

## CENTRAL PINE BARRENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Stephen M. Jones, Chair*  
*Richard L. Amper, Vice Chair*

### **Meeting of Wednesday February 11, 2009**

*(Final Minutes - Approved 4/22/09)*

Suffolk County Water Authority Coram Training Center  
2045 Route 112, Building 5, Coram, New York  
8:30 am

#### **Advisory Committee Members present:**

- Brookhaven Civic Representative: Thomas Muller
- Brookhaven National Laboratory: Timothy Green
- Hamptons Visitors Council: Hank Beck
- Long Island Drinking Water Coalition: Matthew Meng
- Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference: Thomas Casey
- Long Island Pine Barrens Society: Richard Amper (Vice Chair)
- Suffolk County Water Authority: Stephen Jones (Chair)
- The Nature Conservancy: Patricia Manzi
- Long Island Builders Institute: Bob Wieboldt
- Peconic Land Trust: John V.H. Halsey
- Long Island Farm Bureau: Joe Gergela
- North Fork Environmental Council: Mike Domino
- Suffolk Alliance of Sportsman, Inc.: Bob Baumann

#### **Others Present:**

- Commission: Ray Corwin, Judy Jakobsen, Ann Carter, Carol Sholl, John Milazzo
- Town of Brookhaven: John Turner
- Suffolk County Parks: John Pavacic

With a quorum present Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 8:50 am.

#### **Approval of Minutes for 7/5/07 and 12/17/08:**

*Mr. Jones asked for a motion to approve the committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2007 and December 17, 2008. A motion was made by Dick Amper and seconded by Matthew Meng. The motion was carried unanimously.*

## **Review of Commission Councils and Committees**

Mr. Jones reviewed the agenda from the previous meeting, reiterating that the present task for the AC is to provide recommendations to the Commission regarding the existing committees. The AC will look at the purpose, structure, line of reporting, accomplishments, and other attributes of each committee. Mr. Pavacic requested the Protected Lands Council (of which he is the Chair) be the first committee to be reviewed by the AC.

Mr. Jones referred to the handout Examination of the Voluntary Subcommittees of the CPBJPPC. He asked the members to focus their discussion on the PLC. He explained that the PLC was set up in the Plan and meant to continue its work throughout the adoption of the Plan and beyond. He referred to the memo from John Pavacic addressing the problems and possible solutions regarding the PLC.

Mr. Turner spoke about the Commission staffing analysis which was completed in 2005. He explained that a committee was set up to review the structure of the Commission and created a report with recommendations to the full Commission. That review had a positive outcome for the Commission. Additionally, the methodology will be used to review the current status of the Committees associated with the Commission. Mr Jones stated that he would like to encourage members who have an interest in Commission policies to continue to participate in these discussions and to voice their individual concerns and suggestions.

In 2007, Mr. Pavacic became Commissioner of Suffolk County Parks and he inherited the position of Co-Chair of the PLC. He immediately became aware that members were dissatisfied due to a lack of direction and that specific goals were not clearly defined. He compared the other two committees, the Wildfire Task Force and the Law Enforcement Council, to the PLC in terms of their effectiveness in working towards specific goals.

Mr. Jones stated that members of the PLC did not have a clear method of achieving Commission approval for work projects. Mr. Corwin spoke about how certain PLC endeavors, such as the Invasive Species project and the All Terrain Vehicle Damage Mitigation Project evolved with Commission approval. However, issues that involved policy recommendations for protected lands were more difficult to implement due to several factors, including the Statutory independence of the individual public land owning agencies. A technical subcommittee of public managers was then established in order to address these issues. The result was that non landowning members felt disconnected from the decision making process of the PLC. Eventually the Commission created the Science and Stewardship Steering Committee as a direct subcommittee of the Commission to oversee and direct staff work.

Mr. Corwin stated that the challenge at this point is to enable the PLC to further the goals of the Act and stewardship goals of the Commission, recognizing the complexity of the interagency environment. A discussion ensued regarding the evolution of the Science and Stewardship Committee and the Five "S" process.

Ms. Manzi described the Five S process, which identifies ecological targets within the pine barrens to evaluate threats, the sources of those threats and strategies to abate them. The PLC's

implementation of this process determined that the single largest threat to the ecological health of the Pine Barrens was invasive species.

Mr. Turner stated that the Science and Stewardship Steering Committee has been effective in organizing and implementing the projects of the PLC in large part due to the fact that the members are linked with the Commission and its policy making process.

Tim Green discussed problems that occur in the decision making process because of chairs leaving their positions with the PLC. He discussed how jurisdictional boundaries create conflicts in management of ecological resources in the region as a whole. Mr. Jones suggested that the Commission's Science and Stewardship Steering Committee be formalized with its own set of by laws.

A discussion then ensued regarding the future role of the PLC. Mr. Pavacic welcomed the prospect of having a more formal structure to the PLC, including the frequency of meetings and changes in presiding chairs. Mr. Jones proposed that recommendations be made to the Commission regarding the future of the PLC at the next AC meeting. The AC will begin its review of the Wildfire Task Force, and the Wildfire Academy at the next AC meeting to be scheduled.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Baumann then spoke on behalf of the Suffolk Alliance of Sportsman (SASI) on the subject of legislation mandating opening wildlife refuges to the Public.

#### **Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Dick Amper and seconded by Mike Domino to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.*

#### **Attachments**

1. Commission Committee Review Table
2. PLC Future Roles and Responsibility memo (11/08)
3. Examination of Voluntary Committees of the CPBJPPC (12/08)
4. Agenda (2/11/09)