

**RESOLUTION 2021-05**  
**APPROVAL OF FY2021 HIGHLANDS PROTECTION FUND CAPITAL BUDGET**  
**FOR PLAN CONFORMANCE FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts and execute any and all instruments to carry out any power, duty or responsibility under the Highlands Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 14 of the Highlands Act expressly requires mandatory Plan Conformance where municipalities, located wholly or partially in the Preservation Area, must revise and conform their local master plan and development regulations, as they relate to development and use of land in the Preservation Area, with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 of the Highlands Act provides for voluntary Plan Conformance where any municipality located wholly or partially in the Planning Area may voluntarily revise and conform their local master plans and development regulations, as they relate to the development and use of land in the Planning Area, with the goals, requirements and provisions of the Regional Master Plan at any time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Act provides that an approval of a Petition for Plan Conformance entitles the conforming municipality with specific benefits including: planning grants, technical assistance, state aid, priority for projects, tax stabilization funds, a strong presumption of validity and extraordinary deference in the event of legal challenge, and legal representation; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 18 of the Highlands Act obligates the Highlands Council to establish a grant funding program to reimburse municipalities for reasonable expenses associated with Plan Conformance; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2008, the Highlands Council approved Resolution 2008-73 to provide grant funding for the Highlands municipalities to cover the reasonable expenses associated with revisions to master plans, development regulations or other regulations to conform them to the Regional Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, every Highlands municipality that has successfully petitioned the Highlands Council for Plan Conformance has an Implementation Plan and Schedule that includes a detailed accounting of the existing Plan Conformance Grants and the allocation of additional grant funding in order to address the Highlands Act requirements for Plan Conformance; and

**WHEREAS**, the following municipalities are in need of additional reimbursement-based grant funding in order to address the Highlands Act requirements for Plan Conformance funding:

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**Plan Conformance Funding (not-to-exceed amounts):**

<b>Municipality/County</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Independence Township	Initial Assessment Grant	\$10,000.00
Randolph Township	Water Use and Conservation Management Plan	\$60,000.00
Rockaway Township	Lake Management Planning	\$175,525.00
Total		\$245,525.00

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council staff recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the execution of a Supplemental Amended Plan Conformance Grant Agreement with each of the aforementioned municipalities, for the funding allotted to the above-referenced tasks in the amounts so designated, not to exceed in the aggregate, \$245,525; and

**WHEREAS**, the Highlands Council approved the FY2021 Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget pursuant to Resolution 2021-04 on January 14, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the above-referenced \$245,525 allocation is included in the FY 2021 Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:20-5.j, no action authorized by the Highlands Council shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Highlands Council hereby authorizes the Executive Director to execute Supplemental Amended Plan Conformance Grant Agreements with the above listed municipalities, at not to exceed amounts as set forth above;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Highlands Council hereby approves the above-referenced municipal funding in the Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 in order to provide grant funding for those Highlands municipalities to cover the reasonable expenses associated with revisions to master plans, development regulations or other regulations to conform them to the Regional Master Plan, not to exceed \$580,000 in the aggregate; and

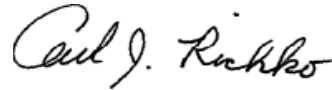
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Highlands Council hereby authorizes, ratifies and approves the Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedules for the above-referenced municipalities, including the reallocation of their existing Plan Conformance Grant and the allocation of additional grant funding to pay for the reasonable expenses incurred to complete their Plan Conformance conditions; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director is authorized to make any amendments to the Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedules of the above listed municipalities, and to amend their Plan Conformance Grant Agreements consistent with direction from the Highlands Council, to properly effectuate the intent of the Council and thereafter execute the Implementation Plan and Schedules on behalf of the Council.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

<b>Vote on the Approval of This Resolution</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Councilmember Alstede			√			
Councilmember Dougherty						√
Councilmember Dressler			√			
Councilmember Francis			√			
Councilmember Holtaway	√		√			
Councilmember James			√			
Councilmember Sebetich			√			
Councilmember Van Abs			√			
Councilmember Visioli		√	√			
Councilmember Vohden			√			
Councilmember Walton			√			
Chairman Richko			√			