



# **NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION**

## **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**



A tree swallow perched in a red maple tree at the Franklin Parker Preserve in April

**APRIL 2021**

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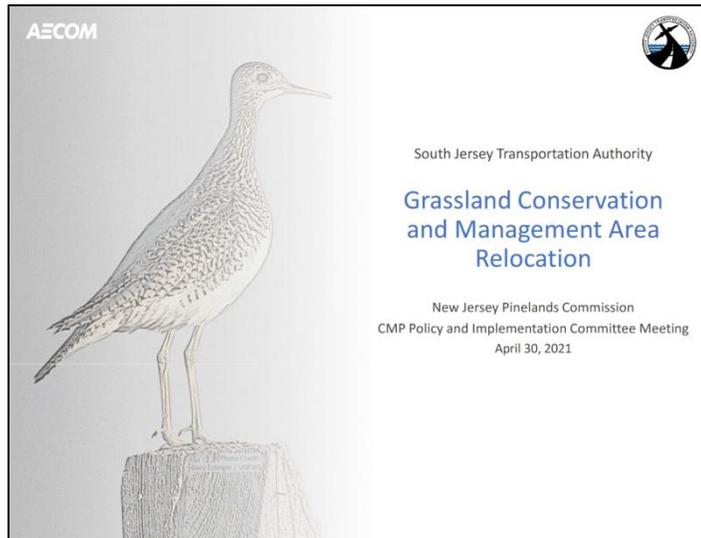
# 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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## 1.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### 1.1A COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- The Land Use, Climate Impacts and Sustainability (LUCIS) Committee met on April 21, 2021 and received an update on four bills currently pending in the State Legislature related to forestry. The Committee briefly reviewed current Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) solar regulations and potential amendments and agreed to continue the discussion at the May meeting. Finally, the Committee voted to change its name to the Pinelands Climate Committee.
- During the CMP Policy & Implementation Committee on April 30, 2021, representatives of the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) discussed the available options for creating grassland bird habitat as required by the amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Commission and SJTA. Pending receipt of additional information on carbon sequestration, the Committee indicated its endorsement of Alternative #4. The Committee also reviewed and approved a revised deed restriction for use in the upcoming round of Pinelands Conservation Fund land acquisition. Following a closed session discussion with the Commission's Deputy Attorney General, the Committee reviewed possible rule changes related to application exemptions and the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling.



### 1.1B RULEMAKING

- **Stormwater management:** Staff drafted a formal rule proposal that will be submitted to the Governor's Policy Office in May and then presented to the Policy & Implementation Committee at its next meeting.
- **Solar energy facilities:** The LUCIS Committee briefly discussed existing CMP solar facility standards and a list of potential CMP amendments on April 21, 2021. Additional discussion will occur at the Committee's May 19, 2021 meeting after Committee members have had an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the list of amendments and policies.

## 1.2 LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### 1.2A LITIGATION (STATE; FEDERAL; OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW; OTHER)

