

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **ITEM #8-I: DEQ'S LONG RANGE PLANNING INITIATIVE**

#### **SUBJECT:**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking assistance and cooperation from HRPDC to implement a pilot project for long range environmental planning.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

DEQ has statutory responsibility for the Commonwealth's long range environmental planning. DEQ is in the process of implementing pilot projects to carry out this responsibility.

Rather than the traditional "top-down" method of a Statewide Commission preparing a Statewide plan, DEQ envisions a "bottom-up," regionally-based, collaborative model that is coordinated by DEQ and led by Planning District Commissions (PDCs). This model will build on the effective work already being done by many PDCs. Eventually, it is envisioned that the approach will be adopted in all regions of the State.

DEQ staff, under the leadership of its Director and with participation by its Regional Directors, would facilitate regional long-range efforts by performing the following tasks:

- Work with regional PDCs and other local and regional leaders to convene and facilitate regional stakeholder meetings to address long range environmental and energy priorities.
- Encourage collaborative identification and implementation by these local/regional leaders of
  - (1) Highest long-range priorities in each respective region.
  - (2) Programs and projects to address those priorities.
- Assist regions in elevating and bringing priority needs to the attention of the Administration and General Assembly, in securing cooperation and support from state and federal agencies, in obtaining needed research, and in obtaining grants and other funding

This item and related attachment was discussed in workshop item #3

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The HRPDC supports DEQ's proposal to implement long range planning and directs the HRPDC staff to work with DEQ to refine its approach in cooperation with the Secretary of Natural Resources, the PDC staffs of the other two pilot project areas, and other stakeholders, in the hope of launching the pilot project in 2015.