



RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION

NO. PC4-15- 28

TITLE: Approving With Conditions an Application for Public Development (Application Number 1982-4156.019)

Commissioner Barr moves and Commissioner Galletta seconds the motion that:

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission has reviewed the Public Development Application Report and the recommendation of the Executive Director that the following application for Public Development be approved with conditions:

1982-4156.019

Applicant: NJ State Forestry Services (NJDEP)

Municipality: Berkeley Township
Lacey Township

Management Area: Pinelands Agricultural Production Area
Pinelands Forest Area
Pinelands Preservation Area District

Date of Report: September 21, 2015

Proposed Development: Forestry and forest fire management activities at Double Trouble State Park.

WHEREAS, no request for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law concerning the Executive Director's recommendation has been received for this application; and

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission hereby adopts the Conclusion of the Executive Director for the proposed development; and

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission hereby determines that the proposed public development conforms to the standards for approving an application for public development set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.57 if the conditions recommended by the Executive Director are imposed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13A-5h, no action authorized by the Commission shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period and Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Application Number 1982-4156.019 for public development is hereby approved subject to the conditions recommended by the Executive Director.

Record of Commission Votes

	AYE	NAY	NP	ABS		AYE	NAY	NP	ABS		AYE	NAY	NP	ABS
Ashmun	X				Earlen	X				Prickett	X			
Avery	X				Galletta	X				Quinn			X	
Barr	X				Jannarone	X				Rohan Green			X	
Brown	X				Lloyd	X				Witt	X			
DiBello	X				McGlinchey	X				Lohbauer	X			

Adopted at a meeting of the Pinelands Commission
Nancy Wittenberg
Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Date: October 9, 2015
Mark S. Lohbauer
Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman



State of New Jersey
 THE PINELANDS COMMISSION
 PO Box 359
 New LISBON, NJ 08064
 (609) 894-7300
 www.nj.gov/pinelands



Chris Christie
 Governor
 Kim Guadagno
 Lt. Governor

General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
 Application Specific Information: ApplInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

Mark S. Lohbauer
 Chairman
 Nancy Wittenberg
 Executive Director

September 21, 2015

Todd Wyckoff, Regional Forester
 NJ State Forestry Services
 P.O. Box 420
 Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Double Trouble State Park
 Application # 1982-4156.019
 Block 15, Lot 5
 Block 17, Lot 4
 Block 22, Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 3 & 5
 Block 22.01, Lot 1
 Block 23, Lots 1, 5 & 28
 Block 23.07, Lot 1
 Berkeley Township
 and
 Block 2500, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 7, 7.02, 8-8.04, 9, 9.01, 10-13, 13.02, 13.03 & 15-17
 Block 2600, Lots 6-8, 9.01, 10.01, 14, 15, 21 & 27-29
 Block 2675, Lots 3, 4.08, 4.10 & 4.11
 Block 2700, Lots 3 & 5
 Block 2701, Lots 27-34
 Block 2818, Lots 1-8, 13-21, 24-36, 39, 43-55, 59-65 & 70-73
 Lacey Township

Dear Mr. Wyckoff:

The Commission staff has completed its review of the above referenced application for forestry and forest fire management activities at Double Trouble State Park. Enclosed is a copy of a Public Development Application Report. On behalf of the Commission's Executive Director, I am recommending that the Pinelands Commission approve the application with conditions at its October 9, 2015 meeting.

Any interested party may appeal this recommendation in accordance with the appeal procedure attached to this document. If no appeal is received, the Pinelands Commission may either approve the recommendation of the Executive Director or refer the application to the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

Prior to any development, the applicant shall obtain any other necessary permits and approvals.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. M. Horner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles M. Horner, P.P.
Director of Regulatory Programs

Enc: Appeal Procedure

- c: Secretary, Berkeley Township Planning Board (via email)
- Berkeley Township Construction Code Official (via email)
- Berkeley Township Environmental Commission (via email)
- Secretary, Lacey Township Planning Board (via email)
- Lacey Township Construction Code Official (via email)
- Lacey Township Environmental Commission (via email)
- Secretary, Ocean County Planning Board (via email)
- Dr. Ryan Rebozo, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- Dr. Emile DeVito, New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- Jeff Tittel, New Jersey Sierra Club



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 Kim Guadagno
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General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
 Application Specific Information: AppInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

Mark S. Lohbauer
 Chairman
 Nancy Wittenberg
 Executive Director

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

September 21, 2015

Todd Wyckoff, Regional Forester
 NJ State Forestry Services
 P.O. Box 420
 Trenton, NJ 08625

Application No.: 1982-4156.019

Location: Double Trouble State Park
 Block 15, Lot 5
 Block 17, Lot 4
 Block 22, Lots 1, 1.01, 2, 3 & 5
 Block 22.01, Lot 1
 Block 23, Lots 1, 5 & 28
 Block 23.07, Lot 1
 Berkeley Township
 and
 Block 2500, Lots 1.01, 1.02, 7, 7.02, 8-8.04, 9, 9.01, 10-13, 13.02, 13.03 & 15-17
 Block 2600, Lots 6-8, 9.01, 10.01, 14, 15, 21 & 27-29
 Block 2675, Lots 3, 4.08, 4.10 & 4.11
 Block 2700, Lots 3 & 5
 Block 2701, Lots 27-34
 Block 2818, Lots 1-8, 13-21, 24-36, 39, 43-55, 59-65 & 70-73
 Lacey Township

This application proposes forestry and forest fire management activities on the above referenced 8,677 acre parcel located entirely within the Double Trouble State Park in Berkeley and Lacey Townships.

The proposed forestry and forest fire management activities are described in the "Double Trouble State Park Natural Resource Stewardship Plan (Plan)," prepared by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), State Forestry Services. The Plan is dated January 1, 2016 and supplemented and amended by information submitted to the Commission through September 21, 2015.

The Plan specifies management goals and objectives for Double Trouble State Park. Goals and objectives include conserving biological diversity and ecologically significant habitat, maintaining productive capacity of the landscape, improving resilience to unplanned disturbances and conserving soil and water resources.

The Plan proposes to manage 2,906 acres of the 8,677 acre State Park for forestry and forest fire management activities. Of the 2,906 acres proposed for management, the Plan proposes prescribed burning and forest fire plowline maintenance and installation on at least 1,691 acres. Prescribed burning and plow line maintenance and plowline installation do not require application to the Pinelands Commission (N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.1(a)17).

STANDARDS

The Commission staff has reviewed the proposed forestry and forest fire management activities for consistency with all standards of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The following reviews the CMP standards that are relevant to this application:

Land Use (N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.22(a)3, 5.23(a)5 & 5.24(a)5)

The proposed forestry and forest fire management activities are located partially in the Pinelands Preservation Area District (approx. 2,370 acres), partially in a Pinelands Forest Area (approx. 534 acres) and partially in a Pinelands Agricultural Production Area (approx. 2 acres). The proposed forestry and forest fire management activities are permitted in the Pinelands Area.

