

RESOLUTION 2015-21

NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON FISCAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT AND ASSOCIATED REGIONAL MASTER PLAN DELIVERABLES PREPARED BY PLACEWORKS, LLC

WHEREAS, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act) has created a public body corporate and politic with corporate succession known as the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council (Highlands Council); and

WHEREAS, section 6.g of the Highlands Act authorizes the Highlands Council to enter into any and all agreements or contracts to effectuate the purposes of the Highlands Act; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Highlands Council adopted Resolution 2008-27 thereby adopting the Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP), which became effective September 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, section 8a. of the Highlands Act states that the RMP shall be periodically revised and updated at least once every six years, after public hearings; and

WHEREAS, Policy 10A5 of the RMP states that to ensure the long term success of the RMP, the Highlands Council evaluate regional conditions, identify new or emerging issues, and develop future RMP priorities through the tracking and monitoring of regional indicators; and

WHEREAS, Objective 10A5a of the RMP states that the Highlands Council prepare a Highlands RMP Monitoring Review Report at least every six years to ensure that the RMP is meeting its goals; and

WHEREAS, Objective 10A5b of the RMP states that the Highlands Council prepare a Fiscal Impact Assessment (FIA) that measures the overall economic health of the Region as compared to the rest of the State, to be included in the Highlands RMP Monitoring Review Report; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the requirements of the Act and RMP, the Highlands Council intends to develop a fiscal impact assessment demonstrating the economic effects of the Act and the RMP on municipalities and counties wholly or partially within the region as compared to the State and other comparable region; and

WHEREAS, to support the Highlands Council with implementation of this program, the Highlands Council staff prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) which was released to the public on December 18, 2013 seeking firms to advise and assist the Highlands Council; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2014 by Resolution 2014-16, the Highlands Council awarded PlaceWorks, LLC (PlaceWorks) a contract to address the needs articulated by the Highlands Council's RFP and further recommended that the Highlands Council authorize the Executive Director to enter a contract in connection with the RFP and the proposal of PlaceWorks; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the complexities of the FIA, the RMP Update Committee has requested that a peer review be completed to verify the work of the FIA Report, the purpose of which will be to assess the appropriateness of the data, research approach, and the methodological techniques

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used, and in doing so, seek to evaluate the robustness of the FIA's conclusions regarding the economic and fiscal performance of municipalities in the Highlands Region; and

WHEREAS, Highlands Council staff held extensive discussions with the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University (Bloustein) to determine its FIA capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council may enter into a professional services contract with Bloustein without going out for public bid where Bloustein constitutes a sole source vendor that is uniquely qualified to undertake the task required by the Highlands Council; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Council staff is therefore recommending a sole source contract pursuant to Executive Order 37 (2006) paragraph 16(c) and GAU Procurement Best Practices VII (e) July 19, 2012) in that Bloustein's exceptional knowledge of planning, policy, and economics on a regional, sub-regional, municipal, and sub-municipal basis uniquely qualifies the vendor as the only entity available to meet the Council's specific needs, at a specific time and place with a specific delivery date; and

WHEREAS, Bloustein has prepared a scope of work to undertake the peer review of the aforementioned Highlands Region economic and fiscal analysis for \$49,500, which scope of work and amount has been reviewed and approved by the RMP Update Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Highlands Council that:

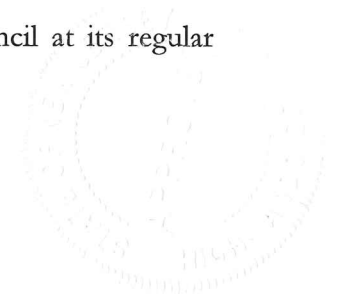
The Executive Director, or his/her designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University for an amount not to exceed, \$49,500 with a contingency of \$4,950, not to exceed \$54,450.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Highlands Council at its regular meeting held on the 3rd day of December, 2015.



Jim Rilee, Chairman



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**NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON FISCAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT OF THE HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING ACT
AND ASSOCIATED REGIONAL MASTER PLAN DELIVERABLES PREPARED BY
PLACEWORKS, LLC**

**Vote on the Approval of
This Resolution**

Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilmember Alstede		✓			
Councilmember Carluccio			✓		
Councilmember Dougherty					✓
Councilmember Dressler			✓		
Councilmember Francis		✓			
Councilmember Holtaway		✓			
Councilmember James	✓	✓			
Councilmember Richko		✓			
Councilmember Sebetich		✓			
Councilmember Tfank					✓
Councilmember Visioli		✓			
Councilmember Vohden		✓			
Councilmember Walton	✓	✓			
Chairman Rilee		✓			