



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Governor Florio Takes the Helm at Pinelands Commission *Commission welcomes six new members*

NEW LISBON, NJ - At the monthly meeting of the Pinelands Commission today, six of Governor James McGreevey's appointments, including former New Jersey Governor James Florio, began serving terms on the Commission. Governor Florio will serve as Chairman of the Pinelands Commission, replacing Jerrold Jacobs, who served since January 2000. The six Commissioners include four new members as well as two that have been reappointed to the panel by the Governor. In addition to Governor Florio, they are Candace Ashmun, Reverend Dr. Guy Campbell, Stephen Lee, Edward Lloyd and Betty Wilson.

The Pinelands Commission is a regulatory and planning agency that oversees development, land-use, and a wide range of resource management programs for the million-acre Pinelands. The Pinelands National Reserve and State Pinelands Area were established in 1978 and 1979 under federal and State acts to preserve and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources of the region.

"Protection of the Pinelands has been a highlight and priority throughout my career in public service, and the opportunity to lead the Commission is an honor and privilege that I embrace," said Governor Florio. "I want to thank former Chairman Jacobs and the former Commissioners for their past dedication and commitment to this charge and wish them well in their future endeavors."

Governor Florio takes charge of the Commission in the midst of a year-long review of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The third such review since creation of the Plan, the effort examines the accomplishments of the plan, as well as changing conditions, to identify areas that may require amendments, revisions or the implementation of new initiatives to address any remaining challenges to protecting natural resources and maintaining viable Pinelands communities.

"I look forward to guiding the CMP review and finding ways to bolster protection of Pinelands habitat and ecological resources as well as addressing, head on, the challenges faced by some of the growth communities along the eastern and western portions of the region," Florio added. "We have a strong and capable group and our newest members will no doubt hit the ground running."

To follow are brief biographic sketches for six of Governor McGreevey's appointees. A seventh gubernatorial appointment to the Commission, Mullica Township Mayor Robert Hagaman, is presently undergoing "advice and consent" review procedures by the State Senate.

Governor James J. Florio, Chairman — Jim Florio has a rich background of public service, having served as Governor of the State of New Jersey (1990-1994), member of the US Congress (1974-1990), and as State Assemblyman (1969- 1974). In public office, Mr. Florio built a strong record as an authority on issues related to the environment, energy and public health. No stranger to Pinelands Issues, Mr. Florio was one of the leading proponents of the establishment of the Pinelands National Reserve. Having sponsored legislation in Congress in 1977 to establish a federal reserve in the Pinelands, he was instrumental in crafting the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, the federal law which established the Pinelands National Reserve and set the stage for passage of State Pinelands Protection Act.

Also while in Congress, he authored the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, better know as the “Superfund” law. To this day, Superfund is our nation’s primary mechanism for cleaning up hazardous waste sites. Mr. Florio served as Chairman of the House Subcommittee with jurisdiction over environmental matters. As such, he was instrumental in the drafting or passage of virtually every major piece of federal environmental legislation. Later as Governor, Mr. Florio signed the Clean Water Enforcement Act, one of the strongest state environmental laws of its type in the nation.

Governor Florio currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Xspand, a consulting firm that helps local governments maximize operational efficiency and revenue generating capabilities. He also serves as Counsel to the law firm Fischbein, Badillo, Wagner and Harding and as Professor of Public Policy and Administration at Rutgers University.

Previously, Mr. Florio has served on the national Trade and Environmental Policy Advisory Committee to the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Secretary of Energy’s Advisory Board. He is former Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank New York. In 1993, he was the recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award and holds numerous honorary degrees. Governor Florio graduated magna cum laude from Trenton State College, received his Juris Doctor from Rutgers University Law School and attended graduate school at Columbia University where he received the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. A veteran of the US Navy, Mr. Florio served four years active duty and 18 years in the Naval Reserve, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1975.

Candace McKee Ashmun — Candace Ashmun has served as a member of the Pinelands Commission since its creation in 1979. She has also served on the State Planning Commission and as Executive Director and three-term President of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. Ms. Ashmun is a trustee of the Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Environment and Vice President of the Board of the Fund for New Jersey. At the local level, she has served on the Bedminster Board of Education, Board of Adjustment and Environmental Commission, and served as Vice Chair of the Far Hills Planning Board. A private consultant to nonprofit organizations, Ms. Ashmun has received numerous awards, including the American Planning Association Distinguished Leadership Award.

Reverend Dr. Guy Campbell — Dr. Campbell has served as pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church in Palmyra since 1969, during which time the church membership has grown from 60 people to more than 400 families. He serves as the Fourth Vice-President of the National Baptist Convention and is a member of the Convention's Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Campbell serves as moderator of the Bethany Baptist Association of Southern New Jersey and is past President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity as well as the Baptist Pastors' Conference of Burlington County and Vicinity. In addition, the Reverend has held membership in a host of clerical organizations, including the Baptist Ministers Conference of Woodbury and Vicinity and the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity. A native of South Carolina, Dr. Campbell received his BA Degree from Trenton State College and a Masters of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg conferred upon him the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and the Morris College of South Carolina conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Stephen Lee — First appointed to the Pinelands Commission in 1982, Mr. Lee is an effective voice for the Pinelands agricultural and land stewardship community. He is partner in Lee Brothers, Inc., an 1,800-acre cranberry and blueberry farm in the heart of the Pinelands. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. Mr. Lee served for 16 years on the Board of Trustees of Burlington County College, including seven years as Chair. He served as Chairman of the Burlington County Planning Board, as a member of the County Farmland Preservation Committee, and on the Pinelands Environmental Council, an agency which preceded the Pinelands Commission. Mr. Lee chaired a local farm credit bank and served as a founding chair of the parish pastoral council of the Holy Eucharist Catholic Church. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers and served in the US Air Force and NJ Air National Guard, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Edward Lloyd — Possessing a strong background in New Jersey environmental law, Mr. Lloyd is Clinical Professor of Environmental Law at Columbia Law School. He previously served for 15 years as Director of the Rutgers University Environmental Law Clinic. Mr. Lloyd is General Counsel and past Executive Director of the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group. He has served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Environmental Litigation, and has testified before Congressional and legislative committees on issues including energy conservation, solar power, clean water standards and regulations, freedom of information, water supply planning and conservation, and solid waste. A graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Lloyd holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin.

Betty Wilson — Betty Wilson has a diverse background in public policy administration. She has held elected office at the municipal level as well as a member of the New Jersey General Assembly. From 1976 to 1980 Ms. Wilson served as Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, handling an array of environmental policy issues including natural resource management, planning and acquisition. There, Ms. Wilson handled Pinelands planning efforts following Governor Byrne's February 1979 signing of Executive Order 71 which established a planning process for the Pinelands and authorized creation of the first Pinelands Commission. She later served as Associate Director for Recreational Programs at the US Department of the Interior. Her experience in the private sector includes founding of the Center for Non-Profit Corporations as well as founding a toxic waste cleanup company and a consulting firm. Actively involved in civic and volunteer work, Ms. Wilson has served as Chairperson of the Burlington City Historic Preservation Commission as well as a Trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Whitesbog Preservation Trust and Family Service of Burlington, among other organizations. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Jersey City State College, now New Jersey City University.