



New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

AGENDA

NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING

March 22, 2024

Location: Via Audio and Teleconference

Please contact NatLands@dep.nj.gov for attendance information

12:00 PM

- I. Statement of Open Public Meetings Act**
- II. General Public Comment**
- III. Resolution** – Michael Catania, for decision
- IV. Financial Report**
 - Third and Fourth Quarter 2023 Financial Statements, for decision

- V. Minutes**
 - September 29, 2023 Minutes, for decision

- VI. Unfinished Business**
 - Petty’s Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County, status update (no enclosure)

- VII. New Business**
 - Calendar Year 2024 Spending Authorization, for decision
 - Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund-Calendar Year 2024 Annual Work Plan, for decision
 - Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Animal Fund-Calendar Year 2024 Annual Work Plan, for decision
 - 2023 Annual Report Text, for discussion (no enclosure)

- VIII. Adjourn**



RESOLUTION

Whereas, The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was created in 1969 as a unique agency to promote the preservation of biological diversity; and

Whereas, Michael Catania has been a Board member of the Trust since 1987 or, in other words, for most of his adult life; and

Whereas, Michael was the Board Chair for more than twenty years; and

Whereas, over the decades Michael has contributed his sage counsel and unflagging good humor and pragmatism to enabling the Trust to prevail over countless crazy schemes to extend quarries, sewer lines, and natural gas pipelines onto Trust preserves; and

Whereas, Michael's vision and indefatigable nature led to the Trust's first urban nature preserve, Petty's Island Preserve, about which someone will surely note, "This place is an incredible asset to the Camden region. Luckily, someone had the foresight and wisdom to preserve it." Those hiking "Michael's Trail" on Petty's Island will probably understand and appreciate that THAT someone was Michael.

Whereas, the Trust wishes Michael, who has retired to Maine so that he can enjoy spending time in the beautiful outdoors with his amazing family, Jan, Taran, and Leif, all good things in this next chapter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust:

On this 22nd day of March, 2024, the Board hereby extends its heartfelt appreciation to Michael Catania for his steadfast service above and beyond the call of duty to the Trust and to the protection of natural resources and preservation of biodiversity in New Jersey; and

A duly authenticated copy of the Resolution, signed by the Chair and attested to by the Executive Director of the Trust, shall be transmitted to Michael.


Margaret Waldock, Chair


Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Statement 1

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Without Donor Restrictions General Fund	With Donor Restrictions										
		With Donor Restrictions General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	TGP Acquisition	TGP Animals	TGP Plants	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	TOTAL
ASSETS												
Current Assets												
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,849,517	\$ -	\$ 66,538	\$ 1,926,048	\$ 1,253,772	\$ 7,633	\$ 679,067	\$ 1,058,090	\$ 1,242,377	\$ 17,319	\$ 3,003,591	\$ 12,103,952
Tenants Escrow	3,046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,046
Due to Bennett Bogs Endowment	-	10,625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,625
Due to Hirst Pond Endowment	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Due to Hainesville Wood Endowment	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Due to Mackenzie'sBog/Montague	-	48,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,800
Due to Moorestown Acq Endowment	-	168,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,344
Due to Petty William Penn Grant	-	53,610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,610
Due to Statewide Capital Projects	-	560,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	560,000
Due to Stevens Endowment	-	5,603	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,603
Due to Tree Frog Pond	-	559	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	559
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Current Assets	2,852,563	897,541	66,538	1,926,048	1,253,772	7,633	679,067	1,058,090	1,242,377	17,319	3,003,591	13,004,539
Fixed Assets												
Land	-	36,020,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,020,829
Equipment	-	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,364
Vehicles	-	15,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,544
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(17,908)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,908)
Total Fixed Assets	-	36,020,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,020,829
Other Assets												
Investments-Long Term (FMV)	-	-	-	-	-	19,578	-	-	-	-	-	19,578
Due From Related Fund	-	-	-	4,880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,880
Total Other Assets	-	-	-	4,880	-	19,578	-	-	-	-	-	24,458
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,852,563	\$ 36,918,370	\$ 66,538	\$ 1,930,928	\$ 1,253,772	\$ 27,211	\$ 679,067	\$ 1,058,090	\$ 1,242,377	\$ 17,319	\$ 3,003,591	\$ 49,049,826
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS												
Liabilities												
Due To Related Fund	\$ 573,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 573,930.00
Due to Endowment Account	328,492	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	328,492
Security Deposits Payable	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Total Liabilities	905,214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	905,214
Net Assets												
Without Donor Restrictions	1,947,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,947,349
With Donor Restrictions	-	36,918,370	66,538	1,930,928	1,253,772	31,262	679,067	1,058,090	1,242,377	17,319	3,003,591	46,201,314
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	-	-	-	-	(4,051)	-	-	-	-	-	(4,051)
Total Net Assets	1,947,349	36,918,370	66,538	1,930,928	1,253,772	27,211	679,067	1,058,090	1,242,377	17,319	3,003,591	48,144,612
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,852,563	\$ 36,918,370	\$ 66,538	\$ 1,930,928	\$ 1,253,772	\$ 27,211	\$ 679,067	\$ 1,058,090	\$ 1,242,377	\$ 17,319	\$ 3,003,591	\$ 49,049,826