Wetlands Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.9)

There are wetlands located on the parcel. Some forestry and forest fire management activities are proposed in wetlands. The CMP permits forestry and forest fire management activities in wetlands.

Forestry Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50- 6.46)

The proposed Plan is consistent with all CMP forestry standards.

Threatened and Endangered Species Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.27 & 6.33)

The Plan has been reviewed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program. That review concluded that there would be no irreversible adverse impacts on any local populations of those threatened or endangered wildlife species known to be in the project area.

The NJDEP Office of Natural Lands Management determined that the Plan would not result in an irreversible adverse impacts on any local populations of threatened or endangered plant species known to be in the project area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The applicant has provided the requisite public notices. Public notice to required land owners within 200 feet of the proposed activities was completed on July 27, 2015. Newspaper public notice was completed on August 6, 2015. The application was designated as complete on the Commission's website on September 1, 2015. The Commission's public comment period closed on September 11, 2015. The Commission received three oral public comments regarding this application.

Public Comment One:

The commenter asked what kind of herbicide would be used for the proposed Atlantic White cedar restoration. The commenter also inquired about specific efforts which have been taken to locate existing threatened and endangered species within the area subject to the proposed Atlantic White cedar restoration.

Response to Public Comment One:

The submitted Plan, Page 90, indicates that the applicant will utilize the herbicides salt of imazapyr and/or glyphosate. Specifically, the applicant has indicated that selected herbicides will target broadleaf vegetative competition. The CMP provides that herbicide treatments are permitted for forestry provided, among other requirements, that control of competitive plant species is clearly necessary and that that control of competitive plant species by other, non-chemical means is not practical. The applicant indicated that control of competitive hardwood species is required and that control by non-chemical means (e.g. mowing) is not practical. The applicant has indicated that the areas subject of threatened and endangered species concern were re-located or removed from the Plan.

Public Comment Two:

The commenter raised concerns regarding the proposed Shortleaf pine restoration within an existing pine-oak forest area. The commenter indicated that the proposed management activity, intended to restore Shortleaf pine forest areas, does not meet the CMP because such restoration would constitute a forest stand conversion. The commenter also recommended that the proposed timing restrictions within critical habitat for Pinelands threatened and endangered snakes, be expanded to November 1st through March 15th, when snakes are in their dens hibernating.

Response to Public Comment Two:

The Plan proposes the harvesting of pine and oak over an area of 106 acres. After harvesting, the applicant has indicated that healthy oak will remain as a natural regeneration seed source and shortleaf pine will be planted. The applicant has further represented that they do not intend to alter the ratio of pine and oak currently found on the site. The current version of the Plan addresses this comment by making use of contracting incentives to discourage activities after September 15 and before May 16.

Public Comment Three:

The commenter raised concerns regarding the proposed aerial application of herbicide. The commenter is concerned about the potential for chemical drift resulting from aerial spraying. The commenter recommended that the application of herbicide be more localized.

Response to Public Comment Three:

The CMP provides that herbicide treatments are permitted for forestry provided certain conditions are met. The applicant represents that the 164 acres to be treated is too large to be completed with solely ground based herbicide application techniques. The applicant further indicates that herbicide drift is dealt with through monitoring of weather conditions and that spray equipment on planes is calibrated with wind sensors and flight data to shut off applicator nozzles near the edge of a stop drift.

CONDITIONS

1. The proposed forestry and forest fire management activities shall adhere to the "Double Trouble State Park Natural Resource Stewardship Plan," prepared by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) State Forestry Services, dated January 1, 2016 2016 and as supplemented and amended by information submitted to the Commission through September 21, 2015.
2. The Commission's approval for the proposed forestry and forest fire management activities shall expire on October 9, 2025.
3. Prior to any development, the applicant shall obtain any other necessary permits and approvals.

CONCLUSION

As the proposed development conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.57, it is recommended that the Pinelands Commission **APPROVE** the proposed development subject to the above conditions.



State of New Jersey
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
Application Specific Information: AppInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman

Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

PINELANDS COMMISSION
APPEAL PROCEDURE

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91) provides an interested party the right to appeal any determination made the by Executive Director to the Commission in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91. An interested party is someone who has a specific property interest sufficient to require a hearing on constitutional or statutory grounds. Only appeal requests submitted by someone meeting the definition of an interested party will be transmitted to the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. Any such appeal must be made in writing to the Commission within eighteen days of the date of the Executive Director's determination and must include the following information:

1. the name and address of the person requesting the appeal;
2. the application number;
3. the date on which the determination to be appealed was made;
4. a brief statement of the basis for the appeal; and
5. a certificate of service (a notarized statement) indicating that service of the notice has been made, by certified mail, on the clerk of the county, municipal planning board and environmental commission with jurisdiction over the property which is subject of this decision.

Within 15 days following receipt of a notice of valid appeal, the Executive Director shall initiate the procedures for assignment of an Administrative Law Judge to preside at the hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the procedures established by the Office of Administrative Law. The time, date and location of such hearing shall be designated by the Office of Administrative Law.



RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION

NO. PC4-15- 21

TITLE: Approving With Conditions an Application for Public Development (Application Number 1993-0148.003)

Commissioner Galletta moves and Commissioner Earlen seconds the motion that:

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission has reviewed the Public Development Application Report and the recommendation of the Executive Director that the following application for Public Development be approved with conditions:

1993-0148.003

Applicant:	Woodland Township
Municipality:	Woodland Township
Management Area:	Pinelands Village
Date of Report:	September 18, 2015
Proposed Development:	Construction of a 1,440 square foot equipment storage building, a 9,000 square foot asphalt walking track and associated recreational improvements at the Chatsworth Elementary School.

WHEREAS, the 9,000 square foot asphalt walking track and associated recreational improvements subject of this application occurred without application to, and approval by, the Commission and constitutes a violation of the application requirements of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the completion of this application is intended to address this violation; and

WHEREAS, no request for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law concerning the Executive Director's recommendation has been received for this application; and

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission hereby adopts the Conclusion of the Executive Director for the proposed development; and

WHEREAS, the Pinelands Commission hereby determines that the proposed public development conforms to the standards for approving an application for public development set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.57 if the conditions recommended by the Executive Director are imposed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13A-5h, no action authorized by the Commission shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period and Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Application Number 1993-0148.003 for public development is hereby approved subject to the conditions recommended by the Executive Director.

