



New Jersey  
**NATURAL LANDS TRUST**

**AGENDA**

**NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING**

**March 24, 2023**

**Location: Via Video and Teleconference**

**Please contact [NatLands@dep.nj.gov](mailto:NatLands@dep.nj.gov) for teleconference information  
12:00 PM**

- I. Statement of Open Public Meetings Act**
- II. General Public Comment**
- III. Financial Report**
  - Third and Fourth Quarter 2022 Financial Statements, for decision
- IV. Minutes**
  - September 16, 2022 Minutes, for decision
- V. Unfinished Business**
  - Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County, status update (no enclosure)
- VI. New Business**
  - Introduction of Trust Land Manager, Jason Hafstad
  - Calendar Year 2023 Spending Authorization, for decision
  - Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund-Calendar Year 2023 Annual Work Plan, for decision
  - Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Animal Fund-Calendar Year 2023 Annual Work Plan, for decision
  - 2022 Annual Report Text, for discussion (no enclosure)
  - Nominating Committee Recommendations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer Elections, for decision (no enclosure)
- VII. Adjourn**

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Statement 1

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Without Donor Restrictions General Fund	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	\$ 2,704,121	\$ -	\$ 63,607	\$ 1,721,143	\$ 1,198,546	\$ 7,297	\$ 649,155	\$ 1,011,483	\$ 1,187,652	\$ 16,557	\$ 2,577,609	\$ 11,137,170
Tenants Escrow	3,045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,045
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's Bog/Montague	-	48,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,800
Due to Moorestown Acq Endowment	-	168,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,344
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	2,707,166	843,931	63,607	1,721,143	1,198,546	7,297	649,155	1,011,483	1,187,652	16,557	2,577,609	11,984,146
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)	-	-	-	-	-	19,654	-	-	-	-	-	19,654
Due From Related Fund	-	-	-	27,027	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,027
Total Other Assets	-	-	-	27,027	-	19,654	-	-	-	-	-	46,681
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,707,166	\$ 36,864,760	\$ 63,607	\$ 1,748,170	\$ 1,198,546	\$ 26,951	\$ 649,155	\$ 1,011,483	\$ 1,187,652	\$ 16,557	\$ 2,577,609	\$ 48,051,656
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS												
Liabilities												
Due To Related Fund	\$ 587,027	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 587,027.00
Due to Endowment Account	283,931	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283,931
Security Deposits Payable	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Total Liabilities	873,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	873,750
Net Assets												
Without Donor Restrictions	1,833,416	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,833,416
With Donor Restrictions	-	36,864,760	63,607	1,748,170	1,198,546	30,312	649,155	1,011,483	1,187,652	16,557	2,577,609	45,347,851
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	-	-	-	-	(3,361)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,361)
Total Net Assets	1,833,416	36,864,760	63,607	1,748,170	1,198,546	26,951	649,155	1,011,483	1,187,652	16,557	2,577,609	47,177,906
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 2,707,166	\$ 36,864,760	\$ 63,607	\$ 1,748,170	\$ 1,198,546	\$ 26,951	\$ 649,155	\$ 1,011,483	\$ 1,187,652	\$ 16,557	\$ 2,577,609	\$ 48,051,656

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, 2022

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	
<b>Revenue (Restricted)</b>												
Contribution Income	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 358,512	\$ 495,672
<b>Expense</b>												
Materials and Supplies	181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Services	4,231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,231
Maintenance	8,010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,010
Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subaccount Expenses	669	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	669
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	-	-	23,238	-	-	-	370,000	-	-	353,972	747,210
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>13,091</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>353,972</b>	<b>760,301</b>
<b>Other Income</b>												
Rent Income	20,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,700
Interest/Dividend Income	17,146	-	424	11,468	7,991	458	4,328	6,820	7,918	111	17,062	73,726
Miscellaneous Income	6,912	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,912
NonRecurring Land Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>44,758</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>11,468</b>	<b>7,991</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>4,328</b>	<b>6,820</b>	<b>7,918</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>17,062</b>	<b>101,338</b>
<b>Excess Revenues Over Expenses/ Excess (Expenses) Over Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 36,667</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 424</b>	<b>\$ 120,390</b>	<b>\$ 7,991</b>	<b>\$ 458</b>	<b>\$ 4,328</b>	<b>\$ (363,180)</b>	<b>\$ 7,918</b>	<b>\$ 111</b>	<b>\$ 21,602</b>	<b>\$ (163,291)</b>
<b>Net Asset Balance January 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,796,080</b>	<b>\$ 36,865,429</b>	<b>\$ 63,183</b>	<b>\$ 1,627,780</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,555</b>	<b>\$ 29,547</b>	<b>\$ 644,827</b>	<b>\$ 1,374,663</b>	<b>\$ 1,179,734</b>	<b>\$ 16,446</b>	<b>\$ 2,556,007</b>	<b>\$ 47,344,251</b>
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	-	-	-	-	(3,054)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,054)
Inter Fund Transfer	669	(669)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Asset Balance Sep 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,833,416</b>	<b>\$ 36,864,760</b>	<b>\$ 63,607</b>	<b>\$ 1,748,170</b>	<b>\$ 1,198,546</b>	<b>\$ 26,951</b>	<b>\$ 649,155</b>	<b>\$ 1,011,483</b>	<b>\$ 1,187,652</b>	<b>\$ 16,557</b>	<b>\$ 2,577,609</b>	<b>\$ 47,177,906</b>

