



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
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JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 4pm

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

5. Staff presentation - Draft Highlands Regional Master Plan Monitoring Program Recommendation Report

The Work Session will be strictly limited to a staff presentation on, and Council discussion regarding, the Draft Regional Master Plan Monitoring Program Recommendation Report. The Council will not be conducting any business or taking any action during the Work Session.

6. APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS COUNCIL MINUTES – March 16, 2017
7. APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – March 16, 2017
8. APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT BANK MINUTES – April 5, 2017
9. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (and Council Member Reports)
10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
11. RMP AMENDMENT COMMITTEE REPORT *(it is anticipated that the Committee may recommend releasing the draft MPRR for public comment for a period of sixty days, in which case a motion to that effect may be passed on a roll call vote)*
12. PUBLIC COMMENTS *(to ensure ample time for all members of the public to comment, we will respectfully limit comments to three (3) minutes. Questions raised in this period may not be responded to at this time but, where feasible, will be followed up by the Council and its staff.)*
13. EXECUTIVE SESSION, *if deemed necessary*
14. ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED AT HIGHLANDS
COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 18, 2017

D. Shope 5-18-17

1992 USFS

II. Executive Summary

The Highlands Study Area

The New York/New Jersey Highlands Study Area, 1.1 million acres of Appalachian ridges and valleys stretching from the Hudson to the Delaware River, is a landscape of national significance, rich in natural resources and recreational opportunities. The national significance of the region rests on the following foundations:

- 147,800 acres of public open space hosting eight million recreational visits yearly;
- Quality drinking water for over 3.8 million New York and New Jersey residents;
- Over 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat;
- Integral part of the Maine-Georgia Appalachian chain;
- Historical link to the American Revolution and Civil War.

Still largely consisting of forests and farm fields, the New York/New Jersey Highlands are virtually in the backyard of the Nation's largest metropolitan area. The 31-county New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Region is home to some 20 million people. About one in 12 Americans live within a one- to two-hour drive of the Highlands. 2.8 million live in the nine counties that immediately surround the Highlands Study Area.

The Highlands also offer the last opportunity to provide shape and form to the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Region, delineating where the pavement ends and nature begin. About 640,000 acres out of the million in the Study Area still serve as an effective greenbelt. If protected, these ridges and valleys will continue to serve as a resource to the metropolitan area, and the entire Appalachian chain.

Land Use Change in the Highlands

The Highlands face the immediate prospect of unprecedented urbanization and change. A Roundtable Briefing Paper prepared in September, 1991, by the Regional Plan Association (RPA) and the National Park Service (NPS), notes that the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut has seen a 60 percent increase in the amount of urban land in the last 25 years, with only a six percent increase in population.

Beginning in the 1980's massive campus-style commercial and industrial development jumped from central areas to heretofore residential suburbs. Nationally, these outlying areas of American metropolitan regions are receiving up to two-thirds of overall new regional job growth.

The New York/New Jersey Highlands Study Area is a landscape of national significance.

The Highlands offer the last opportunity to provide shape and form to the New York/New Jersey metropolitan region, delineating where the pavement ends and nature begins.

- ♦ The economic value of the Highlands timber resource is estimated to be over \$3.2 million. This includes gross income to landowners and the wages of those engaged in harvesting and processing. It does not include the value of the estimated 84,000 cord of fuelwood taken, worth approximately \$8 million dollars.

See maps following page 33.

B. Other Important Resources

1. Agriculture

Although normally considered a "land use" and not a resource, the 16 percent or 160,000 acres of land classified as 'Agriculture' within the Highlands is essential to the area's future. Farms:

- Contain many of the regions vast forest resources; **GROSS**
- Contribute significantly to the Area's economy: over 120 million dollars per year in marketable products;
- Sustain the intrinsic natural character of the working landscape;
- Provide jobs and a sustained quality of life for many landowners and residents of the Highlands. **?**

There are approximately 4000 farms in the nine (9) county area. Less than half or about 1500 are within the Study Area boundaries. Most are in the 10-49 acre size class and located in Warren, Hunterdon, and the very eastern part of Sussex County in New Jersey, and Orange County in New York. Not all farmlands are owned by the farmers. Approximately half are leased.

Farm production is quite varied and includes:

- Livestock and poultry such as cattle, beef cows, milk cows, hogs, sheep, chicken, and broilers;
- Crops such as corn (grain, seed, and silage), soybeans, hay, vegetables, orchards, fruits and nuts, berries, nursery and greenhouse crops, mushrooms and sod.