Record of Commission Votes

AYE	NAY	NP	ABS	AYE	NAY	NP	ABS	AYE	NAY	NP	ABS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earlen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prickett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Galletta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quinn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jannarone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rohan Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lloyd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Witt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGlinchey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lohbauer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Adopted at a meeting of the Pinelands Commission
Nancy Wittenberg
Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Date: October 9, 2015
Mark S. Lohbauer
Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman



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Chris Christie
 Governor

Kim Guadagno
 Lt. Governor

General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
 Application Specific Information: AppInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

Mark S. Lohbauer
 Chairman

Nancy Wittenberg
 Executive Director

September 18, 2015

Matthew Henrich, Mayor
 Woodland Township
 P.O. Box 388
 Chatsworth, NJ 08019

Re: Application # 1993-0148.003
 Block 4807, Lot 1
 Woodland Township


Dear Mayor Henrich:

The Commission staff has completed its review of this application for construction of a 1,440 square foot equipment storage building, a 9,000 square foot asphalt walking track and associated recreational improvements at the Chatsworth Elementary School. Enclosed is a copy of a Public Development Application Report. On behalf of the Commission's Executive Director, I am recommending that the Pinelands Commission approve the application with conditions at its October 9, 2015 meeting.

The asphalt walking track and certain of the associated recreational improvements were developed prior to completion of an application with the Commission. This constitutes a violation of the application requirements of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Completion of this application is intended to address that violation.

Any interested party may appeal this recommendation in accordance with the appeal procedure attached to this document. If no appeal is received, the Pinelands Commission may either approve the recommendation of the Executive Director or refer the application to the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law for a hearing.

Prior to any development, the applicant shall obtain any other necessary permits and approvals.

Sincerely,

 Charles M. Horner, P.P.
 Director of Regulatory Programs

Enc: Appeal Procedure

c: Secretary, Woodland Township Planning Board (via email)
 Woodland Township Construction Code Official (via email)
 Secretary, Burlington County Planning Board (via email)
 Thomas Leisse, PE





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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
Application Specific Information: AppInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman

Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

September 18, 2015

Matthew Henrich, Mayor
Woodland Township
P.O. Box 388
Chatsworth, NJ 08019

Application No.: 1993-0148.003

Location: Block 4807, Lot 1
Woodland Township

This application proposes construction of a 1,440 square foot equipment storage building, a 9,000 square foot asphalt walking track and associated recreational improvements at the Chatsworth Elementary School located on the above referenced 10.25 acre parcel in Woodland Township.

The asphalt walking track and certain of the recreational improvements were developed prior to completion of an application with the Commission. This constitutes a violation of the application requirements of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). Completion of this application is intended to address that violation.

STANDARDS

The Commission staff has reviewed the proposed development for consistency with all standards of the CMP. The following reviews the CMP standards that are relevant to this application.

Land Use (N.J.A.C. 7:50-5.27)

The parcel is located in the Pinelands Village of Chatsworth. The proposed development is a permitted land use in a Pinelands Village.

Vegetation Management Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.23 & 6.26)

The proposed improvements will be located in existing grassed recreational areas. The proposed clearing and soil disturbance is limited to that which is necessary to accommodate the proposed development.

The Landscaping and Revegetation guidelines of the CMP recommend the use of grasses that are tolerant of droughty, nutrient poor conditions. The applicant proposes to use grass species that meet this recommendation.

Stormwater Management Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.84(a)6)

The applicant has demonstrated that the proposed development is consistent with the stormwater management standards of the CMP. To meet the stormwater management standards, this application proposes to construct two stormwater infiltration basins and seven small stone recharge areas to recharge stormwater runoff.

Cultural Resource Standards (N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.151)

A cultural resource survey was prepared for this application. The survey determined that there were no cultural resources eligible for Pinelands designation within the project area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The applicant has provided the requisite public notices. Public notice to required land owners within 200 feet of the above referenced parcel was completed on June 12, 2015. Newspaper public notice was completed on June 17, 2015. The application was designated as complete on the Commission's website on September 1, 2015. The Commission's public comment period closed on September 11, 2015. No public comment was submitted to the Commission regarding this application.

CONDITIONS

1. Except as modified by the below conditions, the proposed development shall adhere to the plan, consisting of four sheets, prepared by Pennoni Associates, Inc., all sheets dated April 22, 2015 and revised to July 27, 2015.
2. Disposal of any construction debris or excess fill may only occur at an appropriately licensed facility.
3. Any proposed landscaping or revegetation shall adhere to the "Vegetation" standards of the municipal land use ordinance and the CMP. Where appropriate, the applicant is encouraged to utilize the following Pinelands native grasses for revegetation: Switch grass, Little bluestem and Broom-sedge.
4. Prior to any development, the applicant shall obtain any other necessary permits and approvals.

CONCLUSION

As the proposed development conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.57, it is recommended that the Pinelands Commission **APPROVE** the proposed development subject to the above conditions.



Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

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Chairman

Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

General Information: Info@njpines.state.nj.us
Application Specific Information: AppInfo@njpines.state.nj.us

PINELANDS COMMISSION APPEAL PROCEDURE

The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91) provides an interested party the right to appeal any determination made by the Executive Director to the Commission in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91. An interested party is someone who has a specific property interest sufficient to require a hearing on constitutional or statutory grounds. Only appeal requests submitted by someone meeting the definition of an interested party will be transmitted to the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. Any such appeal must be made in writing to the Commission within eighteen days of the date of the Executive Director's determination and must include the following information:

1. the name and address of the person requesting the appeal;
2. the application number;
3. the date on which the determination to be appealed was made;
4. a brief statement of the basis for the appeal; and
5. a certificate of service (a notarized statement) indicating that service of the notice has been made, by certified mail, on the clerk of the county, municipal planning board and environmental commission with jurisdiction over the property which is subject of this decision.

Within 15 days following receipt of a notice of valid appeal, the Executive Director shall initiate the procedures for assignment of an Administrative Law Judge to preside at the hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the procedures established by the Office of Administrative Law. The time, date and location of such hearing shall be designated by the Office of Administrative Law.



RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION

NO. PC4-15- 30

TITLE: To Approve the New Jersey Pinelands Commission's 2014 Annual Report

Commissioner Ashmun moves and Commissioner Prickett seconds the motion that:

WHEREAS, in September 2006, then Governor Corzine issued Executive Order #37; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order #37 called for the preparation and approval of a comprehensive report concerning the operations of each State authority; and

WHEREAS, the report shall set forth the significant actions of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, since the report is to be done on an annual basis and it includes much of the same information as the Commission's Annual Report, which is required by the Pinelands Protection Act, the two reports have been combined since 2007 as a cost savings measure to eliminate waste and promote efficiency as called for in Executive Order #37; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 13:18A-5h, no action authorized by the Commission shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2014 Annual Report be approved, submitted to the Governor's Authorities Unit and posted on the Commission's web site.

Record of Commission Votes

AYE NAY NP ABS					AYE NAY NP ABS					AYE NAY NP ABS				
Ashmun	X				Earlen	X				Prickett	X			
Avery	X				Galletta	X				Quinn			X	
Barr	X				Janmarone	X				Rohan Green			X	
Brown	X				Lloyd	X				Witt	X			
DiBello	X				McGlinchey	X				Lohbauer	X			

Adopted at a meeting of the Pinelands Commission

Date: October 9, 2015

Nancy Wittenberg
Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Mark S. Lohbauer
Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman



New Jersey Pinelands Commission



Annual Report 2014

**Mission Statement
of the
New Jersey Pinelands Commission**

The mission of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to encourage compatible economic and other human activities consistent with that purpose.