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

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2022

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
<b>ASSETS</b>												
Current Assets												
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,715,798	\$ -	\$ 64,164	\$ 1,736,208	\$ 1,209,036	\$ 7,361	\$ 654,837	\$ 1,020,336	\$ 1,198,047	\$ 16,701	\$ 2,636,396	\$ 11,258,884
Tenants Escrow	3,045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,045
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's Bog/Montague	-	48,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,800
Due to Moorestown Acq Endowment	-	168,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168,344
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	<u>2,718,843</u>	<u>843,931</u>	<u>64,164</u>	<u>1,736,208</u>	<u>1,209,036</u>	<u>7,361</u>	<u>654,837</u>	<u>1,020,336</u>	<u>1,198,047</u>	<u>16,701</u>	<u>2,636,396</u>	<u>12,105,860</u>
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	<u>-</u>	<u>36,020,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,020,829</u>
Other Assets												
Investments-Long Term (FMV)	-	-	-	-	-	19,997	-	-	-	-	-	19,997
Due From Related Fund	-	-	-	13,930	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,930
Total Other Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,930</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,997</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,927</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 2,718,843</u>	<u>\$ 36,864,760</u>	<u>\$ 64,164</u>	<u>\$ 1,750,138</u>	<u>\$ 1,209,036</u>	<u>\$ 27,358</u>	<u>\$ 654,837</u>	<u>\$ 1,020,336</u>	<u>\$ 1,198,047</u>	<u>\$ 16,701</u>	<u>\$ 2,636,396</u>	<u>\$ 48,160,616</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>												
Liabilities												
Due To Related Fund	\$ 573,930	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 573,930.00
Due to Endowment Account	283,931	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	283,931
Security Deposits Payable	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Total Liabilities	<u>860,653</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>860,653</u>
Net Assets												
Without Donor Restrictions	1,858,190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,858,190
With Donor Restrictions	-	36,864,760	64,164	1,750,138	1,209,036	30,523	654,837	1,020,336	1,198,047	16,701	2,636,396	45,444,938
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	-	-	-	-	(3,165)	-	-	-	-	-	(3,165)
Total Net Assets	<u>1,858,190</u>	<u>36,864,760</u>	<u>64,164</u>	<u>1,750,138</u>	<u>1,209,036</u>	<u>27,358</u>	<u>654,837</u>	<u>1,020,336</u>	<u>1,198,047</u>	<u>16,701</u>	<u>2,636,396</u>	<u>47,299,963</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 2,718,843</u>	<u>\$ 36,864,760</u>	<u>\$ 64,164</u>	<u>\$ 1,750,138</u>	<u>\$ 1,209,036</u>	<u>\$ 27,358</u>	<u>\$ 654,837</u>	<u>\$ 1,020,336</u>	<u>\$ 1,198,047</u>	<u>\$ 16,701</u>	<u>\$ 2,636,396</u>	<u>\$ 48,160,616</u>