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE NINE MONTH PERIOD ENDED
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Statement 2

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	With Donor Restrictions											TOTAL
	Without Donor Restrictions General Fund	With Donor Restrictions General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	TGP Acquisition	TGP Animals	TGP Plants	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	
Revenue (Restricted)												
Contribution Income	\$ 20	\$ 54,500	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 490,184	\$ 669,704
Expense												
Materials and Supplies	762	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	762
Services	9,987	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,987
Maintenance	23,064	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,064
Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subaccount Expenses	-	890	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	890
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	-	-	9,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	224,175	233,225
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	33,813	890	-	9,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	224,175	267,928
Other Income												
Rent Income	20,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,050
Interest/Dividend Income	95,990	-	2,374	64,840	44,736	739	24,230	37,754	44,330	618	101,186	416,797
Miscellaneous Income	6,912	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,912
NonRecurring Land Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Income	122,952	-	2,374	64,840	44,736	739	24,230	37,754	44,330	618	101,186	443,759
Excess Revenues Over Expenses/ Excess (Expenses) Over Revenues	\$ 89,159	\$ 53,610	\$ 2,374	\$ 180,790	\$ 44,736	\$ 739	\$ 24,230	\$ 37,754	\$ 44,330	\$ 618	\$ 367,195	\$ 845,535
Net Asset Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 1,858,190	\$ 36,864,760	\$ 64,164	\$ 1,750,138	\$ 1,209,036	\$ 27,358	\$ 654,837	\$ 1,020,336	\$ 1,198,047	\$ 16,701	\$ 2,636,396	\$ 47,299,963
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	-	-	-	-	(886)	-	-	-	-	-	(886)
Inter Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Balance Sept 30, 2023	\$ 1,947,349	\$ 36,918,370	\$ 66,538	\$ 1,930,928	\$ 1,253,772	\$ 27,211	\$ 679,067	\$ 1,058,090	\$ 1,242,377	\$ 17,319	\$ 3,003,591	\$ 48,144,612

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Statement 1

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	With Donor Restrictions											
	Without Donor Restrictions General Fund	With Donor Restrictions General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	TGP Acquisition	TGP Animals	TGP Plants	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	TOTAL
ASSETS												
Current Assets												
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,864,035	\$ -	\$ 67,430	\$ 1,951,866	\$ 1,270,578	\$ 7,736	\$ 688,169	\$ 1,072,273	\$ 1,259,029	\$ 17,551	\$ 3,092,467	\$ 12,291,134
Tenants Escrow	3,047	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,047
Due to Bennett Bogs Endowment	-	10,625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,625
Due to Hirst Pond Endowment	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Due to Hainesville Wood Endowment	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Due to Mackenzie'sBog/Montague	-	48,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,800
Due to Moorestown Acq Endowment	-	168,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,344
Due to Petty William Penn Grant	-	41,061	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,061
Due to Statewide Capital Projects	-	560,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	560,000
Due to Stevens Endowment	-	5,603	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,603
Due to Tree Frog Pond	-	559	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	559
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Current Assets	2,867,082	884,992	67,430	1,951,866	1,270,578	7,736	688,169	1,072,273	1,259,029	17,551	3,092,467	13,179,173
Fixed Assets												
Land	-	36,020,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,020,829
Equipment	-	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,364
Vehicles	-	15,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,544
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(17,908)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,908)
Total Fixed Assets	-	36,020,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,020,829
Other Assets												
Investments-Long Term (FMV)	-	-	-	-	-	20,870	-	-	-	-	-	20,870
Due From Related Fund	-	-	-	4,880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,880
Total Other Assets	-	-	-	4,880	-	20,870	-	-	-	-	-	25,750
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,867,082	\$ 36,905,821	\$ 67,430	\$ 1,956,746	\$ 1,270,578	\$ 28,606	\$ 688,169	\$ 1,072,273	\$ 1,259,029	\$ 17,551	\$ 3,092,467	\$ 49,225,752
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS												
Liabilities												
Due To Related Fund	\$ 573,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 573,930.00
Due to Endowment Account	315,943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	315,943
Security Deposits Payable	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Total Liabilities	892,665	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	892,665
Net Assets												
Without Donor Restrictions	1,974,417	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,974,417
With Donor Restrictions	-	36,905,821	67,430	1,956,746	1,270,578	31,522	688,169	1,072,273	1,259,029	17,551	3,092,467	46,361,586
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	-	-	-	-	(2,916)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,916)
Total Net Assets	1,974,417	36,905,821	67,430	1,956,746	1,270,578	28,606	688,169	1,072,273	1,259,029	17,551	3,092,467	48,333,087
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,867,082	\$ 36,905,821	\$ 67,430	\$ 1,956,746	\$ 1,270,578	\$ 28,606	\$ 688,169	\$ 1,072,273	\$ 1,259,029	\$ 17,551	\$ 3,092,467	\$ 49,225,752

