



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

THOMAS K. WRIGHT
Chairman

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
LT. GOVERNOR

DONNA A. RENDEIRO
Executive Director/Secretary

**New Jersey State Planning Commission
Plan Implementation Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on October 28, 2020
Zoom Video Conference**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Robinson called the October 28, 2020 meeting of the New Jersey Plan Implementation Committee (PIC) order at 9:31 a.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

It was announced that notice of the date, time and place of the meeting had been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Freeholder Director Shanel Robinson, Chair, County Member
Nick Angarone, Designee for Catherine McCabe, Commissioner, Department of Environmental
Sean Thompson, Designee for Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, Department of State
Susan Weber, Designee for Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, Department of Transportation

Others Present through Video conference

See Attachment A

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairwoman Robinson asked everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairwoman Robinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2020 meeting. Sean Thompson made the motion and it was seconded by Susan Weber. With no further discussion or questions, Chairwoman Robinson asked for a roll call vote: Yes:(4) Susan Weber, Nick Angarone, Sean Thompson, Shanel Robinson. Nays: (0). Abstains: (0). The September 23, 2020 minutes were approved.

CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairwoman Robinson expressed that after a lot of meetings, work, discussions and conversations. Today we move forward to get the State Planning back into the right track.

Chairwoman Robinson referred to the Executive Directors for a report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Rendeiro recommended, for the 2021 calendar, the SPC meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. She further recommended that the PIC meetings be held, instead of the 4th Wednesday of every month, the 3rd Wednesday of every month. This recommendation is due to staff needing that extra time to make changes that have been recommended by the PIC prior to presentation to the SPC. Director Rendeiro asked for any questions or concerns before moving forward with that schedule. .

Chairwoman Robinson asked when the schedule will be effective. Director Rendeiro confirmed that the schedule will be effective in January 2021 as part of the reorganization meeting.

NEW BUSINESS**REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATION OF ENDORSEMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS MASTER PLAN**

Director Rendeiro commented that the office has been working with the Highlands Council to coordinate planning efforts. Earlier this year, the SPC approved an updated Memorandum of Understanding that included working together to coordinate goals.

The first order of business as a result of the MOU is for the SPC to consider endorsing the Highlands Master Plan which had started many years ago, but never went through. The office performed an analysis together with the Highlands staff. There was an intensive review of their Master Plan including any of the amendments since adoption of the HMP.

The Director believes that the HMP is consistent with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, with the exception of two items that the Highlands Council has agreed to complete – a Highlands Resiliency Strategy and addressing Equity concerns.

Director Rendeiro recommended that the endorsement be move to the State Planning Commission with the understanding that the HMP will be updated with its next amendment.

The second item of note is that the Highlands Council is starting to develop an economic strategy in which the Office of Planning Advocacy is involved. In addition to coordination in terms of environmental protection, resiliency and equity, the office is also working with them to update an economic sustainability strategy.

Director Rendeiro commented that the office believed that with all these efforts that the Highlands Master Plan, is in fact, consistent with the State Plan.

Director Rendeiro referred the presentation to Matt Blake.

Matt Blake Spoke - In furtherance of the requirement for SPC endorsement of the 2008 Highlands RMP, I was tasked with reviewing the goals and policies of the so-called RMP to certify Planning Area consistency with the State Plan. While my review examined the RMP and associated materials in their entirety, it was ultimately limited to addressing only those aspects of the RMP, which address the Planning Areas, as the Highlands Act is very clear regarding SPC jurisdiction NOT extending to the Preservation Areas.

Based on my review of the Petition materials provided, I believe the RMP and subsequent amendments and addendum, including Plan Conformance Procedures, Highlands Redevelopment Area Designation Procedures, Procedures for Considering Proposals to Amend the RMP, and an Acreage Update, are substantially consistent with the Statewide Goals, Strategies and Policies of the State Plan.

I think it is important to note that in 2008, the Highlands Council did previously submit the RMP to the SPC for endorsement in accordance with the requirements of the Highlands Act. Unfortunately, that process was never completed for reasons outside of the control of either the Highlands Council or the SPC.

