



# **NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION**

## **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**



Lake Nummy in Belleplain State Forest in Cape May and Cumberland counties

# **AUGUST 2020**

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# 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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## 1.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### 1.1A COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Policy & Implementation Committee:** The Policy & Implementation Committee met on August 28, 2020. The Committee reviewed and recommended Commission approval of a Woodland Township ordinance that extends the duration of mining permits from two to five years. Staff also updated the Committee on the progress made with respect to an amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and Atlantic County related to Lake Lenape Park. Staff has drafted an amendment to the MOA and provided it to the County. We are awaiting the County's response and detailed acreage information.
- **Land Use, Climate Impacts & Sustainability (LUCIS):** The LUCIS Committee met on August 28, 2020. The Committee discussed the five guiding principles that would be incorporated into a preliminary amendment of the CMP regarding climate change. The Committee agreed that a draft resolution establishing the guiding principles be drafted for their review. Staff provided an overview of the New Jersey Forest Stewardship Program. Staff also provided an update on solar activity in the Pinelands.

### 1.1B RULEMAKING

- **Septic System Pilot Program:** Following publication of the rule proposal in the July 20, 2020 edition of the New Jersey Register, the 60-day public comment period commenced. No comments were received as of August 31, 2020. A virtual public hearing has been scheduled for September 2, 2020
- **Stormwater Management:** Staff met throughout August to identify Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) amendments that are both responsive to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) revised stormwater rules and able to be implemented by the Commission and Pinelands municipalities. Recommendations will be shared with the Policy & Implementation Committee at an upcoming meeting.
- **Kirkwood/Cohansey water supply:** Staff continued to explore the feasibility of an agreement with NJDEP to perform certain analyses for well applications.

## 1.2 LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### 1.2A LITIGATION (STATE; FEDERAL; OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW; OTHER)

#### STATE:

- **I/M/O New Jersey Natural Gas Application for The Installation and Operation of The Southern Reliability Link, Docket No. A-000925-17T1:** By Order dated August 6, 2020, the Appellate Division denied the Sierra Club of New Jersey's Motion for a Stay and to Supplement the Record in this appeal. Additionally, the Commission filed its opposition to Pinelands Preservation Alliance's (PPA's) Motion to Intervene in this appeal and join

Sierra Club's Motion for a Stay and to Supplement the Record on August 10, 2020. On that same date, the court clerk rejected PPA's Motion and advised that should PPA want to try to intervene, it would need to do so according to the New Jersey Court Rules.

- **I/M/O New Jersey Pinelands Commission Resolution PC4-20-03:** On August 26, 2020, the Appellate Division issued a Scheduling Order in the PPA's Appeal of the Commission Resolution PC4-20-03. PPA's brief is due on October 13, 2020.

### **1.2B OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

- Staff responded to seven OPRA requests received in August. Of the seven requests, one request received responsive material, two requests received no responsive material and four requests were advised that staff will provide copies of any paper records once the Commission's Offices reopen.

### **1.3 HUMAN RESOURCES**

- **Training:** Staff participated in the following Employee Advisory Services webinar: "How to Cope with Anxiety During Difficult Times."
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** The LMS contract was renewed for FY2021. Staff attended the LMS Administrator training for the updated system.
- **Retirement:** Staff processed one employee retirement.
- **NJ Well:** Staff participated in the NJ Well Webinar: "Meal Planning Made Easy". Staff also participated in the NJ Well Summer Challenge (June 1, 2020 – August 31, 2020) to earn additional NJ Well points.

## **2 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION**

- **Governor's Interagency Task Force:** Staff attended the August 19, 2020 meeting of the Governor's Interagency Task Force. There were two primary topics of conversation: the technologies, policies and practices put in place by each agency or department during the pandemic; and the most appropriate way to recognize existing state plan centers located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise or climate change in general.
- **State Planning Commission:** Staff attended the State Planning Commission's August 5, 2020 meeting, at which the Commission approved a change to the State Plan Map affecting land in the Pinelands National Reserve in Berkeley Township. The State Planning Commission also received a presentation from Vince Mazzei, NJDEP Acting Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Use Management, on NJDEP's upcoming rulemaking efforts related to climate change.
- **Water Supply Advisory Council:** Staff attended the August 21, 2020 meeting of the Water Supply Advisory Council and learned that NJDEP plans to release an updated State Water Supply Plan early next year. Also, NJDEP will be scheduling stakeholder meetings to discuss its amended Flood Hazard Mitigation rules.