#### STATE:

- **I/M/O New Jersey Pinelands Commission Resolution PC4-20-08:** Docket No. A-002499-19; On October 8, 2020, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) filed a motion that sought to supplement the record in this appeal with the contents of the entire record from its prior appeals involving the South Jersey Gas Company's natural gas transmission pipeline application. PPA filed its merits brief on January 15, 2021. PPA included with its brief a three volume appendix. The Statement of Items Comprising the Record of this appeal, however, consists of 11 documents and PPA's motion to supplement the record had previously been denied by the Appellate Division as was its motion for reconsideration of such denial. On February 10, 2021, the Commission filed a Motion to Strike PPA's brief and PPA submitted opposition to that motion on February 22, 2021. The Appellate Division issued an Order on February 25, 2021 granting the Commission's Motion to Strike and requiring PPA to file a conforming brief and appendix within thirty days after the court's Order.
- **I/M/O New Jersey Natural Gas Application for The Installation and Operation of The Southern Reliability Link, Docket No. A-000925-17T1:** On April 29, 2021, the Appellate Division issued its Decisions for all appeals pertaining to the Southern Reliability Link, including the procedural and substantive appeals of the Commission's approval of the portions of the project in the Pinelands, and the appeals of the denial of the third-party hearing requests by PPA (A-000999-17) and Korvath and Caruso (A-001005-17). The Appellate Division found for the Commission in all matters. With regard to the procedural appeal, the Court held that the process utilized by the Commission to review the New Jersey Natural Gas Company's transmission line application, properly implemented the Court's remand Order, did not constitute improper rulemaking and did not violate due process and the laws of the Pinelands Area. In its Opinion concerning the Commission's denial of the third-party appeal requests of PPA, Daniel and Patricia Caruso and Jean Korvath, the Court upheld the Commission's denial of these request. The Court stated that it could discern no basis to disturb the Commission's decisions and it rejected the appellants' arguments substantially for the reasons set forth by the Commission's Chief of Legal and Legislative Affairs in her comprehensive written opinions and added comments, addressing the appellants' specific claims seriatim (an argument the Court takes in series). The Court found that third-party objectors do not have an automatic right to an administrative hearing before the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and that the Administrative Procedure Act expressly prohibits a state agency from promulgating rules or regulations granting an OAL hearing to any person other than a permit applicant unless "specifically authorized to do so by federal law or State statute," N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3.1(d), or unless that third party "has [a] particularized interest sufficient to require a hearing on constitutional or statutory grounds." N.J.S.A. 52:14B-3.2(c) and -3.3. *Accord Amico/Tunnel Carwash*, 371 N.J. Super. at 204.

The Court also held that the Pinelands Protection Act and the court's decision in In re application of Madin, 201 N.J. Super. 105 (App Div 1985) do not require the

Commission to hold an adjudicatory hearing as part of its review process. Rather, the Pinelands Protection Act, at N.J.S.A. 13:18A-15, only requires that the Commission hold a “public hearing” when reviewing a municipal or county development approval and, N.J.S.A. 13:18A-8(h), does not require the Commission to hold evidentiary hearings during its review of development applications. As to In re Madin, the Court not only found it factually distinguishable from the present matter, but that it was no longer valid given it was decided before the 1993 amendments to the APA. Finally, the Court rejected the argument the definition of “interested persons” within the CMP establishes a right to an adjudicatory hearing. The Court stated that reliance on the definition was misplaced given the CMP at N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.92 states that “[a]ll appeals of determinations of the Executive Director shall be made to the [OAL] pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91,” and N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.91 limits hearings to “[a]ny person who has a right to request a hearing conducted by the Office of Administrative Law.” Having found that the appellants did not have a right to a hearing under Federal or State law, the Court then analyzed whether the appellants had a particularized property interest sufficient to require a hearing on constitutional or statutory grounds and determined that they did not.

With regard to the substantive appeals brought by PPA and the New Jersey Sierra Club, although technically moot, given the construction of the portion of the pipeline in the Pinelands Area was completed in January 2020, the Court decided to address the issues raised by appellants, because of their substantial importance and, because it was likely if the same issues were raised with regard to other applications, they would evade review under similar circumstance. Ultimately, the Court rejected all of the arguments raised by the appellants and held that the Commission’s decision approving the pipeline was not arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable and that it was amply supported by the administrative record.

Notably, the Court found, that the Commissioners, who the appellants argued had disqualifying conflicts of interest, neither had an actual or apparent conflict of interest that required them to recuse from the Commission’s decision on the pipeline application. The Court also held that in accordance with the CMP, a natural gas pipeline constitutes public service infrastructure, is a permitted use in a Rural Development Area and, as such, does not require a determination as to whether such permitted use is compatible with the essential character of the Pinelands environment. Additionally, the Court found the Commission’s interpretation of the Military and Federal Installation Areas rules was reasonable and consistent with the plain language of the regulation and the ordinary meaning of the phrase “associated with.” The Court further found that the statements from the Commanders of the Joint Base supported the finding that the development was associated with the function of the base and that a direct connection of the pipeline to the Joint Base was not required. The Court, in rejecting that the routing of the pipeline through the Joint Base was a pretext to secure Commission approval, found that there was nothing improper about the staff suggesting changes to the proposed pipeline route during pre-application discussions to ensure compliance with the CMP Rules. The Court also rejected all arguments that were advanced that the proposed project was not consistent with the wetland, threatened and endangered plant and water quality standards of the CMP, N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.1 through 6.13, N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.27 and N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.83, respectively.