Cover photo: The Turk's Cap lily is a showy plant that is native to the Pinelands.

Photo by John Bunnell/New Jersey Pinelands Commission

New Jersey Pinelands Commission 2014

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mark S. Lohbauer, Chairman

Candace M. Ashmun
D'Arcy Rohan Green
Richard H. Prickett

Robert Jackson
Edward Lloyd
Gary Quinn

U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Appointee

Joseph DiBello

County Appointees

Atlantic County
Paul E. Galletta

Burlington County
Sean W. Earlen

Camden County
Edward McGlinchey

Cape May County
William J. Brown

Cumberland County
Leslie M. Ficcaglia (January-April)
Jane Jannarone (April-December)

Gloucester County
Francis A. Witt

Ocean County
Alan Avery, Jr., Vice Chairman

Executive Director

Nancy Wittenberg

New Jersey Pinelands Commission
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Pinelands Commission Highlights for 2014

- **Commission gains new Cumberland County representative.** Page 1.
- **Commission issues its fourth, in-depth report on its implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.** Pages 2-4.
- **Commission adopts changes to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.** Pages 4-5.
- **Commission amends its policies for the use of the Pinelands Conservation Fund.** Page 6.
- **Commission and Hammonton make significant progress in reducing discharge of treated wastewater to Hammonton Creek.** Pages 6-7.
- **Commission continues its work to develop and complete a software tool to evaluate the ecological and public health risks associated with uncapped landfills in the Pinelands Area.** Pages 7-8.
- **Commission helps to preserve a 195-acre property in Jackson, Manchester and Toms River townships.** Page 8.
- **Commission scientists continue to make progress on pond-vulnerability study.** Page 10.
- **Commission scientists advance created-wetlands study.** Page 11.
- **Commission approves Memorandum of Agreement with The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.** Pages 13-14.
- **Commission holds 25th annual Pinelands Short Course at a new venue.** Page 15.
- **Commission launches major project to overhaul and redesign its official website.** Page 16.

Commission gains new Cumberland County representative

The Pinelands Commission gained a new member in 2014, as Jane Jannarone of Vineland joined the Commission as Cumberland County's new representative.

Jannarone is a Real Estate Broker with more than 25 years of experience. She owns and manages her Real Estate Company in Vineland. She serves on the Greater Vineland Chamber of Commerce, Cumberland County Board of Realtors, the Welcome Home Committee for Veterans, and is a former member of the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Jannarone grew up on a 256-acre property on the Maurice River in Millville. The property is home to wild rice marshes, white cedar swamps, pine trees and habitat for bald eagles, and it was preserved in honor of her father, as the Harold N. Peek Preserve.



Jane Jannarone

The Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders appointed Jannarone as the county's new representative on April 22, 2014. She replaced Leslie Ficcaglia of Port Elizabeth. Ficcaglia served on the Commission from April 1996 until April 2014. During her tenure as a Commissioner, Ficcaglia served on the Audit Committee and was a member of the Commission's Permanent Land Protection Committee, Personnel & Budget Committee and Policy and Implementation Committee. The Commission adopted 29 amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan during her 18 years as a Commissioner.



Leslie Ficcaglia

On May 9, 2014, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt a resolution expressing its appreciation for Ficcaglia's service as a Commissioner.

The Pinelands Commission's 15-member board consists of seven members who are appointed by the New Jersey Governor, one member appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Commission members serve staggered, three-year terms and are uncompensated for their service.

Chapter 1: Land Use & Planning

Plan Review

In September 2014, the Commission issued its fourth, in-depth report on the agency's implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the rules that govern land use and natural resource protection in the 938,000-acre Pinelands Area.

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

Comprehensive Management Plan



The Fourth Progress Report on Plan Implementation

September 2014

Nancy Wittenberg, Executive Director

Above: The Commission issued its Fourth Progress Report on Plan Implementation in September 2014.

simplified permitting for the development of single-family dwellings, a ban on new mining operations in Pinelands-designated Forest Areas and waste management facility siting policies, among many other initiatives.

The *Fourth Progress Report on Plan Implementation* features chapters on land use and planning, regulatory programs, permanent land protection, memorandums of agreement or understanding, public information and outreach, economics and science. It also includes a section that lists a series of recommendations for strengthening the Plan, including numerous recommendations that were suggested by the public.

The 183-page report charts the Commission's projects, programs and efforts to advance the goals and requirements of the CMP from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2012, the period since the last progress report was issued.

The issuance of the report marked the culmination of the Commission's fourth review of the CMP. The Commission embarked on the review in June 2012. Since that time, the Commission formed a Plan Review Committee composed of five Commission members. The Committee met regularly and provided a forum for discussing measures aimed at improving the CMP. It gathered comments from 109 groups and individuals during two public hearings and a 2½-month public comment period.

The review is required by law, and it provides a key opportunity for the Commission to chart and evaluate its implementation of the CMP. Previous reviews of the CMP resulted in changes such as

Among other findings in the report, the Commission:

- Approved 32 adjustments to Pinelands Management Areas in 21 municipalities between January 2002 and June 2012. More than half of the approved changes were relatively small, affecting less than 100 acres of land. The boundaries of all nine management areas were affected, with the Rural Development Area (RDA) involved in the majority of changes.

As a whole, the conservation-oriented management areas – the Preservation Area District (PAD), Special Agricultural Production Area (SAPA), Forest Area (FA) and Agricultural Production Area (APA) – have increased steadily since 1991. Approximately 13,000 acres were added to the conservation areas between 1991 and 2012, including 4,000 acres in the Oyster Creek watershed that were redesignated from the RDA to the FA via a CMP amendment adopted by the Commission in 2005.

As a result, the conservation areas now include more acreage than when the CMP was adopted in 1980. By contrast, the development-oriented management areas as a whole (Regional Growth Areas, Pinelands Villages and Towns) have seen a 3.25% decrease (4,200 acres) over the last two decades;

- Continued to ensure that development is channeled toward designated growth areas and away from conservation areas. Approximately 97% of all approved residential units and 87% of all approved nonresidential developments were located in the Regional Growth Areas, Towns, Villages and Rural Development Areas during the reporting period;

- Worked to permanently preserve thousands of acres of land by continuing several long-established programs and instituting a new acquisition program made possible by the creation of the Pinelands Conservation Fund (PCF).

Between 2007 and June 30, 2013, the Commission approved the allocation of \$9.6 million from the PCF to 34 projects in the Pinelands Area. Of these 34 projects, 31 proceeded to closing within the plan review time period, resulting in the permanent protection of 6,763 acres.

The Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) program continued to be one of the most successful transfer of development rights programs in the country. Nearly 24,000 acres in the Preservation Area District, Agricultural Production Area and Special Agricultural Production Area were permanently protected through the PDC Program between July 2001 and June 2013, bringing the total amount of protected land to 51,685 acres.

