

RESOLUTION 2006-19
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
PROCESS FOR THE APPROVAL OF GRANTS FOR THE SUPPORT
OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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, Section 2 of the Highlands Act specifies that the maintenance of agricultural production and a positive agricultural business climate should be encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, Section 6, paragraphs u and w, of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to promote, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture, conservation of water resources and to work with the State Agriculture Development Committee and the Garden State Preservation Trust to establish incentives for any landowner in the Highlands Region seeking to preserve land to ensure the protection of water resources; and

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the Highlands Act sets goals for the Regional Master Plan to preserve farmlands, promote compatible agriculture uses, and promote the continuation and expansion of uses and opportunities within the frame work of protecting the Highlands environment; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to make available grants or other financial and technical assistance to municipalities and counties in furtherance of the Regional Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resource Committee met and recommends the approval of a county and municipal grant program to support sustainable agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Finance Committee met to examine the proposed grant program and determined the availability of an amount not to exceed \$450,000 in grant funds to support a sustainable agriculture grants program; and

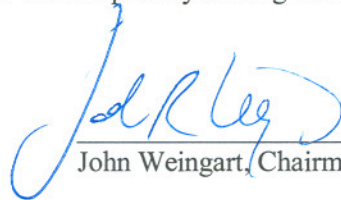
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Natural Resource Committee is hereby authorized to develop a process for the solicitation of grants to Highlands Region municipalities and counties in furtherance of the development of the Regional Master Plan, using the following grant categories:
 - a. Integrated Crop Management Grants;
 - b. Market Development/Niche Crop Grants; and
 - c. County Agriculture Development Board Capacity Building Grants; and
2. The Natural Resource Committee is hereby authorized to solicit such grants; and
3. The Natural Resource Committee shall ensure that the grant process includes systems for accountability, measures of success, and reporting; and

4. The Natural Resource Committee shall report its recommendations to the Highlands Council for decisions on final grant awards.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 11th day of May, 2006.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Weingart", is written over a horizontal line.

John Weingart, Chairman