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Statement 2

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	With Donor Restrictions											TOTAL
	Without Donor Restrictions General Fund	With Donor Restrictions General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	TGP Acquisition	TGP Animals	TGP Plants	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	
Revenue (Restricted)												
Contribution Income	\$ 20	\$ 57,245	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 629,962	\$ 812,227
Expense												
Materials and Supplies	762	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	762
Services	12,287	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,287
Maintenance	36,207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,207
Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subaccount Expenses	-	16,184	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,184
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	-	-	9,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	316,229	325,279
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	49,256	16,184	-	9,050	-	-	-	-	-	-	316,229	390,719
Other Income												
Rent Income	26,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,500
Interest/Dividend Income	132,051	-	3,266	90,658	61,542	999	33,332	51,937	60,982	850	142,338	577,955
Miscellaneous Income	6,912	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,912
NonRecurring Land Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Income	165,463	-	3,266	90,658	61,542	999	33,332	51,937	60,982	850	142,338	611,367
Excess Revenues Over Expenses/ Excess (Expenses) Over Revenues	\$ 116,227	\$ 41,061	\$ 3,266	\$ 206,608	\$ 61,542	\$ 999	\$ 33,332	\$ 51,937	\$ 60,982	\$ 850	\$ 456,071	\$ 1,032,875
Net Asset Balance January 1, 2023	\$ 1,858,190	\$ 36,864,760	\$ 64,164	\$ 1,750,138	\$ 1,209,036	\$ 27,358	\$ 654,837	\$ 1,020,336	\$ 1,198,047	\$ 16,701	\$ 2,636,396	\$ 47,299,963
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	-	-	-	-	249	-	-	-	-	-	249
Inter Fund Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Balance Dec 31, 2023	\$ 1,974,417	\$ 36,905,821	\$ 67,430	\$ 1,956,746	\$ 1,270,578	\$ 28,606	\$ 688,169	\$ 1,072,273	\$ 1,259,029	\$ 17,551	\$ 3,092,467	\$ 48,333,087

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 29, 2023
1:00 PM
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Waldock called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was provided as follows: Notice of the date, time, location, and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Margaret Waldock, Chair
Anne Heasley, Vice Chair
Emile DeVito, Trustee (arrived 1:40 PM)
Robert Jackson, Trustee
Alex Sitts, Trustee representative for State
Treasurer
Senator Bob Smith, State House
Commission Trustee
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee

Kelly Wenzel, Trustee
Todd Wyckoff, NJ State Forester, for John
Cecil, Trustee representative for DEP
Commissioner
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Jason Hafstad, Trust Staff
Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Angela Wenger, Audubon Mid-Atlantic

Guests: Debra Murphy

Introductions: Mr. Cartica introduced and welcomed new Trustees Kelly Wenzel (New Jersey Audubon Society), Todd Wyckoff (NJ State Forester), and Alex Sitts (NJ State Treasurer representative). Another new trustee, Angela Wenger (Audubon Mid-Atlantic), was unable to join the meeting. He advised that Anne Heasley and Emile DeVito were recently reappointed to the Board.

It was noted by the Trustees that this meeting is the first Trust meeting in more than 25 years that former Chair Michael Catania is not present. Mr. Catania's long-term commitment and numerous contributions to the Trust will be recognized at a future meeting.

General Public Comment:

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarters ending March 31 and June 30, 2023. Senator Smith motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Mr. Jackson

seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **March 24, 2023 Minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the minutes. Senator Smith seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty’s Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. Since 2015, the William Penn Foundation has provided grant funding for environmental educational programming at Petty’s Island, which we used to hire our current programming provider, the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS). The current grant expired on April 30, 2023. Effective May 2023, William Penn approved a new grant in the amount of \$109,000 which would cover an additional two years of CAS programming as well as community engagement activities through a new hourly employee, Linda Cairnes, who was formerly employed with CAS.

CITGO recently completed additional soil and sediment sampling in the former oil storage tank impoundments, as well as along the perimeter of the island, and is optimistic that these sampling results will result in a decreased area of remediation, which could be completed by end of 2025.

Ms. Waldock reported about a meeting she had with DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and his staff about partnership possibilities related to the Trust and Petty’s Island.

Mr. Cartica advised the Board that on July 3, 2023, three new Natural Areas were designated to the NJ Natural Areas System including the Trust’s Bennett Bogs and Hirst Ponds preserves.

New Business:

The Board considered the proposed **Parnassus Preserve and Project Area in Montague, Sussex County**. Mr. Torok motioned to approve the Parnassus Preserve and Project Area. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion, and the preserve and project area were unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

The last 2023 Board meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2023.

