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Highlands Council Votes to Appoint Margaret Nordstrom as Executive Director *Former Deputy Director Brings Wealth of Experience to the Role*

CHESTER, N.J. — At its most recent meeting the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council) voted to appoint Margaret Nordstrom as Executive Director. Nordstrom had been serving as Acting Executive Director since April, and previously held the role of Deputy Executive Director since being hired to the agency in June of 2012.

“We received a number of resumes from candidates with solid experience, and conducted interviews with the most qualified among them,” explains Highlands Council Chairman Jim Rilee, who is also chair of the Council’s Personnel Committee. “Margaret’s background and experience – particularly having served as Deputy Director and later Acting Executive Director – clearly stood out. With more than two years at the agency already under her belt, we feel she will be able to smoothly transition into this role and continue to make positive contributions.” Rilee also noted that Nordstrom’s tenure with the agency would be tremendously helpful as the agency embarks on the critical work of the Regional Master Plan (RMP) Monitoring program.

Prior to joining the Highlands Council, Nordstrom served for 12 years as a Morris County Freeholder and 12 years as a member of the Washington Township (Morris) Committee. Her work in these capacities includes extensive experience in strategic planning, environmental protection, and economic development.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the Highlands Council voted to approve its FY2015 Operating Budget, and FY2015 Highlands Protection Fund budgets, which provide funding in support of Plan Conformance activities.

Actions taken by the Council at this meeting will take effect following the Governor's review and consideration of the meeting minutes, up to 10 business days from receipt of the minutes. Materials related to this meeting including resolutions, presentations, audio and minutes will be posted at: www.nj.gov/njhighlands/about/calend/ (click on October 16 meeting).

The Highlands Council is a regional planning entity, established in 2004 with the passing of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act and charged with implementation of the Act. More information is available at www.nj.gov/njhighlands.

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