

**New Jersey Highlands Council
Chair Report for Local Participation Committee
Meeting of September 15, 2005**

On September 15, 2005, the Local Participation Committee held a meeting at the New Jersey Highlands Council office in Chester, New Jersey. Notice of the meeting was provided to the public on the Highlands Council's web site. Council members present at the meeting were: Jack Schrier, Mimi Letts, Debbie Pasquarelli, and Eileen Swan. Council staff members present were: Adam Zellner, Ross MacDonald, Beth Crusius, Liz Maziarz, and Chris Danis.

Two matters were on the agenda: Partnership Report and the Status of the Outreach Program. Committee Chair Jack Schrier called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

Partnership Report

Ross MacDonald made a presentation on the next Partnership Meeting. He informed the Committee that the outreach program is going still underway but that staff emphasis will concentrate on the completion of the Regional Master Plan. The Partnership Meeting is planned to include three sessions on three different dates to encourage participation and create a more flexible schedule so more people can attend. COAH would be making a presentation followed by a question and answer period. The last portion of the meeting will allow for participants to speak directly with staff members and propose questions and concerns. An information packet will also be created with background information on the Highlands as well as information directly relating to the Partnership Meetings. Adam Zeller added that the information discussed at Technical Advisory Committees and the Partnership can all feed into each other and be integrated into the Regional Master Plan. A copy of the draft invitation letter was distributed to the members for their comments and suggestions.

The Committee members also discussed issues regarding Regional Master Plan and the connotation of terms such as "growth" implies and suggested the use of other terms such as the support development. Mr. Zellner explained that growth will not be encouraged until natural resources overlays are in place to determine if the area is capable of growth or not from an ecological perspective.

Outreach

Mr. MacDonald discussed upcoming events. The Council will have a booth at the League of Municipalities in November 2005. There will also be panels and different events that are to be coordinated through the League of Municipalities and through the Highlands Council. Several Council members and staff members are scheduled to make presentations and participate in panels. On September 26, 2005, the Senate Environment Committee will be holding hearings on the status of the Highlands Act. Members of the Council and staff will be testifying before the committee.

There was no public comment and Chairman Jack Schrier adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.