

Executive Summary

This summer I served as an intern with the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund in Raleigh, North Carolina. This internship allowed me to further explore my interests in conservation, government, and public policy through daily interaction with Trust staff, state lawmakers, and conservation advocates.

The staff of CWMTF charged me with evaluating and rewriting the conservation easement format used for their wide range of conservation projects. This project required me to regularly consult with legal counsel from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources about how to write an adaptable and dynamic easement format. In order to successfully complete this project, I had to verse myself in North Carolina conservation law and learn to write legal documents in a creative and goal-oriented environment. The easement format that I developed with CWMTF staff and legal counsel provides a user-friendly and comprehensive mechanism by which grant recipients can protect countless miles of streams and acres of valuable natural habitat across North Carolina. I also monitored state legislative activity that affected CWMTF throughout the summer legislative session. I visited the legislature on a daily basis to attend committee meetings and gather information on pending legislation. In addition to these responsibilities, I helped the City of Raleigh develop a plan for implementing better stormwater management practices in municipal projects and private developments.

Throughout my educational career I have attempted to explore the relationship between public policy, public-private partnership, and environmental conservation. I was able to continue this education as an intern with the Clean Water Management Trust Fund this summer. By working for CWMTF, I was able to further my understanding of the intersection between public policy, private actors, and conservation while making lasting connections with policymakers, conservation professionals, advocates and citizens.