

*Education and Outreach Division
March 2023 Update*

Submitted by Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Education and Outreach Coordinator

1. Outreach Programs– 174 students reached

Schools:

Islip MS – 21

Connetquot HS – 35

Immaculate Heart HS – 15

Center Moriches HS-120

Sachem East- 120

Roanoke Elementary - 95

2. Barrens to Bay Summer Camp- *BOOKING, several sessions full.*

- Our 12th year partnering with Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Wertheim (FOW).
- 6-week camp: June 26th – August 11th.
- Registration started in mid-February.
- Continuously working on new Pine Barrens/Natural History activities and visiting speakers.
- Hired an intern to work the month of June. June – August, she will be my main counselor.

3. Long Island Natural History Conference as of 3/15- Steering Committee

- In person, Friday, April 28th @ Seatuck Environmental Association, Islip.
- It will include a poster session and a conservation update session.
- 126 people attending as of 3-15-23.
- 5 of 8 speakers confirmed below:

1. *Coyotes on Long Island*, Stephane Perreault, Green Tree Foundation
2. *Bats, Focusing on the Northern Long eared bat*, Casey Pendergast, NYSDEC Endangered Species Biologist
3. *Long Island Bay Scallops: The Success of Restoration Efforts and Threats of Climate Change*, Harrison Tobi, Cornell Cooperative Extension
4. *Seabird Mass Mortality Events*, Anna Robuck, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai
5. *Mammal Survey*, Mike Bottini, Seatuck Environmental Association

4. Partnership:

- In partnership with Save the Great South Bay, the A Day in the Life team is helping create an environmental report card for the Great South Bay.
- Using the chemistry data from the south shore waterways tested by the student citizen scientists and data curated by Brookhaven National Lab staff.
- The report card will use the Long Island sound (Save the Sound) report card as a template.
- 1st time we can highlight the work of the students/program in a large outreach form.

5. 2023 Cooperators Meeting 30th Anniversary Video and Coordination

- Creating video celebrating the CPBC 30 years with Tim Motz.
- This 15-minute video will include milestones, interviews, etc.



Science and Stewardship Division Update March 23, 2023

Administration and Training:

- Sabrina Cohn, Ecological Field Specialist is moving on to focus her career in agriculture. Starting as a Commission intern on the Long-Term Forest Health Monitoring in 2020, Sabrina demonstrated exemplary leadership and ambition and as a result was then hired as Ecological Field Specialist. She has been stellar in the field with vegetation and fire monitoring, invasive species detection and management, southern pine beetle monitoring and suppression, and prescribed fire education and outreach, in the ground operations and mentoring new staff. While she will be dearly missed, we wish her the best of luck and know she will continue to be “outstanding in the field”.
- We wish Robert Panko, Fire Management Specialist a happy retirement at the end of March as he passes the torch to Brent Woffinden, the new Fire Management Specialist. Bob been an invaluable asset to the development of the Central Pine Barrens Interagency Prescribed Fire Program; a mentor to new generations of prescribed fire professionals and has been responsible for helping put one of the highest acres of prescribed fire on the ground in a single year. Thanks to Bob’s vision and experience, the Commission’s Prescribed Fire Program foundation and structure has been built thanks to such accomplishments as the development of Fire Management Units; development of the Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan; drafting of South of Currans, Sarnoff West, Rocky Point East, Dwarf Pine Barrens Enhancement Zone, Otis Pike Upton Preserve and Otis Pike Wildfire Drill Zone burn plans; compilation of the CPBC Prescribed Fire Operations Guidance Document and creation of the prescribed fire equipment cache. Bob retires with these milestones as his legacy and we hope to find him spending more time with his family, chasing a golf ball and travelling in this second attempt at retirement.
- The Seasonal Prescribed Fire Crew has been onboarded and are immersed in orientation, team building and field work. We welcome Brent Woffinden as the Fire Management Specialist; Brian Bagozzi and John Leavitt as Single Resource/Engine Bosses; Taylor Kern as Squad Boss Trainee and Ron Bagan and Jessica Mencil as Prescribed Fire Crew Members. This team, with their significant experience in wild and prescribed fire as well as equipment use and management will be advancing prescribed fire and forest health initiatives through the end of May. A special acknowledgement is extended to Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for providing housing for staff that are out of the area as without this housing, the Commission would not be able to secure qualified and experienced seasonal staffing.
- The division continues to strengthen its ability to use drones for forest health management, invasive species surveying and patrol for hotspots during mop up post prescribed fire, by adding Ms. Cohn and Ms. Acampora as UAS 107 licensed pilots, having passed the FAA licensing exam. Focus now shifts to flight training for skill development in the operation and use of the drones.



