



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

Annual Report 2013



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 24th annual Pinelands Short Course featured 18 new programs, including a presentation with a live barred owl.

Photo by Paul Leakan

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

2013

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

Gloucester County
Francis A. Witt

Ocean County

John A. Haas, Vice Chairman (Jan. 2013 - Nov. 2013)

Alan W. Avery, Jr. (December 2013)

Executive Director

Nancy Wittenberg

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Pinelands loses two of its champions

The Pinelands lost two of its champions in 2013, as former Pinelands Commission Chairman Richard J. Sullivan and longtime Commissioner John A. Haas passed away on December 10th and November 30th, at ages 86 and 66, respectively.

Sullivan served as the Commission's Chairman from 1988 to 1998, and he is considered one of New Jersey's pioneers in environmental protection.

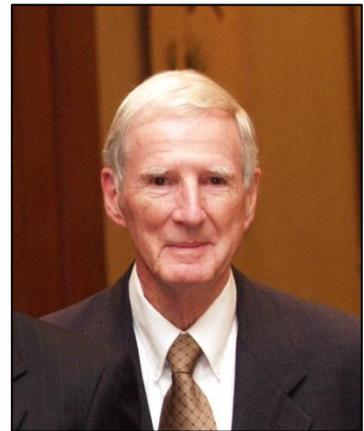
The Wall Township resident joined New Jersey state government in 1950 as a public health engineer. Sullivan was appointed as the Director of the newly-created Division of Clean Air and Water in 1967. Three years later, he was appointed as the first Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Under his leadership at the DEP, New Jersey adopted sweeping protections of beaches, wetlands and the Meadowlands, expanded Green Acres land preservation efforts, and led efforts to pass clean air and water legislation that resulted in significant improvements in New Jersey's environment.

After his career in state government, Sullivan served on the faculties at Princeton University and the Stevens Institute, where he taught environmental studies. Following his university positions, he continued his strong advocacy of environmental causes. He co-founded New Jersey First, Inc., an environmental services firm.

Sullivan was one of the chief architects of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. In 2001, the Commission recognized his contributions to the Pinelands by dedicating its headquarters in New Lisbon, NJ, in his name.

Haas served as Ocean County's representative on the Commission from 2005 until 2013. He served as Vice Chairman from 2010 until 2013.

A resident of Seaside Park, Haas brought his experience and insight as the longtime District Recycling Coordinator in Ocean County, and as a member of the Borough Council, Board of Education and Planning Board in Seaside Park to the Commission. He served on the Board of



Richard J. Sullivan



John A. Haas, Jr.

Directors of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers and taught courses at Rutgers University for municipal recycling coordinators.

During his tenure as a Commissioner, Haas served on the Audit Committee and was a member of the Commission's Permanent Land Protection, Personnel & Budget and Policy and Implementation committees.

Haas was a strong advocate for the permanent protection of land in the Pinelands, and the Commission permanently preserved 7,228 acres through the Pinelands Conservation Fund during his tenure.

Avery Rejoins Commission

The Commission saw a familiar face rejoin its ranks as the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders appointed Alan W. Avery, Jr. to fill the county's seat on the Commission in December 2013.

Avery served as the county's representative on the Commission from 1983 to 2005, including 10 years as the Vice Chairman (1995-2005). Avery retired as the Ocean County Administrator, after many years of service as the county's Planning Director and Director of Solid Waste Management. Mr. Avery holds an undergraduate degree from Colgate University, as well as a master's degree of City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Advisory Committee, and he is an alternate on the Ocean County Planning Board and a member of the New Jersey Local Finance Board.



Alan W. Avery, Jr.

Chapter 1: Land Use & Planning

Plan Review

Throughout 2013, the Commission continued its in-depth review of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the rules that govern land-use, development and the protection of natural and cultural resources in the Pinelands. The review began in 2012.

A Plan Review Committee composed of five Commission members met each month since June 2012.

In addition to continuing to gather information from the public, the Plan Review Committee identified a series of changes to the Plan that could improve the agency's efficiency. Several of these measures were incorporated in proposed amendments (please see the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan Amendments section below). Other changes are likely to be considered in future CMP amendments.

Meanwhile, Commission staff members made significant progress in drafting a report that will chart the agency's accomplishments and actions taken in support of the goals of the CMP since the last Plan Review. The report will also summarize the public process and the recommendations for CMP changes and other initiatives. Three such reports have been issued to date, and they are available on the Commission's website.

