

RESOLUTION 2026-02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN A CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319(h) GRANT TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL DRAINAGE CRITERIA MANUAL AND A REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COORDINATION STRATEGY

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) serves as a Council of Governments and the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Northwest Arkansas region; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the NWARPC Board has discussed and directed the pursuit of funding opportunities for regional stormwater and resilience initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Division administer the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) program to support projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, a project titled “Smart Growth Phase II: Building Regional Capacity and Leadership to Advance Nonpoint Source Reductions in Priority Watersheds” has been proposed by regional partners for funding under the FY2026 Section 319(h) program to develop a regional task force for water resources, assess existing urban stormwater policies and criteria, and develop and implement a Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy; and

WHEREAS, NWARPC will serve as the coordinating partner for development of the Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy, including leading procurement and consultant management, facilitating stakeholder and public engagement, communicating project progress, and supporting training and adoption efforts with member jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, these activities are understood to provide significant benefits to NWARPC member jurisdictions and residents by promoting regionally coordinated stormwater management practices and advancing shared water quality and source water protection goals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

SECTION 1. The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) hereby expresses its support for the Clean Water Act Section 319(h) “Smart Growth Phase II” grant project described above and authorizes NWARPC to participate in the project and to serve as the regional coordinating partner for development of the Regional Drainage Criteria Manual and Regional Stormwater Management Coordination Strategy.

SECTION 2. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to act on behalf of the Commission in matters concerning this project, including the execution of grant agreements and related contracts, and take all actions necessary to implement the project in coordination with project partners.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Chair, NWARPC

ATTEST: _____