### 1.2B OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

- A total of 10 Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests were received in April. Of the 10 requests, eight were provided responsive material, one was advised that we had no responsive material and the remaining request will be responded to in May.

### 1.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Retirements:** Staff processed Certification of Service and Final Salary for one upcoming retirement.
- **Health Benefits:** Staff participated in the first of two sessions of BenefitSolver training provided by the Division of Pensions and Benefits. Effective June 1, 2021, BenefitSolver is the new platform for processing any health benefit enrollments and changes.
- **CWA/Commission Negotiations:** An agreement was reached between the Commission and CWA Local 1040 for the current contract period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. The agreement was approved by the Personnel and Budget Committee and recommended to move to the full Commission in February 2021, and was approved at the March Commission meeting.

## 2 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

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- **Bass River Township:** Bass River Township is in the process of revising its zoning map and updating its land development ordinance. On April 15th, Commission staff held a virtual meeting with the Township's Mayor, Planning Board Engineer, and Planning Board Attorney to discuss the Township's proposed zoning revisions. In 1983, the Township opted to have its zoning plan for the PNR portion of the Township certified by the Commission. Staff explained the benefits of maintaining this PNR certification as well as guidance on appropriate zoning modifications in the PNR area. Commission staff will continue to work with the Township as it finalizes its zoning changes.
- **Pemberton Township Sanitary Sewer (App. No 1987-0411.010):** On April 20, 2021, the staff met with representatives of the Township, the Mayor, staff of the Board of Education and other officials to discuss the status of this application to extend public sanitary sewer to two existing schools located just outside of the Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst. The applicant is proposing to provide sanitary sewer service to the existing schools. The schools are located in a Pinelands land management area that only permits public sanitary sewer to service a "public health problem." It is anticipated that the applicant will shortly be submitting the requested information to complete their public development application with the Commission.

### 3 PLANNING

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#### 3.1 CONFORMANCE ACTIVITY

	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
<b>Master Plans/Ordinances Received</b>		
Adopted	2	35
Drafted or Introduced	8	28
Total <sup>1</sup>	10	46
<b>Master Plans/Ordinances Reviewed</b>		
Substantial Issue Finding <sup>2</sup>	0	2
No Substantial Issue Finding	3	14
No Issue Finding	3	15
Total	6	31
<b>Finding Letters Issued<sup>3</sup></b>	4	19

**Notable Conformance Activity:**

- South Toms River Borough Redevelopment Plans** – In March 2021, the Commission received two adopted Redevelopment Plans that apply to Borough-owned lands in the vicinity of, and including, the uncapped municipal landfill. The subject lands are within a Pinelands Regional Growth Area. These two plans supersede the Borough’s existing Municipal Landfill Redevelopment Plan and were adopted to satisfy the terms of a settlement agreement between the Borough and the Fair Share Housing Center related to the provision of affordable housing. As part of that settlement, the Borough agreed to convey approximately .9 acres of Borough-owned land to a designated redeveloper and adopt zoning provisions that would allow the redeveloper to construct a 30-unit, 100% affordable family rental housing project. In order to effectuate those terms, the existing Municipal Landfill Redevelopment Area will be split into two separate Redevelopment Areas, one of which would encompass the .9 acres proposed for the affordable housing project. The other Redevelopment Area, which contains the landfill and public facilities, would be limited to nonresidential uses. In particular, solar facilities would be allowed on the site of the existing landfill once it is appropriately closed and capped. Staff reviewed both plans and identified a number of necessary revisions to ensure consistency with the CMP. Staff further identified the need for revisions to a third redevelopment plan (Dover

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<sup>1</sup> The total accounts for unique master plans and ordinances received (i.e., it does not double count drafted, introduced, or adopted submissions for the same ordinance).