Farming has been declining in the Highlands since 1970, as exemplified by the land use figures. From 1970 to 1985, agricultural land use went from 17 percent to 16 percent with almost 9,000 acres developed. It is projected that land use will drop to 14 percent by 2010 with another 14,000 acres developed. Clearly, farming in the Highlands is becoming less attractive as development increases.

The 160,000 acres of land classified as agriculture within the Highlands are essential to the Area's future.

The decrease in farming throughout the area is due to a complex set of issues. Some of the more popular notions include:

- World market competition and pricing
- Little or no interest by family members to continue farming
- Excessive regulations
- Development pressure and buy-out offers
- Rising property taxes
- Large capital investments and debt loads with marginal net income.

Both New Jersey and New York have attempted to alleviate the property tax burden with legislation. New Jersey's Farmland Assessment has 26 percent participation and New York's property tax law Section 480-A has only six percent.

In July 1991, New York passed a Farmland Protection Trust Fund. This legislation begins a process to establish a Purchase of Development Rights Program. In New Jersey, the Farmland Preservation Program, which funds farmland easements on a willing seller-willing buyer basis, has been overwhelmingly supported by the voters. Over 70,000 acres have been protected and an additional 23,000 acres are under limited term restrictions. Applications have increased ten-fold and funds are drying up. In 1989, 346 farms applied (38,500 acres), but funding was available for less than half.

While most farmers support farmland assessment and development rights programs on a voluntary basis, there are fears that resource protection tools such as local zoning may lower the value of farmland and subsequent landowner equity.

2. Biological Communities

Biological diversity means the variety of life and its processes. Its distinct and measurable parts include: genetic variation, within and between species; distinct species such as the bog turtle; biological systems such as those found in freshwater marshes; and the variety of systems and their linkages across regional landscapes, such as the Highlands.

Two primary systems, terrestrial and palustrine (freshwater) wetlands, are represented in the Highlands, predominantly in the remaining large blocks of contiguous forests. These natural systems are characterized by a combination of physiognomy (outward appearance), vegetation structure and composition, topography, substrate, and soil moisture and reaction. Within each system can be found a number of communities which are representative of local variability. It is this variability which provides the

Some of the community types found in the Highlands include:

- Glacial bogs
- Hardwood conifer
- Swamps
- Rock outcrop communities
- Chestnut oak forests

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2017

PRESENT

JIM RILEE)	CHAIRMAN
KURT ALSTEDE)	VICE CHAIR
TRACY CARLUCCIO)	COUNCIL MEMBERS
MICHAEL R. DRESSLER)	
ROBERT HOLTAWAY)	
MICHAEL FRANCIS)	
BRUCE JAMES)	
CARL RICHKO)	
ROBERT G. WALTON)	

VIA-TELECONFERENCE

TIMOTHY P. DOUGHERTY)
MICHAEL TFANK)
JAMES VISIOLI)
RICHARD VOHDEN)

ABSENT

MICHAEL SEBETICH)
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CALL TO ORDER 153rd meeting of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council to order at 4:01pm.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Members Dougherty, Tfank, Visioli, and Vohden were present via tele-conference. Member Dressler was absent. All other Council Members were present. *The following staff members were present: Margaret Nordstrom, John Maher, James Humphries, Corey Piasecki, Kim Ball Kaiser, Carole Ann Dicton, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Judy Thornton, Keri Green, Drew Siglin, Casey Ezyyske, Kelley Curran, Herbert August, and Tom Tagliareni. Also present were Lisa LeBoenf, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit, and Matthew Kelly, Deputy Attorney General.*

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Ms. Tagliareni announced that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. The Highlands Council sent written notice of the time, date, and location of this meeting to pertinent newspapers of circulation throughout the State and posted notice on the Highlands Council website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was then recited.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2017

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

On behalf of the Regional Master Plan (RMP) Amendment Committee, Committee Chair Kurt Alstede complimented the Highlands staff on the Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR) process. Committee Chair Alstede emphasized that the draft MPRR before Council does *not* contain proposed amendments to the RMP. Rather, it contains recommendations for Council to consider and put out for public comment prior to crafting proposed amendments to the RMP.

Ms. Nordstrom provided a brief overview of the work session. Ms. Nordstrom noted that the MPRR is a baseline document, setting the stage not only for potential improvement to the RMP, but also future iterations. It is a supplement to the original RMP in that:

- it presents the first indicators and milestones;
- it is a summary of RMP implementation issues; and
- it is an analysis of possible solutions to these implementation issues and resulting recommendations.

