

Good afternoon,

Today, we're recognizing an exceptional individual who embodies the very essence of excellence in stormwater management. From the inception of his journey with the City of Hendersonville in early 2016, Michael Huffman has consistently demonstrated unparalleled dedication, exemplary leadership, and a remarkable passion for stormwater management. His tireless efforts and innovative initiatives have propelled him into the spotlight, making him a trailblazer in our community and beyond.

Over the years, Mike's dedication has seen the City's stormwater program evolve into a comprehensive utility. He spearheaded the implementation of a stormwater fee structure and navigated its acceptance through extensive engagements with stakeholders.

Mike's innovative spirit is truly noteworthy. He has successfully secured grants amounting to over \$4 million, facilitating the implementation of green infrastructure projects throughout the City. These endeavors, such as bioretention swales, rain gardens, permeable parking areas and a large flood mitigation project (currently under design), are significantly improving water quality in our region.

Notably, Mike initiated the "Trash Trout" project, a pioneering public-private partnership that has removed over 10,000 pounds of trash from Mud Creek. This impactful initiative has been replicated in various regions, emphasizing Mike's influence and the magnitude of his contributions.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mike is deeply committed to community engagement and education. He has consistently sought opportunities to inspire the next generation by mentoring and participating in educational programs. His involvement with various organizations and the public school system underscores his passion for fostering environmental consciousness and sustainability within the community.

In recognition of his outstanding dedication and contributions to the stormwater profession, Mike Huffman richly deserves the 2023 H. Rooney Malcom Award for Stormwater Professional of the Year. His unwavering commitment to improving stormwater quality and enhancing the well-being of our community truly sets him apart.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Huffman for this well-deserved honor. Thank you.

