



State of New Jersey

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MEMORANDUM

To: Budget & Finance Committee
From: Lisa J. Plevin, Executive Director
Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2022
Date: June 15, 2022

A Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee meeting was held on Friday, June 10, 2022 at 10:00am via Zoom video conference.

Committee Chair Holtaway opened the meeting at 10:03am. The following participants were present:

Committee: Committee Chair Holtaway, Council Chair Richko, and Members James and Visioli.

Highlands Staff: Lisa J. Plevin, Gabrielle Gallagher, James Humphries, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Kelley Curran, Corey Piasecki, Neda Hartman and Annette Tagliareni.

Also present: Jeffry Nielsen, Associate Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit (GAU)

Committee Chair Holtaway announced the two grants being considered today.

Highlands Plan Conformance Grant Funding Request from Allamuchy Township (Warren County) – Open Space & Recreation Plan (\$17,000)

Lisa Plevin noted that Council staff reengaged with Allamuchy Township officials in March to address their top priorities and interests after a long hiatus. The topic of Plan Conformance for the Planning Area was raised, and we are hopeful that they will consider this for the future.

Principal Planner, Corey Piasecki, added that before Allamuchy Township's hiatus, the Township did complete Plan Conformance activities from their Implementation and Plan Schedule. After the March meeting the Township requested grant funding for their Master Plan Re-examination Report and the scope of work was approved in April. Today, Allamuchy Township's grant request is for an Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Township's current OSRP was prepared in 2002 and

municipalities are required to adopt a new/updated OSRP to compete for NJDEP Green Acres Planning and Incentive grant funding. The adoption of an Open Space Plan is a mandatory component of Plan Conformance (RMP Policy 1I1).

The Committee had no comments.

Committee Chair Holtaway asked for a motion to move the grant funding request for Allamuchy Township to the Council for consideration. Member Visioli made a motion and Member James seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor.

Highlands Plan Conformance Grant Funding Request from Somerset County – Watershed Management Plan - \$59,150

Ms. Plevin reported that Somerset County is conforming for the Preservation Area only. Council staff recently spoke with Walter Lane, County Planning Director, regarding conformance in the Planning Area. Mr. Lane indicated he would raise the issue with County Commissioners and Council staff is developing a work plan to present to the County regarding next steps.

Kelley Curran, Science Manager, noted that Somerset County is requesting a grant for a Watershed Management Program. Somerset County is working with Princeton Hydro, LLC for a proposed Somerset County Parks Watershed Management Program. The project proposes to conduct assessment of the watersheds of two lakes in the County (Lord Stirling Park in Bernards Township and Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills Borough). Ms. Curran noted that these lakes have experienced recent harmful algal blooms (HABs), impacting their recreational use. Tasks identified in the scope of work include: historical data review, bathymetric surveys, watershed modeling, hydrologic and pollutant loading, water quality monitoring, trophic state assessment and a general assessment report. The final report will identify the watershed management measures for implementation. Lake management plans are a required part of Plan Conformance (RMP Policy 1L6). Ms. Curran noted that the estimated timeline is approximately 17 months.

Committee Member Visioli asked if this timeline is typical. Ms. Curran responded that the timeline is a bit longer since the plan is focused on two separate watersheds.

Ms. Plevin added that Watershed Management Plans are at the core of our mission and the goals, policies, and objectives of the Regional Master Plan (RMP) and Highlands Act.

Committee Chair Holtaway asked for a motion to move the grant funding request for Somerset County to the Council for consideration. Member James made a motion and Member Visioli seconded it. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16am.