Ms. Nordstrom also noted that the MPRR is not and does not, in itself, propose amendments. It contains recommendations, some of which, if implemented would require changes to the language of the RMP and would therefore be amendments. These are not the bulk of the recommendations. Others are possible solutions to implementation issues and topics for the Science and Research agenda.

Today, Council staff will review the structure of the draft MPRR and provide a closer look at one of the topic areas, Future Land Use. There will be discussion on the flow of information in the topic areas, to illustrate how recommendations were developed.

Ms. Nordstrom also reported that there will be no further revisions to the draft MPRR at this time. Final revisions will take place after the close of the public comment period in consultation with the Council, and following a sequence of steps spelled out in the draft Amendment Procedures adopted by Council in January for use during this process.

Council's next step is to release the draft MPRR for a 60-day public comment period. Staff will make themselves available to meet with members of the public, either individually or in groups, to discuss the draft MPRR. This comment period also gives the Council another opportunity to submit their comments and recommendations. At the end of the comment period, a public response document will be prepared and Highlands Council staff will go over any possible changes to the MPRR with Council. When the final MPRR is ready, Council will authorize its release to the public and it will serve at the Council's work plan for the next six (6) years.

At this time, staff member Corey Piasecki gave a presentation. The presentation may be found on the Highlands Council website at the link below:

www.nj.gov/njhighlands/about/calend/2017_meetings/may18/meeting_preso_may18.pdf

Member Dressler was present at 4:15pm.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
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Council Comment/Discussion

Chairman Rilee thanked Highlands staff and the committee for its work.

Member Holtaway also complimented Highlands staff and the organization of the MPRR.

Member Dressler asked staff to go through the recommendations. Mr. Piasecki referred Council to page 195 of the draft MPRR, which provides a summary of all recommendations contained in the report. Mr. Humphries reiterated that these are summaries, and Council members can refer back to individual chapters for the full analysis that led to the recommendations.

Member Visioli asked about staff reasoning (pros and cons) regarding why some recommendations should or should not move forward. Ms. Nordstrom clarified that the report only provides recommendations; it will be up to Council to determine which recommendations move forward, not staff. Mr. Piasecki added that the draft MPRR includes analysis that explains the justification for including each recommendation, but Highlands staff may need to conduct additional research and analysis when Council decides which recommendations move forward.

Chairman Rilee reiterated that Highlands staff would need to provide more rationale if the Council wants to move forward on a recommendation.

Member Dressler commented that he has not had a chance to go over this report in its entirety and is uncomfortable putting it before the public without having gone through it. Chairman Rilee responded that the vote is not on moving forward any recommendations in the report; it is to release it so the public can see and comment on it.

Council Member and Committee Chair Alstede noted that the committee met and voted unanimously to release the report to the Council for consideration of release to the public.

Member Walton commented that the document is ready to be released to the public and he would not want to withhold it.

Member Carluccio commented that she needs more time to go over it and recommends that Council takes time to review it.

Member Francis commented that getting the report out to the public is more important than Council understanding the document completely.

Member Dressler asked for 30 days to review the MPRR in its entirety so he is able to give an intelligent response on proposed recommendations should he get questions.

Member Walton noted that Council should give the public the same time to review the document as Council will have. Member Walton noted that all Council concerns should be concurrent with the public.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
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Member Richko commented that if we do release it today how about we change the public comment period from 60 to 90 days.

At this time a roll call vote was taken:

Member Walton made a motion to release the MPRR for a period of 60 days. Member Holtaway seconded it.

A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 in favor, 6 opposed. 8 votes are required for Council action under N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.f. Accordingly, the motion failed to pass.

Member Walton made a motion to release the MPRR for a period of 90 days. Member Alstede seconded it.

A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 7 in favor, 6 opposed. 8 votes are required for Council action under N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.f. Accordingly, the motion failed to pass.

Vice Chair Alstede noted that the report is “confidential and privileged” and should not be shared at this time.

Member Dressler left the meeting temporarily at 4:50pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS COUNCIL MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2017

Chairman Rilee asked for a motion on the Minutes of March 16, 2017.

Member Alstede made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2017. Member Walton seconded it.

A roll call vote was taken. The Minutes of March 16, 2017 were APPROVED 12-0.

APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2017

Chairman Rilee asked for a motion on the Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2017.

Member Walton made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2017. Member Francis seconded it.