The Commission has implemented the CMP since it took effect in 1981. This is the Commission's fourth review of the Plan.

Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) Amendments



In 2013, the Commission proposed a series of amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

Photo/Paul Leakan

In December 2013, the Commission voted to propose several CMP amendments that are an outgrowth of the ongoing 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 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 would 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 currently provides that LOIs shall not be valid for a period longer than 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 would 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 would no longer require application, provided 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>.

Long Term Comprehensive Wastewater Plan in Hammonton

In 2013, the Commission greatly advanced efforts to eliminate the discharge of treated wastewater from the Town of Hammonton’s wastewater treatment plant to Hammonton Creek.

In the early 1990s, the Town of Hammonton built a wastewater treatment plant to replace an old plant that did not comply with Pinelands regulations. The new facility was designed to improve effluent quality and to eliminate the preexisting wastewater discharge to Hammonton Creek. The new facility was designed to infiltrate a minimum of 1.6 million gallons per day of treated wastewater in infiltration-percolation lagoons. However, the



In 2013, the Commission advanced efforts to end the discharge of treated wastewater to Hammonton Creek (above).

Photo/Ed Wengrowski

infiltration facility has failed to function as it was designed. As a result, Hammonton has been unsuccessful in eliminating the discharge to Hammonton Creek, and is therefore in violation of the CMP's prohibition of discharging wastewater to Pinelands surface waters.

The Commission and the Town of Hammonton have sought to resolve the matter by retaining the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to study the wastewater facility. Additionally, Hammonton hired an engineering consultant to identify specific measures to optimize the infiltration of wastewater onsite.

In February 2011, as part of Hammonton's application for a public development approval for an increase in Kirkwood-Cohansey water allocation, the Pinelands Commission required the Town to develop, in consultation with Commission staff, a long term plan for the treatment and disposal of wastewater. The goal of the plan is to abate the long-standing CMP violation and permanently eliminate the discharge of wastewater effluent to Hammonton Creek.

The Commission reviewed several iterations of Hammonton's Long Term Comprehensive Wastewater Plan in 2013. The Plan calls for building wastewater-supplied surface drip irrigation systems at the existing wastewater treatment facility and subsurface drip irrigation systems at nearby recreational turf fields. The Plan also incorporates water conservation measures aimed at reducing flow to the plant. Additionally, the Town would identify and rehabilitate problematic components of its wastewater collection system that add extraneous flow to the plant through inflow and infiltration. (**Editor's Note:** The Commission approved the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Plan in March 2014).

Assessment of Uncapped Landfills in the Pinelands Area

In 2013, the Commission made significant progress toward completing a project to evaluate the 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 USGS. The Commission identified a total of 61 landfills to include in the analysis.

In 2013, the Commission and USGS worked to 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 about the "threat level" each landfill poses 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 2013, the Commission received and reviewed 135 ordinance and master plan amendments from 28 different municipalities.

Among other actions, the Commission certified eight ordinances that implement the CMP clustering provisions, which require the clustering of residential development in the Pinelands-designated Forest Areas and Rural Development Areas on one-acre lots.

The Commission also certified South Toms River Borough's Master Plan and Land Use Ordinances, thereby marking the first time since the Commission was established that all 53 Pinelands Area municipalities have adopted plans that comply with Pinelands rules.

South Toms River Borough has a total land area of 1.2 square miles, of which 360 acres (47 percent) lie within the 938,000-acre Pinelands Area. Another 20 acres lie within the Pinelands National Reserve, outside the state-designated Pinelands Area. The CMP designates the entire Pinelands Area section of the Borough as a Regional Growth Area.