Mr. Jackson motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 PM by a unanimous vote of 10 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cari Wild
Secretary/Treasurer



**NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
SPENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

	<u>2023 Authorization</u>	<u>2023 Expenditure</u>	<u>2024 Authorization</u>
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	\$2,000	\$762	\$2,000

General Printing, Office Supplies and Mail Services - \$2,000

Includes routine office supplies, photocopying, reference materials and publications, maps and reproduction of maps, creating signage, and similar expenses. Production and printing of the Annual Report is not included under this category. If needed, this item will fund additional functions for outreach and volunteers for management and acquisition.

SERVICES	\$23,700	\$12,287	\$45,000
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Travel - \$700

Includes funds for refreshments for Board meetings, travel and parking reimbursement for meetings of Board of Trustees, and staff reimbursement for occasional use of personal vehicles.

Information Processing - \$1,000

Includes computer repairs and purchase of software.

DAG Expenses – \$7,000

Includes charges assessed to the Trust for professional services provided by staff of the Attorney General's office.

Other Professional Services - \$36,300

Includes cost of professional accounting services, maintenance of the Trust's website, title searches and filing fees for land donations, legal advertisement of Board of Trustees meeting dates, membership fees and bank service charges. Also includes routine professional service contracts for surveys and preparation of deeds. Minimal back taxes are included as part of this line; however, substantial tax payments will be included in each offering brought to the Board.

2023 Authorization 2023 Expenditure 2024 Authorization

MAINTENANCE AND FIXED CHARGES	\$55,000	\$36,207	\$55,000
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General Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, Equipment and Vehicle - \$30,000

Includes funds for maintenance of rental units (including furnace or roof replacement, road regrading, power restoration, and other emergency measures), gates and access, safety/stabilization needs, tree trimming and removal, dumpster rental, encroachment surveys, etc., as needed. Major maintenance and capital improvement projects not included within this authorization will be submitted individually, together with a recommended funding source, to the Board for consideration.

Conservation/Preserve Management Projects - \$25,000

Inventories inform restoration and conservation plans making them critical to the Trust’s mission of preservation of biodiversity. The cost for each inventory is not known as quotes have not yet been sought, but costs may total up to \$25,000.

- Native Bee Inventory – \$4,000
- Fungi Inventory – \$3,500
- Lichen Inventory - \$3,200
- Avian Inventory – \$1,700
- Small Mammal Inventory - \$1,600
- Odonata Inventories – \$2,400
- Northern Metalmark Inventory – \$800
- Lepidopteran Inventory –TBD
- Additional inventories may include fireflies, beetles, snails, or spiders

ANNUAL REPORT	\$500	\$0	\$500
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Annual Report - \$500

The requested authorization includes the cost of graphic layout and development of the annual report for posting on the Trust’s website.

CAPITAL	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
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Miscellaneous Equipment Purchase and Replacement - \$2,500

This budget allows for miscellaneous small equipment and supply purchases used for land management and office function.

TOTAL 2024 SPENDING AUTHORIZATION	\$83,700	\$49,256	\$105,000
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The New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

To: John Cecil, Assistant Commissioner
State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites

Through: Gregory McLaughlin, Chief & Administrator
Forests & Natural Lands

From: Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

Date: March 12, 2024

Subject: TGP Plant Fund - Annual Work Plan for Calendar Year 2024

A 2015 five-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), extended for an additional five years in 2019, between the Division of Parks and Forestry (Division), and the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust (Trust) outlines procedures for the transfer and management of mitigation funds received by the Division from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC and transferred from the Division to the Trust (TGP Plant Fund).

The MOA requires that no later than March 1 of each year the Division shall provide to the Trust an Annual Work Plan and a certification for disbursements from the TGP Plant Fund during the calendar year. Enclosed for your review and approval is a CY2024 Annual Work Plan and certification form authorizing TGP Plant Fund expenditures totaling \$65,000 which will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Trust at its annual financial meeting scheduled for March 22, 2024.

Note that the **Deer Exclosure Demonstration Project in State Park(s) Impacted by TGP Upgrades**, approved in the amount of \$56,000 in the CY2023 Annual Work Plan, is to be suspended in CY2024. The reasons for suspension include: 1) the results of drone surveys conducted in 2022 to document the local abundance and densities of white-tailed deer in select areas of High Point and Ramapo Mountain state forests, and Ringwood State Park, resulted in lower densities than expected, potentially making these parks unsuitable for this demonstration project; and 2) The contractor expected to conduct site monitoring and fence installation has also been contracted by the Department to perform other research during 2024 and will not be able to devote time to the deer exclosure demonstration project.

Please sign and date the enclosed expenditure certification if you approve of the CY24 Annual Work Plan and TGP Plant Fund disbursement.

Enclosure

c: Robin Madden

TGP Plant Fund - Annual Work Plan for Calendar Year 2024

State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites

March 12, 2024

State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites authorizes the following expenditures from the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust's Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund during Calendar Year 2024:

Invasive Plant Species Management, Swartswood Natural Area, Swartswood State Park -

\$15,000: Swartswood State Park, in cooperation with the Office of Natural Lands Management, Division of Parks & Forestry, will implement invasive species control in upland calcareous forest and four calcareous sinkhole pond wetlands to protect populations of the State Endangered Appalachian Mountain boltonia (*Boltonia montana*) and 11 other rare plant species in the Swartswood Natural Area, and monitor the results over a five-year period. This project was approved with conditions by relevant reviewing agencies within DEP on April 12, 2021 following Land Management Review (LMR) for implementation within five years of approval.