A roll call vote was taken. The Executive Session Minutes of March 16, 2017 were APPROVED 12-0.

APPROVAL OF HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT (HDC) BANK MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2017

Chairman Rilee asked for a motion on the HDC Bank Minutes of April 5, 2017.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2017

Member Alstede made a motion to approve the HDC Bank Minutes of April 5, 2017. Member Holtaway seconded it.

A roll call vote was taken. The HDC Bank Minutes of April 5, 2017 were APPROVED 12-0.

Member Dressler returned to the meeting at 4:53pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S (ED) REPORT

On behalf of the Landowner Equity & Land Preservation Committee, Ms. Nordstrom noted that the Council had previously decided to hold available funding in anticipation of using it as match for the 2017 Highlands Conservation Act (HCA) Grant application. The 2017 HCA Grant has been authorized, and the Council expects to apply for the maximum award of \$2.42M. This funding would directly support the HDC Purchase Program and/or the Open Space Partnership Funding Program. Ms. Nordstrom also noted that the Highlands Council is the lead agency for applying the HCA Grant for New Jersey (originally held by Green Acres).

Member Dressler asked if the resolution regarding the water fee was sent to the Legislature. Ms. Nordstrom noted that it was. Member Dressler asked if there had been any response. Ms. Nordstrom noted that four (4) representatives responded to the resolution expressing their support should the matter come before them.

Member James temporarily left the meeting at 4:55pm.

Ms. Nordstrom then reported on some Council staff activities.

Plan Conformance Implementation

- Bedminster Township, Somerset County
 - Highlands Referral Ordinance: Deemed consistent and municipal adoption
 - Highlands Exemption Determination Authorization: Municipal adoption and certification issued.

HDC Bank Credit Allocation & Purchase Update

- HDC Allocation:
 - Mount Olive Township. Block 7600, Lots 4-6, 8-11 and 13-18.
 - 7.6 acres, residential
 - Determination: 10 HDCs

Municipal-Issued Exemptions

- Byram Township, Sussex County: Exemption 4 – 1 issued.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2017

- Montville Township, Morris County: Exemption 5 – 1 issued.

In conclusion, Ms. Nordstrom reported that Dan Kennedy, Assistant Commissioner, Water Resource Management, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is tentatively scheduled to attend Council's June meeting to discuss and answer any questions Council may have regarding the New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan.

Member Dressler asked about the Bellemead case with NJDEP. Ms. Nordstrom responded that the Plan Conformance Committee will discuss this case at its next committee meeting scheduled for May 23, 2017.

Chairman Rilee opened the meeting to the general public for comments.

Public Comment

Julia Somers, New Jersey Highlands Coalition – Ms. Somers commented on the Appellate decision that Member Dressler referred to regarding Bellemead and encouraged Council to read it.

Tom Wagner – Mr. Wagner commented on the potential additional source of funding and asked how the funding will be distributed and what will it be based on. Member Walton responded that the funding of applications will be based on the same criteria used for funding 2016 applications. He also noted, however, that Council will need to determine how the funding gets allocated between the HDC Purchase Program and Open Space Program when/if additional grant money is awarded.

Pat Moffit, Peapack, NJ – Mr. Moffitt commented on alleged ethics violations of consultants hired by Council, Council members, Highlands staff members and/or family members.

Doug Ruccione, Ringwood, NJ – Mr. Ruccione commented on Ringwood's superfund site and the threat to the reservoir and upholding the Highlands standards in Ringwood.

Hal Danielson, Hampton Borough property owner – Mr. Danielson commented that an independent advisory committee should be formed to give recommendations for this new Regional Master Plan process.

David Shope, Lebanon Township, NJ – Mr. Shope commented on the Highlands Development Credit of \$16K and asked Council to provide a fact sheet on how it was derived. Mr. Shope also commented on the MPRR discussed today during the work session and that no changes should be made to it prior to releasing to the public.

Jerry Kern, Pohatcong, NJ – Mr. Kern encouraged the Council to be honest with themselves. Mr. Kern noticed that it appears that nothing has changed since the last time he attended a meeting.

Hank Klumpp, Tewksbury, NJ – Mr. Klumpp commented on the funding landowners were promised for the land.

Member Holtaway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Walton seconded it. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19pm.

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2017

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council.