- Conducted important research on the status of the Pinelands ecology. Much of the research details the connection between land-use and its effect on water quality and quantity, and it

provides the basis for future policies and initiatives aimed at further protecting Pinelands natural resources.

The Commission completed five studies of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system. The studies focused on swamp pink, pond vegetation, wetland forests, frog development and stream habitat. Results from the studies, and those completed by other project cooperators, will be used to develop water-supply policies for the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer.

The Commission also completed a landscape, watershed and wetland assessment for the entire Pinelands Area. Results of the assessment indicated that Pinelands habitat and non-habitat covered 82% and 18% of the Pinelands Area, respectively. Fifty-one percent of the Pinelands Area fell within the highest ecological-integrity class;

- Was a signatory to 20 Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with a variety of public agencies, including municipalities, counties and other state agencies. As a result of the agreements, approximately 8,500 acres of land in the Pinelands Area were permanently preserved;

- Continued to monitor the economy in the Pinelands Area. Overall, the Pinelands economy either mirrored, or in some cases outperformed, the non-Pinelands portions of southern New Jersey with respect to several economic indicators. For example, the average residential property tax bill in the Pinelands continued to be significantly lower than the state and the rest of southern New Jersey. At \$4,884, the average tax bill in the Pinelands is 36.8% lower than the average bill in the state and 14.2% lower than the average bill in the non-Pinelands portions of southern New Jersey; and

- Educated thousands of people by delivering presentations at school districts, libraries and during festivals. The Commission also raised awareness and appreciation of the Pinelands by organizing new educational programs such as the Pinelands Research Series and Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day, and by creating new materials such as the first-ever, National Park Service brochure for the Pinelands National Reserve.

A copy of the report has been posted on the Commission's website (www.nj.gov/pinelands).

Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) Amendments

In June 2014, the Commission voted to adopt several CMP amendments that were an outgrowth of the plan review process. (Please see the Plan Review section above).

More specifically, the amendments serve to codify current Commission practice, clarify existing standards and requirements, increase the efficiency of the Commission and its staff, eliminate unnecessary application requirements and correct typographical errors in the regulations. The



The Commission adopted several amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan in 2014. Photo/Paul Leakan

amendments also provide an extended time period within which the installation of certain alternate design wastewater treatment systems will be permitted, and remove from the Alternate Design Wastewater Treatment Systems Pilot Program a particular technology that has been unable to demonstrate compliance with CMP standards.

Among other things, the amendments extend the duration of Letters of Interpretation (LOIs) from two years to five years. The Commission issues LOIs at the request of an applicant. Although an LOI may be requested for any standard set forth in the CMP, the vast majority of LOI applications received by the Commission involve requests for an allocation of Pinelands Development Credits (PDC) to a particular parcel.

The CMP previously stipulated that LOIs would be valid for a period of two years from the date of issuance by the Commission. With respect to LOIs involving PDC allocations, this means that a landowner to whom PDCs were allocated has two years to sever those PDCs from his or her property so that they may be sold, transferred or redeemed. After that two year time period, if the landowner wishes to sever the PDCs, he or she must once again apply to the Commission and “renew” the LOI. Renewals are largely a paperwork exercise that provides little benefit while creating more work for the Commission and property owners.

The amendments also exempt the establishment of certain home occupations and certain changes of use from the need to file applications with the Commission. The change of one nonresidential use to another nonresidential use no longer requires an application to the Commission, provided that the existing and proposed uses are or will be served by public sewers and no additional development is proposed.

A full description of the amendments can be found on the Commission’s website. The direct address is <http://www.nj.gov/pinelands/cmp/amend/index.html>.

Amended Policies for the Pinelands Conservation Fund

In August 2014, the Commission voted to amend the policies for use and management of the Pinelands Conservation Fund (PCF).

The PCF was created in 2004 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to permit the construction and upgrade of an electric transmission line through eastern portions of the Pinelands. Under the agreement, the special fund was established to further the Pinelands protection program and ensure a greater level of protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands Area. The utility that built the transmission lines, Atlantic City Electric (formerly Conectiv), provided \$13 million to establish the fund. The policies for the PCF originally set forth three principal objectives: permanent land protection, planning and research activities and community planning and design.

The amended PCF policies established a new objective to fund education and outreach initiatives that raise awareness and appreciation of the Pinelands. The new Education and Outreach account was funded via the transfer of \$1,125,000 from the PCF's Community Planning and Design account. The Commission has begun using these funds to undertake a major overhaul and redesign of its website. (For more information about the website redesign project, please see pages 16-17).

The new PCF policies also resulted in the transfer of \$500,000 from the Community Planning and Design account to the Land Acquisition account. The funds will help the Commission continue its work to permanently preserve land in the Pinelands. (For more information about the Commission's permanent land protection efforts, please see page 8).

Long Term Comprehensive Wastewater Plan in Hammonton

In 2014, the Pinelands Commission and the Town of Hammonton continued to make significant progress to reduce the discharge of treated wastewater from the Town's wastewater treatment plant to Hammonton Creek.

The beneficial reuse of treated wastewater by Hammonton will allow the Town to reduce the amount of wastewater that's pumped to its underperforming infiltration lagoons. Those lagoons have failed to infiltrate the large volumes of wastewater as originally anticipated by the system designers. The beneficial reuse of treated wastewater via drip irrigation combined with the elimination of extraneous flows that leak into the sewer system are expected to ease the hydraulic load currently placed upon the Town's infiltration lagoons.

Treated wastewater will be diverted from the infiltration lagoons to a 26 acre overland drip irrigation system. The overland drip irrigation system will supply nearly 500,000 gallons of treated wastewater daily to wooded areas at the Town's wastewater facility located along Boyer Avenue.

In addition to the overland drip irrigation system, the Town is also building a multiple depth subsurface drip irrigation system to irrigate recreational turf fields adjacent to the infiltration lagoons.

Further, the Town is implementing a program to identify areas of the sewer system that are prone to inflow and infiltration of stormwater and groundwater to further reduce extraneous hydraulic loading of the infiltration lagoon system.

All of these improvements are the direct result of the Commission's efforts to fully implement the CMP requirements that prohibit the discharge of treated wastewater into surface water bodies in the Pinelands Area.

Assessment of Uncapped Landfills in the Pinelands Area

In 2014, the Commission continued its work to develop and complete a software tool to evaluate the potential ecological and public health risks associated with uncapped landfills in the Pinelands Area.

The Commission launched the project in 2012, after entering into an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Commission identified a total of 61 landfills to include in the analysis.

Throughout 2014, the Commission and USGS worked to develop and finalize the Excel spreadsheet-based "fate and transport" models and drafted a research article that describes the analysis.

Upon completion, the study will provide information to characterize the "level of concern" posed by potential leachate plumes from each of the landfills to nearby wetlands, surface water bodies, streams, ponds and drinking water wells. The screening-level analysis will provide information that will help the Commission review proposals for the closure and reuse of landfills.

