



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Aug - Sept 2012
Issue 61

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Upcoming Event

Book Discussion:
The Pine Barrens
by John McPhee

September 13th, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Come join us as we embark on
a journey recounting the past
45 years of Pinelands
protection using McPhee's
classic book as a guide.

Registration: Call 609 859-
8860 x14 or email
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PINELANDS WATCH

"At least every five years after the adoption of this plan, the Executive Director shall comprehensively review this Plan and all actions taken by the Commission or the Executive Director pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:50-4 and shall submit a report to the Commission detailing any recommended amendments to the Plan. Such report shall be submitted by January 15 of every fifth year after adoption of this Plan and shall include an explanation of the reasons for any recommended amendment." CMP: 7-50-7.11



Pinelands Commission Begins Plan Review Process

The Pinelands Commission has begun its fourth review of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), the map and body of rules which controls development in the Pinelands. The CMP is the foundation of the Pinelands protection effort, so the public needs to make sure the Commission uses this review to improve, and not to weaken, the CMP.

This review is required by the Pinelands Protection Act, which says the Commission is to review the CMP every five years. Previous reviews have taken place in 1983, 1992 and 2002.

What will the Commission do during this review? That question is still up in the air, as the Commissioners and the Commission staff are still deciding which parts of the CMP need changes. As part of that process, the Commission is holding public meetings where members of the public can provide their views on how the CMP should be improved. (See next page)

PPA will be making the following recommendations. We think these are all

important changes, so they are not in an order of priority:

1. **Black Run Watershed protection in Evesham.** The CMP should be amended to prevent intensive development in the headwaters of this pristine watershed at the edge of the Pinelands. (PPA web site: www.pinelandsalliance.org/exploration/blackrunpreserve/)
2. **Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) changes.** The rules for PDC use should be changed to provide a financial incentive for more efficient use of land in the Regional Growth Areas that are slated to absorb the demand for housing and business development. (PPA website: www.pinelandsalliance.org/downloads/pinelandsalliance_759.pdf)
3. **Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer protection.** Require applicants for new and additional water withdrawals to account for hydrologic impacts of groundwater diversions from the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer on stream flows and wetland water levels. Incorporate into the CMP language requiring applicants to use the

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findings of the Commissions Kirkwood-Cohansey study to identify the probable ecological impacts of induced streamflow and groundwater-level changes on aquatic and wetland communities. (PPA website: www.pinelandsalliance.org/ecology/water/groundwaterandaquifers)

4. Stormwater rules reform, including low impact development (LID) requirements. Because stormwater runoff carries pollution from developed land into the aquifer, streams and wetlands, it is critical that Pinelands rules be reformed to require the most effective methods for designing buildings, parking lots and stormwater treatment systems. (PPA presentation Nov 13th: www.pinelandsalliance.org/exploration/lowimpact)

5. Public comment procedures reform. Public review and comment of Pinelands Commission actions is absolutely critical to the success, and the credibility, of the Commission in meeting its conservation mission. The Pinelands Commission has changed its public comment procedures in the past few years, fixed some problems in its procedures, and made some problems worse. The rules governing public comment need a comprehensive overhaul and clarification. (Inside the Pinelands: www.pinelandsalliance.org/support/about/news, [click issue Feb/Mar 2001](#))

6. Intergovernmental Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) rules reform. The MOA procedure allows the Commission to enter contracts that promote development in violation of normal protection rules. This process has become a real Trojan Horse that is weakening the Commission and the CMP from within. The procedure needs to be eliminated, or at least reformed to ensure it is only used for genuinely public projects. (Pinelands Watch: www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/watch, [click Issue #32 and #55](#))

7. Vegetation standards and roadside protections. Improve the CMP's weak language regarding landscaping and re-vegetation that consist only of "guidelines" for planting native plant species, the use of soil and fill matter, and the use of fertilizer and liming agents to requirements and explicit restrictions. The list of native plant species must be updated as well to exclude non-natives and promote local varieties that are available on the market. (Pinelands Watch: www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/watch, [click Issue #48](#))

8. Amending CMP threatened and endangered plant list. The CMP's list of threatened, and therefore protected, plant species is outdated and very incomplete. The list of protected plants needs to include all plant species occurring in the Pinelands that are listed as "species of concern" by the NJ DEP Natural Heritage Program. (Pinelands Watch: www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/watch, [click Issue #44](#))