- **NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife:** Staff scheduled a September 16, 2020 meeting with staff from the NJDEP, Division of Fish and Wildlife, regarding the coordination of development activities at State Wildlife Management Areas located within the Pinelands Area.

### 3 PLANNING

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#### 3.1 CONFORMANCE ACTIVITY

	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Ordinances/Master Plans Received	11	63

#### 3.2 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Applications Reviewed	6	64
Surveys Required	0	4
Surveys Reviewed	2	7
Certificates of Appropriateness Required	1	4

**Notable Activity:**

- **New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) Capital Level I Grant:** Cultural Resource and Business Services Staff conducted an on- site meeting at Commission Headquarters with a representative from the NJHT. The meeting was held to review the Commission’s 2020 application for a matching Capital Grant to repair and paint historic Fenwick Manor, as well as provide the NJHT with a formal tour of the structure. Those receiving NJHT funding for the current grant round will be formally notified by the end of October, 2020.

### 3.3 PINELANDS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT PROGRAM

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
PDCs Allocated	0	11.53
PDCs Severed	0	0
Acres Protected	0	0
PDCs Extinguished	0	1.50
Acres Protected	0	95
PDCs Sold	24.50	34.75
Average Sales Price per PDC	\$45,204	\$43,640
Average Sales Price per Right	\$11,301	\$10,910
PDCs Redeemed	0.25	8.00

#### Notable Activity:

- PDC sales for August 2020 included one transaction for 85 rights, the largest sale processed by the PDC Bank in many years. The rights will be used for a large residential project in Barnegat Township’s Regional Growth Area.
- 0.25 PDCs were redeemed in August 2020 for the development of one single-family dwelling in Manchester Township’s Regional Growth Area. The Commission approved a Waiver of Strict Compliance for this dwelling unit in February 2020.
- The PDC Bank issued its [Annual Report](#) for Fiscal Year 2020.

### 3.4 SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund (PITF):** Pemberton Township notified the Commission that it will be proceeding with an application to the State Infrastructure Bank to obtain the grant and loan funding awarded by the Commission through the PITF in September 2019. The project involves installation of improvements to an existing water supply system, including rehabilitation of distribution and storage facilities that form the sole source of public water supply for a portion of the Township’s Regional Growth Area.
- **Septic Pilot Program:** Staff issued its [Annual Report](#) on the Alternate Design Treatment Systems Pilot Program. The report was distributed to Pinelands county health departments, pilot program technology vendors and NJDEP and is posted on the Commission’s website.

### 3.5 OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- The responsibility for issuing Letters of Interpretation that allocate Pinelands Development Credits is in the process of being transferred from the Regulatory Programs office to the Planning office. Planning staff received training and began to process several new applications.

## 4 INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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- **Pinelands Commission Information System Upgrades:** Staff implemented enhancements and bug fixes to enable uninterrupted operation.
- **Windows 10 and Office 365 Migration:** Staff continued deployment of Windows 10 desktops. Staff continued migration of local user data to OneDrive to replace local file share. Staff obtained a quote for Voice over Internet Protocol (VIOP) support for users to facilitate seamless communication while working from home.
- **Permanent Land Protection (PLP) Data System:** Staff finished processing files and updates to ensure accuracy of the annual PLP map.
- **PDC Bank:** Staff provided support for transactions and reporting for the PDC Bank. Staff finalized PDC Bank annual report data charts, tables, and maps.
- **Network Support:** Staff provided emergency support due to severe weather to restore Pinelands systems connectivity to the Garden State Network (GSN).

