



New Jersey  
Pinelands Commission  
*Annual Report 2011*



# Mission Statement *of the* New Jersey Pinelands Commission

The mission of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to encourage compatible economic and other human activities consistent with that purpose.

**Cover Photo:** Pine Barrens gerardia is one of approximately 850 species of plants that grow in the Pinelands.

Photo by John Bunnell/New Jersey Pinelands Commission

# New Jersey Pinelands Commission

## 2011

### Gubernatorial Appointees

Candace M. Ashmun  
Robert Jackson  
Lloyd Henderson Jr. (Jan.)  
Edward Lloyd

Mark S. Lohbauer, Chairman  
D'Arcy Rohan Green (July - Dec.)  
Judith Link (Jan. - June)  
Gary Quinn (July - Dec.)

### U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Appointee

Richard L. Harris

### County Appointees

#### *Atlantic County*

Paul E. Galletta

#### *Burlington County*

Daniel M. Kennedy (Jan. - May)  
Sean W. Earlen (Aug. - Dec.)

#### *Camden County*

Edward McGlinchey

#### *Cape May County*

William J. Brown

#### *Cumberland County*

Leslie M. Ficaglia

#### *Gloucester County*

Francis A. Witt

#### *Ocean County*

John A. Haas, Vice Chairman

### Executive Director

Nancy Wittenberg

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

P.O. Box 359

New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Phone: (609) 894-7300

Fax: (609) 894-7330

e-mail: [info@njpines.state.nj.us](mailto:info@njpines.state.nj.us)

website: [www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands)

# PINELANDS COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2011

- Four new Commissioners join Pinelands panel. Page 1.
- Nancy Wittenberg begins tenure as the Commission's new Executive Director. Page 2.
- Commission adopts new rule changes to encourage the development of solar energy facilities in the Pinelands. Pages 2-3.
- Five environmentally-sensitive properties in the Pinelands are preserved with funds administered by the Pinelands Commission. Page 4.
- Commission staff assumes responsibility for the operation and administration of the Pinelands Development Credit Bank. Page 5.
- Commission awarded a federal grant that will help fund a study of Pinelands ponds. Page 5.
- Commission approves efforts to suppress Southern Pine Beetles. Page 7.
- Commission begins implementing new procedures that provide the public with more opportunities to comment on public development applications. Page 8.
- The 22nd annual Pinelands Short Course draws 600 people. Page 8.

# Four new Commissioners join Pinelands panel

The Pinelands Commission gained four new Commission members in 2011, including a new Chairman. New Commissioners D'Arcy Rohan Green of Bay Head, Ocean County, Mark S. Lohbauer of Pennsauken, Camden County and Gary Quinn of Lacey Township, Ocean County, took the oath of office as gubernatorial appointees on the agency's 15-member board in July. Candace McKee Ashmun, a resident of Basking Ridge, Somerset County, who has served on the Commission since its inception in 1979, was also sworn in as a gubernatorial appointee. Sean W. Earlen of Lumberton Township was sworn in as Burlington County's representative in August.

Gov. Chris Christie nominated Rohan Green, Lohbauer, Quinn and Ashmun to serve three-year terms on the panel. The New Jersey Senate approved all four appointments in late June. The Governor appointed Lohbauer as the Chairman in September.

Since 2004, Lohbauer has been a principal of JGSC Group, retail market-making firm that focuses on revitalizing downtown commercial corridors. Prior to joining JGSC, he served as the Director of Policy & Communications for the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, following several years as the Assistant State Treasurer and practicing law in Philadelphia. A former member of the Pennsauken Township Committee and Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Lohbauer has long been active in environmental issues, primarily in the promotion of alternatives to waste incineration. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University.

Rohan Green currently serves on the Bay Head Borough Council, and is a former member of the Borough's Environmental Commission and Planning Board. A former dune consultant/inspector and former newspaper reporter/columnist, Rohan Green serves on the Board of Directors for Save Barnegat Bay and is an advisory member of Clean Ocean Action and the New Jersey Environmental Federation. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from New York University.

