurricane Nate in 2017.

We are committed to actively participating in these efforts to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,



Johnny Magee  
Mayor City of Laurel

**CITY of ELLISVILLE  
110 COURT STREET  
ELLISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39437**

Lynn A. Buckhaults, Mayor

**ALDERMEN**

Chris Hall - Ward 1  
Jeffrey Williams - Ward 2  
Aaron Heidelberg - Ward 3  
Carson Graham - Ward 4  
Ola Beech Mitchell - At Large

CHARMA COOK  
City Clerk

FREIDA GUNN COLLINS  
City Attorney

TELEPHONE 601-477-3323  
FAX 601-477-9083  
E-mail:ellisville@bbimail.net

April 26, 2018

Danielle Ashley  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Jones County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 1468  
Laurel, MS 39441

Re: Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD)

Dear Ms. Ashley,

The City of Ellisville Mayor and Board of Aldermen applauds the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, PHWD, and the Mobile District for relaunching an attempt to validate Jones County's water resource needs and pursuing a Planning Assistance to the State of Mississippi's request in August 2017.

Jones County has many inter-related surface and groundwater issues that have and are impacting the quality of life and economic development and job creation opportunities. Jones County has sought federal assistance to resolve these issues since the early 1960's through the Tallahala Creek Dam and Reservoir Project (Authorized by Public Law 90-483 (1968)).

Primary documented water issues in no particular order are; 1) recurring flooding, 2) recurring flooding in the cities of Laurel and Ellisville that impact minority and economically disadvantaged populations, 3) updated flood zone map; 4) water supply; 5) water quality; 6) maintaining minimum stream flows in the Leaf River; 7) fish and wildlife enhancement; and 8) recreation. These issues limit Jones County's economic development and job creation, the local tax base and quality of life.

We urge the Corps, PHWD, and the Supervisors to identify and pursue any and all opportunities to aggressively verify, validate and quantify these water resources issues and identify sustainable, cost-effective projects to remedy these issues.

We also strongly urge you to make every effort to include Jones County Water Resources in any and all potentially relevant programs receiving funding under a federal Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriation pertaining to Hurricane Nate in 2017.

We are committed to actively participating in these efforts to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,



Lynn A. Buckhaults  
Mayor

THE CITY OF ELLISVILLE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER



# SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

P.O. BOX 607 • LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39441  
PHONE 601.426.4506 • FAX 601.426.4729

G. Douglas Higginbotham  
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 17, 2018

Danielle Ashley  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Jones County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 1468  
Laurel, MS 39441

Re: Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD)

Dear Ms. Ashley:

South Central Regional Medical Center supports the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, PHWD, and the Mobile District for relaunching an attempt to validate Jones County's water resource needs and pursuing a Planning Assistance to the State of Mississippi's request in August 2017.

Jones County has many inter-related surface and groundwater issues that have and are affecting the quality of life and economic development and job creation opportunities. Jones County has sought federal assistance to resolve these issues since the early 1960's through the Tallahala Creek Dam and Reservoir Project (Authorized by Public Law 90-483 (1968)).

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These issues limit Jones County's economic development and job creation, the local tax base and quality of life.

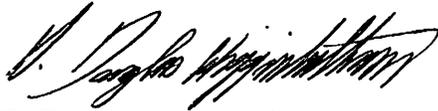
We urge the Corps, PHWD, and the Supervisors to identify and pursue any opportunities to aggressively verify, validate and quantify these water resources issues and identify sustainable, cost-effective projects to remedy these issues.

We also strongly urge you to make every effort to include Jones County Water Resources any potentially relevant programs receiving funding under a federal Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriation pertaining to Hurricane Nate in 017.

Danielle Ashley, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jones County Board of Supervisors  
April 19, 2018  
Page 2

We are committed to actively participating in these efforts to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Douglas Higginbotham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

G. Douglas Higginbotham  
President and CEO

# WAYNE FARMS LLC



P.O. Box 328 • Laurel, Mississippi 39441

April 17, 2018

Danielle Ashley  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Jones County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 1468  
Laurel, MS 39441

Re: Pat Harrison Waterway District (PHWD)

Dear Ms. Ashley,

Wayne Farms LLC applauds the efforts of the Board of Supervisors, PHWD, and the Mobile District for relaunching an attempt to validate Jones County's water resource needs and pursuing a Planning Assistance to the State of Mississippi's request in August 2017.

Jones County has many inter-related surface and groundwater issues that have and are impacting the quality of life and economic development and job creation opportunities. Jones County has sought federal assistance to resolve these issues since the early 1960's through the Tallahala Creek Dam and Reservoir Project (Authorized by Public Law 90-483 (1968)).

Primary documented water issues in no particular order are; 1) recurring flooding, 2) recurring flooding in the cities of Laurel and Ellisville that impact minority and economically disadvantaged populations, 3) updated flood zone map; 4) water supply; 5) water quality; 6) maintaining minimum stream flows in the Leaf River; 7) fish and wildlife enhancement; and 8) recreation. These issues limit Jones County's economic development and job creation, the local tax base and quality of life.

We urge the Corps, PHWD, and the Supervisor to identify and pursue any and all opportunities to aggressively verify, validate and quantify these water resources issues and identify sustainable, cost-effective projects to remedy these issues.

We also strongly urge you to make every effort to include Jones County Water Resources in any and all potentially relevant programs receiving funding under a federal Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriation pertaining to Hurricane Nate in 2017.

We are committed to actively participating in these efforts to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,

Craig Ballentine  
Complex Manager  
Wayne Farms LLC  
Laurel, MS