## 5 REGULATORY PROGRAMS

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### 5.1 APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Pre-Application Conferences	6	89
Certificates of Filing	7	115
Public Development Reports	8	25
Forestry Certificates of Filing	0	18
PDC Letters of Interpretation	0	8
Non-PDC Letters of Interpretation	0	1
MOA Consistency Determinations	2	31
Review of Agency Determinations	61	510

## 5.2 NOTABLE APPLICATIONS

- **Waterford Township, Atco Raceway (App. No. 1987-1183.015):** This is an application for a change in use from an existing automobile raceway to an automobile auction facility. Information was submitted on September 1, 2020 in response to a July 27, 2020 Commission letter. That information is under review. The Commission continues to receive extensive public comment regarding the application.
- **Buena Vista Township, Retail Store (App. No. 2019-0037.001):** On August 20, 2020, staff received information to complete the application for the construction of a 9,100 square foot commercial building at the intersection of Broad Street and Tuckahoe Road in Buena Vista Township.
- **Winslow Township (App. No. 1995-1305.002):** To assist Winslow Township with the preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for a parcel, the staff completed a site inspection confirming the apparent absence of wetlands on an approximately 42 acre parcel at the intersection of State Rt. 73 and Tansboro Road.
- **Southampton Township, Mobile Home Park (App. No. 1988-1133.005):** Staff is currently reviewing a question raised by a mobile home park owner. The existing mobile home park pre-dates the 1981 effective date of the regulations contained in the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The CMP provides that the removal and replacement of a single family dwelling within 5 years of its removal does not require application to the Commission. After 5 years, replacement of a single family dwelling requires an application to the Commission. A mobile home is typically a single family dwelling. The owner has inquired as to whether the removal and replacement of a mobile home greater than 5 years after its removal requires an application to the Commission.

## 6 SCIENCE

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### 6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- **Water-level and Water-quality Monitoring:** In August, staff measured water levels at forest plots and ponds in the Commission network of long-term monitoring sites. Staff also measured pH and specific conductance at a set of 47 Pinelands streams that have been monitored since 2006.

### 6.2 LONG TERM STUDIES

- **Kingsnake Study:** Commission scientists, along with researchers at Herpetological Associates and The College of New Jersey, continue to study the ecology of the eastern kingsnake. Project collaborators are using radio telemetry to determine the activity range; upland and wetland habitat use; and timing of shedding, denning, and potentially nesting of this listed species of special concern. To date, radio transmitters have been surgically implanted in 27 kingsnakes. Prior to August, five kingsnakes were killed by predators and the transmitter stopped working in another snake. In August, researchers used radio telemetry to track 21 remaining kingsnakes three times each week. Unfortunately, in mid-August, another kingsnake was predated, bringing the total



number of snakes at the end of August to 20. Scientists also hatched out, pit tagged, and released several clutches of kingsnakes this month.

- Endocrine Disruption Study:** In collaboration with New Jersey and West Virginia U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists, Commission scientists are investigating the potential effect of endocrine disrupting compounds from surrounding land use and sewage treatment plants on fish and frogs in the Pinelands. In August, project collaborators finalized plans for completing field sampling at the remaining sites. The third week in September was chosen for sampling fish in two lakes above and one lake below the Medford Lakes sewage treatment plant.
- Corn Snake Study:** Commission and Herpetological Associates researchers are using a drift fence to assess the survival of corn snake hatchlings and to compare the effectiveness of using a drift fence, box traps, and artificial cover to detect corn snakes and other species of snakes. In August, project scientists continued to monitor box traps and cover along the drift fence on a daily basis. Based on 2020 data collected through the end of August, corn snakes and eight other snake species were recorded at the drift fence array. As is evident in the table below, other reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds have been intercepted by the drift fence array.