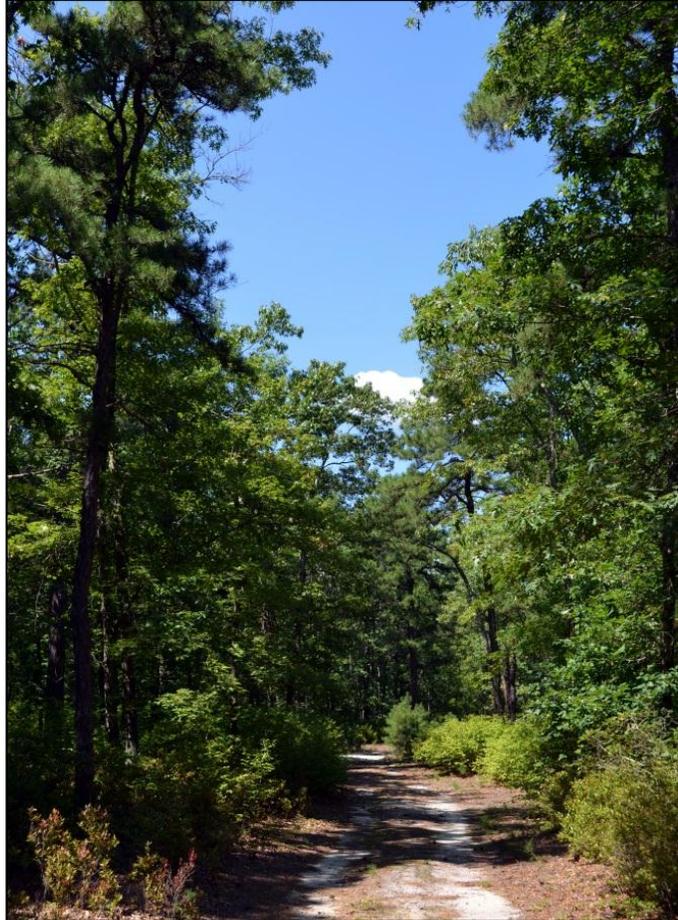
Although South Toms River Borough has been involved with the conformance process since 1981, significant progress was made only recently. In 2012, the Borough made a commitment to completing the certification process and subsequently adopted a revised Master Plan and Zoning Map, as well as other land use ordinance amendments necessary for consistency with the CMP.

Chapter 2: Permanent Land Protection

Pinelands Conservation Fund

Two ecologically-valuable properties in the Pinelands Area were permanently preserved in 2013 with funds administered by the Pinelands Commission. These properties included a 75-acre property in Jackson Township's Forest Area and an 11-acre property in Ocean Township's Forest Area.

The Commission provided \$160,000 toward the purchase of the two properties by Ocean County. The property in Jackson Township is located on Bowman Road, within the ecologically-sensitive Toms River Corridor. It is comprised of undeveloped forested lands bisected by the Maple Root Branch of the Toms River. The property in Ocean Township falls within the Forked River Mountains planning area and was acquired with funds provided by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority in association with an agreement with the Commission that authorized improvements to the Garden State Parkway.



In 2013, the Commission permanently preserved a 75-acre property (above) in Jackson Township.

Photo/Paul Leakan

From 2007 to 2013, the Commission approved the allocation of \$9.6 million to 33 projects in the Pinelands Area. Thirty of these projects have been completed, resulting in the permanent protection of 6,763 acres.

The Pinelands Conservation Fund 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. An

additional \$3,415,000 was added to the Fund in 2009 as a result of an amendment to the Comprehensive Management Plan that authorized expansion of the Cape May landfill and through a 2008 Memorandum of Agreement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority that authorized improvements to the Garden State Parkway.

The Fund is dedicated to three types of projects: permanent land protection; conservation planning and research projects and community planning and design initiatives.

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.”

The Pinelands Commission assumed responsibility for the operation and administration of the Pinelands Development Credit Bank in September 2011. Although the PDC Bank is now physically located at the Pinelands Commission office, it remains a separate entity.

During 2013, nine rights were severed, protecting 104 acres of land. A total of 5,992 rights were severed from 1982 to 2013, protecting 51,770 acres. In 2013, the mean sales price of PDCs was \$9,680 per right.

Chapter 3: Science and Research Activities

Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program

In 2013, 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.

Since 2005, Commission scientists have measured water quality at 47 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. Each month, scientists record water levels at 35 forest plots and 34 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

In 2013, Commission scientists made progress on a study that characterizes 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. One-hundred of these ponds were selected for the study.

These ponds are typically called “intermittent” because they are not usually connected to streams and occasionally dry out, creating fishless environments that serve as important



Ponds in the Pinelands provide breeding habitat for species such as the carpenter frog, which is one of two frog species restricted primarily to the Pinelands in New Jersey.

Photo/John Bunnell

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 4.5 year research project, Commission scientists will document off-road vehicle activity, monitor water quality and hydrology, survey plant and animal assemblages and 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



This large, shallow excavated pond supports a diverse array of native Pinelands plants and animals.

