



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



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

JIM RILEE
Chairman

MARGARET NORDSTROM
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Land Owner Equity and Land Preservation Committee
From: Margaret Nordstrom, Executive Director
Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2016
Date: February 8, 2016

A Land Owner Equity and Land Preservation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at the Highlands Council office in Chester. Committee Members present: Committee Chair Walton, Chairman Rilee (via phone), Committee Members Dressler and Francis.

Staff Members present: Margaret Nordstrom, John Maher, Chris Danis, Jim Hutzelmann, James Humphries, Carole Diction and Sabina Martine

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

Committee Chair Walton opened the meeting at 2:40 pm.

Update on Highlands Water Usage

Committee Chair Walton explained that the committee is interested in the amount of water being taken from the Highlands Region by utilities, municipal water companies and water supply authorities and large industrial customers.

Staff presented an analysis titled *Potable Water Supplied in 2011 by New Jersey's Highlands*, which was prepared by NJGS. The report was released in December 2015. The report provides statistics on which municipalities are consuming Highlands water, the amount they consume, the percentage that this represents of their total water consumption. According to the report, 332 municipalities receive potable water from the Highlands.

Committee members discussed in broad, conceptual terms how money might be generated and disbursed. A fee could be based on the percentage of water used which is from the Highlands for each purveyor in the state which uses water from the Highlands.

New Jersey Geological and Water Survey's NJ Water Tracking Data Model (NJWaTr) has permittee information. Staff will analyze this list to ensure the integrity of the report.

Committee Chair Walton requested recommendations from staff planners on how to compensate landowners for the lost value of their land. Staff explained the various valuation of properties in the Region, including values from the HDC Program, SADC and Green Acres, all of which could be used to estimate compensation. Zoning and the location of the land in the Region would also have to be taken into consideration when estimating.

The Committee adjourned at 3:35pm.