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, 2022

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	
<b>Revenue (Restricted)</b>												
Contribution Income	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 394,541	\$ 531,701
<b>Expense</b>												
Materials and Supplies	181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	181
Services	6,366	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,366
Maintenance	8,010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,010
Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subaccount Expenses	669	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	669
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	-	-	36,334	-	-	-	370,000	-	-	353,972	760,306
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,226</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,334</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>353,972</b>	<b>775,532</b>
<b>Other Income</b>												
Rent Income	25,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,100
Interest/Dividend Income	39,655	-	981	26,532	18,481	670	10,010	15,673	18,313	255	39,820	170,390
Miscellaneous Income	6,912	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,912
NonRecurring Land Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>71,667</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>26,532</b>	<b>18,481</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>10,010</b>	<b>15,673</b>	<b>18,313</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>39,820</b>	<b>202,402</b>
<b>Excess Revenues Over Expenses/ Excess (Expenses) Over Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 61,441</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 981</b>	<b>\$ 122,358</b>	<b>\$ 18,481</b>	<b>\$ 670</b>	<b>\$ 10,010</b>	<b>\$ (354,327)</b>	<b>\$ 18,313</b>	<b>\$ 255</b>	<b>\$ 80,389</b>	<b>\$ (41,429)</b>
<b>Net Asset Balance January 1, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,796,080</b>	<b>\$ 36,865,429</b>	<b>\$ 63,183</b>	<b>\$ 1,627,780</b>	<b>\$ 1,190,555</b>	<b>\$ 29,547</b>	<b>\$ 644,827</b>	<b>\$ 1,374,663</b>	<b>\$ 1,179,734</b>	<b>\$ 16,446</b>	<b>\$ 2,556,007</b>	<b>\$ 47,344,251</b>
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	-	-	-	-	(2,859)	-	-	-	-	-	(2,859)
Inter Fund Transfer	669	(669)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Asset Balance Dec 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,858,190</b>	<b>\$ 36,864,760</b>	<b>\$ 64,164</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,138</b>	<b>\$ 1,209,036</b>	<b>\$ 27,358</b>	<b>\$ 654,837</b>	<b>\$ 1,020,336</b>	<b>\$ 1,198,047</b>	<b>\$ 16,701</b>	<b>\$ 2,636,396</b>	<b>\$ 47,299,963</b>

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING  
September 16, 2022  
12:00 PM  
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:04 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:*

Michael Catania, Chairperson  
Anne Heasley, Vice Chairperson  
Senator Bob Smith, State House

Commission representative, Trustee  
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee  
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee  
Emile DeVito, Trustee  
Margaret Waldock, Trustee

Eileen Murphy, Trustee  
Hannah Good, Trustee representative for the  
State Treasurer  
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director  
Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff  
Cari Wild, Trust Staff  
Deloris Nyerges, Trust Staff

*Absent:*

Trustee representative for the DEP  
Commissioner  
Robert Jackson, Trustee

*Guests:*

Jason Howell, Pinelands Preservation Alliance  
Russell Juelg, NJ Conservation Foundation  
Fred Akers and Brooke Handley, Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association  
Gerald Kloby  
Denise Appleget

**General Public Comment:**

Jason Howell commented that there is a perception that there is no state law enforcement preventing illegal offroad vehicle use and dumping on Trust preserves. Mr. Howell questioned whether the Trust had plans to add enforcement mechanisms. Gerald Kloby stated that he had heard that the State Park Police is not willing and/or able to provide law enforcement on Trust preserves. Mr. Cartica and Ms. Wild explained that the State Park Police have legal authority to provide law enforcement actions on Trust preserves related to statutory violations and are very

supportive of doing so but currently have a limited capacity. In the meantime, the Trust is working with the State Park Police to focus on prioritized preserves.

Fred Akers indicated that his staff within the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association are very interested in working proactively with the Trust to protect the Gravelly Run, a Wild and Scenic River, which may include partnering with Hamilton Township police to establish access barriers and law enforcement. Mr. Catania indicated appreciation for this support of Trust preserve stewardship. Senator Smith noted that he had included funding in the NJDEP budget for a Trust volunteer coordinator to enhance and leverage these kinds of stewardship partnerships and collaborations.

Mr. Cartica introduced Deloris “Dee” Nyerges, who provides the Trust with administrative support since Darin Oliver was promoted to a new position within NJDEP, and Jason Hafstad (not in attendance), who was recently hired to fill the vacancy created by Martin Rapp’s retirement.

**Financial Report:** Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending March 31, 2022. Ms. Waldock motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **March 25, 2022 Minutes** were reviewed. Senator Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Catania and Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty’s Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. The William Penn Foundation has provided grants for environmental educational programming at Petty’s Island since 2015. Currently, the programming provider is the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS). The Trust just renewed its contract with CAS for another year and can renew it for three additional one-year terms. The current William Penn grant expires on April 30, 2023. In January, the Trust will apply for an additional two-year programming grant.

On September 13, 2022, Cari Wild met with the Mayor of Camden. The mayor is very interested in Petty’s Island being opened to the public as quickly as possible. CITGO Petroleum Corporation and its Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) have proposed a remediation plan which could be fully implemented within approximately three years allowing the island to be transferred into state ownership, but which is based on remediation to residential standards within five acres around the future visitor’s center and non-residential standards on the rest of the island. The NJDEP is requiring remediation to ecological standards, which may be orders of magnitude more stringent than residential or nonresidential standards.

