



CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey  
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council  
100 North Road (Route 513)  
Chester, New Jersey 07930-2322  
(908) 879-6737  
(908) 879-4205 (fax)  
[www.nj.gov/njhighlands](http://www.nj.gov/njhighlands)



JIM RILEE  
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM  
Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** RMP Amendment Committee

**From:** Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director

**Subject:** Record of RMP Amendment Committee Meeting of May 17, 2017

**Date:** June 2, 2017

The RMP Amendment Committee met on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at the Highlands Council office in Chester.

Committee Members present: Committee Chair Alstede, Committee Members Holtaway, Sebetich, and Vohden.

Committee Members present via phone: Council Chairman Rilee

Highlands Council Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, John A. Maher, James Humphries, Kim Ball Kaiser, Corey Piasecki, and Carole Ann Dicton

Also present: Lisa LeBoeuf, Assistant Counsel, Governor's Authorities Unit

*Committee Chair Alstede called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.*

Ms. Nordstrom provided a brief overview of the work session to be held during the Council's May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Nordstrom noted that the Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR) is a baseline document setting the stage not only for potential improvement to the RMP, but also future iterations. It is a supplement to the original RMP in that:

- it presents the first indicators and milestones;
- it is a summary of RMP implementation issues; and
- it is an analysis of possible solutions to these implementation issues and resulting recommendations.

Ms. Nordstrom also noted that the MPRR is not and does not, in itself, propose amendments. It contains recommendations, some of which, if implemented would require changes to the language of the RMP and would therefore be amendments. These are not the bulk of the recommendations. Others are possible solutions to implementation issues and identify topics for the Science and Research agenda.

Council staff will review the structure of the draft MPRR and provide a closer look at one of the topic areas, Future Land Use. There will be discussion on the flow of information in the topic areas, and to illustrate how recommendations were developed.

Ms. Nordstrom also reported that there will be no further revisions to the MPRR at this time. Final revisions will take place after the close of the public comment period in consultation with the Council, and following a sequence of steps spelled out in the draft Amendment Procedures adopted by Council in January for use during this process.

Council's next step is to release the draft MPRR for a 60-day public comment period. Staff will make themselves available to meet with members of the public, either individually or as a group, to discuss the MPRR. This comment period also gives the Council another opportunity to submit their comments and recommendations. At the end of the comment period, a public response document will be prepared and Highlands Council staff will go over any possible changes to the MPRR with Council. When the final MPRR is ready, Council will vote to release it to the public and use it as its work plan for the next six (6) years.

Corey Piasecki then provided the presentation that Council will receive on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be posted to the Highlands Council website after the meeting.

Member Sebetich reported that he is unable to attend the Council meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Committee Chair Alstede asked if there will be a resolution to release the draft MPRR for public comment. Ms. Nordstrom responded that a roll call vote will be taken.

Ms. Nordstrom noted that the Council should be comfortable enough to release the draft MPRR. Ms. Nordstrom added that the MPRR will not be edited at this time, but will presumably after the public comment period.

It was noted that Council members received via email the unformatted version of the MPRR on May 5, 2017; and the formatted version of the MPRR on May 12, 2017.

Mr. Piasecki emphasized that the Council is only being asked to release the draft MPRR, and not to adopt any of the recommendations set forth in the draft. After the veto date for the Council Minutes of May 18, 2017, the draft MPRR would be released for public comment.

Committee Chair Alstede thanked Highlands staff for getting the committee to this point.

Mr. Piasecki noted that Highlands Staff Technical Leads plan to attend the Council meeting for any comments/questions Council may have.

At this time, the committee discussed anticipated comments from Council.

The committee also discussed next steps once the draft MPRR is released to the public for public comment:

- Highlands staff prepares Comment Response Document
- MPRR is revised and finalized
- The final MPRR is presented to Council, which authorizes its release to the public

*Member Holtaway made a motion to recommend to Council to release the MPRR for public comment. Member Sebetich seconded the motion. All were in favor.*

The committee scheduled their next meeting in July.

*The meeting adjourned at 1:21pm.*