



# Highlands Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2017



# Procedure for Considering Proposals to Amend the Highlands RMP

John A. Maher, Chief Counsel  
January 19, 2017





# After the MPRR, What's Next?

- The Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR) is a work plan for the next 6 years.
- Likely to include one or more proposals to amend the RMP.
- What then?

*How will amendment proposals be evaluated and acted on?*



# What do the Act and the RMP tell us about the process?

- The Act:
  - RMP may be adopted after 5 public hearings in the Region and 1 hearing in Trenton
  - May be amended “after public hearings”
- The RMP:
  - Does not address amendment process



# The RMP and the Monitoring Program

- Future iterations of the RMP primarily guided by 6-year monitoring process.
- Proposed amendments should normally be considered as part of that process
- Possible for proposals to be considered at other times



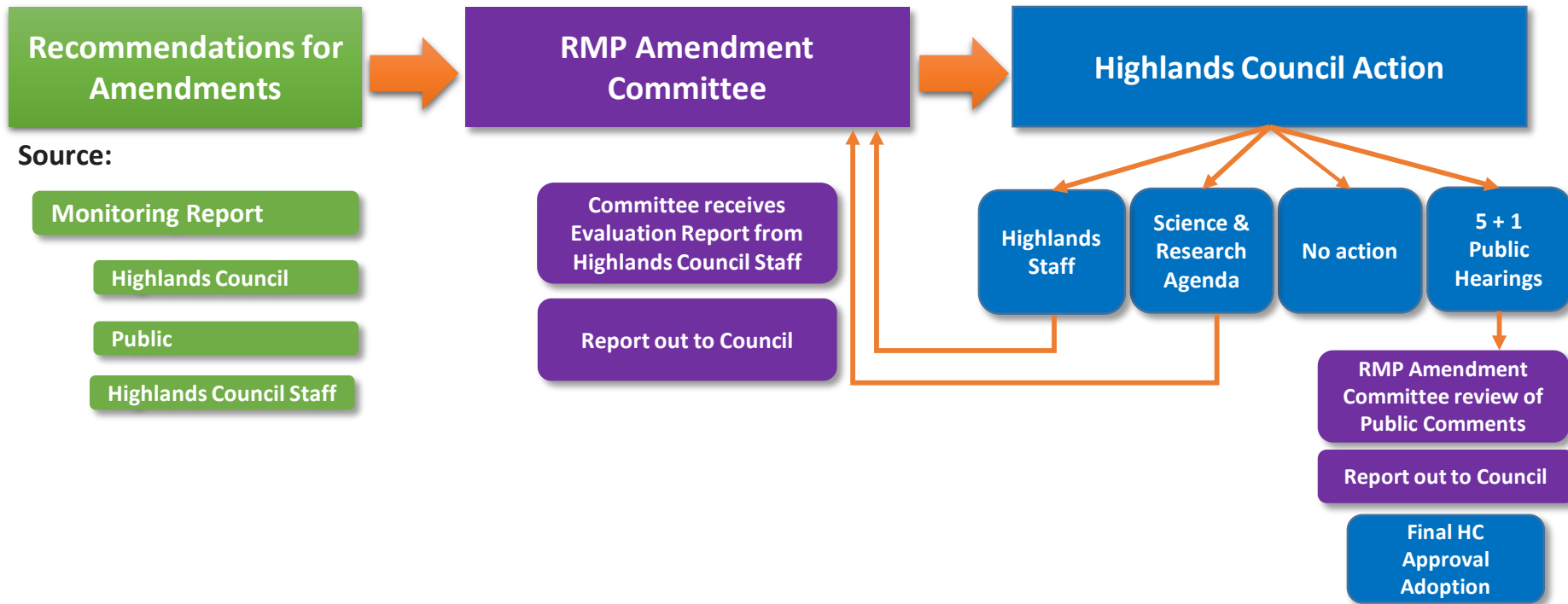
# So What's the Process?

Amendments or revisions to the RMP would advance to final adoption by the Council in two stages:

- I. MPRR containing proposals for RMP amendments is finalized after public comment.
- II. One or more proposals to amend the RMP advances to final adoption through Council subcommittee (RMP Amendment Committee) and the Council after public comment.



# RMP Amendment Process





## Amending the RMP: **Finalizing the MPRR**

- MPRR draft completed
- RMP Amendment Committee reviews and recommends release for public comment.
- Council authorizes release for public comment.
  - Not less than 30 days
  - Public opportunity to comment on proposed amendment(s) in draft MPRR and/or recommend additional proposal(s) to amend the RMP.

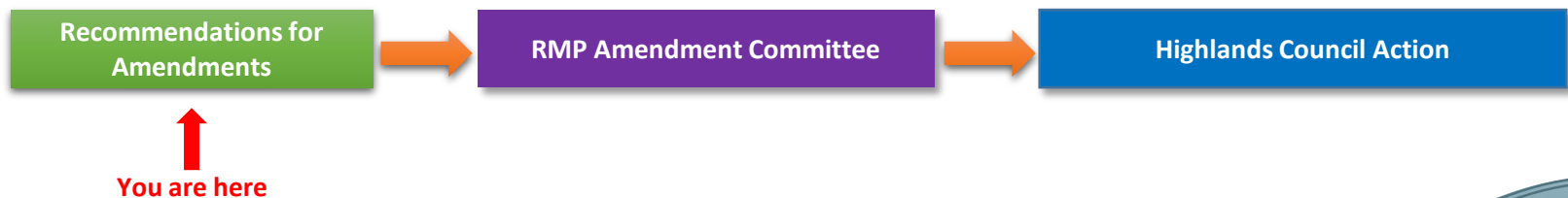




## Amending the RMP:

# Finalizing the MPRR *(continued)*

- Staff prepares comment summary (including proposals from public), and comment responses for RMP Amendment Committee.
- Committee recommends release of the final MPRR including proposed amendments.
- The 6-year work plan is in place.