Date: 6/15/17

Name: Annette Tagliareni
Annette Tagliareni, Executive Assistant

**Vote on the Approval of
These Minutes**

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede			✓			
Councilmember Carluccio			✓			
Councilmember Dougherty			✓			
Councilmember Dressler			✓			
Councilmember Francis			✓			
Councilmember Holtaway			✓			
Councilmember James						✓
Councilmember Richko			✓			
Councilmember Sebetich			✓			
Councilmember Tfank			✓			
Councilmember Visioli		✓	✓			
Councilmember Vohden			✓			
Councilmember Walton	✓		✓			
Chairman Rilee			✓			



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JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

NOTICE OF WORK SESSION NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

Please be advised that the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Council) will be conducting a work session on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 4:00pm to review the Draft Monitoring Program Recommendation Report. The Highlands Council will not conduct any business or take any action during the work session. This work session will be open to the public; however there will be no public participation during the work session.

Please be further advised that the previously scheduled regular meeting of the Council will take place immediately following the work session. The agenda for the regular meeting will be posted on the Council's website in advance of the meeting.

The work session and regular meeting of the Council will be held at Council's office at 100 North Road (Route 513) in Chester, New Jersey.

DATE OF NOTICE: April 25, 2017



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

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JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: RMP Amendment Committee

From: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director

Subject: Record of RMP Amendment Committee Meeting of April 12, 2017

Date: April 28, 2017

The RMP Amendment Committee met on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at the Highlands Council office in Chester.

Committee Members present: Committee Chair Alstede, Committee Members Holtaway, Sebetich, and Vohden.

Committee Members present via phone: Council Chairman Rilee

Highlands Council Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, James Humphries, Kim Ball Kaiser, Corey Piasecki, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Kelley Curran, and Casey Ezyske

Also present: Lisa LeBoeuf, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit

Committee Chair Alstede called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

Mr. Piasecki explained that at last month's committee meeting, Highlands Staff Leads gave an overview of each topic area's introduction and indicators. At today's meeting, Highlands Staff Leads will focus on staff's recommendations.

Each technical lead gave an overview of each program in their topic area touching on the following:

- Program Issues
- Recommendations/Science and Research Agenda Items

Agricultural Resources

Highlands Staff Leads – Corey Piasecki on behalf of Chris Ross

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for the program under the Agricultural Resources topic area:

- Agricultural Sustainability, Viability, and Stewardship

Proposed recommendations were discussed for the program under the Agricultural Resources topic area. Committee agreed that additional ‘value added facilities’ should be added to the report along with the inclusion of agriculture in the economic development topic area.

Economic Development

Highlands Staff Lead – Maryjude Haddock-Weiler

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Economic Development topic area:

- Sustainable Regional Economy – Planning Initiatives
- Sustainable Regional Economy – Monitoring Activities

Proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Economic topic area. Under the ‘Sustainable Regional Economy – Planning Initiatives,’ the Committee agreed that agriculture needs to be tied into this program if an economic development plan is developed. Additionally, preparation of a Cost-Benefit Analysis of the RMP will be added to the Science and Research Agenda.

Future Land Use

Highlands Staff Lead – Corey Piasecki

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Future Land Use topic area:

- Land Use Capability Analysis
- Redevelopment
- Low Impact Development and Project Review
- Cluster Development and Center Designation
- Housing and Community Facilities

Based on Highlands staff’s reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Future Land Use topic area. It was noted that the recommendation for the Land Use Capability Analysis includes the development of a Smart Growth map to guide future development and resource protection in the region based on the analysis.

Historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources

Highlands Staff Lead – Maryjude Haddock-Weiler

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources topic area:

- Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resource Protection
- Scenic Resource Protection

Based on Highlands staff's reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources topic area.

Wastewater and Water Utilities

Highlands Staff Lead – Casey Ezyske

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Wastewater and Water Utilities topic area:

- Water and Wastewater Utilities
- Wastewater System Maintenance

Based on Highlands staff's reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Wastewater and Water Utilities topic area. An Alternative Wastewater System Program was discussed to assist communities that have failing septic systems or are in need of a wastewater system. Every Alternative Wastewater System Program will be tailored to each municipality's needs and desires taking into consideration environmental constraints. A Highlands Municipal Wastewater System Plan was also discussed, which will involve identifying programs that are working, an inventory of all septic systems, and providing educational materials and funding.

Waste Resources

Highlands Staff Lead – Kelley Curran

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Wastewater and Water Utilities topic area:

- Highlands Restoration: Water Deficits
- The Efficient Use of Water
- Water Quality Restoration
- Highlands Restoration: Water Deficits – new subprogram (Prime Groundwater Recharge Areas)

Based on Highlands staff's reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Water Resources topic area. The Committee indicated that developing regulatory standards for water use efficiency is not appropriate. The Committee also expressed the importance of implementing a water user fee under The Efficient Use of Water program.

