



State of New Jersey

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Highlands Council Votes to Appoint Gene F. Feyl Executive Director

*New Director Will Bring Extensive
Public and Private Sector Experience to Role*

CHESTER, N.J. — At its most recent meeting, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council voted to appoint Gene F. Feyl of Denville as Executive Director of the Highlands Council staff. The appointment, along with other resolutions passed at the 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. A start date for Mr. Feyl will be determined once the appointment is made effective. Jim Rilee, Highlands Council Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the recent decision.

"I strongly believe and have a high level of confidence in the fact that Gene can not only perform the duties as Executive Director, but will excel in the position," said Rilee. "Gene is well-versed to not only lead the Highlands Council Staff, but to deal with the public and the advocates of varying and diverse opinions of our Highlands Community and is also capable of taking direction and performing the duties that this Council will require of him." The resolution calls for the Executive Director to receive an annual salary of \$116,000. Rilee noted that Feyl brings a background as a business owner and long-time elected official in Denville Township and Morris County. "Gene started the first Open Space plan in Denville that eventually secured over 1,200 acres in open space acquisitions," Rilee said.

Also at the April 19 meeting, the Council approved submission of the Highlands Council 2011 Annual Report to the Governor, and a Petition for Plan Conformance from Alexandria Township that addresses the Preservation Area totaling 2,721 acres of land. This approval brings the total number of approved municipal Petitions to 40. Overall, 60 towns have submitted Petitions to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan to date, resulting in a 97-percent conformance in

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the Preservation Area (401,903 acres) and 33-percent conformance in the Planning Area lands (147,755 acres). In addition, five of the seven counties in the region have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, with two approved to-date.

Of particular note is progress in the Planning Area where conformance is voluntary. To date more than half (53%) of the 36 municipalities with lands in both the Preservation Area and Planning Area have submitted petitions to conform in their Planning Area lands. Included in that number are nine municipalities that are located entirely within the Planning Area (25%). In all, 34 of the 83 municipalities with lands in the Planning Area (41%) have chosen to conform to the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

“There are many reasons for municipal interest in Plan Conformance for the Planning Area, as reflected in the nine Highlands Centers approved to date by the Highlands Council. This interest also reflects the strong relationships we have built within the municipalities,” said Dan Van Abs, Highlands Council Acting Executive Director.

Petitions and other documents considered at this meeting can be found at:
<http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/about/calend/> (scroll to 4/19/2012 meeting)

For more information about the Petition from Alexandria:
http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/planconformance/alexandria_twp.html

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