Quinn, the former Mayor of Lacey Township, has served on the Township Committee since 2003. He is the President and Owner of Eastport Builders, a real estate development company that specializes in developing single-family residential developments, multi-family senior housing and commercial site plans throughout southern Ocean County. A longtime member of the Lacey Township Chamber of Commerce, Quinn serves on the Ocean County Workforce Development Committee and the Lacey Planning Board, as well as the township's Municipal Alliance and Economic Development Committee. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Ramapo College.

Earlen is the Director of Real Estate & Acquisitions for Constructural Dynamics, Inc. of Fairless Hills, PA. He is involved in overseeing the company's land-use functions as well as its manufacturing and industrial locations in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He coordinated the sale of 950 acres to the States Green Acres program, has managed the company's 3,200-acre Forest Stewardship Program, which includes approximately 1,000 Pinelands acres, and is responsible for promoting programs that promote wildlife habitat on company-owned woodlands in Eagleswood and Stafford. Earlen holds a bachelor's in business administration from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown.

The 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.



Lohbauer



Rohan Green



Quinn



Earlen



# Nancy Wittenberg begins tenure as the Commission's Executive Director



**Nancy Wittenberg**

The start of 2011 marked the beginning of a new era at the Pinelands Commission as Nancy Wittenberg began her tenure as the Commission's Executive Director.

The Commission selected Wittenberg, a resident of Toms River, Ocean County, as its new Executive Director in November 2010. She began serving in the post on January 3, 2011, replacing former Executive Director John C. Stokes. Stokes was appointed as the Commission's Executive Director in April 2003, after serving 23 years as the panel's Assistant Director. He retired on January 1, 2011.

Prior to joining the Commission, Wittenberg served as the Assistant Commissioner of Climate and Environmental Compliance for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There, she oversaw statewide programs covering air quality permitting and planning, climate change, energy, solid and hazardous waste planning and regulation, pollution prevention, radiation prevention, nuclear safety, and pollution and release prevention. She also served as the Director of Environmental Affairs for the New Jersey Builders Association and has extensive experience in previous high-level positions at the DEP.

Wittenberg holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Duke University and a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Vermont.

The Executive Director is responsible for the daily operations of the Commission and its staff of approximately 45 planners, scientists, environmental reviewers, educators and others.

## LAND USE & PLANNING

### *Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan Amendments*

In 2011, the Commission approved several rule changes that encourage the development of solar energy facilities in the Pinelands, while safeguarding the region's environment.

Solar energy facilities are universally-permitted as an accessory use throughout the million-acre Pinelands Area of southern New Jersey. In October 2011, the Commission adopted several changes to the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) that expand opportunities to develop solar energy facilities as a principal use.

Solar energy systems that are accessory uses supply electricity to the principal use on the property, such as a home or a business, and these types of facilities are already permitted throughout the Pinelands. Solar energy facilities that are the principal use on a property are generally larger in scale and supply electricity for regional use. These types of facilities have been permitted in Pinelands Regional Growth Areas, Pinelands Towns and, under certain circumstance, Pinelands Villages and Rural Development Areas.

The revisions provide a mechanism to speed the development of accessory solar energy facilities where they would be located on existing structures or installed over existing impervious surfaces. Specifically, the installation of accessory solar energy facilities on existing structures will not constitute development, and therefore will be exempt from the need to file a development application with the Pinelands Commission. Exempting such installations will hasten the local approval process and would eliminate the cost of applying to the Commission for

approval.

The rule changes also:

- Authorize Pinelands municipalities to permit solar energy facilities as a principal use in all management areas, provided that all Pinelands environmental standards are met.
- Stipulate special limitations that apply to solar energy facilities installed as a principal use in the Preservation Area District, Special Agricultural Production Area and the Forest Area. The provisions set forth that such installations in those areas will be limited to three circumstances.



In 2011, the Commission adopted a series of rule changes that seek to ensure the environmentally-appropriate siting of solar energy facilities in the Pinelands.

