

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.

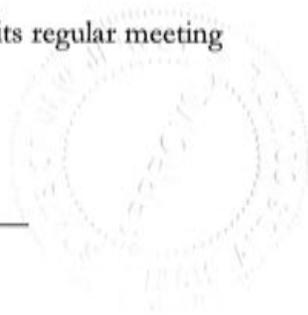
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Applied Ecological Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$55,769.00.

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



Vote on the Approval of This Resolution

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