




# Highlands Council Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2013

## **RMP Update: Beginning the Process**



“The goal of the Regional Master Plan with respect to the entire Highlands Region shall be to protect and enhance the significant values of the resources thereof in a manner which is consistent with the purposes and provisions of this act.”

*- Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, section 10.a.*



## **Guidance from Act on Process**

- Highlands Act requires RMP review “at least once every six years.” (Section 8.a.)

## **Guidance from RMP on Methodology**

- RMP (Policy 10A5) prescribes “tracking and monitoring of regional indicators” through preparation of:
  - a) A Highlands Monitoring Report and
  - b) A fiscal impact assessment



# Detail: Highlands Act Process Guidance


- Section 8.a.
  - “The Highlands Regional Master Plan shall be periodically revised and updated at least once every six years, after public hearings.”
- Section 9.
  - “Consultations, etc. relative to preparation, revisions of regional master plan.”
    - (specifies stakeholders and sources to be consulted during creation and review of RMP)



# Detail: RMP Guidance on Methodology

- Policy 10A5
  - “To ensure the long term success of the RMP, evaluate regional conditions, identify new or emerging issues, and develop future RMP priorities through the tracking and monitoring of regional **indicators.**”

*(emphasis added)*



# Detail: RMP Guidance on Methodology (con't)

- Objective 10A5a
  - “Prepare a Highlands **RMP Monitoring Review Report** at least every six years to ensure that the RMP is meeting its goals.”
- Objective 10A5b
  - “Prepare a **fiscal impact assessment** 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.”

*(emphasis added)*



## Detail: RMP Guidance (con't)

- Chapter 6: Implementation, Subpart B - Regional Master Plan Monitoring
  - Indicators to be identified and tracked
  - Environmental, social, and economic health indicators will be used to document changes in the Highlands Region.
  - Indicators will be chosen based upon the usefulness of information and data availability and may be either quantitative or qualitative depending on the parameter measured.



# What could inform determination of indicators

- **Public Hearings**
  - See Act, Section 8.a.
- **Consultations with State agencies, etc.**
  - See Act, Section 9
- **Science Agenda**
  - See RMP, Chapter 6, “Implementation” (pg 366)
- **Technical Reports**
  - Developed to support RMP; define science agenda






# Proposed RMP Update Process

1. Identify/Define/Agree Upon indicators
  - a) Consult with stakeholders and public agencies
  - b) Consult Technical Reports
  - c) Derive milestones from indicators to measure the indicators' impact
2. Set timeline
3. Measure milestones
4. Report out
5. Incorporate insights/new info into RMP



# Other Considerations

- Sequence of events
  - Beyond what has been provided here
  - Public hearings happen when?
- Extent of monitoring
  - Budget impact



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