The study expands a pilot project that Commission staff completed in 2010. Under that project, staff reviewed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) files on select, uncapped landfills in the Pinelands and compared leachate contaminant levels in landfill monitoring wells to various regulatory standards. The USGS work built upon this pilot study and

included fate and transport modeling to determine likely leachate contaminant levels at nearby receptors.

Review of Municipal Ordinances

Amendments to certified county and municipal master plans and land use ordinances must be submitted to, and approved by, the Commission. During 2014, the Commission received and reviewed 76 ordinance and master plan amendments from 24 different municipalities.

Chapter 2: Permanent Land Protection

Pinelands Conservation Fund

The Pinelands Commission helped to preserve an ecologically-valuable, 195-acre property in the Pinelands Area in 2014.

The Commission provided \$292,202 of the total \$2 million cost to acquire the land, which is located in Jackson, Manchester and Toms River townships. The Ocean County Natural Lands Trust funded the remainder and now owns the property.



In 2014, the Commission permanently preserved a 195-acre property (above) in Jackson, Manchester and Toms River townships.

Photo/Ocean County Natural Lands Trust

The property features exceptional natural resources, including 1,500 linear feet of frontage on the Toms River, extensive forest and wetlands, known populations of Northern pine snake and Sickle-leaved golden aster, as well as potential habitat for timber rattlesnakes.

From 2007 to 2014, the Commission approved the allocation of \$9.6 million to 33 projects in the Pinelands Area. Thirty-two of these projects have been completed, resulting in the permanent protection of 7,228 acres.

Pinelands Development Credit Program

The Pinelands Development Credit Program is a regional transfer of development rights program that preserves important agricultural and ecological land. Pinelands Development Credits (PDCs) are allocated to landowners in Pinelands-designated Preservation, Agricultural and Special Agricultural Production Areas, which are the sending areas. These credits can be purchased by property owners and developers who are interested in developing land in Pinelands-designated Regional Growth Areas, which serve as the receiving areas, and can be used to increase the densities at which they build. Once those credits are “severed” from a sending area property, the property is permanently protected by a conservation or agricultural deed restriction and credits on the property can be sold. Credits are bought and sold in one-quarter credit units called “rights.”

During 2014, five rights were severed, protecting 23.73 acres of land. A total of 5,997 rights were severed from 1982 to 2014, protecting 51,792 acres. In 2014, the mean sales price of PDCs was \$9,468 per right.

Chapter 3: Science and Research Activities

Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program

In 2014, Commission scientists continued to carry out parts of its long-term environmental monitoring program.

Since the 1990s, the Commission has conducted surveys at hundreds of sites in the Pinelands in an effort to characterize the effect of existing land-use patterns on aquatic and wetland resources and to monitor long-term changes in these resources. Commission scientists sampled water quality, vegetation and fish in streams and impoundments, and frogs and toads in impoundments in the Mullica River, Rancocas Creek, Great Egg Harbor River, and Barnegat Bay watersheds. Staff has completed two rounds of surveys in each of the four watersheds and has prepared the survey data for analysis.

Since 2005, Commission scientists have measured water quality at 47 stream sites on a monthly or bimonthly basis. In 2013, sampling for various nutrients was completed at these 47 sites and nutrient analyses were performed by Rutgers University Division of Pinelands Research staff. In 2014, Commission scientists evaluated the relationship between land use and water quality at these sites and compared water-quality parameters between sites in agriculture- and development-dominated watersheds.

Each month, scientists record water levels at 35 forest plots and 30 ponds, and maintain continuous water-level recording devices installed in seven other ponds. The Commission has monitored calling frogs and toads at 20 ponds since 1996.

Pond-vulnerability Study

Commission scientists continued to make progress on a study to characterize the vulnerability of Pinelands ponds to surrounding land uses. Scientists began the first phase of the project by using aerial photography to compile an inventory of approximately 3,000 natural Pinelands ponds. Ninety-nine of these ponds were selected for the study. In 2014, scientists began to monitor water quality and hydrology at all 99 ponds and completed plant and animal surveys at 53 of the ponds.



Natural ponds, such as this one in Brendan Byrne State Forest, provide habitat for many species of Pinelands plants and animals.

Photo/John Bunnell

These ponds are typically called “intermittent” because they are not usually connected to streams and occasionally dry out, creating largely fishless environments that serve as important breeding grounds for frogs and toads such as the rare Pine Barrens treefrog. Intermittent ponds also provide habitat for many rare plants.

During the course of the research project, Commission scientists will quantify the impact of land use on these ponds.

The Commission will identify and prioritize ponds that need enhanced protection and may evaluate potential planning and regulatory measures to better protect these ponds.

The study is being funded, in part, by a \$350,524 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Commission is supplementing the EPA grant funding by contributing \$116,841 from its Pinelands Conservation Fund (please see pages 7-8 for more information about the Fund).

Created-wetland Study

Like natural wetlands, created wetlands can provide the habitat necessary for wetland-dependent plants and animals, especially in human-dominated landscapes where natural wetlands may have been degraded or eliminated. As part of another study, Commission scientists mapped the location of two types of created wetlands commonly found in the Pinelands, shallow excavations that intercept the groundwater (excavated ponds) and excavations designed to receive stormwater (stormwater basins). About 2,000 excavated ponds and 1,700 stormwater basins have been mapped. Fifty-two excavated ponds and 46 stormwater basins were selected for the study. In 2014, scientists monitored water quality and hydrology at all 98 created wetlands and surveyed plant and animal assemblages at 24 of the excavated ponds and 26 of the stormwater basins. As part of the study, scientists will compare water-quality, hydrologic, and biological attributes between both types of created wetlands and the natural ponds from the Pond-vulnerability Study described above. In collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and Montclair University, sites that represent a subset of each type of wetland are being sampled for current-use pesticides and emerging-amphibian pathogens. In 2014, eight sites were sampled for these parameters.



Some stormwater basins can provide breeding habitat for the endangered southern gray treefrog. Photo/John Bunnell

The study is being funded by a \$361,317 grant from the U.S. EPA and a \$120,439 match by the Commission through the Pinelands Conservation Fund (please see pages 7-8 for additional information about the Fund.)

Pinelands Research Series

The Pinelands Research Series was initiated in 2012 to provide a regular forum for scientists to present and discuss Pinelands-related research. This is a free event that is open to the public and hosted by the Commission.

In 2014, the Commission hosted seven presentations that covered a wide range of research topics, including the southern pine beetle, Lyme disease and reptiles, arsenic in coastal-plain streams, nutrients in the Barnegat Bay, Pine Barrens gentian demography, Knieskern's beaksedge dynamics, adult pine snake dispersal and movement, and juvenile pine snake ecology.

A full listing of previous and upcoming presentations can be found on the Commission's website at: <http://www.nj.gov/pinelands/science/pinesseries/>

Chapter 4: Regulatory Activities

Permitting

The Commission's staff reviews municipal and county permitting decisions and development approvals to determine potential impacts on Pinelands natural resources. In 2014, the Commission's Project Review Office received 391 new applications (including public and private applications).