<sup>2</sup> Ordinances and Master Plans that are found to raise substantial issues with respect to the standards of the CMP require formal review and approval by the full Commission.

<sup>3</sup> A single finding letter can pertain to multiple master plans/ordinances from the same municipality.

Road) that is impacted by the affordable housing settlement agreement. Staff drafted and provided the Borough with suggested amendments on April 29, 2021.

- Southampton Township Redevelopment Plans** – In April 2021, the Township requested informal review and comment on two draft redevelopment plans prior to their introduction. One plan would enable the development of solar facilities on a capped landfill located in a Rural Development Area. The other plan would enable the redevelopment of three contiguous lots, including the lot containing the Red Lion Diner. These lots are located within the Township’s Highway Commercial Zone in a Rural Development Area. The Plan would allow for a variety of non-residential uses. Staff provided feedback and suggested revisions to each plan for the Township’s consideration. The Plans were scheduled to be introduced at the Township’s April 20<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.

### 3.2 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Applications Reviewed	7	31
Surveys Required	0	2
Surveys Reviewed	2	2
Certificates of Appropriateness Required	0	2

### 3.3 PINELANDS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT PROGRAM

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
PDCs Allocated	0.85	2.95
PDCs Severed	16.75	16.75
Acres Protected	479.60	479.60
PDCs Extinguished	0	0
Acres Protected	0	0
PDCs Sold	4.00	9.75
Average Sales Price per PDC	\$68,000	\$62,428
Average Sales Price per Right	\$17,000	\$15,607
PDCs Redeemed	1.25	1.75

### **Notable Activity:**

- **PDC Allocations:** 0.75 PDCs (3 rights) were allocated to 26 acres in the Agricultural Production Area in Buena Borough. An additional 0.10 PDCs were allocated to 19 acres in the Preservation Area District owned by Galloway Township.
- **PDC Severances:** 16.75 PDCs (67 rights) were severed, permanently protecting 479.6 acres in the Special Agricultural Production Area in Bass River Township.
- **PDC Sales:** 16 rights were sold in April 2021 at prices ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per right.
- **PDC Redemptions:** 1.25 PDCs (5 rights) were redeemed in association with two residential projects in Egg Harbor Township.
- Staff discussed the PDC program with Commissioner Jordan Howell and a small group of Rowan University students

### **3.4 SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- **Cardiff Center Redevelopment Plan:** Staff attended the April 26, 2021 meeting of the Working Committee assembled by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Staff from the office of Local Planning Services at DCA gave a brief presentation on Part 1 of the Redevelopment Plan and later distributed copies for the Working Committee's review and comment. The Redevelopment Area is located in Egg Harbor Township.
- **Septic Pilot Program:** Staff continued with preparations for a new application round by drafting invitations to eligible technology vendors and filing a notice with the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the New Jersey Register on May 3, 2021. Applications to participate in the pilot program must be submitted to the Commission by August 6, 2021. Up to five new technologies may be accepted into the program.
- **PCF Acquisition Program:** The P&I Committee authorized a new round of PCF land acquisition grants to be offered. The Commission will begin accepting applications in May. Potential projects will be evaluated against a new matrix of factors, including proximity to the Atlantic City airport, threatened or endangered species habitat emphasizing grasslands, project size, maintenance plans, and climate change impacts. Invitations to apply for grants are planned to open the round in May, and the application period will close July 30.
- **National Park Service – Long Term Monitoring Agreement:** Staff prepared and submitted a work plan to the National Park Service for the upcoming federal fiscal year that will start in October. The new work plan encompasses the Permanent Land Protection database development, ground-penetrating radar surveys of historic cemeteries, and some outreach activities for the Pine Barrens Byway.