Prescribed Fire Program:

- *Administration:*
 - Grants gateway administration, quarterly reports and voucher development continues on a regular basis in order to ensure reimbursement of expenses incurred as well as access to the balance of funds to be used for prescribed fire planning and implementation. Continuity budget development in anticipation of contract expiration have been prime focus to ensure program funding and continuance.
 - All prescribed fire qualified staff have passed the annual required Wildfire Refresher RT 130 and have passed the work capacity tests.
 - A Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Program Operations meeting was held in February with NYSDEC, Brookhaven National Lab, US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to help coordinate and project spring burn season. Bob Panko presented on the Rocky Point East Burn plan in anticipation of the pending review and approval by NYSDEC Region 1 and Central Office Divisions.
- *Equipment:*
 - The Type 6 Fire Engine chassis has arrived at the dealership in NJ and insurance has been secured. Wildland Warehouse will be receiving the truck next week, where the final engine upfits will commence. Once completed, the engine will comply with the standardization of fire engines across the State and meet the needs of the prescribed fire program.
 - The UTV's and trailers have received maintenance and are ready for the prescribed fire season.
- *Prescribed Burn Plan Development:*
 - Two burn plans, the Dwarf Pine Prescribed Fire Enhancement Zone (633 acres w/11 burn units) and Rocky Point East (1028 acres w/ 19 burn blocks) are in the final revision and internal review.
 - The Otis Pike/Upton Reserve Burn Unit totals 4252 acres across 23 burn blocks in Otis Pike Pine Barrens State Forest (NYSDEC lands) and Upton Reserve (BNL) and is in final author review.
 - After internal review, the burn plan will receive outside agency technical review whereafter they will be submitted to Region 1 NYSDEC staff followed by Central office staff for review and approval. SEQRA review of these plans will also be advanced with finalization of the plans and environmental reviews/permitting anticipated for the spring.
- *Education and Outreach:*
 - Post cards announcing the spring fire season have been sent out to communities adjacent to Sarnoff West, Rocky Point East, South of Currans, and Dwarf Pine Barrens.
 - An operational meeting was hosted at Gabreski Airport with Suffolk County Airport officials, Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services; Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, and Town of Southampton Fire Marshall, NYSDEC and Division staff in anticipation of prescribed fire operations associated with approval of the burn plan. Additional operation and public information meetings are being scheduled with Westhampton and East Quogue Fire Districts as well as libraries and Civic associations to help increase the awareness and benefit of prescribed fire operations.
 - Meeting with Leisure Village and Coventry Manor were held with these homeowner associations to provide notification and information on the prescribed fire operations commencing in Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest.
- *Prescribed Fire Operations:*
 - Although pile burns were anticipated for this winter, there have been no further prescribed fire operations due to wet conditions limiting pile burning opportunities at BNL.



- **Fuels, Weather and Vegetation Monitoring:**
 - Vegetation monitoring has been conducted in Sarnoff West thinning units to track changes in vegetation and determine the effects of this management and evaluate if goals are being achieved.

Ecological Research Initiatives:

- Sharon Pepenella, of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; John Turner Town of Brookhaven/Seatuck; Massapequa High School and the Division are collectively advancing a new student research project on DNA barcoding of rare Atlantic white cedar populations within the Central Pine Barrens region. Staff is helping coordinate the permitting, data collection and research objectives to develop the study as well as help support field collection of tissue samples and environmental. The Laboratory will provide the mentorship, technologies for processing the genetic assays and resources scientific report with the students. Mr. Turner will be assisting students within field data collection and mapping of the populations. The DNA sequencing results may help determine if genetics or environment are contributing to the short statured cedars’ populations uniquely occurring within Sears Bellows County Park as well as help determine among population genetic variability of cedars). Due to inclement weather, the data collection day is in the process of being rescheduled.
- Early detection Rapid Response Non-native Bark Beetle Monitoring is commencing for this season once again in order to detect new infestations of non-native bark beetles that may have incidentally introduced through pathways of trade and transit. The traps will be posted on the eastern side of EPCAL on state land and monitored through June.
- Division has been assisting Kathleen Stuzman with site selection and housing assistance for US Forest Service Special Technology Development Program research grant study pitch pine regeneration in pine barren systems including those modified by southern pine beetle and forest management. This is the second year of this critical study that will help identify if pitch pine is naturally regenerating, how SPB infestation is influencing recruitment and if there are differences to recruitment with management type.