However, as part of the prior petition, the Highlands Council submitted a Self-Assessment Report, which was included in your agenda packet for this meeting. The Self-Assessment Report remains very much relevant to this day, and provides an easy to follow table with an overview of the RMP's consistency with the goals, policies and strategies of the State Plan. While I relied on this table as part of my analysis, I nonetheless compared each and every, goal, policy and strategy between the respective plans, and RMP amendments.

While the RMP is substantially consistent with the State Plan, it does not however, comprehensively address the State Plan Policy No. 1, regarding Equity, as necessary to comprehensively address environmental justice in light Executive Order No. 23, and recent landmark legislation passed, as well as to incorporate climate change and resiliency planning pursuant to Executive Order No. 89 – really, these are important mandates that both plans need to be updated to adequately address.

In recent discussions with staff from the Highlands Council, it is my understanding that work on these updates is already underway in an effort to bring the RMP into consistency with the above-mentioned executive orders and legislation. As such, should the SPC determine to endorse the RMP as OPA recommends, it may wish to address these future amendments as part of adopting a PIA in the future.

Director Rendeiro asked for any comments from the Highlands Council.

Judy Thornton, Principal Planner for the New Jersey Highlands Council, thanked the Office of Planning Advocacy and especially to Matt Blake for all the efforts. Ms. Thornton expressed that they all agreed with the assessments and are committed to moving forward on the two items that were mentioned. Work had already begun; most extensively regarding Climate Change and Resiliency.

Director Rendeiro commented that the Office is also looking at the maps to make sure that there is a consistency between the Highlands and OPA mapping.

Director Rendeiro read the comments from Danielle Esser: "Given the tremendous amount of planning the Highlands has contributed for the region over many years, it is a great benefit for the State Planning Commission to be able to endorse the Highlands Regional Master Plan. Also, it is important to recognize that not only have the Highlands, through their extensive planning, worked hard to protect sensitive lands and water resources, but they have also, through these efforts, worked with communities to identify and support opportunities for growth in the appropriate areas throughout the region."

Chairwoman Robinson thanked Matt for all the hard work.

Chairwoman Robinson asked for a motion to open for questions or comments from the public. The motion was made by Nick Angarone and seconded by Sean Thompson. All were in favor.

With no questions or comments from the public, Chairwoman Robinson asked for a motion to close the public portion. The motion was made by Sean Thompson and seconded by Susan Weber. All were in favor.

Chairwoman Robinson asked for comments from Commission members.

Nick Angarone expressed DEP's support for the two recommended conditions which are consistent with the recently released guidance for EO-89 and EO-23. The Council has been actively involved since the beginning with the Interagency Council Climate Resilience demonstrating their commitment.

Chairwoman Robinson asked for a motion to move forward with the recommended conditions to the State Planning Commission. Nick Angarone made the motion and was seconded by Sean Thompson. With no further discussion or questions, Chairwoman Robinson asked for a roll call vote: Yes:(4) Susan Weber, Nick Angarone, Sean Thompson, Shanel Robinson. Nays: (0). Abstains: (0).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further comments from the Commission or the public, Chairwoman Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Nick Angarone and seconded by Susan Weber. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

ATTACHMENT A**NEW JERSEY STATE PLANNING COMMISSION ATTENDEES****DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2020 TIME: 9:30 AM**

Jason Kasler - NJPO
Walter Lane – New Jersey Association of Counties
Joanne Chen – Student, Rutgers University
Rhyan Grech - Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Jonathan Sternesky – NJHMFA
Dave DuMont – NJDEP
Maryjude Haddock-Willer – NJ Highlands
Judy Thorton – NJ Highlands
James Humphries – NJ Highlands
Tom Tagliareni - NJ Highlands
Emma Kilkelly – NJDEP
Dave Rosenblatt – NJDEP
Matt Baumgardner – NJDEP
Liz Semple – NJDEP
Margaret Cavanagh – NJDEP