Implementation

Highlands Staff Lead – James Humphries on behalf of Judy Thornton

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Implementation topic area:

- Municipal Plan Conformance
- Highlands Restoration: Water Deficits
- Preservation Area Conformance
- RMP Monitoring Program
- RMP GIS Data Updates

Proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Implementation topic area.

Report Out to Council

It is anticipated that a public notice will be sent to conduct a work session on May 18, 2017 followed by the previously scheduled Council meeting. The work session will be held to review the Draft Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR). The work session will be open to the public; however there will be no public participation at that time. The previously scheduled meeting of the Council will take place immediately following the work session at which time the Council will handle some business items.

The committee scheduled their next meeting in May.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23pm.



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JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: RMP Amendment Committee

From: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director

Subject: Record of RMP Amendment Committee Meeting of March 9, 2017

Date: March 30, 2017

The RMP Amendment Committee met on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the Highlands Council office in Chester.

Committee Members present: Committee Chair Alstede, Committee Members Holtaway and Sebetich.

Committee Members present via phone: Council Chairman Rilee and Member Vohden

Highlands Council Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, Kim Ball Kaiser, James Humphries, Corey Piasecki, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Chris Ross, Keri Green, Drew Siglin, Carole Ann Dicton, and Annette Tagliareni.

Also present: Lisa LeBoeuf, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit

Committee Chair Alstede called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

Ms. Nordstrom explained that today's work session is the start of identifying potential amendments to the Regional Master Plan (RMP) that the committee feels are in accordance with the standards of the Act.

James Humphries explained that the Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR) initially drafted by Highlands Council technical staff allows the Highlands Council to identify significant successes and continuing issues related to RMP goals, policies, objectives, and programs, so that periodically the RMP may be improved through amendments, including the required six-year updates.

Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR)

Highlands staff is currently drafting sections of the MPRR for nine (9) topic areas, which reflect the program areas of the RMP. Today the committee reviewed three (3) topic area sections of the draft report with Highlands staff technical leads. Each topic area is organized into the following sections discussed at last month's committee meeting:

- Topic Area Introduction – explanation of foundation in Act and RMP
- Topic Area Indicator Reports - analysis of each indicator
- Recommendations – suggestions for possible amendments, ongoing monitoring, or referral to science and research agenda.

Each technical lead gave an overview of each program in their topic area touching on the following:

- Program Summary
- Implementation Activity
- Indicator Topic Area and Summary
- Program Issues
- Conclusions/Recommendations

Natural Resources

Highlands Staff Leads – Keri Green and Chris Ross

Highlands staff leads gave an overview for each program under the Natural Resources topic area:

- Forest Resource Management and Sustainability
- Restoration of Streams and Riparian Areas
- Critical Habitat Conservation and Management
- Carbonate Rock Areas
- Lake Management Areas
- Steep Slope Protection Areas

Proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Natural Resources topic area.

Ms. Nordstrom noted that Member Francis submitted a recommendation for Lake Management Areas topic area.

Transportation and Air Quality

Highlands Staff Lead – Drew Siglin

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Transportation and Air Quality topic area:

- Evaluation of Transportation Project and Studies identified in the RMP
- Green Streets Planning and Walkable/Bicycle Friendly Site Design
- Freight Oriented Development

- Interagency Coordination (Transportation)
- Interagency Coordination (Air Quality)

Based on Highlands staff's reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Transportation and Air Quality topic area.

Landowner Equity

Highlands Staff Lead – James Humphries

Highlands staff lead gave an overview for each program under the Landowner Equity topic area:

- Expand Landowner Equity of the RMP to include Land Preservation
- Update Preservation Priority RMP Datasets
- Establish monitoring guidelines for Highlands Council preserved lands
- Reevaluate monetary value of the Highlands Development Credit
- Reevaluate non-residential HDC allocation methodology
- Expand incentives for TDR Receiving Zones
- TDR Receiving Zones Demand Analysis

Based on Highlands staff's reviews, proposed recommendations were discussed for programs under the Landowner Equity topic area.

Report Out to Council

At Council's March 16, 2017 meeting, Committee Chair Alstede will announce a future work session to be held at Council's May meeting when the Draft MPRR will be presented to the full Council to become familiar with the format prior to its release to the public for comment.

The committee scheduled their next meeting in April.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.