



## State of New Jersey

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*Chairperson*

MARGARET NORDSTROM  
*Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** RMP Amendment Committee

**From:** Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director

**Subject:** RMP Amendment Committee Meeting of July 17, 2018

**Date:** July 25, 2018

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The RMP Amendment Committee met on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 3:00pm at the Highlands Council office in Chester.

RMP Amendment Committee Members present: Council Chair Richko, Committee Chair Alstede, Members Dressler, Holtaway, and Vohden (via phone).

Highlands Council Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, John Maher, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Corey Piasecki (via phone), Keri Green, and Carole Ann Dicon

Also, present via phone: Lauren Nathan-LaRusso, Associate Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit (GAU)

Members of the public in attendance: Julia Somers and Zachary Cole, New Jersey Highlands Coalition; and Wilma Frey, New Jersey Conservation Foundation

#### Status of Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR)

As noted in the committee's minutes of June 15, 2018, members of the Highlands Council staff met with representatives of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition (Coalition) on February 16, 2018. At the committee's June 15, 2018 meeting, notes from that meeting were reviewed and recommendations for edits to the MPRR to address some of the Coalition's comments were made. At the June committee meeting, Council Chair Richko suggested that Council staff meet with some members of the Highlands Coalition one more time before bringing the MPRR with changes to the full Council.

At today's committee meeting, attended by some representatives of the Coalition, the Highlands staff discussed proposed edits to the MPRR. These discussions were on the following topics:

- Restoration of Streams and Riparian Areas (page 15)
- Wastewater Systems Maintenance (page 31)
- Land Use Capability Analysis (page 50)
- Implementation Prioritization (page 65-66)
- Municipal Plan Conformance (page 66-67)

There was extensive discussion regarding alternative wastewater systems for the Highlands region, in particular in some of the small villages in the region.

Another topic of discussion was climate change. Ms. Nordstrom read from the MPRR (page 45) under Air Quality.

Regarding the adjustments made to page 50 of the MPRR under Land Use Capability Analysis, the committee suggested that the word “are” be changed to “may be”

*At 3:38pm, members of the public in attendance were brought into the discussion.*

Ms. Somers commented that the Coalition welcomed the responses by Highlands staff, but said she could not speak on policy at this time. Ms. Somers then commented that the Coalition would like to work with Highlands staff on municipal outreach regarding plan conformance and implementation. Ms. Somers also commented that the public should be invited to committee meetings.

Committee Chair Alstede commented on opening the meetings to all other organizations, not just the Coalition, as it would show favoritism.

Member Dressler had concerns about opening committee meetings to the public as the Council could open itself up for potential lawsuits. Council member Holtaway echoed these concerns. Member Dressler felt that the public could be included at certain times.

Council Chair Richko was at first in favor of opening the committee meetings to the public except for the Personnel committee.

At this time, Council Chair Richko expressed that he needed to think more on opening committee meetings to the public.

The Coalition also commented on the following topics:

- Sustainable development plan and Water Use Conservation Management Plan (WUCMP).
- Involving ANJEC for Plan Conformance
- Forestry exemption
- Checklist municipalities
- WQMP plans

*Council Chair Richko left the meeting at 4:13pm.*

Report out to Council

At Council's next meeting scheduled on July 19, 2018, the committee will update the full Council on next steps for the MPRR and the procedure document.

Ms. Nathan-LaRusso requested that Highlands staff send the procedure document.

*The RMP Amendment Committee adjourned at 4:19pm.*