Photo/John Bunnell

(excavated ponds) and excavations designed to receive stormwater (stormwater basins). About 2,000 excavated ponds and 1,700 stormwater basins have been mapped. Scientists will monitor water quality and hydrology and survey plant and animal assemblages, and compare these

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, a subset of each type of wetland will be sampled for current-use pesticides and emerging-amphibian pathogens.

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 2013, the Commission hosted 10 presentations that covered a wide range of research topics, including plant taxonomy, aquatic invertebrates, amphibian disease and pesticides, fish assemblages, Pine Barrens treefrog genetics, soil microfauna, groundwater-modeling, forest fungi and pollution, mercury and leaf fungi, and bat populations.

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 2013, the Commission's Project Review Office received 470 new applications (including public and private applications).

During the year, actions were taken on 1,742 applications. A total of 24 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 44 public development applications in 2013. Among other noteworthy applications, the Commission approved the expansion of a partial interchange to a full interchange at the intersection of the Garden State Parkway and Pomona Road and the

widening of Pomona Road in Galloway Township. As part of the approval, Atlantic County has agreed to “memorialize” the current municipal zoning on designated lots located within 1.5 miles of the interchange project to address the potential for secondary impacts.

Other notable public applications include forestry activities at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, the construction of a full interchange connecting the Atlantic City Expressway to Amelia Earhart Boulevard and other associated road improvements, improvements to three intersections along U.S. Route 322 and the construction of an overland recharge system for treated wastewater in Hammonton.

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 eight such permits in 2013.

Proposed South Jersey Gas Pipeline



A proposed MOA with the Board of Public Utilities sought to permit the construction of a natural gas pipeline that would have provided the gas needed to repower the B.L. England Electrical Generation Power Plant (above).
Photo/Paul Leakan

Throughout much of 2013, the Commission held numerous meetings and gathered hundreds of public comments on a proposed agreement that called for the construction of approximately 15 miles of a 22-mile natural gas pipeline in the Pinelands Area. **(Editor’s note:** The Pinelands Commission considered the proposed agreement in January 2014. The agreement failed to receive the required minimum of eight affirmative votes for adoption by the

Commission).

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 have provided 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.

Approximately 10.2 miles of the pipeline would have been located within a Pinelands Forest Area, along with 2 miles in a Rural Development Area and 2.8 miles in a Pinelands Village. The project was consistent with all of the development standards in the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. Commission staff reviewed all application materials (such as wetlands and wetlands buffer delineations, threatened and endangered plant and animal species habitat, cultural resources and stormwater management) and determined that the project would not impact the environmental resources of the Pinelands.

The CMP allows the construction of public service infrastructure, including natural gas pipelines, in a Pinelands Forest Area if the infrastructure is intended to primarily serve only the needs of the Pinelands. Since the proposed pipeline would have helped serve customers located both inside and outside of the Pinelands, the project was not fully consistent with the permitted use standards for a Forest Area. The CMP permits use of an MOA where a specific project is not fully consistent with the CMP, provided that the agreement includes measures that afford, at a minimum, an equivalent level of protection for the resources of the Pinelands as would be provided through a strict application of the Pinelands land use and environmental standards.

SJG would have been required to contribute \$8 million toward Pinelands Area land acquisition and education. Of that total, \$7.25 million would have been placed into the Pinelands Conservation Fund – Land Acquisition account to fund the acquisition of land that is located adjacent to the site of the pipeline project in a Forest Area.

Additionally, SJG would have been required to deed restrict that portion of the pipeline within the Forest Area to prohibit any service connections and thereby avoid increased development (secondary impacts). The remaining \$750,000 would have been used to fund and support education, outreach and research projects. A total of \$250,000 would have been used to complete the federally-supported conversion of the Commission's headquarters into a Pinelands Visitor Center, and the remaining \$500,000 would have been used to fund a series of projects that would raise awareness about the Pinelands.

Memorandum of Understanding with Woodbine Borough and the Cape May Municipal Utilities Authority

In December, the Commission voted to authorize its Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Woodbine Borough and the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority (CMCMUA) to assist and participate in a comprehensive, regional wastewater planning study.