# Amending the RMP: RMP Amendment Committee

- RMP Amendment Committee reviews and discusses amendment proposals from the MPRR.
  - Meetings acting on proposed amendments open to public with no comment *at that time* - public will have multiple opportunities for comment prior to final adoption.
- Report out recommendations to the Council.

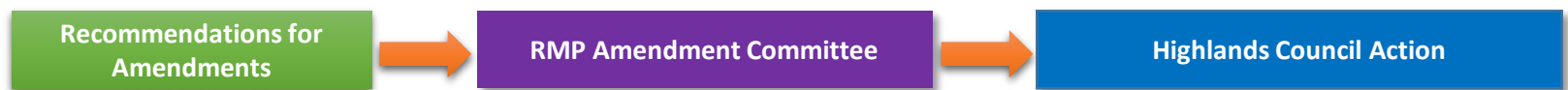




## Amending the RMP:

# Highlands Council Action

- Council may take any of the following actions on each proposed amendment:
  - No action
  - Refer back to staff and committee for additional information
  - Refer to Science & Research Agenda for further review
  - Conduct public hearings required by Highlands Act prior to adoption of amendment



↑  
You are here



## Amending the RMP:

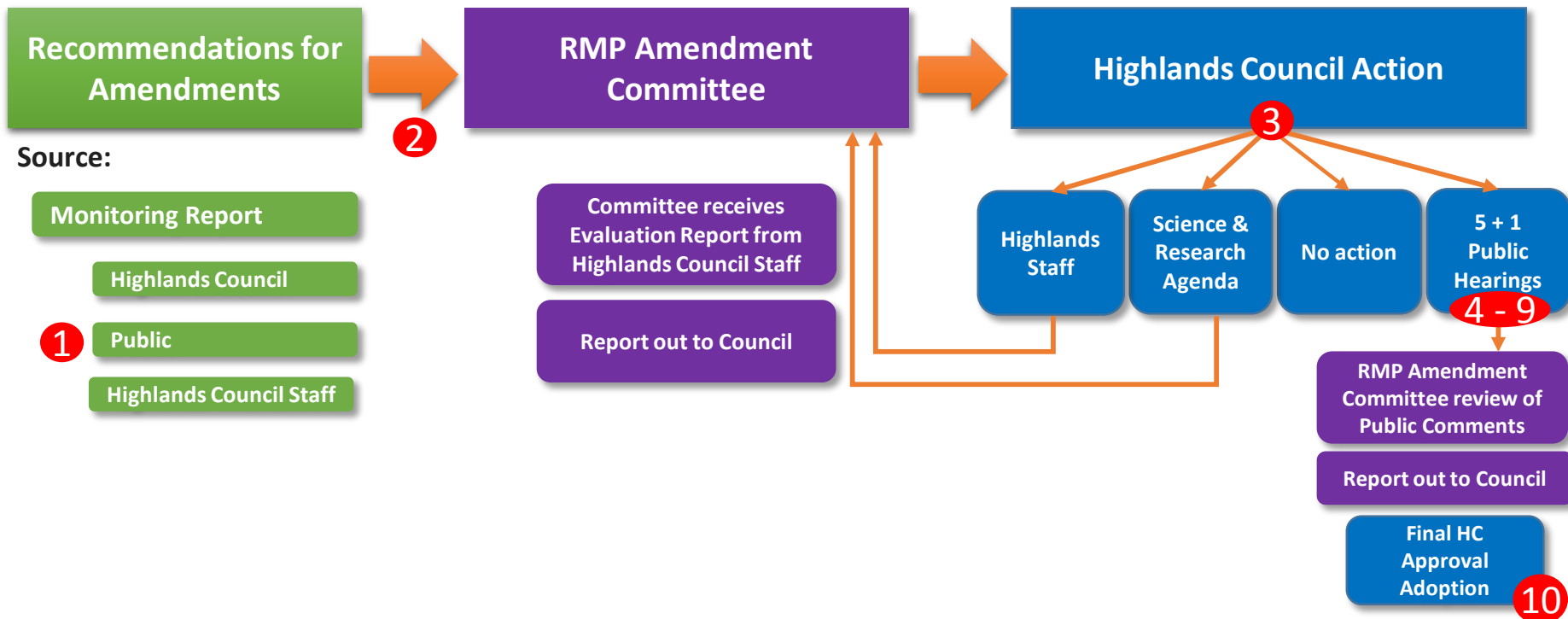
# Highlands Council Action *(continued)*

- If Council authorizes staff to conduct public hearings on proposed amendment(s):
  - Hold public hearings
  - Following hearings, staff will prepare comment responses for RMP Amendment Committee
  - Committee will review comment responses and make final recommendation to Council
  - Council takes final action on amendment (s)



# Opportunities for Public Comment

Public could have as many as **ten opportunities** for public comment prior to amendment adoption.





# Next Steps

- Tonight: Approve resolution to use draft Amendment Procedure as guidance to finalize MPRR and consider other potential RMP amendments.
- Amendment Procedure will be adopted by Council as part of the RMP with other RMP amendments.
- Additional opportunities for public and Council to comment on Procedure before final adoption.



# Highlands Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2017