

RESOLUTION 2023-17

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO DEVELOP OR UPDATE WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PLANS WITHIN THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS REGION

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act), N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq., 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 Council is tasked with implementing the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts to effectuate the purposes of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of goals in the Highlands Act that the Highlands Council is responsible for achieving, and the overarching goal is the protection of the Region's natural resources with an emphasis on restoration/protection of water resources; and

WHEREAS, to help meet this goal, the Highlands Council seeks to develop or update additional Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans within the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking multidisciplinary teams (Teams) to develop or update Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans for one or more subwatershed(s) within the Highlands Region, which can be used to apply for funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for Water Quality Restoration Grants under the federal 319(h) pass-through grants of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), as well as other funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council focus for this project is on protecting high quality subwatersheds as well as improving subwatersheds that are impaired due to any number of factors, including but not limited to point & non-point source pollution issues, harmful algal blooms (HABs), contamination for which total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) have been developed or are in need of development, contaminated sites, stormwater impacts, septic system failures, animal waste, agricultural practices, climate change and dams; and

WHEREAS, this project will ultimately identify methods for improving the watershed(s), including load reduction methods, septic system maintenance recommendations (if needed), green stormwater infrastructure implementation, stormwater facilities retrofit/rehabilitation projects, dam removal projects (if applicable), and best management practices within the identified subwatershed(s); and

WHEREAS, the RFP was released to the public on January 25, 2023, and four (4) Teams submitted proposals on or before the deadline of April 17, 2023; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the proposals, staff selected three (3) Teams to participate in in-depth interviews to determine the extent of their expertise in all facets of watershed restoration and protection and their overall suitability to provide the services contemplated in the RFP; and

WHEREAS, Highlands Council staff recommends that the following team is best suited to meet the needs articulated by the Highlands Council's RFP: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, through the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program along with Subconsultants Raritan Headwaters Association and New Jersey Water Supply Authority; and

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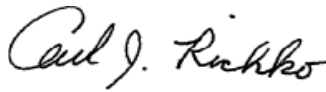
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WHEREAS, Highlands Council staff further recommends that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the aforementioned Team to develop or update watershed restoration and protection plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands Council that the Executive Director, or their designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, for an amount not to exceed \$371,562.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 21st day of September, 2023.



Carl J. Richko, Chairman

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