Mr. Catania noted that the Petty’s Island Committee will be meeting in mid-October. Ms. Waldock has agreed to chair this committee.

Mr. Catania also reported that the Trust’s Shorebird Committee, chaired by Ms. Murphy, met on August 15, 2022 to discuss issues such as replenishment of the Trust’s Shorebird Fund, the

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s use of the ARM model, limits on female horseshoe crab harvest, and the potential for a stable funding source for habitat stabilization/restoration. The Committee includes Trustees Mr. Catania, Ms. Heasly, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Torok as well as Dr. Amanda Dey, Tim Dillingham of American Littoral Society, and Larry Niles and Stephanie Feigin of Wildlife Restoration Partnerships. Ms. Murphy indicated that she would provide Shorebird Committee reports at future meetings.

### **New Business:**

Ms. Wild advised that the **2021 Annual Report** was circulated to the Board and is posted on the Trust’s website.

Ms. Wild presented the **Writing the Land Project** which currently involves two preserves, Petty’s Island (Camden County) and Mackenzie’s Bog (Sussex County). This national project pairs poets with preserved lands, resulting in an annual published anthology containing the poems as well as ten pages of pictures, maps, or other information about the preserve provided by the land trust. Ms. Waldock, who worked with this project at Duke Farms, expressed that it offers creative ways to engage a land trust’s community and expand its constituencies.

The Trust’s bylaws provide that in the event a decision by the Board is required and a special meeting cannot be held due to time constraints or lack of a quorum, the Executive Director may poll the members of the Board to determine their preference on an issue. In such a circumstance, the Executive Director shall supply to each Board member, in writing, a draft resolution and information sufficient for Board consideration. With the concurrence of at least seven (7) members of the Board, the Executive Director may act in accordance with the resolution. The same resolution will then be presented to the Board, for affirmation, at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

On January 20, 2022, Mr. Cartica circulated via email a **Resolution of the NJ Natural Lands Trust Approving Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2022 Budget Request by Endangered and Nongame Species** and polled the Trust’s Board to determine their preference on the Resolution and received the following responses:

Michael Catania	Yes	Emile DeVito	Yes
Anne Heasly	Yes	Margaret Waldock	Yes
Theresa Lettman	Yes	Eileen Murphy	Yes
Judeth Yeany	Yes	Senator Smith	Yes
Larry Torok	Yes	Marlen Dooley	Yes
Hannah Good	Yes		

Therefore, the Resolution was unanimously approved. Mr. DeVito motioned to affirm the Resolution. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously affirmed by a vote of 9 to 0.

The scheduled date for the Board’s last 2022 meeting is December 2, 2022.



Ms. Murphy motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM by a unanimous vote of 9 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cari Wild  
Secretary/Treasurer



**NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST  
SPENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR  
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

	<u>2022 Authorization</u>	<u>2022 Expenditure</u>	<u>2023 Authorization</u>
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$181</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>

**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.

<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>\$23,700</b>	<b>\$6,367</b>	<b>\$23,700</b>
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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 - \$15,000**

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.

	<u>2022 Authorization</u>	<u>2022 Expenditure</u>	<u>2023 Authorization</u>
<b>MAINTENANCE AND FIXED CHARGES</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$8,010</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>

**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**

The following planned projects are relevant to the Trust's mission of preservation of biodiversity. The costs for each project are gross estimates and quotes have not yet been sought. Additional projects may be added up to total of \$25,000:

Game Branch Preserve, nighttime lepidopteran survey - \$2,200  
 Readington Preserve, bird surveys - \$1,300  
 Mackenzie's Bog Preserve, lichen survey - \$2,400  
 Bennett Bogs and Crossley Preserves, native bee survey - \$2,400

<b>ANNUAL REPORT</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500</b>
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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.

<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
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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.

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<b>TOTAL 2023 SPENDING AUTHORIZATION</b>	<b>\$83,700</b>	<b>\$14,558</b>	<b>\$83,700</b>
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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  
State Forest Fire Service & Forestry

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

**Date:** March 13, 2023

**Subject:** TGP Plant Fund - Annual Work Plan for Calendar Year 2023

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 2023 Annual Work Plan and certification form authorizing TGP Plant Fund expenditures totaling \$71,000 which will be presented to the Board of Trustees of the Trust at its annual financial meeting scheduled for March 24, 2023.

