



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

April - May 2009
Volume 49

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*This edition of the
Pinelands Watch
presents a fresh
new design to
mark PPA's 20th
anniversary year.*

*Other PPA
communications
will also benefit
from new designs
this year, including
our website
and Inside the
Pinelands
newsletter.*

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PINELANDS WATCH



Recent Pinelands Commission meeting. From left to right - Robert McIntosh, federal appointment; Candy Ashman, Governor's appointment; Norman Tomasello, Camden County; Steven Lee, Governor's appointment; John Haas, Ocean County; Dan Kennedy, Burlington County; and Guy Campbell, Governor's appointment.

Governor Appointments Needed!

The Pinelands Commission has been hobbled by its lack of a full complement of Commissioners, and it is not the only important commission in this state that is in need of appointments by the Governor. The Highlands Council, the Fish and Game Council, and the Coastal and Ocean Protection Council all need the appointment of conservation-minded individuals to fulfill the duties of these vital agencies in protecting and promoting the sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources. In a time of tight budgets, it is especially odd that the Governor has been unwilling to appoint people who serve solely out of public spirit to these all-volunteer commissions. While our state is in economic distress, we need all the FREE help we can get!

Pinelands Commission

The Pinelands Commission has two gubernatorial vacancies, three expired terms, and no chairperson. One of the vacancies has been open for nearly four years.

The Pinelands Commission is made up of 15 Commissioners: One member is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and one member is appointed by each of the seven counties with land in the Pinelands. The remaining seven seats are filled by the Governor, subject to review and consent of the New Jersey Senate. Members of the Commission serve staggered three-year terms. The Governor also appoints the Chairperson.

These commissioners have final say with regards to all development activities regulated by the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP). The federal legislation states, "The membership of the planning entity shall include residents of the Pinelands National Reserve who represent economic activities such as agriculture in the area, as well as residents of New Jersey who represent conservation interests." Commissioners serve without compensation.

Covering one-fifth of the state, the Pinelands Area is home to New Jersey's largest

continued on page 2

surviving forests, Barnegat Bay, dozens of rare species of wildlife and plants, and the vast but fragile Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. It is simply too precious to be left in the lurch by a Pinelands Commission that cannot function properly because the Governor will not make appointments.

The Pinelands Commission can only take action with the affirmative vote of 8 commissioners. Two empty seats on the Commission, therefore, are two automatic “no” votes for any action the Commission needs to take to fulfill its mission. When some Commissioners oppose important new policies, others are sick or compelled to recuse themselves, the Commission has been paralyzed by the lack of a full complement of members. The Pinelands Protection Act calls for the Commission to protect the unique ecological values of the Pine Barrens ecosystem by controlling development on a regional basis. If this ambitious mission is to succeed over the long run, it is essential that conservation values predominate on the Commission, for conservation is the fundamental purpose of – and the public’s expectation for – the Pinelands Commission and the Pinelands Plan. To meet that standard and public expectation, the Commission needs the vacancies on the Commission today to be filled people who will make the preservation goals of the Pinelands Protection Act their first priority.

Highlands Council

The Highlands Council has two gubernatorial vacancies that Governor Corzine needs to fill. The Highlands Council consists of 15 voting members. Eight residents of the counties of Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, or Warren are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The remaining seven positions are to be filled by residents of the state; of these, five shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, one appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the President of the Senate, and one appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly. Appointees must have, to the maximum extent practicable, expertise, knowledge, or experience in water quality protection, natural resources protection, environmental protection, agriculture, forestry, land use, or economic development, and at least four of them shall be property owners, business owners, or farmers in the Highlands Region or residents or nonresidents of the Highlands Region who benefit from or consume water from the Highlands Region. The members of the council serve without compensation. The Governor designates one of the members of the council as chairperson.

The New Jersey Highlands covers over 800,000 acres -- more than 13 percent of the State’s total area -- and provides clean drinking water to over half of New Jersey’s citizens. The Highlands Act protects the drinking water and other important natural resources of the Highlands, while providing measures for landowners and the economic viability of the region. It is essential that all positions on the Council be filled by persons with the commitment, knowledge and experience to carry out the statutory directive that the Council “preserve, protect and enhance” the region’s unique natural, scenic and agricultural resources.

New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council

The New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council was newly formed in 2008 and is in need of six of the nine members

to be appointed by the Governor. Once it can get to work, the Coastal and Ocean Protection Council will begin the critical work of implementing ecosystem-based management.

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) represents a paradigm shift in the way coastal and ocean resources are currently managed. EBM moves beyond traditional species-by-species, problem-by-problem management approaches to take account of factors such as the interplay between and among different species, including food web interactions, and the availability of suitable habitat-like submerged aquatic vegetation to sustain ocean life. This Council will be at the forefront of the shift to a more holistic approach to natural resource management in coastal states, and has the potential to set a precedent not only for other states in the region, but also for the federal government.

