

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION
AND PLANNING COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 24, 2008

PRESENT

JOHN WEINGART) CHAIRMAN

BILL COGGER) COUNCIL MEMBERS

VIA TELECONFERENCE

MIMI LETTS)
ERIK PETERSON)
TAHESHA WAY)
JACK SCHRIER)
GLEN VETRANO)
JANICE KOVACH)
TRACY CARLUCCIO)
TIM DILLINGHAM)
SCOTT WHITENACK)

ABSENT

KURT ALSTEDE)
ELIZABETH CALABRESE)
DEBBIE PASQUARELLI)

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman of the Council, John Weingart, called the 75th meeting of the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council to order at 10:08 am.

ROLL CALL

The members introduced themselves.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Chairman Weingart announced that the meeting was called in accordance with the Open Public meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 and that the Highlands Council had sent written notice of the time, date, and location of this meeting to pertinent newspapers or circulation throughout the State and posted on the Highlands Council website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2008

Mr. Cogger introduced the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Schrier seconded the motion.

Ms. Letts had an addition to her comment on page 23 – regarding things that cannot happen – she stated that it is because there is no governmental entity at the subwatershed level.

Mr. Peterson, Ms. Calabrese, Mr. Alstede and Ms. Pasquarelli were absent. All other members present voted to approve. The minutes were APPROVED.

MR. PETERSON JOINED THE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE.

RESOLUTIONS

I. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION – Approval of Certain Planning Assistance Grants (voting matter with public comment)

Summary: *The Highlands Council initiated a grant application process for Initial Assessment grants to municipalities within the seven Highlands Counties in furtherance of Plan Conformance, in an annual amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. Council staff reviewed the grant applications and recommend grants for Council consideration.*

1. Consideration of Resolution – Initial Assessment Grant for Alexandria Township
The Township of Alexandria, County of Hunterdon is applying for an initial assessment grant in the amount not to exceed \$15,000. Ms. Swan explained that this is their first grant application to the Highlands Council.
2. Consideration of Resolution – Initial Assessment Grant for Franklin Township
The Township of Franklin, County of Warren, is applying for an initial assessment grant in the amount not to exceed \$15,000. Ms. Swan specified that they did have a 2006 COAH grant which was successfully completed.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Cogger moved the motion for the resolution for assistance grants and Mr. Schrier seconded. Ms. Pasquarelli, Ms. Calabrese and Mr. Alstede were absent. All other members present voted to approve. The resolution was APPROVED.

II. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION – Submission of a Petition for Plan Endorsement (voting matter with public comment)

Summary: *Pursuant to Section 8.a of the Highlands Act, the Highlands Council is required to develop, adopt, and periodically revise a Regional Master Plan (RMP) after consulting with governmental entities, with a goal of protecting and enhancing the significant values of the resources of the Highlands Region. Having completed the final version of the RMP, the Council shall submit the RMP to the State Planning Commission (SPC) for Plan Endorsement within 60 days of adoption. In accordance with Section 69 of the Highlands Act, any portion of a municipality or county located in the Preservation Area is exempt from the SPC Plan Endorsement process. Thereby, the Highlands Council authorizes its Executive Director to submit a Petition for Plan Endorsement, for the Planning Area, to the SPC as soon as practicable.*

Chairman Weingart explained that the Council, pursuant to Section 8.b of the Highlands Act, shall submit the RMP to the SPC for Plan Endorsement within 60 days of adoption of the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Ms. Letts introduced the motion for the resolution. Mr. Schrier seconded it. ALL members voted in favor. The resolution was APPROVED.

Mr. Schrier stated that he would like to introduce a motion for a resolution. He introduced the resolution for commending Chairman Weingart for his leadership and dedication.

III. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION – Commending John Weingart for his Leadership and Dedication to the Highlands Council and its Mission

Summary: *The Highlands Council commends Chairman Weingart for his service, commitment, and dedication as Chairman of the Highlands Council for the past three years and seven months. The Council hereby authorizes its Executive Director to transmit this resolution to Governor Jon S. Corzine and the sponsors of the Highlands Act recognizing Chairman Weingart's tireless efforts to lead the Highlands Council towards adoption of the Regional Master Plan.*

Mr. Vetrano moved the motion, Ms. Letts seconded it.

Ms. Letts stated that this is a great idea. Ms. Swan stated that she would like to read the resolution after the vote.

Ms. Pasquarelli, Ms. Calabrese and Mr. Alstede were absent. Chairman Weingart abstained. ALL members voted in favor. The resolution was APPROVED.

Mr. Schrier stated that this was a way to thank the Chairman. Ms. Swan read the resolution for the public. (Applause) Mr. Schrier stated that the Chairman deserves the recognition and asked that Ms. Swan distribute the resolution to the press.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Shope – He expressed that the Council and none of the sponsors of the bill have found proper funding for compensation. The needs of the wildlife and the desire for more land by the environmentalists have been a higher priority. Taking the land is simply theft and funding must be found.

Andy Drysdale – He stated that he would like to read a letter that he just mailed to the Governor. He read the letter regarding the adoption of the Plan without proper funding for compensation to landowners. The Act states that landowners will receive just compensation. He explained that he is still working at 72 to make ends meet. He asks the Governor to veto the Plan until landowners have been properly compensated.

Ms. Swan recognized Ms. Forrest for her work on the minutes, which required a great effort to complete and resulted in an accurate representation of the meeting. She also recognized Mr. Borden for reviewing them for accuracy.

Mr. Cogger made the motion to adjourn. All members were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Vote on the Approval of these Minutes

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Alstede	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Calabrese	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓
Councilmember Carluccio	_____	✓	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Cogger	✓	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Dillingham	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓
Councilmember Kovach	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Letts	_____	_____	✓	_____	_____	_____

**Vote on the Approval of
these Minutes**

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Pasquarelli	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____
Councilmember Peterson	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Schrier	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Vetrano	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	✓ _____
Councilmember Way	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Whitenack	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____
Councilmember Weingart	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____