## 4 REGULATORY PROGRAMS

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### 4.1 APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Pre-Application Conferences	12	51
Certificates of Filing	10	55
Public Development Reports	2	5
Forestry Certificates of Filing	1	3
PDC Letters of Interpretation	6	13
Non-PDC Letters of Interpretation	0	0
MOA Consistency Determinations	2	11

### 4.2 NOTABLE APPLICATIONS

- **Berkeley Township Solar Facility on Landfill (App. No. 1986-0127.001):** On April 21, 2021, a meeting was held with a potential applicant regarding the installation of a solar facility on the closed, but not capped, Berkeley Township landfill. Since the landfill, located in a Forest Area, accepted solid waste after January 14, 1981, the Commission's regulations require that the landfill be capped. Depending on certain conditions, the landfill can be capped with either an impermeable or permeable material. The applicant is reviewing the available capping alternatives.
- **Pemberton Township Solar Facility on Landfill (App. No. 2021-0112.001):** A meeting has been scheduled for May 7, 2021 with a potential applicant regarding the installation of a solar energy facility on the closed Pemberton Township landfill. The landfill, which is located in the Preservation Area, ceased operation prior to September 23, 1980. The Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan does not require any capping of a landfill located in the Preservation Area that ceased operation prior to September 23, 1980.
- **Southampton Mobile Home Park (App. No.1988-1133.005):** This matter concerns a mobile home park that pre-existed the 1981 effective date of the Commission's regulations. As of 1981, the mobile home park contained approximately 60 spaces for mobile homes. Since 1981, some of the mobile homes have been removed from the parcel and not replaced. Based upon available information, there are approximately 25 mobile homes currently located in the mobile home park. The mobile homes are considered single family dwellings. If it is proposed to replace a single family dwelling unit that was removed from the mobile home park, five or more years ago, an application to replace that dwelling must be completed with the Commission. By Resolution dated April 8, 2021 addressing the replacement of one mobile home dwelling unit, the Township Planning Board found that a certain type of manufactured home could be installed in 69 spaces in the mobile home park. By letter dated April 19, 2021,

the Commission staff indicated that the replacement of any mobile home/dwelling unit on the parcel that had been removed from the parcel, five or more years ago, required application to the Commission.

- **Taylor Woods Residential Development, Winslow Township (App. No. 2005-0053.001):** On March 29, 2021 the staff received a written inquiry proposing 25 to 50 dwelling units on a 9.92 acre parcel. The 9.92 acre parcel was part of a 122.2 acre parcel on which the development of 12 residential apartment buildings, containing 264 dwelling units, was previously approved. As part of that approval, the permitted residential density for the 9.92 acre parcel was utilized for the 264 approved dwelling units. The plan that was subject of that approval indicated that the concerned 9.92 acre parcel was “reserved for future development.” By letter dated April 27, 2021, the Commission staff indicated that provided 0.25 PDCs were purchased for each newly proposed dwelling unit on the 9.92 acre parcel, the proposed development would not raise any residential density issue with the Pinelands Commission. Our April 27, 2021 letter further indicated that the Commission staff’s position on the matter should not be construed as obligating the Township to agree with our determination and that the applicant should discuss the proposal with an appropriate municipal official.
- **Stavola Parcel, Manchester Township (App. No. 1981-1470.001):** On April 27, 2021, the Commission staff conducted a pre-application conference with an applicant proposing the development of 1.6 million square feet of office warehouse space on a 225 acre parcel in Manchester Township. A portion of the parcel was previously disturbed as part of a resource extraction operation. The applicant was advised that the proposed commercial development of the parcel would not be permitted by the current Township zoning and that any request to rezone that parcel must originate from the Township. The Commission staff also advised that at least lands adjacent to the parcel had previously been subject to threatened and endangered species surveys. Those surveys identified threatened and endangered plant and animal species on those adjacent lands. The Commission staff advised that we would need to review those surveys to determine whether additional information pertaining to threatened and endangered species would be required.

