



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Paul Leakan

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: info@njpines.state.nj.us

Joseph DiBello, of Ardmore, Pa., sworn in as the new federal representative on the New Jersey Pinelands Commission

NEW LISBON – Joseph DiBello, a 30-year-veteran of the National Park Service, was sworn in as the new federal representative on the Pinelands Commission during the panel’s meeting on Dec. 14th.

“I am proud to represent the federal government, U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service and join in this partnership to preserve, protect and enhance the truly special natural and cultural resources of the New Jersey Pinelands,” he said.

“Mr. DiBello brings a wealth of relevant experience to the Commission, and I’m very pleased with his appointment,” said Nancy Wittenberg, the Commission’s Executive Director.

A resident of Ardmore, Pa., DiBello serves as the Superintendent of the National Parks Service’s Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. Based in Philadelphia, DiBello guides the planning and management of this newly-authorized trail through nine states and Washington D.C. in partnership with National Park Service units, National Heritage Areas, federal agencies and many local and private organizations and sites. The groups commemorate and interpret the journey of the Continental and the French forces during the American Revolution.

DiBello began his career in the U.S. Department of the Interior as a planner in 1974 and joined the National Park Service in 1981 conducting special studies and planning projects. He then led the park and resource planning program for the Northeast Region of the National Park Service and a suite of cultural, natural and recreation assistance programs. He played a key role in establishing parks, heritage areas, national wild and scenic rivers and trails and community landscape conservation efforts. DiBello, and his teams, are noted for their collaborative work with numerous government agencies, communities, private organizations and landowners to create partnerships for preserving, conserving, interpreting and managing our nation’s outstanding natural, cultural and recreation resources.

DiBello holds a bachelor’s degree in social science from Drexel University and a master

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of business administration in 2006 from Temple University. He recently completed the Leadership for the 21st Century program at Harvard University.

DiBello replaces Richard L. Harris on as the Secretary of the Interior's appointee. Harris, who served as the Associate Regional Director of Natural Resources and Science for the Northeast Region of the National Parks Service (NPS), stepped down from the Commission on July 2012.

The Pinelands Commission consists of 15 members: seven appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties and one appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered, three-year terms and do not receive compensation for their service.

The Commission oversees land-use, development and natural resource protection programs in the million-acre Pinelands Area, which covers portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean counties.

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***** ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** A high-resolution jpeg of the photo of Mr. DiBello, which was taken during the Commission's meeting on Dec. 14th, can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300.



Above: Deputy Attorney General Kristen Heinzerling (left) administered the oath of office to Joe DiBello.