The CMCMUA is conducting a study to evaluate the feasibility of constructing sewerage infrastructure to convey landfill leachate from the Authority's Cape May County Municipal Utilities Landfill to the CMCMUA's Seven Mile Beach/Middle Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Borough of Woodbine has expressed an interest in eliminating existing and future septic systems that serve residential and commercial development in the Borough's Pinelands Town Management Area by connecting that development to the CMCMUA's facility.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services may also wish to decommission its aging onsite wastewater treatment facility that currently serves the Woodbine Developmental Center, located on 250 acres in the Borough of Woodbine's Pinelands Town Management Area, and convey its wastewater to the CMCMUA's treatment facility.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing a \$90,000 grant to CMCMUA to help finance the design of wastewater conveyance infrastructure to convey landfill leachate and possibly residential, commercial and institutional wastewater to the CMCMUA's regional wastewater treatment facility, subject to a required \$30,000 local funding match from the project participants.

Under the MOU, the Commission agreed to provide \$20,000 from the Pinelands Conservation Fund, as well in-kind wastewater planning services, on behalf of Woodbine Borough to ensure that existing and future sewer service needs are adequately addressed in the study. The CMCMUA agreed to contribute a \$10,000 local cash match in addition to substantial in-kind professional engineering and wastewater planning services.

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 70 violations were reported to the Commission in 2013.

Chapter 5: Public Information, Participation & Education

Outreach and Education

The Commission's Communications and Public Programs Office staff handled 155 press inquiries and responded to 3,625 public inquiries regarding the Pinelands in 2013.

Staff organized and carried out its seventh annual, Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day event. Held at the historic Batsto Village, the event attracted more than 345 students and teachers who gauged Pinelands water quality and learned about the importance of protecting the region's unique natural and historic resources. 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.



Students used nets to survey for native Pinelands fish during the seventh annual Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day event, which was held at Batsto Lake in October 2013. Photo/Paul Leakan

Commission staff members educated approximately 2,465 students during in-class education programs and field trips in 2013.

Pinelands Short Course

The 24th annual Pinelands Short Course, which was held at Burlington County College (BCC) on March 23, 2013, drew more than 500 people. The event featured a total of 33 educational presentations, including 18 new programs.

The new courses included a presentation with live hawks, owls and falcons, as well as programs on container gardening with carnivorous plants, the Pinelands and its role in the Revolutionary War, roadsides and rare plants, conservation issues in the Pinelands, preserving land to protect bog turtles, Barnegat Bay shellfish, cranberries, the Invasive Species Strike Team, estuaries and the Pine Barrens, pathogens in New Jersey amphibians, Eastern fence lizards, Island Beach State Park, an ecotour of the Great Bay Boulevard Peninsula, the wetlands environment, orienteering, capturing the beauty of the Pinelands through photography and a hike of the Dot and Brooks Evert Trail in the Franklin Parker Preserve.

The event also featured popular courses from previous years, including a discussion about New Jersey's biodiversity and presentations on Pinelands frogs, toads and fish, current research on the Northern Pine Snake, the secret world of plants and pollinators, forest modeling, a pictorial journey of the Pine Barrens, early advocates of the Pinelands, wilderness survival, Double Trouble State Park and Whitesbog Village Living History.

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the Commission, the Pinelands Institute for Environmental Studies (or P.I.N.E.S.) and Burlington County College, which has hosted the event at its Pemberton Township campus since 2004. The event is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend.

Chapter 6: Finances

Fiscal & Budget

The Commission's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 totaled \$4,172,800. Of this, \$3,702,800 or 89 percent, was budgeted for personnel expenses.

Budgeted revenue sources included \$316,000 in federal grants, a \$2.469 million State appropriation, \$687,000 in State grants and other State funding, \$425,000 in application fees and \$198,120 from the Commission's fund balance and reserves.

The 2014 budget for the Kirkwood-Cohansey Study, funded through legislation passed in 2001, was \$75,000. The budget for the Pinelands Conservation Fund was \$2,395,653.

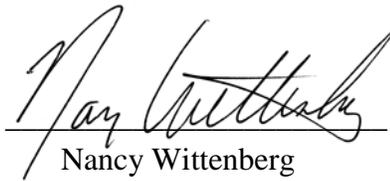
Once it is completed, the Commission's Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2013, which ended June 30, 2013, will be posted on the State Auditors web site. The website address is: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/auditreports_department.asp. The report also will be available on the Pinelands Commission's 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 2013, application fee revenues totaled \$489,092 (\$16,831 less than Fiscal Year 2012).

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 2013 calendar year, all of the Commission's standards, procedures, and internal controls were followed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Wittenberg", is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director

Pinelands Land Capability Map

