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MEETING OF THE HIGHLANDS COUNCIL**

RMP Program: Regional Master Plan Monitoring
Version: November 7, 2007

<p>Issue Overview</p>	<p>The RMP seeks to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Highlands Region, while maintaining a sustainable economy. The Highlands Council recognizes that the RMP will be implemented in an ever changing Highlands Region and despite a changing landscape, the RMP will need to continue to provide solutions to current issues.</p> <p>Monitoring and research are vital to understanding the impact of the RMP and of conditions that affect the RMP. Once data are collected and tracked over a period of time, conclusions can be drawn regarding the effectiveness of the RMP. Indicators will be used by the Highlands Council to evaluate regional conditions, identify new or emerging issues, and develop future priorities. Based on the findings of the monitoring, updates and amendments to RMP policies and programs may need to be made. The implementation of a monitoring program is necessary to ensure the vision of long-term sustainability in the Highlands Region.</p>
<p>RMP Policies and Objectives Addressed</p>	<p>Policy 10A1 To ensure that programs and policies are effectively coordinated to promote the purpose and provisions of the RMP, through efforts with all levels of government, including local, county, regional, State and federal agencies.</p> <p>Policy 10A2 To ensure sufficient local participation in the development of the RMP and on-going work of the Highlands Council.</p> <p>Objective 10A2a <i>Engage stakeholder groups and individuals in public participation opportunities that provide meaningful input in the Highland Council planning process.</i></p> <p>Policy 10A3 To ensure maximum RMP Conformance by municipalities and counties to achieve the highest level of protection for all important natural systems and resources of the Highlands.</p> <p>Objective 10A3a <i>Provide benefits and incentives to municipalities and counties that Conform to the RMP.</i></p> <p>Policy 10A4 To monitor and track the long-term success of the Regional Master Plan.</p> <p>Objective 10A4a <i>Prepare a Highlands RMP Monitoring Review Report biennially to ensure that the RMP is meeting its goals.</i></p>
<p>Program Summary</p>	<p>The RMP Monitoring Program and associated Monitoring Review Report provide the framework for evaluating progress in achieving the goals of the RMP through</p>

	<p>implementation of policies and programs. The approach is similar to that of a municipal master plan re-examination report. The implementation of a monitoring program will ensure that the RMP remain effective and current.</p>
<p>RMP Monitoring</p>	<p>Program Description</p> <p>The RMP Monitoring Program will provide a framework for tracking the long-term success of the RMP. The review will consist of on-going monitoring of indicators and a periodic monitoring report which documents regional indicators and milestones. The monitoring initiative will evaluate progress in achieving the goals set forth in the RMP as they pertain to conforming municipalities and counties, as well as to non-conforming municipalities and counties, to the degree that information is available.</p> <p>Monitoring activities by the Highlands Council will guide potential amendments to the RMP. Indicators will help to identify where RMP policy is most effective, and where amendments to policy or programs may be useful. If an aspect of the RMP is found to be unattainable, ineffective, or missing, this assessment will result in an appropriate course of action.</p> <p>Indicators relating to environmental, social, and economic health will be used to document changes in the Highlands Region. Indicators will be chosen based upon the usefulness of information they communicate and data availability throughout the Region over time. Indicators may be either quantitative or qualitative depending on the parameter to be measured. If at any time an indicator is found to be inadequate, or another measurement is found to better measure a parameter of the RMP, the indicator may be revised. The values may reflect a Highlands baseline data standard or a governmental standard. Monitoring will also identify gaps in available data and develop data-gathering mechanisms to fill such gaps or include recommendations for additional or alternative data.</p> <p>The monitoring of indicators will be an on-going process, although the Monitoring Review Report will be prepared periodically, as described below.</p>
<p>RMP Monitoring Review Report</p>	<p>Program Description</p> <p>The RMP Monitoring Review Report will be used to communicate with state, federal, county, and local planning partners and the general public the successes of the RMP, as well as the remaining challenges to the Region. Initially, the RMP Monitoring Review Report will be a baseline assessment of the Highlands Region, based upon the RMP monitoring indicators. The initial assessment will inform the development of “Highlands Milestones.” Milestones will be chosen for each indicator and are intended to reflect progress toward long-term RMP goals. For example, an RMP indicator that would be measured yearly may be “acres of critical protection priorities that are preserved as open space”. The milestone would be an “increase in preserved critical protection priorities from the previous year.” Another associated milestone would be an “increase in conservation easements from the previous year.” An emphasis will be placed on substantive indicators that directly measure “real world” change or protection. Where milestones are needed for RMP implementation, administrative or programmatic indicators may be used as well.</p> <p>The Monitoring Review Report will track changes to the indicators and report on Highlands Milestones achieved and not achieved.</p> <p>Examples of Highlands Milestones that may be used include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in the acreage of new parks and preserved open space and farmland that preserve high priority lands; ▪ Increase in the number of redevelopment and brownfields properties that

	<p>are redeveloped in conformance with RMP policies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction or elimination of Water Deficits in HUC14 subwatersheds; ▪ Increase in the percentage of new development within areas served by public water and sewerage; ▪ Compliance of new development with RMP septic system densities, where public sewerage is not used; ▪ Increase in the number of zoning amendments and/or new/updated ordinances reflecting RMP policy; ▪ Increase in the percentage of new construction projects that include mixed use or green building approaches; ▪ Increase in the number of new/updated resource management plans or protection measures reflecting RMP policy; ▪ Increase in the number of opportunities for public participation in the Highlands planning process, including education and outreach programs; and ▪ Increase in the number of municipalities or portions of municipalities participating in Plan Conformance. <p>The monitoring of indicators is an on-going process, and the RMP Monitoring Review Report will be produced every 2 years, or additionally, if necessary. RMP Monitoring Review Reports will be used to inform the development of future iterations of the RMP.</p>
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