Highlands Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2017
Procedure for Considering Proposals to Amend the Highlands RMP

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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

Recommendations for Amendments

Source:
- Monitoring Report
- Highlands Council
- Public
- Highlands Council Staff

RMP Amendment Committee

- Committee receives Evaluation Report from Highlands Council Staff
- Report out to Council

Highlands Council Action

- Highlands Staff
- Science & Research Agenda
- No action
- 5 + 1 Public Hearings

Final HC Approval Adoption

Report out to Council

RMP Amendment Committee review of Public Comments
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
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.
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