Photo/Paul Leakan

First, installation could be authorized on the parcel of an existing landfill which has been, or will be, closed in accordance with the Commission's landfill closure standards. Second, installation could be authorized on a parcel that has been, or will be, environmentally-remediated of toxic or hazardous wastes or similar substances, provided the remediation has been, or will be, approved by the Commission. The third circumstance applies to the previously disturbed portions of a parcel upon which resource extraction (e.g., sand and gravel mining) has occurred, and for which there is no obligation for site restoration;

- Require that solar energy facilities and associated off-site infrastructure be located and screened to minimize the visual impacts as viewed from wild and scenic rivers and special corridors;
- Limit clearing for the development of new, or the expansion of, existing on-site or off-site infrastructure to that which is necessary to accommodate the solar energy facility in accordance with the Commission's existing clearing and disturbance standards;
- Stipulate special limitations that apply to solar energy facilities installed as a principal use in the Agricultural Production Area. Based on these limitations, up to 10 acres of any parcel could be used for such installations. Prime agricultural soils and areas of high ecological integrity must be avoided to the maximum extent feasible; and
- Require that solar energy facilities be decommissioned within 12 months of the cessation of their use. This includes removing all energy facilities, structures and equipment from the parcel.

The development of solar facilities will yield significant benefits to the Pinelands' environment because they will offset the need for new fossil-fuel dependent power plants, thereby reducing atmospheric emissions such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury and particulates. Removing these emissions will have a positive impact on public health, crop production, forest health, fish populations and water quality.

The rule changes officially went into effect in January 2012.

## *Review of Municipal Ordinances*

All municipalities in the Pinelands Area are required to revise their master plans and land use ordinances in order to implement the objectives of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. To date, all seven counties and 52 of 53 municipalities with land in the state-designated Pinelands Area have had their master plans and land use ordinances certified by the Commission. Amendments to certified county and municipal master plans and land use ordinances must be submitted to, and approved by, the Commission.

During 2011, the Commission received and reviewed 110 ordinance and master plan amendments from 36 different municipalities.

# PERMANENT LAND PROTECTION

## *Pinelands Conservation Fund*

Five environmentally-sensitive properties in the Pinelands Area were permanently preserved in 2011 with funds administered by the Pinelands Commission. These properties included a 376-acre parcel in Jackson Township, a 237-acre parcel in Ocean Township, a 49-acre parcel in Bass River Township, a 43-acre parcel located in Medford and Evesham townships and a one-acre parcel in Dennis Township.

From 2007 to 2011, the Commission authorized money through the fund to preserve a total of 3,708 acres in the Pinelands.

The Pinelands Conservation Fund was created in 2004 as part of an agreement with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to permit the construction and upgrade of an electric transmission line through eastern portions of the Pinelands. Under the agreement, the special fund was established to further the Pinelands protection program and ensure a greater level of protection of the unique resources of the Pinelands Area. The utility that built the transmission lines, Atlantic City Electric (formerly Conectiv), provided \$13 million to establish the Fund. An additional \$3,415,000 was added to the Fund in 2009 as a result of an amendment to the Comprehensive Management Plan that authorized expansion of the Cape May landfill and through a 2008 Memorandum of Agreement with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority that authorized improvements to the Garden State Parkway.

The Fund is dedicated to three types of projects: permanent land protection; conservation planning and research projects and community planning and design initiatives.

## *Pinelands Development Credit Program*

The Pinelands Development Credit Program is a regional transfer of development rights program that preserves important agricultural and ecological land. Pinelands Development Credits (PDCs) are allocated to landowners in Pinelands-designated Preservation, Agricultural and Special Agricultural Production Areas, which are the sending areas. These credits can be purchased by property owners and developers who are interested in developing land



**In 2011, the Pinelands Commission provided funds to help preserve the 43-acre parcel (shown above) in Medford and Evesham townships.**

*Photo/Paul Leakan*



in Pinelands-designated Regional Growth Areas, which serve as the receiving areas, and can be used to increase the densities at which they build. Once those credits are “severed” from a sending area property, the property is permanently protected by a conservation or agricultural deed restriction and credits on the property can be sold. Credits are bought and sold in one-quarter credit units called “rights.”

In September 2011, the Pinelands Commission assumed responsibility for the operation and administration of the Pinelands Development Credit Bank. Although the PDC Bank is now physically located at the Pinelands Commission office, it remains a separate entity.

