



## State of New Jersey

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17, 2012

## Highlands Council Votes to Hire Margaret Nordstrom as Deputy Executive Director

*Council also approves Petitions for Plan Conformance from  
Harmony and Vernon Townships*

CHESTER, N.J. — At its most recent meeting, Gene F. Feyl, Executive Director of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council, recommended Margaret Nordstrom to fill the position of Deputy Executive Director. Feyl reported that among 19 resumes received and four candidates interviewed, Ms. Nordstrom possesses the strongest combination of skills and experience for the role.

“We interviewed a number of very capable candidates,” Mr. Feyl explained. “Ms. Nordstrom possesses not only the professional qualifications, but also exceptional knowledge of the Highlands Act, which made her a stand-out candidate. I’m confident in her ability to come up to speed quickly and make valuable contributions as soon as she joins the staff.”

Ms. Nordstrom has a broad background in municipal and county government, including 13 years as a Morris County Freeholder. Among other accomplishments during this time, Ms. Nordstrom initiated the Morris County Water Balance Study in conjunction with the Morris County Planning Department, and developed the county’s strategic economic planning process. As a member of the Washington Township (Morris) Committee, she was responsible for a significant land preservation project that involved the township’s acquisition of development rights for the 800-acre Scott Farm and transfer of those rights to the State Farmland Preservation program. The effort was the first of its kind nationally.

The official hiring process will commence following the Governor’s review and consideration of the meeting minutes, up to 10 business days from receipt of the minutes. An official start date will be

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determined at that time. Other resolutions passed at the meeting will also take effect following the Governor's review period.

In other business, the Council approved two Petitions for Plan Conformance. Vernon Township in Sussex County received approval of its Petition for Plan Conformance in 29,305 acres of the Preservation Area and Harmony Township in Warren County received approval of its Petition for Plan Conformance in 8,413 acres of the Preservation Area. This brings the total number of approved municipal Petitions to 42 and the total number of conforming acres to nearly **402,000** or **49%** of the Highlands Region.

In all, 60 municipalities have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance to date, including nine that only have lands in the Planning Area, where conformance is entirely voluntary. In addition, more than half of the municipalities with lands in both the Planning and Preservation Areas have submitted petitions regarding the full municipality.

Also at the May 17 meeting, the Council approved selection of an auditing firm to conduct the FY 2011-2012 audit, as required by law.

Materials related to this meeting can be found at:

<http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/about/calend/> (scroll to 5/17/2012 meeting)

For more information about the Petition from Vernon:

[http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/planconformance/vernon\\_twp.html](http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/planconformance/vernon_twp.html)

For more information about the Petition from Harmony:

<http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/planconformance/harmony.html>

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