During the year, actions were taken on 1,468 applications. A total of 25 actions were taken on applications through the Local Review Officer Program, which expedites the approval process by having municipal officers review certain applications, without the need for the Commission's review first.

The Pinelands Commission approved 37 public development applications in 2014. Among other noteworthy applications, the Commission approved the reconstruction of three dams in Pemberton Township, the construction of a 21-acre underground recharge system for the infiltration of treated wastewater in Hammonton, construction of a 4,165-square-foot academic library building at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, construction of a 2,480-square-foot equipment storage building in Galloway Township, a total of 13,600 linear feet of road pavement widening and associated improvements on East Veteran's Highway in Jackson Township, improvements to existing Garden State Parkway Interchanges 36, 37 and 38, the reconstruction of the Blue Anchor Dam and the widening of U.S. Route 30 across the Blue Anchor Dam in Winslow Township, and improvements to an existing aircraft taxiway at the Atlantic City Airport in Egg Harbor Township.

The Commission also has the authority to issue Freshwater Wetland General Permits in the Pinelands Area on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission issued nine such permits in 2014.

Proposed South Jersey Gas Pipeline

In January 2014, the Commission voted 7-7 on a proposed agreement that called for the construction of approximately 15 miles of a 22-mile natural gas pipeline in the Pinelands Area.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) sought to permit South Jersey Gas to build a high-pressure, 24-inch natural gas transmission line beneath existing paved portions or disturbed rights-of-way in Maurice River Township to Beesley's Point in Upper Township. The pipeline would provide the gas needed to repower the B.L. England Electrical Generation Plant, as well as providing supply feeder redundancy to the entire southernmost portion of South Jersey Gas' (SJG's) service territory, which is currently served by a single feed supply.

Memorandum of Agreement with The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

In November 2014, the Commission approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will facilitate and expedite development in appropriate areas of The Richard Stockton College's campus per the College's 2010 Master Plan.

Under the MOA, the College will not be required to file a public development application with the Commission for any development located within the Designated Development Areas that were established in the 2010 Master Plan.

The College's 2010 Master Plan identifies on-campus development projects during the course of the next 20 years, based on projected student enrollment. The College's potential development projects include nearly 2.4 million square feet of new development, nearly 11,000 new parking spaces and more than 3,100 new dwelling units, most of which are dormitories. All of these projects are delineated on Designated Development Areas. The Commission has reviewed these areas and it has determined that the areas do not involve any resources, structures or areas of significance under the Comprehensive Management Plan.



Stockton College deed-restricted more than 1,200 acres of high-integrity habitat as part of its 2010 Master Plan, including the property above. Photo/Paul Leakan

Additionally, the College has conducted, and the Commission has approved, campus-wide studies to identify threatened and endangered plant and animal species. The College has agreed to cluster its proposed development to avoid and minimize disturbance adjacent to wetlands, wetlands buffers, threatened and endangered plant species, critical habitat for threatened and endangered animal species and other deed-restricted lands found to be necessary to protect threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Additionally, the College has deed-restricted more than 1,200 acres of high-integrity habitat. (Please see the photo on page 13).

Violations

The Pinelands Commission continues its efforts to provide assistance to municipalities in pursuing and resolving violations of the local land use ordinances and Pinelands regulations. A total of 60 violations were reported to the Commission in 2014.

Chapter 5: Public Information, Participation & Education

Outreach and Education

The Commission's Communications and Public Programs Office staff handled 111 press inquiries and responded to 977 public inquiries regarding the Pinelands in 2014.

Staff organized and carried out its eighth annual, Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day event. Held at the historic Batsto Village, the event attracted more than 250 students and teachers who gauged Pinelands water quality and learned about the importance of protecting the region's unique natural and historic resources.



John Bunnell, the Commission's Chief Scientist, described the Batsto River Watershed during the eighth annual Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day event.
Photo/Paul Leakan

The students measured the levels of pH or acidity in water, as well as water clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Water in the Pinelands is generally undisturbed, has a low pH and low dissolved solids, enabling it to support uniquely adapted Pinelands plants and animals. The students' findings were posted on the World Water Monitoring Day Web site, where test results can be compared over time. In addition to assisting with the water tests, staff from the Pinelands Commission used nets to catch native Pinelands fish and demonstrated how the Commission protects wetlands and habitat for rare plants and animals. Commission staff members educated approximately 1,625 students during in-class education programs and field trips in 2014.

Pinelands Short Course

The 25th annual Pinelands Short Course featured a new venue and 36 presentations that explored the unique history, ecology, culture and music of the Pinelands.

The daylong event was held at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Galloway Township, Atlantic County on March 8, 2014. Stockton hosted the Short Course for the first time since 2003. The event had been held at Burlington County College's Pemberton campus from 2004 to 2013.



The 25th annual Pinelands Short Course featured 36 presentations, including one on owls of New Jersey (shown above).
Photo/Paul Leakan

A total of 400 people attended the Short Course. The event included 20 new programs, including presentations on southern pine beetles, the Jersey Devil, dragonflies and damselflies, butterflies and moths of the Pinelands, native bees and other Pinelands insects, wildlife habitat restoration, owls of New Jersey, the Pine Barrens Byway, the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer system, stream health, the Batsto Village, the Bass River State Forest and the Mullica River.

Courses were held in Stockton's Campus Center and in the new Unified Science Center, two buildings that were designed to reduce energy and environmental impacts.

The event is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend.

New Pinelands Commission website:

In 2014, the Commission made significant progress on a major project to overhaul and redesign its official website (<http://www.nj.gov/pinelands>).

The Commission last redesigned its website in 2005. The State of New Jersey's website technology has improved significantly since that time, providing for more flexibility and new features that can increase the ease of navigation.

In May 2014, the Commission formed an internal Website Redesign Committee charged with reviewing and updating the content on the existing site, while identifying ways to create a vastly-improved new site. Additionally, Commission staff conducted an online survey to ask applicants, officials, residents and other members of the public about what they like or dislike about the agency's old site. The public requested that the new site be reorganized to make it easier to find information. They also wanted meeting dates to be displayed more prominently, and they wanted a better mechanism to submit written comments or questions.

The Commission began building the new site, along with designers and programmers from the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, in October 2014. (**Editor's note:** the new website was officially launched in May 2015).

Chapter 6: Finances

Fiscal & Budget

The Commission's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 totaled \$4,315,532. Of this, \$3,806,450, or 88.2 percent, was budgeted for personnel expenses.

Budgeted revenue sources included \$325,600 in federal grants, a \$2.469 million State appropriation, \$779,200 in State grants and other State funding, \$253,000 in application fees and \$488,732 from the Commission's fund balance and reserves.

The 2015 budget for the Kirkwood-Cohansey Study, funded through legislation passed in 2001, was \$239,750. The budget for the Pinelands Conservation Fund was \$1,634,173.

