

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT CREATING
HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Revised March 25, 1982

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Revised and updated as of March 25, 1982

THIS AGREEMENT made as of the 15th day of December, 1977 by and among the counties of DUTCHESS, ORANGE, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND, SULLIVAN, ULSTER and WESTCHESTER all counties created and existing by virtue of the laws of the State of New York, all hereinafter collectively referred to as "The Counties."

WHEREAS, the Counties are authorized by laws to engage in the activities set forth in Article VI of this agreement; and

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law authorizes counties to enter into agreement for the performance of their respective functions, powers, or duties on a cooperative basis; and

WHEREAS, the counties desire to create a regional council of county governments of the purposes hereinafter set forth;

NOW, THEREFORE, the counties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

CREATION

There is hereby created a regional council of county governments, in the Hudson Valley area of the State of New York, to be known as the HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as "The Council"), consisting of the counties of DUTCHESS, ORANGE, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND, SULLIVAN, ULSTER and WESTCHESTER. Designated officers of the counties of GREENE and COLUMBIA may attend meetings of The Council as observers, and such counties shall have the right to become members of The Council by approving these Articles of Agreement.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

The Council shall be a voluntary organization of county governments to foster a cooperative effort in resolving problems, policies and plans that are common and regional. The purposes of this council are:

- A. To serve as mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and bring into focus regional challenges and opportunities.

- B. To serve as a vehicle for the collection and exchange of information of regional interest..
- C. To provide a continuing organizational machinery to insure effective communication and coordination among governments and agencies.
- D. To assist The Counties in the development and review of policies, plans and priorities for regional growth, development and conservation.
- E. To facilitate agreements and cooperative action proposals among The Counties for specific projects or other interrelated developmental needs and for the adoption of common policies and plans with respect to common regional challenges.
- F. To maintain liaison with members, governmental units, and groups or organizations and to serve as regional spokesman for county government.
- G. To furnish general and technical aid to The Counties as they direct, to promote and accomplish Council-approved agreements, policies and plans.
- H. To review and coordinate federal, state and local programs of regional importance.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

- A. Membership of Council. The Counties which have ratified this agreement and are participating in the financial support of The Council shall be members.
- B. Representation of Members. Members shall be entitled to representation as follows:
 - 1. Each County shall have two representatives, determined as follows:
 - a. In counties having a county executive, one such representative shall be the county executive; or if there be none, one such representative shall be the chairman of the county's legislative body; and

vice-chairman, and third vice-chairman, The Council shall elect a secretary-treasurer, who may be a staff member employed by The Council. The Council shall adopt by-laws, rules of procedure and rules for the conduct of its business, including provision of hearing and notice thereof, not inconsistent with these Articles of Agreement. The by-laws may provide for the appointment of an Executive Committee. The powers and duties of any Executive Committee shall be set forth in the by-laws of The Council.

- B. Meetings. The Council shall hold regular meetings places and dates to be determined by The Council but, in any event, meetings shall be held at least once every three months. Special meetings may be called by the chairman on his own initiative and shall be called by him at the request of five or more representatives. All representatives to The Council shall be notified in writing of the time and place of meetings.
- C. Records. The Council shall keep a record of its recommendations, transactions, findings and determinations which shall be public record.

ARTICLE V

FINANCES

- A. Books, Accounts and Annual Reports. The Council shall keep books of account which shall be independently audited at least once in each calendar year. The auditor's report and annual report of activities shall be provided to The Council and to the legislative body of each of The Counties.
- B. Fiscal Support. The Counties shall contribute dues to the financial support of The Council and such dues shall be fixed by The Council membership in August of the fiscal year preceding the commencement of the fiscal year in which dues shall become payable. Dues shall be paid to the treasurer of the council no later than January 15th of each fiscal year.
- C. Additional Funds. The legislative body of any participating county may, during any year, provide funds to The Council in excess of the amount provided in paragraph "B" above.

- D. Budget. After determining the annual revenues to be received by The Council from dues, federal and state aid, and any other contributions, The Council, in November of each year, shall adopt an operation budget for the ensuing fiscal year.
- E. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of The Council shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE VI

POWERS AND DUTIES

In discharging its responsibilities, The Council shall have the power and duty to:

- A. Coordinate the preparation of studies by The Counties on such matters as are included within the purposes of The Council.
- B. Coordinate and promote cooperative programs and action with and among its members and other governmental and non-governmental entities, including those of other states.
- C. Coordinate studies by The Counties on matters affecting the public health, safety, general welfare, education, recreation, pollution control, water supply, utilities, transportation, conservation, housing, planning development and such other matters as the common interest of The Counties may dictate.
- D. Provide continuing technical assistance and information to The Counties and other local governments, agencies and individuals, when requested to furnish such assistance and information.
- E. After coordination with the appropriate state, local and federal agencies, The Council may adopt such plans and programs as it may from time to time prepare. Such plans and programs as are adopted shall constitute the recommendations of The Council.
- F. The Council may cooperate with, contract with, and accept funds from federal, state, or local

governments, public or semi-public agencies, private individuals, or corporations. It may expend such funds and it may carry out such cooperative undertakings and contracts.

- G. The Council may employ such staff, consultants, and other expert assistance as it seems necessary, including a chief administrative officer, within the limits of the appropriations made, therefore, in The Council's budget.
- H. Act as a liaison agency between the planning and other technical staffs of The Counties with respect to projects involving more than one of The Counties.
- I. Act as a conduit for the distribution of federal and state funds for regional research projects.
- J. Coordinate concerted action by The Counties in their relations with federal and state governments.
- K. Organize regional conferences and meetings.
- L. Provide staff for regional committee meetings.
- M. Monitor regional trends.
- N. Act as a public spokesman for member counties on regional matters when requested to do so by The Counties.
- O. Provide public information services for regional matters.

ARTICLE VII

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There shall be within The Council an advisory committee consisting of the administrative head of the planning department or planning agency of each of The Counties to serve as a policy coordinating committee working with The Council members and administrative staff. The advisory committee shall furnish such advice and technical assistance as may be requested by The Council membership on matters of common interest to The Counties.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM AND VOTING

- A. Quorum. A majority of the representatives of The Council shall be a quorum for all purposes.
- B. Voting. Action may be taken at any meeting of The Council at which a quorum as present by a majority vote of these representatives present.

ARTICLE IX

EFFECTIVE DATE

These Articles of Agreement shall become effective upon ratification and approval thereof by at least four of the legislative bodies of the participating counties.

ARTICLE X

DURATION AND TERMINATION

These Articles of Agreement shall continue and remain in full force, and The Council shall not be dissolved unless by two-thirds vote of the whole number of representatives to The Council.

Any county may withdraw as a participating member of The Council under these Articles of Agreement at the termination of The Council's fiscal year by notifying each participating county at least six months prior to the end of the fiscal year of its intent to so withdraw.

The failure of participating county to make its financial contribution to The Council, as determined by Article B hereof, by the end of the fiscal year in which such contribution becomes payable, shall constitute a withdrawal by such county from The Council.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

The Council may, from time to time, propose amendments to these Articles of Agreement. Any such amendment shall become effective only upon ratification by the legislative bodies of all the participating counties.

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