

**RESOLUTION 2024-11**  
**NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
**SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council is tasked with implementing the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts to effectuate the purposes of the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Act at N.J.S.A. 13:20-2 declares that the New Jersey Highlands is an essential source of drinking water, providing clean and plentiful drinking water for one-half of the State's population and contains exceptional natural resources such as clean air, contiguous forest lands, wetlands, pristine watersheds, and habitat for fauna and flora for the citizens of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), which became effective on September 8, 2008, to guide implementation of the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands RMP is based upon detailed data describing the nature and extent of numerous natural and built resources in the New Jersey Highlands, and that data is encapsulated in geographic information systems (GIS) that must be continually updated, refined and maintained; and

**WHEREAS**, essentially every Goal, Policy and Objective, and every program described and prescribed in the RMP relates in some way to GIS data; accordingly, the daily operation of the Highlands Council depends upon the availability and accuracy of this information; and

**WHEREAS**, GIS data is an integral part of Plan Conformance, project reviews, open space and HDC acquisitions and virtually every activity in which staff is engaged. In addition, this data is made available to the public via data downloads and multiple interactive mapping tools that are then used by the municipalities and consultants throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council sought to qualify one or more GIS firms to assist the GIS Department, minimize any future issues related to staffing limitations, and provide for flexibility to address surges in workload on an ongoing, as needed basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council prepared a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking one or more GIS firms with substantial experience with GIS, as well as familiarity with the Highlands Act, the Highlands Council interactive maps, the RMP and its composite data layers, in order to perform the following tasks: 1) provide general GIS Services, including data management and data analysis as may be required by the Highlands Council; 2) create and document metadata for all work performed on any mapping, RMP or other data layers; 3) provide skilled support in report design (Adobe InDesign or similar software expertise); and

**WHEREAS**, the RFQ was released to the public on November 28, 2023, and thirteen (13) Firms submitted proposals on or before the deadline of December 29, 2023; and

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**WHEREAS**, Highlands Council staff recommends that the following Firms are best suited to meet the needs articulated by the Highlands Council’s RFQ: 1) Remington & Vernick Engineers (RVE); 2) Verdantas LLC (Verdantas); and 3) Neglia Group (Neglia); and

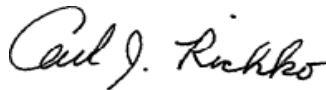
**WHEREAS**, Highlands Council staff further recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with the aforementioned Firms for GIS services; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or their designee, is hereby authorized to enter into three year contracts with the possibility of extension years as necessary, with: RVE, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 annually; Verdantas, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 annually; and Neglia, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 annually.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2024.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

<b>Vote on the Approval of This Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Alstede			√			
Councilmember Bush			√			
Councilmember Dougherty			√			
Councilmember Dressler						√
Councilmember Francis			√			
Councilmember James						√
Councilmember Sebetich			√			
Councilmember Van Abs		√	√			
Councilmember Visioli	√		√			
Councilmember Vohden			√			
Chairman Richko			√			