During 2011, 22 rights were severed, protecting 415 acres of land. A total of 5,976 rights have been severed from 1982 to 2011, protecting 51,396 acres. In 2011, the mean sales price of PDCs was \$11,333 per right, while the median sales price was \$12,250 per right.

### *Limited Practical Use Program*

The Pinelands Limited Practical Use (LPU) Program offers the owners of properties less than 50 acres in size, and whose application for a waiver of strict compliance (a variance from normal Pinelands zoning or environmental standards) has been denied by the Commission, an opportunity to sell their land to the State of New Jersey. However, due to a lack of funding, the program was suspended at the end of 2010. The state Green Acres Program continues to buy Pinelands properties under its own LPU “Quick Action” Program.

## SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### *Kirkwood-Cohansey Study*

The Commission, in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Rutgers University, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), completed the eighth year of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Project work plan which was approved by the Commission in 2003. A description of the project and the project work plan are available on the Commission web page at <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/science/current/kc/>.

The Kirkwood-Cohansey work plan addresses two major research questions. First, what are the probable hydrologic effects of groundwater diversions from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer on stream flows and wetland water levels? Second, what are the probable ecological effects of reduced stream-flow and groundwater-level changes on aquatic and wetland communities? In addition to managing and participating in studies conducted by the USGS, Rutgers University, and USFWS, Commission scientists completed studies that examined the potential impact of groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer on *Helonias bullata* (swamp pink), forested wetlands, frog-larval development, intermittent-pond vegetation, and stream habitat. In previous years, the swamp pink study was published in *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*, the forested-wetland study was published in *Wetlands*, and the frog-larval development study was published in *Wetlands Ecology and Management*.

In 2011, the intermittent-pond vegetation and stream-habitat studies were published in the on-line early version of *Ecohydrology*. The USGS continued to work on reports for the Hydrologic Modeling and Evapotranspiration project components and the Commission Land Use and Planning Office continued to work on the Build-out Study. Reports for these three components, together with a project summary, are expected to be completed in 2012. A team was assembled to begin reviewing Commission policies regarding water supply in the Pinelands.

### *New Study of Pond Ecology*

In November 2011, the Commission accepted a federal grant that will help fund a study of Pinelands ponds to characterize their vulnerability to surrounding land uses.

Commission scientists will use the \$350,524 grant, awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to assess the ecological integrity of “intermittent” ponds throughout the Pinelands. These ponds are called “intermittent” because they are not connected to streams and occasionally dry out, creating fishless environments that serve as important breeding grounds for frogs and toads such as the rare Pine Barrens treefrog. Intermittent ponds also provide habitat for many rare plants.

During the course of the 4 1/2 year research project, Commission scientists will map the location of ponds, document off-road vehicle activity, monitor water quality and hydrology, survey plant and animal assemblages and quantify the impact of land use on these ponds.

The Commission will identify and prioritize ponds that need enhanced protection and may evaluate potential planning and regulatory measures to better protect these ponds.

The Commission will supplement the EPA grant funding by contributing \$116,841 from its Pinelands Conservation Fund (please see Page 4 for more information about the Fund). The project will be launched in 2012.



In 2011, the Commission accepted a federal grant to study the ecology of intermittent ponds such as the one above. Photo/Kim Laidig

## *Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program*

In 2011, Commission scientists continued to carry out scientific surveys of Pinelands watersheds as part of its long-term environmental monitoring program.

Since the 1990s, the Commission has conducted surveys at hundreds of sites in the Pinelands in an effort to characterize the effect of existing land-use patterns on aquatic and wetland resources and to monitor long-term changes in these resources. Commission scientists monitor water quality, vegetation and fish in streams and impoundments, and frogs and toads in impoundments in the Mullica River, Rancocas Creek, Great Egg Harbor River, and Barnegat Bay watersheds. Staff has completed two rounds of surveys in the Mullica, Rancocas Creek and Great Egg Harbor River watersheds. In 2011, scientists completed the second round of surveys in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

Since 2005, Commission scientists have measured water quality at 47 sites on a monthly basis, with a few exceptions. Scientists record water levels at 34 ponds and 35 forest plots in the Pinelands each month. The Commission has monitored calling frogs and toads at 20 ponds since 1996.

# REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

## *Permitting*

The Commission’s staff reviews municipal and county permitting decisions and development approvals to determine potential impacts on Pinelands natural resources. In cases where the local approval may be inconsistent with Pinelands regulations, the Commission’s Executive Director has the authority to refer the approval to the

Pinelands Commission, which can modify or overturn it. In 2011, the Commission's Project Review Office received 530 new applications. During the year, actions were taken on 1,842 applications. A total of 27 actions were taken on applications through the Local Review Officer Program, which expedites the approval process by having municipal officers review certain applications, without the need for the Commission's review first.

## *Suppression of Southern Pine Beetles*

The state continued its efforts to combat Southern Pine Beetles in 2011, including heavily-infested areas of the Pinelands. Approximately the size of a grain of rice, Southern Pine Beetles attack and kill large stands of pine trees. In June 2011, the Pinelands Commission authorized the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to cut 300 acres of dead and dying pine trees on state-owned lands in the Pinelands. The authorization was permitted under a provision of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan that enables the Commission's Executive Director to authorize whatever action is minimally necessary to remedy or prevent danger to life, health and safety. The DEP determined that immediate suppression efforts were needed to prevent potential, widespread destruction of pine trees, and to help mitigate forest fire dangers posed by the dead and dying pine trees.

The Commission also has implemented a streamlined process for reviewing Southern Pine Beetle suppression activities on private lands.

## *Wetlands Permits*

The Commission also has the authority to issue Freshwater Wetland General Permits in the Pinelands Area on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission issued 11 such permits in 2011.

## *Violations*

The Pinelands Commission continues its efforts to provide assistance to municipalities in pursuing and resolving violations of the local land use ordinances and Pinelands regulations. A total of 28 new violations were reported to the Commission in 2011.

# PUBLIC INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION & EDUCATION

## *Outreach and Education*

The Commission's Communications and Public Programs Office staff handled 124 press inquiries and responded to 1,447 public inquiries regarding the Pinelands in 2011. They issued a total of nine press releases and media advisories about the Commission and wrote, designed, edited and distributed two editions of the Pinelander, the Commission's official newsletter.

For the fifth year, the Commission sponsored an educational program called the Pinelands Speaker Series, which featured presentations on Black Bears and efforts to suppress the Southern Pine Beetle.

The presentations were held at the Richard J. Sullivan Center for Environmental Policy and Education, and attracted approximately 100 people.

Additionally, staff organized and carried out its fifth annual, Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day event. Held at the historic Batsto Village, the event attracted more than 200 students and teachers who gauged Pinelands water quality and learned about the importance of protecting the region's unique natural and historic re-

sources. The students measured the levels of pH or acidity in water, as well as water clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Water in the Pinelands is generally undisturbed, has a low pH and low dissolved solids, enabling it to support uniquely adapted Pinelands plants and animals. The students' findings were posted on the World Water Monitoring Day Web site ([www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org)), where test results can be compared over time. In addition to assisting with the water tests, staff from the Pinelands Commission used nets to catch native Pinelands fish and demonstrated how the Commission protects wetlands and habitat for rare plants and animals.



The Commission hosted a presentation about black bears during the fifth annual Pinelands Speaker Series in 2011. Photo/Paul Leakan

## *New Process for Public Comment on Public Development Applications*

In 2011, the Commission began implementing new procedures that provide the public with more opportunities to comment on public development applications.

The procedures were needed to address regulatory provisions which restricted the opportunity to comment on public development applications during Commission meetings.

In July 2011, the Commission began notifying the public when public development applications are determined to be complete and ready for public review. The Commission posts this notice on its Web site ([www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands)) at least 10 days prior to the next scheduled Commission meeting. Interested parties can also register to receive notification of these applications via e-mail.

In addition, the Commission accepts written comments on these applications up to, and during, its next scheduled meeting. The comment period closes the day of the Commission meeting. Following the meeting, the Executive Director prepares and issues a report that summarizes and includes responses to relevant public comments, as well as a recommendation for approval or denial of the public development application. The Commission then takes action on the application during its next scheduled meeting.

