

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
March 25, 2022
12:00 PM
Via Video and Teleconference**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:01 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
(Arrived 12:10 PM)
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee
Emile DeVito, Trustee (Arrived 12:15 PM)
Margaret Waldock, Trustee

Eileen Murphy, Trustee
Hannah Good, Trustee representative for the
State Treasurer
Marlen Dooley, Trustee representative for
the DEP Commissioner
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Terry Schmidt, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent: Robert Jackson, Trustee

Guests: None.

Welcome and Introductions to new Trustees

New Trustees Eileen Murphy and Margaret Waldock were introduced and welcomed.

General Public Comment:

Mr. Catania presented the **Resolutions** thanking and recognizing Theresa Lettman and John Cecil for their many years of service to the Trust for approval. Ms. Heasley motioned for Ms. Lettman's Resolution to be approved. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0. Mr. Torok motioned for Mr. Cecil's Resolution to be approved. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0.

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarters ending September 30 and December 31, 2021. Ms. Waldock motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion, and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

The **September 24, 2021 Minutes** were reviewed. Ms. Heasley motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Dooley seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7 to 0, with Ms. Murphy and Ms. Waldock abstaining.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania and Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**. In November 2021, the William Penn Foundation provided the second installment of a two-year \$70,000 grant to continue environmental educational programming at Petty's Island. The programming provider is the Center for Aquatic Sciences (CAS).

On November 9, 2021, Michael Catania and Cari Wild met with DEP Deputy Commissioner Sean Moriarty, the DEP Site Remediation Program, CITGO Petroleum Corporation, and its Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) on Petty's Island site remediation issues. At the meeting, the LSRP asked for clarifying guidance regarding the applicable soil remediation standards. The DEP is requiring remediation to ecological standards after deeming the island's uplands an ecologically sensitive natural resource (ESNR). The LSRP has proposed remedial action(s) based upon non-residential or alternate-based (recreational) standards.

Mr. Catania noted that the Petty's Island Committee needs additional members. Ms. Waldock and Mr. DeVito expressed interest in being members of the committee.

New Business:

Ms. Year presented the **Nominating Committee (Ms. Murphy and Ms. Yeany) Recommendations** for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer Officers and motioned for their approval. Nominated for Chairperson was Michael Catania, Vice Chairperson was Anne Heasley, and Secretary-Treasurer was Cari Wild. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Mr. Cartica presented the **Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2022**. This year's authorization includes several species- or habitat-specific inventories as well as land management projects including those to limit illegal ORV access and dumping at the Hamilton Preserve. Senator Smith motioned to approve the Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2022. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the 2022 Spending Authorization was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Mr. Cartica presented the Board with the **Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Plant Fund-2022 Work Plan**. Trustees were advised that use of this funding is mostly at the discretion of the Division of Parks and Forestry even if trustees feel the proposed work is unnecessary. Mr.

DeVito motioned to approve the TGP Plant Fund-2022 Work Plan. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the 2022 Work Plan was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Mr. Cartica presented the Board with the **Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Animal Fund-Timber Rattlesnake and Northern Copperhead Multi-Year Work Plan**. The Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) has submitted a request and supporting documents (per our MOU) for the release of \$870,000 from the TGP Animal Fund being held in trust by the Natural Lands Trust. The request proposes that the ENSP will use a maximum of \$500,000 for one or more grants focused on eastern copperhead (formerly northern copperhead) and an additional \$370,000 for a contract with Rutgers University. According to our MOU, the ENSP must submit approved meeting minutes from the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee (ENSAC) regarding the use of these funds. ENSP has provided documentation that ENSAC was presented with and approved the objectives of the projects and the total available funds to be used. Mr. Torok motioned to approve the TGP Timber Rattlesnake and Northern Copperhead Multi-Year Work Plan. Ms. Heasley seconded the motion, and the Multi-Year Work Plan was approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with Mr. DeVito abstaining.

The Board considered the **Newbold Island-PSEG/GA Land Management Assignment Offer, Bordentown Township, Burlington County**. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve this land management assignment. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion, and the land management assignment was approved by a vote of 9 to 0, with Ms. Yeany abstaining.

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 **Approving Sale of Three Pinelands Developments Credits (PDCs)** 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 Heasley	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 approved. Senator Smith motioned to affirm the Resolution. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously affirmed by a vote of 10 to 0.

Ms. Wild presented the **Draft 2021 Annual Report** text. It was requested that the Board provide any comments/changes on the draft report within the next thirty days. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the draft report subject to Board members and staff having the flexibility to incorporate changes. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion, and the 2021 Annual Report was unanimously approved by a vote of 10 to 0.

Mr. Catania noted the reestablishment of a Trust Shorebird Committee to evaluate 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 Ms. Murphy (Committee Chair), Mr. Catania, and Mr. Torok.

The currently scheduled dates for 2022 Board meetings are June 24, September 16, and December 2, 2022.

Ms. Heasley motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Torok seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM by a unanimous vote of 10 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Wild
Secretary/Treasurer