Southern Pine Beetle

- Statewide SPB Incident Command System staff, coordinated by NYSDEC’s Forest Health Unit in support by the Division has been focused on thinning and mastication to reduce stand basal areas and prep units for prescribed fire.

- A SPB Rapid Response Field Exercise hosted by NYSDEC was attended by the prescribed fire crew, to assist with SPB prevention and ecosystem restoration as well as provide the opportunity to gain field experience, freshen up skills that might



not get used daily and implement a field exercise within an ICS structure. With the combined assistance a total of 5.5 acres were thinned, 11 (10’x10’) piles were constructed; and 2.5 miles of 12-foot fire line was installed along chipping of 1.1 miles of improved fire road.

- On February 22nd, Ms. Acampora assisted the Schiffs Boy Scout Camp in Wading River with sizing up the hazard trees as a result of past and current SPB infestations. The property has had a significant SPB infestation for the last few years and as a result, have a high number of hazard trees along the main roads, pathways and buildings. As a lot of boy scout troops will be utilizing Schiffs Camp, it was important to assess all the hazard trees that could potentially cause damage to life or property. Ms. Acampora, along with Mr. Tverdyy and a few volunteers from the boy scout camp counted and flagged all of the hazard trees along the roadside and trails with 662 hazard trees identified. The volunteers at the Schiffs Boy Scout Camp will continue marking dead hazard trees along the main road that encompasses Deep Pond and will be working with the Commission to address the hazard tree concerns.

Threatened and Endangered Species:

- *Northern Long-Eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)* was previously listed as federally threatened, and will be up listed to Endangered at the end of March 2023. This up listing may greatly affect the Divisions and DEC's ability to conduct prescribed fire and SPB suppression activities. A Northern Long Eared Bat Forest Management meeting was also coordinated by the Division and Brookhaven National Lab with USFWS, NYSDEC and other partners on February 27th, 2023 to discuss the expected planning and permitting needs as well as the mitigations anticipated for forest management activities associated with the up-listing of this species. More information will be known as guidance documents continued to be released by USFWS.



Encroachment Restoration:

- Restoration recommendations and technical assistance continues to be provided to the NYS Attorney General's office regarding a violation in Eastport. A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is in review to solicit, vet and secure contractors for performing restoration work at existing and future encroachment and violation sites. Invasive species management continues at three encroachment locations.
- A meeting was held with Compliance and Enforcement staff, Town of Southampton Highway Department, Suffolk County Park Rangers, NYS Police and Suffolk County Parks to collaboratively discuss the dumping incidents, surveillance, and reporting operating procedures to help address the numerous dumping incidents that occurred at the Red Creek Road area of Hubbard County Park.



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report January - February 2023 Prepared by CAED Chief Enforcement Officer Frank Carbone

- 2 cellular LPC (License Plate Capture) surveillance cameras being deployed shortly / 3 additional LPC cameras will be replacing older models
- Twelve complaints / investigations documented this period (clearing & dumping)
- Six individual dumping incidents have been cleaned up by violators and have civil or local criminal court settlements pending
- Nine confirmed dumping violations documented on surveillance cameras, one of which is an animal sacrifice dumping case referred Suffolk County Sheriff's Office site cleaned by NYSDOT - settlement pending
- Investigated possible clearing determined to be SPB cutting on SC Park Property
- Continuing to use the GIS complaint tracking system and exported data to insure proper documentation
- Enforcement officers assisted in monitoring easements and important development projects to assure compliance.
- UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) training has continued for two new UAS pilots have successfully their FAA written test and received their FAA UAS Certificate, practical flight training to commence soon.
- Attend meetings held with LEC, and other enforcement partners.