9. Sustainable growth fixes for the CMP. Remove the CMP's endorsements and promotions for the development of sprawling residential development. Several areas of the CMP must be updated to promote and

incentivize compact, mixed-use development that will ultimately provide greater protection to Pinelands natural resources. (Pinelands Watch: www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/watch, [click Issue #36](#))

10. Applications for enduros and similar events. Require all special use applications for off-road motorized events to submit a bond to cover potential damages from illegally created trails and to pay for the actual costs for the Commission staff time to review these applications. Otherwise, illegal trails and use of state land will continue to occur by off-road vehicle riders. (PPA website: www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/hotissues/ecological/offroadvehicles)

The five members of the Commission's Plan Review subcommittee have set the following dates to receive input from the public on areas of the CMP where changes may need to be made. (See schedule below) The public will also have until September 28th to submit written comments.

Pinelands Commission Plan Review Committee	
Dates to Gather Public Comment	
Wednesday, August 22nd, at 7 p.m.	Hamilton Township Town Hall 6101 Thirteenth Street, Mays Landing
Friday, September 14th, at 11 a.m.	Richard J. Sullivan Center 15 Springfield Road, New Lisbon
Monday, September 24th at 7 p.m.	Richard J. Sullivan Center 15 Springfield Road, New Lisbon
The Commission will accept public comments until September 28, 2012.	

The Pinelands Commission has developed a page on its web site where the public can find documents and the meeting schedule. **The web page is located at:** <http://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/planreview/index.html>

What can you do:

1. Attend Pinelands Commission plan review meetings (see list dates and times next page) and make your comments part of the public record.
2. Write the Pinelands Commission by sending your comments to P.O. Box 359, New Lisbon, NJ 08064 or emailing to info@njpines.state.nj.us.



Pinelands Commission Plan Review Sub-Committee Meeting Dates

Friday, September 14, 2012
Friday, October 12, 2012
Friday, November 9, 2012
Friday, December 14, 2012

This sub-committee meets following each regular meeting of the Pinelands Commission.

More information can be found at:

www.state.nj.us/pinelands/cmp/planreview/index.html



Visit our
website at

www.pinelandsalliance.org

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

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Help Restore Healthy Soils – Your Letters are Needed

The State Soil Conservation Committee has proposed revisions to its standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (N.J.A.C. 2:90-1.3). The revisions were posted to the New Jersey Register on July 2, 2012. The committee was under a directive established by law in 2011 to establish soil restoration standards to ameliorate excess stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution in New Jersey's waterways. To accomplish this goal, post-disturbance soil restoration practices should ensure maximum stormwater infiltration and appropriate vegetative cover.

PPA feels that the revised standards will not ensure soil restoration for the following reasons.

1. Requirements for remediation of compacted soil do not target the correct level of bulk density (measurement for compaction) that is necessary to allow water to infiltrate rather than runoff the land. The Standards should follow the appropriate NRCS bulk density guidelines or require that post-disturbance bulk density levels match pre-disturbance levels at each site.
2. Standards specific to the Pinelands ("Pinelands National Reserve Specifications") are insufficiently protective of the Pinelands environment. We suggest that (a) natural re-establishment of native vegetation without seeding after disturbance should be the required approach for sites which exhibit native Pinelands vegetation and soils prior to disturbance, (b) any soil brought in from outside the Pinelands should specifically not exceed nitrogen and phosphorus levels of the native site soil, and (c) areas to be naturally re-colonized should not be covered in mulch, which will likely suppress the natural regeneration of native plants.

Please send your letters by September 30th to the attention of Secretary Fisher at the address below, asking for the above flaws to be corrected as directed by state scientists and conservation groups.

Mr. Douglas H. Fisher
Secretary of Agriculture
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625

To view PPA's comments, visit www.pinelandsalliance.org under Hot Issues and Barnegat Bay Legislation or contact Amy Karpati at amy@pinelandsalliance.org or

609-859-8860 ext. 23

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

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A Sponsor will receive a copy of the Pine Barrens: Up Close & Natural DVD
A Patron will receive John McPhee's seminal book *The Pine Barrens*
A Benefactor will receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region
Chairman's Circle will receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands



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Pinelands Commission Begins Plan Review Process



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