Under Pinelands rules, the public has 10 days to provide the Commission with written comments on public development applications. This comment period begins after the applicant publishes a notice of its proposed project in the newspaper. The Commission's Executive Director reviews the application, considers any public comment that is received, then recommends whether the 15-member Commission should approve or deny the application during their regular meeting. At that point, the Commission cannot accept any additional comments, including oral comments presented during its regular meetings, because the comment period has expired. However, under the procedures that the Commission began implementing in 2011, the public has an opportunity to comment on these applications during Commission meetings, while adhering to the comment process established in the rules.

In early 2011, the Commission launched a new web page that provides detailed information about the status of active public development applications and applications for waivers of strict compliance. The web page can be found under the "Permitting and Applicant Services" section of the Commission's Web site.

## *Pinelands Short Course*

The 22nd annual Pinelands Short Course drew more than 600 people. Held on March 26, 2011 at Burlington County College (BCC), the event featured a total of 42 educational presentations, including 21 new programs.

The Pinelands Short Course is sponsored by the Commission, the Pinelands Institute for Environmental Studies (or P.I.N.E.S.) and Burlington County College, which has hosted the event at its Pemberton Township campus since 2004. The event is registered with the New Jersey Department of Education, and professional development credits are available to New Jersey teachers who attend.



# Around the Pinelands in 2011



Nearly 50 people attended the Pinelands Orientation for Newly Elected or Appointed Municipal Officials in 2011. The annual event provides officials with an overview of the Pinelands Protection Program and the important role municipalities play.



More than 200 students and teachers participated in the Commission's annual World Water Monitoring Day Event. Patrick Burritt, a Technician with the Commission's Science Office (on right) shows students a tiny eel that he caught.



In 2011, several Commissioners, including D'Arcy Rohan Green (left) and Robert Jackson (right), toured an area of the Pinelands that was affected by an infestation of Southern Pine Beetles.



In 2011, the Commission endorsed efforts to designate the Pine Barrens treefrog as the official State Amphibian of New Jersey. The initiative is being spearheaded by Brian and Andrew Zhong (lower right), two fifth graders from the Millstone River School in Plainsboro, NJ.

Photos by Paul Leakan  
New Jersey Pinelands Commission

# FINANCES

## *Fiscal & Budget*

The Commission's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, which began July 1, 2011, totals \$4,382,400. Of this, \$3,898,300 or 89 percent, was budgeted for personnel expenses.

Budgeted revenue sources include \$341,240 in federal grants, a \$2.319 million State appropriation, \$425,000 in application fees and \$440,581 from the Commission's fund balance and reserves.

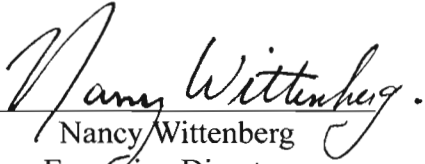
The 2012 budget for the Kirkwood-Cohansey Study, funded through legislation passed in 2001, is \$427,400. The budget for the Pinelands Conservation Fund is \$4,738,500, of which \$4,206,000 is appropriated for land acquisition expenses. When completed, the Commission's Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2011, which ended June 30, 2011, can be found on the Office of the State Auditor's web site at: [www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/auditreports\\_department.asp#PINE](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/auditreports_department.asp#PINE). The report is also available on the Pinelands Commission's web site: [www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands).

## *Pinelands Application Fees*

Since April 2004, the Pinelands Commission has received application fees to partially underwrite the direct costs associated with reviewing development applications. During Fiscal Year 2011, application fee revenues totaled \$440,805 (\$30,969 less than in Fiscal Year 2010). Due to the volatility of the real estate market, \$425,000 is anticipated in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

## *Certification*

As required by State Executive Order #37, all State authorities are required to certify that during the preceding year the authority has, to the best of its knowledge, followed all of the authority's standards, procedures, and internal controls. I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that, during the 2011 calendar year, all of the Commission's standards, procedures, and internal controls were followed.

  
Nancy Wittenberg  
Executive Director

  
Donna L. Connor  
Business Manager