Robert Calarco
Chair

Yvette Aguiar
Member

Steven Bellone
Member

Edward P. Romaine
Member

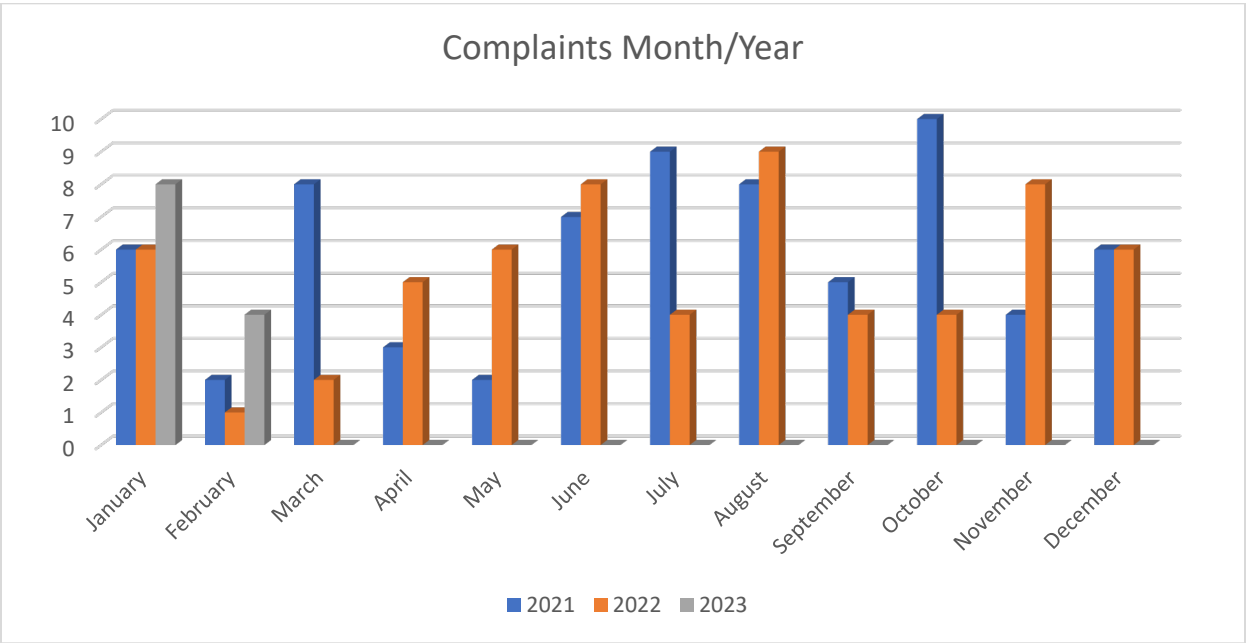
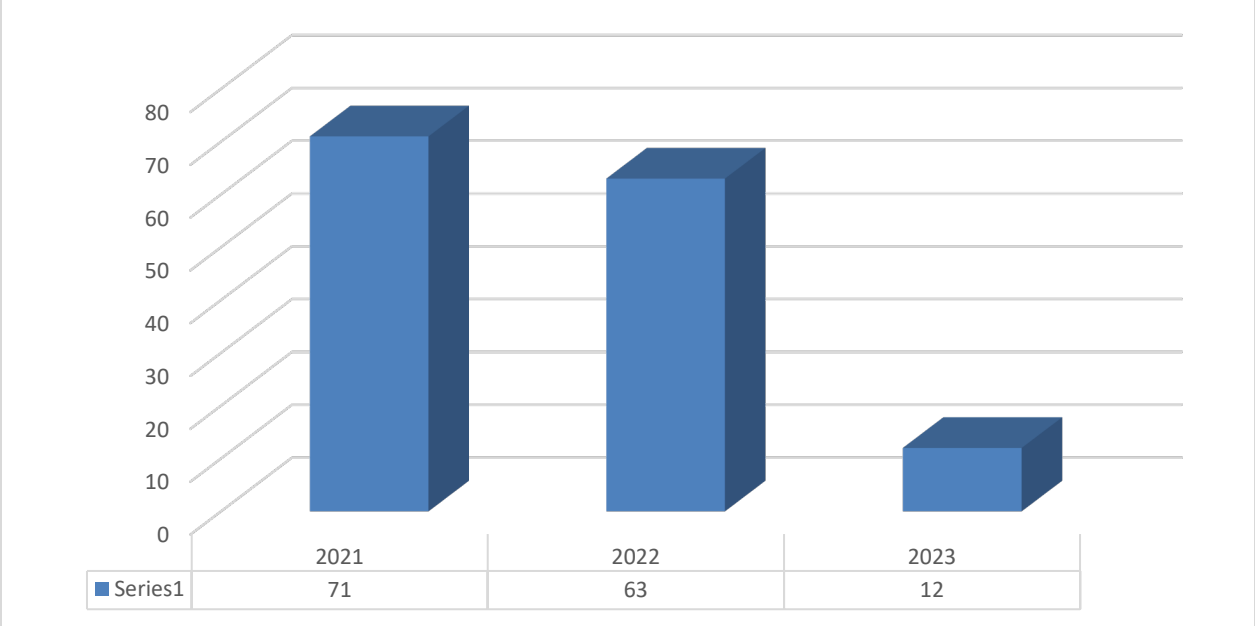
Jay H. Schneiderman
Member