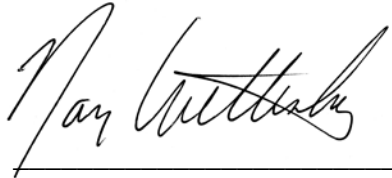
Once it is completed, the Commission's Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2014, which ended June 30, 2013, will be posted on the State Auditors web site. The website address is: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/auditreports_department.asp. The report also will be available on the Pinelands Commission's web site: www.nj.gov/pinelands.

Pinelands Application Fees

Since April 2004, the Pinelands Commission has received application fees to partially underwrite the direct costs associated with reviewing development applications in the Pinelands Area. During Fiscal Year 2015, unaudited application fee revenues totaled \$524,000 (\$271,000 more than Fiscal Year 2014).

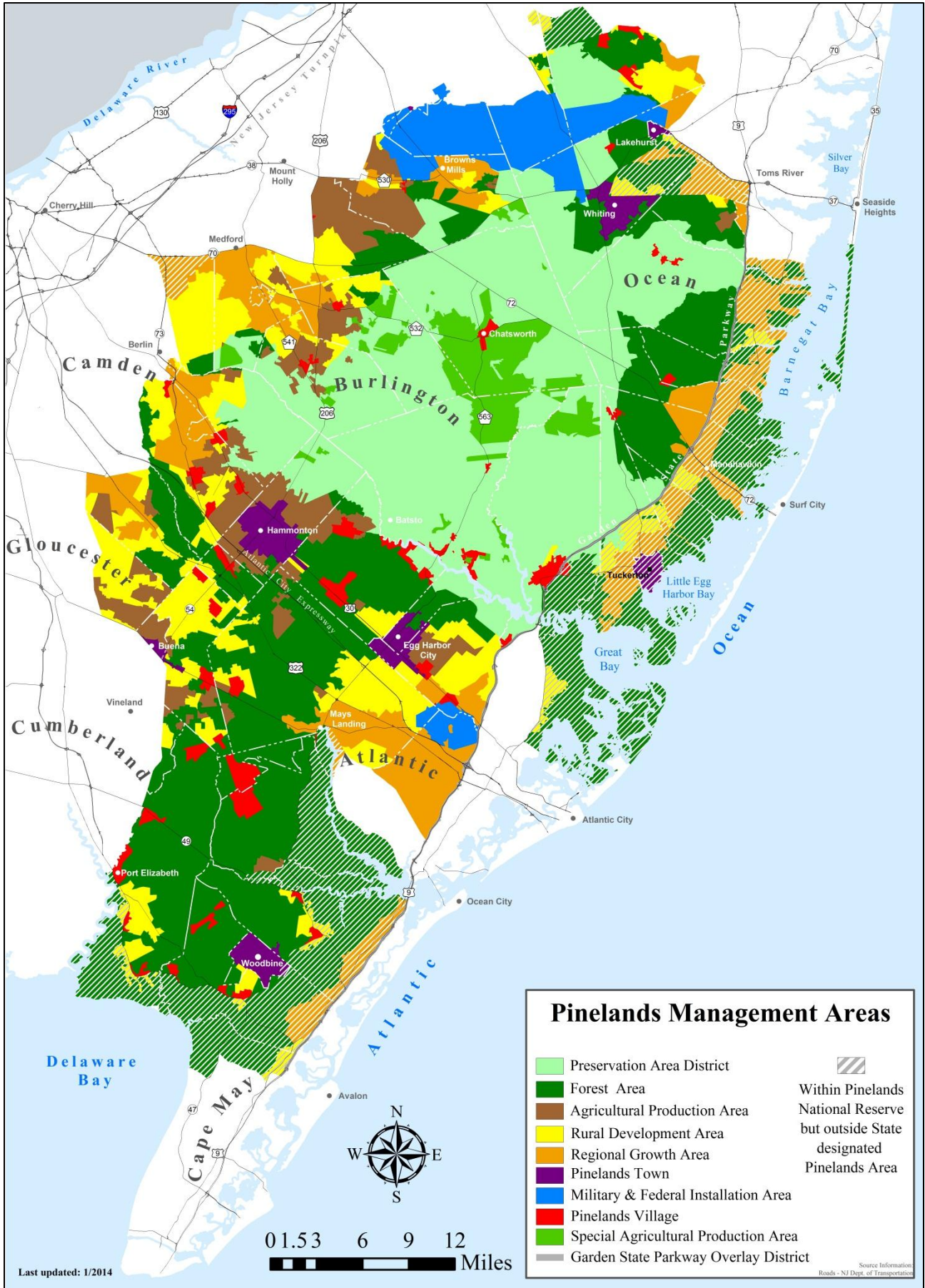
Certification

As required by State Executive Order #37, all State authorities are required to certify that during the preceding year the authority has, to the best of its knowledge, followed all of the authority's standards, procedures, and internal controls. I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that, during the 2014 calendar year, all of the Commission's standards, procedures, and internal controls were followed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Wittenberg", written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Pinelands Land Capability Map





RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION

NO. PC4-15- 31

TITLE: Expressing the Commission's appreciation to the late Robert Hagaman for his service as a member between December 16, 2002 and June 12, 2008

Commissioner Avery moves and Commissioner Barr seconds the motion that:

WHEREAS, Robert Hagaman was first appointed by Governor James E. McGreevey on December 16, 2002 and served on the Commission with distinction until June 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Mr. Hagaman served on the Commission's Personnel and Budget Committee, Permanent Land Protection Committee and as an alternate member of the Science Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hagaman also served eight terms as a member of the Pinelands Municipal Council, which serves as a sounding board between the 53 municipalities in the Pinelands Area and the Pinelands Commission; and

WHEREAS, as a hay farmer and as the former Mayor of Mullica Township, Mr. Hagaman provided a unique, local perspective on farming and municipal matters during his time on the Commission; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Hagaman's tenure, the Commission strengthened the Pinelands Protection Program by adopting eight amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Commission members are unpaid volunteers, and Mr. Hagaman devoted hundreds of hours of his time as a Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Commission want to recognize Mr. Hagaman's significant contributions and express their appreciation for the service that he performed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Pinelands Commission, assembled at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education on this 9th day of October, 2015, do hereby express our appreciation to the family of the late Robert Hagaman for his commitment to the Pinelands and for his service as a member of the Commission between December 16, 2002 and June 12, 2008.

Record of Commission Votes

AYE NAY NP ABS				AYE NAY NP ABS				AYE NAY NP ABS			
Ashmun	X			Earlen	X			Prickett	X		
Avery	X			Galletta	X			Quinn		X	
Barr	X			Jannarone	X			Rohan Green		X	
Brown	X			Lloyd	X			Witt	X		
DiBello	X			McGlinchey	X			Lohbauer	X		

Adopted at a meeting of the Pinelands Commission
Nancy Wittenberg
Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Date: October 9, 2015
Mark S. Lohbauer
Mark S. Lohbauer
Chairman