Snakes and other animals found at the drift fence (April - August, 2020)	
Species	Number
fowler's toad	946
ground skink	194
green frog	65
white-footed mouse	49
northern fence lizard	41
redback salamander	26
northern redbelly snake	22
southern ringneck snake	16
eastern ribbon snake	11
northern black racer	11
corn snake	6
four-toed salamander	5
masked shrew	5
eastern garter snake	4
eastern spadefoot	4
rough green snake	4
pine warbler	2
southern leopard frog	2
eastern painted turtle	1
mole	1
northern water snake	1
star nosed mole	1
timber rattlesnake	1



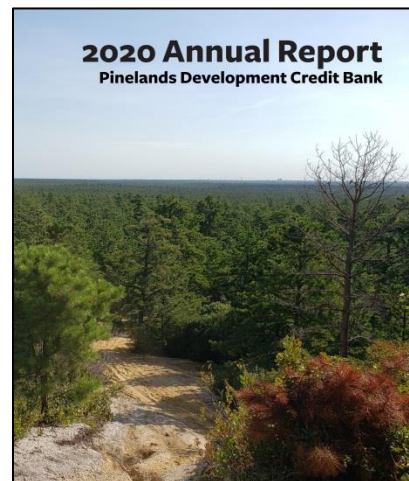
**Above:** These hatchling kingsnakes were pit tagged and released in August.

## **7 COMMUNICATIONS**

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### **7.1 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

- **Website Activity:** The Pinelands Commission’s website received a total of 12,546 page views in August 2020.
- **Inquiries/Correspondence:** The Communications Office received and responded to 135 inquiries from the public, including phone calls, e-mails, and media inquiries.
- **Report Design and Editing:** In August 2020, the Communications Office designed and edited the Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Bank’s 2020 Annual Report, which was also posted on the Commission’s website and shared via e-mail with Commissioners, municipal officials and the public.



**Above:** Staff edited, designed and issued the PDC Bank’s Annual Report in August 2020.

## 7.2 EVENTS, OUTREACH & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

- **Social Media Site Enhancements:** Staff continued to enhance the Commission’s social media pages in August 2020. Staff fixed a glitch with the Commission’s Facebook page on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and then it posted 105 photographs and one video on Facebook after taking trips to Atsion Lake, the Black Run Preserve, the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area and the Winslow Wildlife Management Area. Staff also posted 44 photographs and one video on the Commission’s Instagram page in August 2020. Lastly, staff used the social media sites to promote Commission meetings, webinars, the Pinelands News Alert E-mail List, the Monthly Management Report and the PDC Bank’s Annual Report. The Commission’s Facebook page garnered 49 new followers in August 2020 (for a total of 6,431 followers), while the Commission’s Instagram site added 150 followers for the month (bringing its total to 659 followers). The more followers you have, the greater your audience and ability to communicate with the public.



**Above:** In August 2020, staff posted 105 photographs on the Commission’s Facebook page, including this one at the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area in Atlantic and Cape May counties.

- **Pinelands Speaker Series Webinars:** Staff promoted and hosted four webinar presentations in August 2020. The presentations included: “What Does Climate Change Mean for Amphibians in New Jersey?”, “Potential Impacts of Climate Change on the New Jersey Pinelands,” “Municipal Activities to Protect Drinking Water,” and “How Do You Grow a Rain Garden?” One of the webinars presentations was delivered by a member of the Commission’s staff. Additional webinars have been scheduled each week through September, and more are being secured in October and November.
- **Science Office Fieldwork:** Communications Office staff collected monitoring data for the Science Office on August 18, 2020.
- **Pine Barrens Byway Support:** In August 2020, Communications Office staff continued to provide support for planned enhancements to the Pine Barrens Byway website. Staff also started creating a Story Map for the Byway in ArcGIS. The Story Map will provide the public with a Guided Tour nine highlighted destinations on the Byway.
- **Barnegat Bay Partnership:** On August 26, 2020, staff participated in the Barnegat Bay Partnership’s Communication and Education Committee meeting.

## **8 BUSINESS OFFICE**

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### **8.1 FACILITIES**

- **Grounds Maintenance:** English ivy has been removed from the side door of Fenwick Manor and weeding has been done around the buildings. Storm clean-up was completed.

### **8.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- **Application Fees:** August Net Total: \$74,947.68; Year to Date Total: \$120,134.40.