

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2021

Contact: Tim Motz

(631) 563-0396 (O)

(631) 445-0562 (C)

tim.motz@scwa.com

Judy Jakobsen Named Executive Director Of Central Pine Barrens Commission

Former Deputy Director Is First Woman Named to Position

Judy Jakobsen, staff to the Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission since its creation in 1993, has been named executive director of the commission, succeeding John Pavacic, who retired in January.

The promotion makes Jakobsen the first woman to serve as executive director of the commission. Pavacic succeeded the commission's first executive director, Ray Corwin, after Corwin's death in 2010.

Jakobsen's appointment comes as the commission is taking on a greater role in the comprehensive ecological protection of the 106,000-acre Central Pine Barrens region, parts of which are located in the towns of Riverhead, Brookhaven and Southampton. This greater role is reflected in the recently released Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Management Plan as well as efforts—coordinated with other agencies—to address environmental threats to the region caused by invasive species such as the southern pine beetle and damage caused by the illegal use of off-road vehicles.

The appointment was made by the SCWA Board with the consensus of the commission board since commission staff are SCWA employees as part of a contractual arrangement with the commission.

“We’re thrilled to have Judy Jakobsen become the third executive director of the Central Pine Barrens Commission,” said SCWA Chairman Patrick Halpin. “Ray Corwin and John Pavacic have left tremendous legacies and Judy has the extensive background in environmental planning, protection and stewardship to build on the accomplishments of her predecessors.”

“I’m excited to take on this challenge at a time when the commission’s mission is transitioning from one of primarily land use management within the Central Pine Barrens to one in which environmental stewardship is such a key component of our work,” Jakobsen said. “I look forward to working with our expert staff and our commissioners to help ensure the region’s natural resources are as spectacular for future generations as they are right now.”

Jakobsen served as the commission’s deputy director from 2017 to 2021 and as interim executive director since Pavacic’s retirement. She has also served as the commission’s policy and planning manager and as an environmental analyst. Prior to joining the commission’s staff, she worked in the private sector in the field of environmental consulting in groundwater remediation, solid waste management, pollution prevention and land use planning.

As executive director, Jakobsen is responsible for the protection, preservation and management of the Central Pine Barrens region as well as the implementation of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan, among other responsibilities.

The Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission was established by New York State in 1993 to manage land use within the Central Pine Barrens on Long Island in order to protect the region’s vital natural, agricultural, historical, cultural and recreational resources.

###