### 4.3 OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **Deed Restrictions:** In some instances, applicants impose conservation deed restrictions as part of development applications on parcels or portions of parcels. Those deed restrictions are typically to address either the protection of threatened and endangered species, lot size requirements or when the residential density has been “harvested” from the land to allow for development to occur on an adjacent parcel. The deed restrictions are in favor of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) due to the limitations on the Commissions’ ability to hold property rights. The Commission staff is receiving an increasing number of requests to modify existing deed restrictions. Modifying the deed restrictions requires the approval of NJDEP. The Commission staff is discussing with NJDEP the administrative procedure to modify and revised such deed restrictions.

- **Chatsworth Lake, Woodland Township:** The water level at Chatsworth Lake, located adjacent to County Route 532, has been drawn down. The Commission staff has been advised by the property owner that a water control structure at the lake has failed. The property owner is currently evaluating the failed structure.

#### 4.4 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE EVENT ROUTE MAP APPROVALS

**Application #** 20050459.033

**Competition** Dirt Riders, Inc.

**Approval Issued:** 4/27/2021

**Event Name:** Ormond Farms Hare Scramble

**Event Date:** May 1 and 2, 2021

**Municipality:** Maurice River Township

**Lands Utilized:** Ormond Farms located on Hesstown Road

**Route Length:** 10 miles

## 5 SCIENCE

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### 5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- **Water Level Monitoring:** In April, staff measured water levels at forest plots and ponds in the Commission network of long-term monitoring sites. This work is completed each month.
- **Pond Water Quality Monitoring:** Staff completed sampling pH and specific conductance at the 37 ponds. This sampling occurs twice each spring to monitor long-term changes in these two parameters.
- **Pinelands-wide Water Quality Monitoring:** Staff completed the April round of pH and specific conductance sampling at the 47 stream sites. This work is completed four times each year to monitor temporal trends in these two variables.

### 5.2 LONG TERM STUDIES

- **Joint Corn Snake Study, Kingsnake Study, and Rare Snake Monitoring:** Staff received various permits to conduct snake research in 2021, including a permit letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Parks and Forestry to conduct research on State Forest land, a special use permit from the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to conduct research on Wildlife Management Areas, and a Scientific Collecting permit from the NJDEP to conduct all of the snake research. So far in 2021, approximately 150 new and previously pit tagged snakes have been found. These include about 60 corn snakes, 40 black racers, 20 pine snakes, 20 kingsnakes, and 10 snakes of several other species (garter snakes, scarlet snakes, and hognose snakes). Most of the radio tracked corn snakes, kingsnakes, and pine snakes from 2020 have already been recaptured in 2021 either to be implanted with a new radio transmitter or for a transmitter removal and subsequent release. Staff continues to monitor den corrals and cover for additional snakes. In April, staff opened the drift fence-box trap-cover

array and installed 14 pitfall traps to provide an additional method of capturing animals at the drift fence.

- **Eastern Box Turtle Study:** As part of a 2021 initiative, staff received a scientific collecting permit from the NJDEP to begin to capture, weigh, measure, mark, and radio-track eastern box turtles. In April, three turtles were captured, processed, and outfitted with external transmitters and are currently being radio tracked. Staff will monitor the movements of each turtle about once each week.



**Above:** An Eastern box turtle with a radio transmitter attached to its shell with epoxy

## **6 COMMUNICATIONS**

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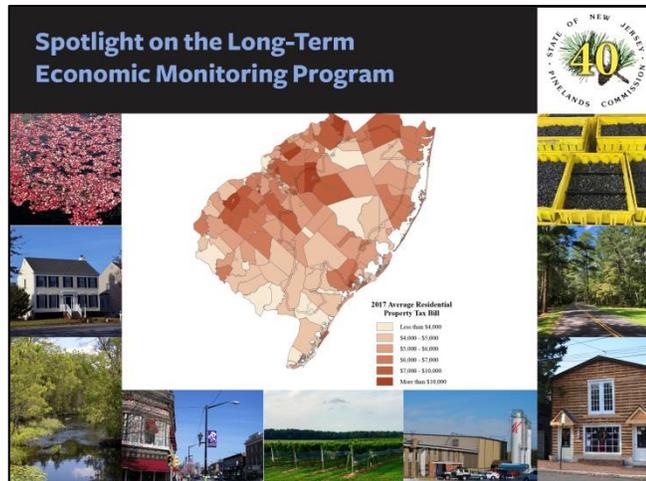
### **6.1 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

- The Pinelands Commission’s website was viewed 18,118 times in April 2021.
- **Inquiries/Correspondence:** The Communications Office received and responded to 95 inquiries from the public, including phone calls, e-mails, and media inquiries.