Additionally, on April 21, 2021, the Natural Areas Council reviewed and approved this proposal with conditions to implement invasive species control in upland calcareous forest and four calcareous sinkhole pond wetlands.

General Rare Plant Species Research and Recovery - \$50,000: Disbursement is requested for rare plant species research, survey, monitoring and management activities identified and conducted during the calendar year. This may include rare plant species Recovery Plan development and implementation, additional measures to manage beaver activity that is resulting in elevated water levels at Webb's Mill Bogs, Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area, and other needs that may arise.

Estimated Total Budget: \$65,000.00



NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
CERTIFICATION FOR TRUST EXPENSES

VENDOR NAME: N/A

INVOICE NUMBER: N/A

GENERAL FUND:

Materials and Supplies

General Printing/Office Supplies []
Clothing/Volunteer Materials []

Maintenance and Fixed Charges

General Maintenance []
Major Project []

Services Other Than Personnel

Travel []
Information Processing []
DAG Charges []
Professional Services []

Annual Report []

Capital []

OTHER FUND:

Shorebird Fund []
ENSP []
Conserve Wildlife []
Wetlands Mitigation Fund []

Wetlands Mit. Acq. Fund []
Real Property []
Acquisition Cost []
Other Fund: TGP Plant Fund [X]

Table with 2 columns: ITEM, COST. Row 1: Cost for implementation of Calendar Year 2024 Annual Work Plan projects to be funded using the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund, \$65,000.00. Row 2: \$65,000.00

I certify that the goods or services described above will be used in accordance with the enclosed 2024 Annual Work Plan..

Signature _____

Date _____

Form with fields: AUTHORIZATION NUMBER, CHECK NUMBER, CREDIT CARD, DISBURSEMENT APPROVAL, DATE OF DISBURSEMENT, DATE OF COMPUTER ENTRY, DATE CHECK MAILED.



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FISH & WILDLIFE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

DAVID M. GOLDEN

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PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY

Lt. Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

TO: Bob Cartica, Executive Director, NJ Natural Lands Trust

THROUGH: **Kathy Clark, Chief, Endangered and Nongame Species Program**

FROM: Kris Schantz, Principal Zoologist, Endangered and Nongame Species Program

RE: Amendment to Multi-year Funding Request for Eastern Copperhead Research

DATE: January 09, 2024

CC:

Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) is making its third and final request for the release of funds. In 2022 and 2023, ENSP had submitted a request and supporting documents (per our MOU) and were approved for the release of \$500,000 from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Animal Fund being held in trust by the Natural Lands Trust (NLT). These funds were to be used/will be used for one or more grants through a *Notice of Funding Opportunity* (NOFO) focused on eastern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*, formerly northern copperhead, *A. c. mokasen*).

The ENSP was unable to complete and post the NOFO in prior years and therefore, the NLT has retained the applicable funds on our behalf. We are requesting the release of a maximum of \$500,000 during the 2024 calendar year **once the ENSP has identified the grantee(s) and project cost(s)**. We anticipate this would occur in late fall. The remaining funds would remain in trust with the NJ Natural Lands Trust.

Per our MOU, the ENSP had submitted approved meeting minutes from Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) regarding the use of these funds with the 2022 request. That request for funds explained that although ENSAC approved the use of the funds for two (2) grants at a maximum of \$250,000 each, **the ENSP later determined it would be prudent to avoid such parameters and instead offer \$500,000 for one or more grants based on the proposed projects' merits**. The ENSP determined the intent of ENSAC's approval was not focused on the number of grants to be awarded but rather the objectives of the projects and the total available funds to be used. The ENSP believes that since the delay in transferring these funds was due solely to ENSP's failure to complete and post the NOFO in 2022, the November 2021 ENSAC meeting minutes of approval are still valid.

Attached please find the proposal and supporting documents.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any further questions, please contact Kathy Clark (609-628-1605; kathy.clark@dep.nj.gov) or Kris Schantz (609-802-9279; kris.schantz@dep.nj.gov).

TGP Skylands Timber Rattlesnake and Eastern Copperhead Fund Multi-year Work Plan beginning Calendar Year 2025

NJ Fish and Wildlife

January 09, 2024

The New Jersey Fish and Wildlife authorizes the release of funds from the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust’s Tennessee Gas Pipeline “Animal Fund” (also referred to as the Skylands Timber Rattlesnake and Northern Copperhead Fund) during Calendar Year 2024 to pursue much-needed eastern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*, formerly northern copperhead; state SC, candidate-T) research to help direct regulatory decisions and conservation strategies.

