



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Witt, Slavin Join Pinelands Commission *Panel gains Gloucester and Burlington Representatives*

SOUTHAMPTON, NJ - At its monthly meeting today, the Pinelands Commission was joined by its newest member, Patrick Slavin representing Burlington County, just weeks after Francis Witt began serving as the Gloucester County representative on the regional panel.

“The Commission wholeheartedly welcomes our new members,” said James Florio, Chairman of the Pinelands Commission. “As we continue efforts to protect Pinelands resources, I know that Fran Witt and Pat Slavin bring a wealth of experience and common-sense to the Commission. Their insights and capabilities will, no doubt, prove valuable as we take on some important challenges.”

Francis Witt is a Partner in the firm of Joseph F. McKernan Architects and Associates in Cherry Hill, where he also serves as Treasurer and Marketing Principal. A licensed Real Estate Agent for over 30 years, he has represented a host of US and international companies as a consultant. Mr. Witt has a long career in public service. He served for 16 years as Mayor of the Borough of National Park and, prior to that, served eight years on Borough Council. He is past Vice President of the New Jersey League of Municipalities and past President of the Gloucester County Mayors’ Association. Mr. Witt served 15 years on the Board of the Gloucester County Utilities Authority, including Director and Chairman, and on the board of the Gloucester County Solid Waste Council. Additionally, he is active in a number of civic, business, church and governmental organizations.

Patrick Slavin presently serves as a Lecturer in Biology at Burlington County College. Prior to that, he served for 14 years as manager of agricultural operations for A.R. DeMarco Enterprises, a 10,000-acre cranberry farm in Woodland Township. Mr. Slavin also served as the Director of Public Health for Cumberland County, Director of the Cumberland County Mosquito Control Commission, as an entomologist with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission and as a Research Associate with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Among other civic and professional involvement, Mr. Slavin has served on the Board of Directors of the American Cranberry Growers Association, the New Jersey Blueberry/Cranberry Research Council, New Jersey Pesticide Control Council, Woodland Township Planning Board and the Millville Shade Tree Commission. He also worked on the task force which recommended the Maurice River for nomination to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Mr. Slavin holds a Ph.D. degree in ecology from Rutgers University, a Masters degree in entomology from University of Maine and a B.S. degree in Biology from Marquette University in Wisconsin.

Witt replaced Richard Westergaard who served since 2000 and Slavin replaced S. Joseph Kowalski, who served since 1995.

Under the Pinelands Protection Act, the 15 member Pinelands Commission is structured to include federal, State and county representation. Each of the seven county governments within the million-acre Pinelands reserve appoints one representative to the Commission.

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