RESOLUTION 2020-08
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL AWARD OF
CONTRACT TO CONDUCT AN EVALUATION AND FIELD TEST OF THE DRAFT
HIGHLANDS REGION FUNCTIONAL ECOSYSTEM VALUATION MODEL
AND FOREST CONSERVATION GUIDANCE

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body
corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning
Council (Highlands Council); 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, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted Resolution 2008-27 thereby adopting the
Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), which became effective September 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, in order to carry out its duties under the Highlands Act and the RMP, the Highlands Council
is charged with the duty to protect, restore and enhance the quality and quantity of surface water and
groundwater and to protect and enhance the natural resources within the Highlands Region, including (but
not limited to) forests and critical habitat; and

WHEREAS, the RMP states that “no net loss” of habitat value, with respect to critical habitat and
forested areas, shall occur in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, a definition of that value, a method to establish and calculate that value and guidance to
determine how applicants, landowners and land managers should use that value were not included in the
RMP; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Highlands Council contracted for the preparation of a Highlands Region
Functional Ecosystem Valuation Model and Forest Conservation Guidance (“FEV Guidance”); and

WHEREAS, a critical component of the forest guidance includes development of a long-term
stewardship program; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council does not have sufficient internal resources and expertise to assess the
appropriateness of the research approach and the methodology presented in the FEV Guidance, and in
doing so, seeks to evaluate the functionality and practicality of the final draft FEV Guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff prepared a Request for Proposal to Conduct an Evaluation and
Field Test of the Draft Highlands Region Functional Ecosystem Valuation Model seeking firms with
expertise to assist the Highlands Council with evaluating the functionality and practicality of the FEV
Guidance; and

WHEREAS, two (2) firms submitted a proposal and qualifications on or before the deadline of December
20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff evaluated the proposals and shared its findings with the
Highlands Council’s Budget and Finance Committee on February 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee has reviewed the staff findings and the process utilized
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to evaluate the submissions, and has further determined that funds are available for the award of a contract
pursuant to the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends that a contract be awarded to Applied
Ecological Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $55,769.00 to complete the scope of work set forth in
the RFP and further recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter
a contract in connection with the RFP and the proposal of Applied Ecological Services, Inc.; 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 thirty (30) 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 the 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
his/her designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Applied Ecological Services, Inc. for an
amount not to exceed $55,769.00.

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 J. Richko, Chair

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