[Please note: 1) Fish and Wildlife’s, Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) requested and were approved to receive these funds for Calendar Years 2022 and 2023. However, they were unable to finalize the *Notice of Funding Opportunity* and therefore, requested the Natural Lands Trust (NLT) continue to hold the funds in trust. 2) The copperhead is now referred to as the eastern copperhead. However, previously created funds and plans were named prior to this name change.]

We request Natural Lands Trust (NLT) works with Steve Matis (Treasury), Kelly Oneill (Fish and Wildlife), and the ENSP to **transfer the funds** to an obligated account for timber rattlesnake and eastern copperhead conservation efforts **once the ENSP has determined the total amount to be used. The total will be no more than \$500,000.**

This project aims to fulfill “Research” actions in the “Reptile and Amphibian Management Plan for the New Jersey Skylands Region with a focus on Timber Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus horridus*) and Northern Copperheads (*Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*)” (January 2015), specifically:

- Surveys and assessments of habitats and critical habitat features necessary to meet life history requirements...

New Jersey Skylands Region Timber Rattlesnake and Eastern Copperhead Grant – Eastern Copperhead Survey Technique Development and Assessment - \$500,000:

Fish and Wildlife will solicit proposals to develop and test the efficacy of survey techniques to identify eastern copperhead critical habitat features (i.e., dens, rookeries and/or gestation sites). Fish and Wildlife will administer one or more grants as determined by Fish and Wildlife, ENSP’s technical review committee. The project period is a maximum of five years from the Grant Agreement’s start date (to begin no earlier than January 01, 2025). It is Fish and Wildlife’s intention that monies not awarded through this grant process remain in trust with the Natural Lands Trust for future ENSP research on and/or conservation strategies for Skylands eastern copperheads and/or timber rattlesnakes. Fish and Wildlife’s ENSP technical review committee will review and score/rank the proposals based on the identified ranking criteria.

Once the awarded project(s) is/are identified, Fish and Wildlife requests a one-time release of the funds to enable us (and Treasury) to work with the cooperating grantees to develop suitable and timely payment schedules.

Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021
Remote meeting via GoToMeeting

Members in attendance: Rick Lathrop (chair), Jim Applegate, Joanna Burger, Emile DeVito, Russ Furnari, Jane Morton Galetto, Howard Geduldig, Erica Miller, David Mizrahi, Howard Reinert.

Absent: Robin Dougherty

Staff in attendance: Dave Golden (Director DFW), John Heilferty (Chief ENSP), Kathy Clark (ENSP), Mary Monteschio (DFW), Christina (Kashi) Davis (ENSP), Emily Heiser (ENSP), Melissa Woerner (BLM).

Public: Barbara Sachau

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am.

The public notice for this meeting was read by J. Heilferty.

Introductions of those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

R. Furnari made a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting, second by J. Galetto. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Director's Report by Director Dave Golden

This week marks the second week that the DEP and DFW staff are back in the office full time. The DFW are also adapting to mandatory testing for those not vaccinated against COVID. Two DFW facilities are being used as testing sites for the DEP.

Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski recently retired, and Craig Dorsett is now Acting Assistant Commissioner. Another retirement is Diane Ogonofski, who handled Human Resources actions. At this time, there are a lot of hiring and promotional actions within the Division.

Some important legislative actions: The NJ Waterfowl Stamp price increase was signed by the Governor last Monday, which adds money to the Waterfowl Stamp Fund to support conservation programs and purchase habitat. Also notable, the federal infrastructure bill passed, and that will provide \$350 million for wildlife-highway crossings, and over \$10 billion for wildfire and forest health, among other things.

The DFW is ready to launch the Wildlife Habitat Supporter Program on November 23. Funding generated will go toward wildlife management areas. There was discussion about the desired management for a variety of WMA visitors.

The WHS sticker may eventually substitute for other use permits such as the DFW's boat ramp permit, if only at select sites. Twenty-five other states have voluntary or mandatory programs to access WMAs. All states struggle with supporting land conservation in the face of rising staff and maintenance costs.

The DFW survey of WMA users a few years ago identified areas where a high proportion of users are not license buyers, and those may be the areas where more interaction/signage/trails might target users and future supporters.

Legislative Updates

M. Monteschio reported that (as previously mentioned) the federal infrastructure bill passed. RAWA (Recovering America's Wildlife Act) has 106 House sponsors but the Senate has not added any new co-sponsors.

Public Input

B. Sachau mentioned the minutes should be made available to the public more quickly. According to her, two attendees were not allowed to speak at the October joint meeting. She thinks the time allowed for public input is too brief. She also thinks waterfowl hunting should not be legal. She thinks the wildlife and trees should be protected.

Updates

K. Schantz is proposing two research projects for Northern copperhead, which have been recommended for threatened status. The funding comes from Tennessee Gas Pipeline mitigation funds that were dedicated to the Division, some of which the Division has put in trust. Allocating funds from the NJ Natural Lands Trust requires ENSAC approval of the work plan. The proposal is to release \$500k for ENSP to award two grants for innovative research on survey methods that is suitable for DEP use. The second fund would support Rutgers University research in the amount of \$370k on N. copperhead habitat use, range and dispersal, and habitat characterization in north and central NJ.

