

RESOLUTION

Authorization to Petition the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey adopted the Highlands Water Protection & Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq.) on August 10, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Act created the Highlands Water Protection & Planning Council (Highlands Council) and charged it with the preparation and adoption of a regional master plan for the entirety of the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council adopted the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) on July 17, 2008, which became effective on September 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the RMP includes goals, policies, and objectives related to environmental protection, water conservation, and sustainable economic development in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon shares many of the same goals, policies, and objectives, as demonstrated through years of county planning, in particular the County's Economic Development Strategy, and the numerous planning studies, documents, resources, and effective county programs that have resulted; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council seeks to partner with the County of Hunterdon in pursuing the common goals and objectives shared by both entities; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council has appropriated funds to support the implementation of the RMP at both the municipal and the county level, and offers such funding to the County of Hunterdon for its RMP-related initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council County Plan Conformance Program entails completion of the following items, the costs for each of which, as necessary components to implementation of the RMP, are eligible for Highlands Council Plan Conformance grant funding:

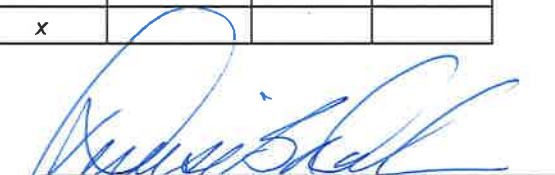
1. County Self-Assessment Report – meaning a report identifying areas where County planning goals and objectives generally align with those of the Highlands RMP; prioritizing areas identified in accordance with county needs, interests, and intents; and providing a brief discussion regarding each, indicating preliminary thoughts, ideas, and plans for assessment and action.
2. Master Plan Amendment – meaning a County-authored discussion as to its role in the Highlands Region; general areas of County alignment, interest in goals/objectives of Act and RMP; County goals, intents for working toward areas of interest; opportunities to lead/coordinate with municipalities; specifics TBD by County.
3. Water Use and Conservation Management Plan – meaning a comprehensive water use and management plan developed with professional assistance for County-wide application and use; said Plan based on analysis of watersheds within the County and intended to reduce/eliminate areas of water deficit, retain/enhance water quality, and ensure a sustainable water supply well into the future.
4. Stormwater Management Plan – meaning a comprehensive stormwater management initiative developed with professional assistance for County-wide application and use; said Plan based on implementation of Low Impact Development techniques and best practices in stormwater management, and intended to reduce/eliminate flooding, protect water quality, and maximize groundwater recharge.
5. Implementation Agenda – meaning a planning tool, listing all items of interest to the County in furthering the common goals and objectives identified in the County Self-Assessment Report and each of items 2, 3, and 4, above, indicating items considered by the County to be of priority need/interest, and including preliminary cost estimates associated with each priority item; said Agenda to be considered a preliminary document, subject to change as County needs and circumstances evolve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon does hereby Petition the Highlands Council for inclusion in the Council's Plan Conformance Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby authorizes the Freeholder Director and County Administrator to execute such documents as may be necessary on its behalf, to complete and file said Petition with the Highlands Council.

ROLL CALL	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
J. Matthew Holt, Director			X			
Suzanne Lagay, Deputy Director						X
John W. King, Freeholder			X			
John E. Lanza, Freeholder	X		X			
Shaun C. Van Doren, Freeholder		X	X			

ADOPTED November 07, 2018



Denise B. Doolan, CLERK