Please sign and date the enclosed expenditure certification if you approve of the CY23 Annual Work Plan and TGP Plant Fund disbursement.

Enclosure

c: Robin Madden

## **TGP Plant Fund - Annual Work Plan for Calendar Year 2023**

**State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites**

**March 13, 2023**

**The Division of Parks and Forestry (Division) authorizes the following expenditures from the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust's Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund during Calendar Year 2023:**

### **Deer Exclosure Demonstration Project in State Park(s) Impacted by TGP Upgrades -**

**\$56,000.00:** Research has demonstrated that white-tailed deer densities are a significant threat to forest health and populations of endangered plant species and plant species of concern. During 2022, the TGP Plant Fund was used to perform drone surveys to document the local abundance and densities of deer in select areas of High Point State Park, Ramapo Mountain State Forest, and Ringwood State Park. Results were used to identify a potentially suitable location in High Point State Park, which was impacted by TGP upgrades. During 2023, \$56,000 in funding is requested to research, plan, purchase materials, conduct baseline monitoring, and contract for the installation of install and maintain deer exclosures at High Point State Park. The project will be implemented in an area where: 1) 2022 deer surveys found relatively high deer densities; 2) installation and maintenance will be feasible; and 3) the public will be able to easily visit the exclosure and observe the development of vegetation over time in response to deer exclusion. This project will likely be implemented by one or more contractors through competitive bids.

- Project planning & coordination - \$4,000
- Baseline monitoring (inside and outside proposed exclosure location) - \$2,000
- Fence materials and installation - \$50,000

**General Rare Plant Species Research and Recovery - \$15,000.00:** 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, as well as other needs that may arise.

**Estimated Total Budget: \$71,000**



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

**VENDOR NAME:** Deer Exclosure Demonstration Project **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**

ITEM	COST
<b>Cost for implementation of Calendar Year 2023 Annual Work Plan projects to be funded using the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund</b>	<b>\$71,000.00</b>
	<b>\$71,000.00</b>

I certify that the goods or services described above will be used in accordance with the enclosed 2023 Annual Work Plan..

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 AND WILDLIFE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

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**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**  
*Commissioner*

**TO:** Bob Cartica, Executive Director, NJ Natural Lands Trust  
**THROUGH:** John Heilferty, 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 13, 2023  
**CC:** Kathy Clark

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In February 2022, Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) had submitted an amended request and supporting documents (per our MOU) and were approved for the release of \$870,000 from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Animal Fund being held in trust by the Natural Lands Trust (NLT). This request proposed the ENSP would use \$500,000 for two grants through a *Notice of Funding Opportunity* (NOFO) focused on eastern copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*, formerly northern copperhead, *A. c. mokasen*) at a maximum of \$250,000 each and an additional \$370,000 for a contract with Rutgers University.

The ENSP was unable to complete and post the NOFO in 2022 and therefore, the NLT has retained the applicable funds on our behalf. We are requesting the release of \$500,000 during the 2023 calendar year **once the ENSP has identified the grantee(s)**. We anticipate this would occur in late summer-early fall.

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 John Heilferty (609-292-9101; [john.heilferty@dep.nj.gov](mailto:john.heilferty@dep.nj.gov)) or Kris Schantz (609-802-9279; [kris.schantz@dep.nj.gov](mailto:kris.schantz@dep.nj.gov)).



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** ☒ ☐

ITEM

COST

Originally requested for Calendar Year 2022, 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 2023 for Multi-year Work Plan beginning in Calendar Year 2023 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.

January 13, 2023

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: \_\_\_\_\_



# **TGP Skylands Timber Rattlesnake and Eastern Copperhead Fund Multi-year Work Plan beginning Calendar Year 2023**

## **NJ Fish and Wildlife**

January 13, 2022

**The New Jersey Fish and Wildlife authorizes the release of the following 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 2023 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 Year 2022. However, they were unable to finalize the *Notice of Funding Opportunity* and therefore, requested the Natural Lands Trust (NLT) withhold this portion of the original request. 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), Bob Longcor (Fish and Wildlife), and the ENSP to transfer these funds to an obligated account for timber rattlesnake and eastern copperhead conservation efforts. **It may be prudent to delay the transfer of such funds until ENSP has identified the grantee(s).**

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. Monitor managed habitats to determine use; focus maintenance on those showing success.

### **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. It is Fish and Wildlife's intention that monies not awarded through this grant process will remain in a state account for Fish and Wildlife to direct to additional 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.

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 Schradling/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.