J. Burger made a motion to approve the release of \$870k from the Skylands timber rattlesnake/northern copperhead mitigation account in NJ NLT. Seconded by R. Furnari. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Schantz asked if there are ENSAC members who are willing to review the grant description and scoring variables (but excluding members who may want to bid on this work). R. Furnari, E. Miller, J. Applegate, and H. Geduldig volunteered for this task.

The white paper on Northern Diamondback Terrapin has been delayed; biologist B. Zarate has taken over the project from retired J. Bowers-Altman.

The amendments to the bylaws in 2019 direct that, in November of 2022, the terms of J. Burger and D. Mizrahi will expire; D. Mizrahi's term is subject to reappointment.

Nominations Committee (E. Miller, H. Geduldig, and R. Furnari) will convene to make recommendations for appointment/reappointment. H. Geduldig reported for the Nominations Committee that D. Mizrahi will be reappointed if he is willing to continue serving. The search for a new appointment to fill J. Burger's academic position will begin; the seat requires that candidates have academic/research background and interest in nongame wildlife; and to also advance the Committee's diversity goal and/or experience in urban habitats. R. Lathrop asked for a slate of potential candidates at the January meeting.

New Business

Melissa Woerner presented on the Pond Creek restoration project at Higbee Beach WMA M. Woerner is the habitat planner in the DFW Bureau of Lands Management. The Pond Creek marsh restoration project is funded by natural resource damage funds in the Office of Natural Resources Restoration. The DFW was charged with the project design.

Pond Creek is a tidal creek open to Delaware Bay, but tidal flow has been impeded for many years. Restoration goals: restore tidal hydrology, improve flora and saltmarsh productivity (eradicate Phragmites); construct tidal inundation and water control structures; protect existing freshwater marsh habitat upstream from Pond Creek; improve migratory bird habitat; use excavated sediments to facilitate remediation of the former magnesite area and landfill; establish this site as ecotourism resource.

Part of this site was used for a magnesite industry that resulted in slag fill on parts of the site. The creek's hydrology was changed and inconsistent tidal flow has allowed Phragmites to dominate the marsh, and upstream freshwater habitats have had saltwater intrusion. Fixing the hydrology will restore marsh productivity.

The assessment, engineering, and permitting have been done, and stakeholders were convened for public input. The proposed project will improve the tidal flow of Pond Creek, and feature an earthen berm with four water control structures to protect the freshwater areas from further tidal inundation. The berm will be walkable and have nine wildlife viewing structures/overlooks at sites of interest. In the marsh interior will be high marsh or shell islands for wildlife habitat. A visitor interpretive center is planned for the entrance off Sunset Blvd.

The DEP is revising the project specifications to re-bid it soon.

Discussion: Members expressed appreciation for this project design. E. DeVito asked how sea level rise was accounted for in the modeling. Director Golden noted that the berm, which is the largest feature, is overbuilt and thus will hold up to sea level rise. But the low to high tide within the restored marsh are on a narrow margin in terms of the habitats inside the area. The potential interpretive center will definitely be designed with sea level rise in mind.

Christina (Kashi) Davis and Emily Heiser presented on the 2021 Beach-nesting Bird Project

The Beach-nesting Bird Project monitors beach nesting bird sites from Sandy Hook to Cape May, monitoring for species abundance and productivity, and managing to protect and enhance nest success.

The Memorial Day weekend nor'easter storm defined the 2021 season: it was cold and lasted three days, with heavy rain and wind. The storm hit when many beach-nesting birds were far along in their initial nest attempts.

Piping Plovers

137 pairs (second highest pair count since monitoring began in 1980s) at 28 sites had success of 0.85 fledglings per pair, well below the 1.50 recovery goal. Plover distribution is clustered heavily on federal properties. Failures were largely due to predation (48%) and flooding (36%). Predation was mostly mammalian, and of note, by coyotes this year. The population size and productivity charted since 1987 shows a lot of variability in both pairs and productivity rates. In 2021, there were 259 nesting attempts and 64% failed. The failure rate is usually around 40%. Exclosure use continues to be difficult – exclosed nests hatch at a higher rate than unexclosed (59% v 10%) but have a higher rate of abandonment (with is associated with adult mortality).

Least Terns

1,153 adults at 26 sites, that produced 301 fledglings. Three sites were significant: Horseshoe Island, Holgate, and Point Pleasant Beach. The population trend since 2012 has been fairly stable even though productivity rate has not been ideal.

Black Skimmers

2,099 adults at 6 sites, that produced 1,362 fledglings. Of the 6 sites, 5 sites fledged young (this species nests later and largely escaped the nor'easter). The population trend since 2012 has been fairly stable but the number of colonies has declined to as low as four sites. Staff has been color-banding skimmers with The Wetlands Institute in recent years, which is yielding resighting data; 5 birds were tagged with transmitters in 2021, which should provide data on foraging range of breeding birds.