### **6.2 EVENTS, OUTREACH & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS**

- **Pinelands Speaker Series Webinars:** Staff hosted four webinars as part of the Pinelands Speaker Series in April 2021. The webinars included “Maple Syrup Production in Southern New Jersey: Challenges, Lessons, and Paths Forward,” “Weather in the Pinelands,” “Underwater Natural History of the Mullica Valley,” and “Snakes of the Pine Barrens.” The four webinars have generated nearly 500 views thus far. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, staff announced the lineup of webinars through May.

- Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan:** The Commission continued its celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) through mid-April 2021. The Commission is marking the milestone by composing and sharing daily posts on its Facebook and Instagram sites and via e-mails on its Pinelands News Alert mailing list, which reaches more than 1,400 recipients. In April, the Commission wrote and shared 14 anniversary-related posts, including 28 photos and two videos. The posts highlighted the Commission's Long-Term Economic Monitoring Program, several Science Office studies, the Commission's education and outreach efforts and the benefits of Pinelands preservation. The education and outreach post featured a newly created, Abode Spark video. The final post in the informational campaign was shared on April 9<sup>th</sup>, and it concluded the informational campaign, which staff has worked on every day for the past six months. The final e-mail also included a link to a newly compiled, 40-minute video of various scenes in the Pinelands. The video is available on the Commission's YouTube Channel.



**Above:** In celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the Commission's staff shared 125 CMP-related posts on 60 consecutive workdays, along with 463 photos and 26 videos, including the one above that highlighted the Long-Term Economic Monitoring Program.

- Pinelands Short Course:** Staff organized and carried out the first-ever, virtual Pinelands Short Course on Saturday, April 24, 2021. More than 100 people livestreamed the event, which featured a five-person, panel discussion that was moderated by Commission staff, in partnership with Stockton University. The 2.5-hour event was very well received, and the recording of the panel discussion is available on the Commission's YouTube Channel (<https://youtu.be/CuN1CTYuTiM>).



**Above:** Communications Office staff hosted and moderated the first-ever, virtual Pinelands Short Course with five panelists on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Science Office Assistance:** A member of the Public Programs Office assisted the Science Office by helping to install pit traps for a snake study on April 5<sup>th</sup>, by

gathering pond and well monitoring data on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and by installing snake corrals and helping to track snakes on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- **Education Programs:** A member of the Public Programs Office led a virtual field trip for the Pinelands Regional High School at the Batsto Fire Tower on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **Social Media Site Enhancements:** Staff continued to enhance the Commission's social media pages in April 2021. Staff posted 158 photos and six videos on the Commission's Instagram site. Staff also made use of the social media sites to promote Commission meetings, webinars, the CMP anniversary celebration, the Pinelands Short Course and the monthly Management report. Unfortunately, due to authentication issues, the Commission has been unable to post on its Facebook page since the second week of April. The Commission has contacted Facebook numerous times about the issue, but Facebook has yet to respond.



**Above:** The Communications Office shared six videos and 158 photos on the Commission's Instagram site in April 2021, including this photo of a Juvenal's duskywing butterfly in Wharton State Forest.

## **7 BUSINESS OFFICE**

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### **7.1 FACILITIES**

- Repairs were made to the air conditioning unit in the MIS Server Closet. Marlee Contractors were dispatched to repair one of the two split-system air conditioning units in the MIS Server Closet. The older of the two units is not repairable. The unit will need to be replaced. The location of the server closet is being re-evaluated.

### **7.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- **Application Fees:** April, Net Total: \$21,713.26; Year to Date Total: \$474,599.97. The FY2021 Anticipated Budget for Application Revenue has been met and exceeded.