

RESOLUTION 2006-02

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL ADOPTION OF FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGIONAL MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (the "Highlands Act") has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (the "Highlands Council"); and

WHEREAS, the Act mandates that the Highlands Council prepare and adopt a Regional Master Plan in June of 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council seeks to provide direction for the development of the framework for the Regional Master Plan, recognizing that initial policy determinations guiding the development of the Regional Master Plan will continue with public involvement, and may be subject to revision until the adoption of the Regional Master Plan;

WHEREAS, the staff of the Highlands Council has prepared a draft Scoping Document which includes

WHEREAS, a draft general framework document for the regional master plan identifies the preliminary three major components and has been prepared by the Highlands Council Plan Draft Review Committee in furtherance of developing the regional master plan; and

WHEREAS, the first component of the general framework is the Policy Guidance Document which addresses the:

- Resource Assessment
- Smart Growth
- Transportation Component
- Coordination and Consistency
- Local Participation, and
- Financial Component

and summarizes recommended policies, technical analyses, implementation mechanisms and strategies. This document will focus on policy decisions necessary to implement the purpose and goals of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, the second component of the general framework details summaries of the technical basis and science supporting the policies and standards contained in the regional master plan and documentation will include:

- Water resource assessment and analysis of management strategies;
- Ecosystem/biodiversity assessment and analysis of management strategies;
- Water supply and wastewater treatment utility capacity analysis;
- Regional development and design principles applicable to the Highlands;
- Land preservation strategies and recreational opportunities and stewardship;
- Transfer of development rights program structure and criteria;
- Historic, cultural preservation and scenic resource protection;
- Sustainable agriculture and forestry;
- Strategies for providing a sound and balanced transportation system; and
- Financial analysis and cash flow timetable; and
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WHEREAS, the third component of the general framework includes the tools necessary to implement the regional master plan including: A land use capability map identifying areas appropriate for preservation, growth and planned communities;

- Plan conformance tools to assist municipalities and counties, such as:
 - Resource protection standards and best management practices;
 - Smart Design standards to help implement resource protection and smart growth goals;
 - Regional growth standards to encourage appropriate development opportunities, and
 - Enabling ordinances to support local efforts in resource protection.
- Waivers and petition provisions to allow for flexibility, where appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Development Committee has reviewed and discussed the RMP framework its January 12, 2006 meeting and recommended that the framework be adopted by the Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

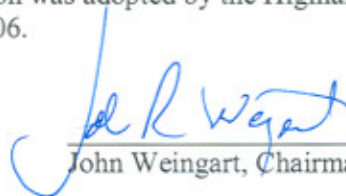
1. The Highlands Council hereby directs the staff to continue to develop and update the Draft Plan Conformance Process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Highlands Council hereby authorizes the adoption of the draft general framework so that prior to completing development of the regional master plan, the Highlands Council can seek input from the public on the structure of the regional master plan.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 19th day of January 2006.



John Weingart, Chairman