American Oystercatchers

This species nests on both beaches and marshes, so it is difficult to census and estimate population size. In recent years, more are nesting on beach fronts, which may be a shift away from back-bay habitats. ENSP and its partners monitored 169 pairs at 46 sites, documenting 0.24 chicks per pair. Most pairs nested at three sites (Holgate, Stone Harbor Point, Sandy Hook).

Barnegat Light State Park beach restoration area was completed in 2020, and in 2021, attracted least terns, black skimmers, and five pairs of piping plovers inside the restoration area. Longer term management will be vegetation control to maintain suitable habitat.

Horseshoe Island formed off of the Little Beach unit of Forsythe NWR. It showed up in 2018 and by 2021 was stable enough to host nesting black skimmers, oystercatchers, least and common terns. Thousands of shorebirds used it for resting and foraging, including federally listed piping plover and red knot. Staff are working with USFWS to petition NJ Tidelands Council for management authority to fence nesting colonies and prevent boat landings, etc.

Cape May Meadows sand transfer ENSP worked with partners (US Army Corps, The Nature Conservancy) to remove sand and restore it back to a lower elevation suitable for beach-nesting birds. The removed sand was used for beachfill projects in Cape May City and Cape May Point. As a result, least terns re-occupied and had good nest success.

Discussion:

J. Burger is interested in black skimmer nests in Barnegat Bay. She notes that her band records show that terns are moving north (for example, to Mass.).

E. DeVito asked if piping plover return to nest after their first winter? E. Heiser: they usually do, but males especially tend to have lower success finding mates and territories. D. Mizrahi: Horseshoe Island was important for southbound migrating red knots this fall, so it does need protection. Also, does predator control on federal lands make up for early flooding events? E. Heiser: controlling human disturbance on those federal lands may be more influential to improving nest success. K. Davis adds that human disturbance affects chick success by impeding feeding opportunity. K. Davis added that Horseshoe Island is important for many species including federally listed birds. J. Burger said that keeping the populations of beach-nesting birds stable, even if not increasing, is a win.

Committee members thanked Kashi and Emily for their presentation.

Other Business

J. Galetto suggested a meeting presentation on plants would be welcome.

R. Lathrop suggested a discussion via ad hoc group with the DEP regarding the horseshoe crab ARM model. There was interest from D. Mizrahi, J. Burger, J. Galetto for an ad hoc subgroup (an email will make the request to the entire ENSAC to reach those not in attendance). J. Heilferty said Joe Cimino of Bureau of Shellfisheries can help on this topic; Eric Schradung/Wendy Walsh of USFWS should also be involved.

Looking ahead: Proposed 2022 ENSAC meeting dates

Third Wednesdays in 2022:

January 19

March 16

May 18

July 20

September 21

November 16

Tentative: Possible October joint meeting with FGC? **October 11, 2022?**

Decisions need to be made regarding future meetings in-person at Assunpink office, continued virtual, or some hybrid of those two. Director Golden said the Assunpink conference meeting equipment will be tested to try to accommodate in-person and hybrid options. The Division will seek guidance on policy/procedures for committee/council meetings with regard to COVID.

Next regular ENSAC meeting is Wednesday, January 19, anticipated to be virtual and starting at 9:00 AM.

J. Galetto made a motion to adjourn, seconded by H. Geduldig. Meeting adjourned 12:15 pm.

Summary of Action Items

- 1) Action item: ENSP will report on the status of the “white paper” at an upcoming meeting if it is completed and available.



**NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
CERTIFICATION FOR TRUST EXPENSES**

VENDOR NAME:

INVOICE NUMBER: N/A

GENERAL FUND:

Materials and Supplies

General Printing/Office Supplies []
Clothing/Volunteer Materials []

Maintenance and Fixed Charges

General Maintenance []
Major Project []

Services Other Than Personnel

Travel []
Information Processing []
DAG Charges []
Professional Services []

Annual Report []

Capital []

OTHER FUND:

[]

Shorebird Fund

ENSP []
Conserve Wildlife []
Wetlands Mitigation Fund []

Wetlands Mit. Acq. Fund []

Real Property []
Acquisition Cost []

Other Fund: TGP Animal Fund [X]

ITEM	COST
Originally requested for Calendar Years 2022 & 2023, Fish and Wildlife was unable to finalize the NOFO to move forward & requested NLT not to release the funds. Fish and Wildlife requests the release of funds in Calendar Year 2024 for Multi-year Work Plan beginning in Calendar Year 2025 to be funded using the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Animal Fund Timber Rattlesnake and/or Northern Copperhead Fund	\$ 500,000.00
	\$ 500,000.00

I certify that these TGP Animal Funds will be used in accordance with the attached multi-year workplan.

Signature David M. Golden, Asst. Commissioner, NJ DEP Fish and Wildlife

Date

AUTHORIZATION NUMBER: _____	CHECK NUMBER: _____	CREDIT CARD: _____
DISBURSEMENT APPROVAL: _____	DATE OF DISBURSEMENT: _____	
DATE OF COMPUTER ENTRY: _____	DATE CHECK MAILED: _____	