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Highlands Council Sets The Date To Adopt Regional Master Plan

Additional Council meetings scheduled to meet deadline

CHESTER, N.J. – The Highlands Council today announced a schedule that would allow them to consider the adoption of the Regional Master Plan at a meeting **on Thursday, July 17 at 10 a.m.** Six additional Council meetings also were added to the meeting schedule to ensure that adequate time was given to consider comments received and incorporate appropriate changes in the Regional Master Plan.

“We are in the home stretch in adopting the Regional Master Plan for the Highlands, and it is important that we give the Council and Staff enough time to do whatever work that is needed in refining the document so we adopt the best Plan possible,” said John Weingart, Chairman of the Highlands Council. “We have set July 17 as our final deadline, and these additional meetings give us ample time to meet this goal.”

The new meetings are in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings approved by the Highlands Council. The amended meeting schedule is as follows:

- April 10 at 10 a.m.
- April 24 at 4 p.m.
- May 1 at 10 a.m.*
- May 15 at 10 a.m.
- May 22 at 4 p.m.*
- June 5 at 10 a.m.*
- June 12 at 10 a.m.*
- June 26 at 4 p.m.*
- July 10 at 10 a.m.*

- July 17 at 10 a.m.
- July 24 at 10 a.m.*
- August 21 at 10 a.m.
- September 18 at 10 a.m.
- October 16 at 4 p.m.
- November 20 at 10 a.m.
- December 18 at 10 a.m.

*Indicates new meetings

These meetings will be held at the Highlands Council's office at 100 North Road in Chester. Any changes to times or locations of meetings will be made only with adequate advance public notice.

"The Highlands Council and Staff are well aware of the importance of finally adopting the Regional Master Plan for this region, because it means we can move forward with our mission to protect, restore and enhance the valuable natural resources of this area," said Eileen Swan, Executive Director of the Highlands Council. "We have set an aggressive schedule so that we can move to implementation of the Plan in order to accomplish its goals."

Final Draft Plan Public comments are now available on the Highlands Council Web site. To search the public comment database, visit

http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/search_comments_2007.html.

To view the Final Draft Regional Master Plan, the Land Use Capabilities Map Series or the Technical Addenda, please visit <http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/master/index.html>.

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