

RESOLUTION 2020-06
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
CREATION OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (“Highlands Act”) states that the agricultural lands in active production in the Highlands Region are important resources of the State that should be preserved, and that the agricultural industry in the Highlands Region is a vital component of the economy, welfare, and culture of the Garden State; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act also states that the maintenance of agricultural production and a positive agricultural business climate should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible whenever appropriate in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Act states further that nothing in the Act, the Regional Master Plan (RMP), any rules or regulations adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Act, or any amendments to a master plan, development regulations, or other regulations adopted by a local government unit to specifically conform them with the RMP shall be construed to alter or compromise the goals, purposes, policies, and provisions of, or lessen the protections afforded to farmers by the “Right to Farm Act” P.L 1983, C. 31 (C.4:1C-1 et seq.), and any rules or regulations adopted pursuant thereto; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the goals of the Highland Act and RMP, the Monitoring Program Recommendation Report recommends the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee tasked with the promotion of sustainable agriculture including but not limited to the use of integrated crop and pest management practices, market development, expansion of agritourism, and support for value added facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Highlands Council hereby establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee whose purpose is to advise the Highlands Council on potential ways to assist and strengthen the Highlands Region agricultural community to ensure sustained economic viability by identifying and responding to trends and challenges affecting the agricultural business.
2. The Agricultural Advisory Committee shall be comprised of interested Council members (not to exceed seven members) as well as citizens from the Highlands communities who are interested in furthering the goals set forth herein.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 20th day of February 2020.



Carl Richko, Chairman



RESOLUTION 2020-06
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
CREATION OF AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Vote on the Approval of
This Resolution**

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Alstede			✓			
Councilmember Carluccio			✓			
Councilmember Dougherty						✓
Councilmember Dressler			✓			
Councilmember Francis			✓			
Councilmember Holtaway						✓
Councilmember James		✓	✓			
Councilmember Sebetich			✓			
Councilmember Visioli			✓			
Councilmember Vohden	✓		✓			
Councilmember Walton			✓			
Chair Richko			✓			