The 9-member council will consist of six public members, appointed by the Governor, and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection or the commissioner’s designee, the Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority or the chief executive officer’s designee, and the Executive Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism in the New Jersey Commerce Commission or the executive director’s designee.

The Act creating the Council specifies that public members of the Council shall include representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, the academic community, an environmental organization, a public interest group, and a non-profit land preservation organization.

Fish and Game Council

The Fish and Game Council has four members serving on expired terms and one vacant seat.

The Fish and Game Council, appointed by the Governor, oversees the Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Fish and Game’s operations and appoints a Director (subject to the Governor’s approval). The council consists of 11 members: three members of council shall be farmers, recommended to the Governor for appointment by the agricultural convention; six members shall be sportsmen, recommended to the Governor for appointment by the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs; and two members shall be the chairperson of the Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee and a public member knowledgeable in land use management and soil conservation practices. One farmer representative and two sportsmen representatives in the council shall be chosen from among residents of any of the following counties – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren; one farmer representative and two sportsmen representatives in the council shall be chosen from among residents of any of the following counties – Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset and Union; and one farmer representative and two sportsmen representatives shall be chosen from among residents of any of the following counties – Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

The Legislature has empowered the Fish and Game Council with the independent responsibility to adopt a Fish and Game Code for the purpose of providing a system for the protection and conservation of fish and game. In addition, the Council has been authorized to perform an advisory and recommendatory function

in the development of comprehensive policies in this general area and to consult with and advise the Commissioner and director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife with respect to the work of such Division, study the activities of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and hold hearings with respect thereto as it may deem necessary or desirable, and report to the Governor and the Legislature annually, and at such other times as it may deem in the public interest with respect to its findings and conclusions.

What you can do:

1. Mail the attached letter to the Governor, write your own letter, or call or email the Governor and tell him you expect him to make good appointments to these commissions – and to make them now.

2. Call your state elected official and ask him or her to contact the Governor's office on your behalf to make sure these appointments are made immediately. You can find your elected official information at the following website:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

3. Contact the local newspaper about this issue as well. We need every individual's support in expressing to the Governor that these appointments are long overdue!

For more information regarding the appointments for the commissions and councils above, please contact:

- **Pinelands:** Jaclyn Rhoads, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, 609-859-8860 ext. 18 or jaclyn@pinelands-alliance.org.
- **Highlands:** Julia Somers, Highlands Council, 973-588-7190 or julia@njhighlandscoalition.org
- **Fish & Game:** Ed Cuneo, New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, njsportsman1@yahoo.com
- **Coastal & Ocean:** Benson Chiles, 732-917-0229 or bensonchiles@gmail.com



Editor: Theresa Lettman

Distributed to members of the Pinelands Watch Network and other members of the public. If you would like to receive these alerts, please contact Theresa Lettman at (609) 859-8860 Ext 22 or theresa@pinelandsalliance.org.

Prior issues are available at: www.pinelandsalliance.org

Printed on 30% recycled paper.

Free Evening Workshop *Site Plan Review and Pinelands Application Process*

Thursday, June 4, 2009

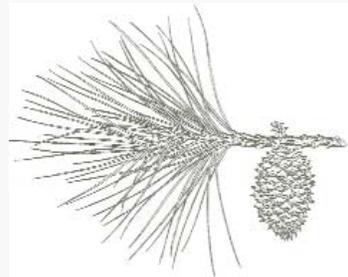
7 - 9 pm

PPA Headquarters

17 Pemberton Road, Southampton Twp.

Site Plan Review (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions and PPA joint presentation): skills and information to review a site plan effectively and ask the right questions about environmental impacts.

Please RSVP to Jaclyn Rhoads at 609-859-8860 Ext 18 or jaclyn@pinelandsalliance.org



Upcoming Pinelands Commission Meetings

Friday, May 8

Friday, June 12

Friday, July 10

Friday, August 14

Pinelands Commission meetings are open to the public. Agendas are posted one week prior to the meeting date at www.nj.gov/pinelands

The Pinelands needs your help...and so do we!
Please support our mission & become a member

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____

E-Mail: _____ Referred by: _____

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Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Membership Categories

- Basic \$35
- Family \$60
- Sponsor \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500
- Chairman's Circle \$1,000
- Other _____

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE :

- A PPA membership card
- A year's subscription to Inside the Pinelands
- A PPA window sticker
- Discounts on PPA merchandise and events and Pinelands Adventures

- A Sponsor will receive an *Exploring the Pine Barrens of New Jersey* map
- A Patron will receive a copy of *The Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD*
- A Benefactor will receive a Pinelands Botanical Print by Robin Jess
- A member of the Chairman's Circle will receive a personalized tour of the Pinelands



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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Inside:

Governor Appointments Needed!



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