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Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 01/01/21 - 02/28/23			
Year	2021	2022	2023
Intake			
Sent by Agency to Commission	11	14	0
Discovered by Commission Staff	48	41	11
Called in by Individual to Commission	12	8	1
Total Incidents Reported	71	63	12
Location of Incident			
Brookhaven	54	46	11
Southampton	10	17	1
Riverhead	6	0	0
Occurring on Public Land	26	21	3
Occurring on Private Land	35	22	3
Occurring on Public & Private Land	10	20	6
Core	35	38	6
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	18	13	4
Core & CGA	0	1	0
Outside CPBA	18	12	2
Nature of Incident*			
Clearing/Encroachment	24	24	2
Structures	0	1	0
Dumping	35	35	9
Mining	1	0	0
Hunting	1	0	0
ATV	2	1	0
Other	8	4	2
<i>*Note-some incidents involve more than one land use issue</i>			
Referrals*			
Sent to Town	17	20	3
Sent to County	17	12	1
Sent to State	16	22	3
Commission	21	15	4
Sent to AG	0	1	0
Other	0	5	1
<i>*Note-some incidents are sent to multiple agencies</i>			
Status			
Founded	60	50	12
Unfounded	11	13	0
Open	39	18	7
Closed	32	45	5
Inspections			
Conservation Easement Inspections		1	1
Development project inspections		2	0



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Action Municipality	Central Pine Barrens Location		
	Town of Brookhaven	Town of Riverhead	Town of Southampton
Applications and Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Hardship Waiver Application NY Cancer & Blood Specialist, Ridge: development of 0.27 acres to expand the parking lot on a 5 acres site. Decision deadline 4/19/23. • Request for determination for 425 North Street, Manorville, 200-410-1-11, single-family residence and customary uses (Core) 	Venezia Square CGA Development of Regional Significance, Wading River, 600-73-1-1.4 et al, development of commercial center including 37,000 square feet of commercial buildings (retail, restaurants, bank) on 6.3 acres.	Hampton Hills Golf Course, Westhampton, request to construct two pickleball courts in an area of mowed lawn (Core)
SEQRA Coordination, referrals, inquiries and activities	Referral: September Morning, LLC, Shirley, 200-554-3-4.43, development of 78,400 square foot warehouse and other infrastructure on 6 acres (CGA)	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis Road PRD Assertion, East Quogue, clearing limit inspections • ZBA Referral: single-family residence, 200-139-2-36, 100 Vail Ave, Riverside (CGA) • ZBA Referral: single-family residence, 900-139-2-56, 93 Vail Avenue, Riverside (CGA)
Division Activity, Regional Projects and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Planning Manager: staff management, budget, voucher and other responsibilities. • Development project review, Core and CGA hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction review and research. Projects include site plans (commercial/industrial, mixed use), residential and non-residential subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, zone changes and other land use development activity. • Pre-construction development project site inspections to protect open space • FOIL Requests. Research and assist with FOIL requests and litigation on development projects. • Technical support to the Compliance and Enforcement Division on land use related matters including property information research on unauthorized development, clearing, encroachments on credit program conservation easements and incidents on project site areas that are protected. • Collaborate and coordinate with other Commission divisions. • SEQRA for the Draft Supplemental GEIS for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendments 		



Item 3.c. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for March 15, 2023:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2023 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: five LOIs were issued and one parcel was inspected in the Town of Riverhead. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - One easement was recently recorded, which generated one credit.
 - Three easements are currently in progress.
 - Research and review of activities on three easement properties for consistency with easement terms including reserved rights and covenants.
 - Six easement properties were recently inspected, including the Nassau County Boy Scouts property in the Town of Riverhead.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 0.29 Credits have been redeemed in the Town of Brookhaven.
 - Conveyed: 4.2 Credits have been conveyed in the in the Towns of Riverhead and Southampton, the average price is \$86,905 per credit.
- At the Clearinghouse meeting of March 1, 2023, the Board members discussed an option of holding 2023 Reverse Auction to purchase Pine Barrens Credits.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2023.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of March 7, 2023								
	Brookhaven	2023	Riverhead	2023	Southampton	2023	Total	2023
Parcels	516	1	37	-	458	-	1011	1
Acreage	828.03	1.32	516.78	-	876.78	-	2221.59	1.32
Average parcel size	1.60	1.32	13.97	-	1.91	-	2.20	1.32
Credits generated	546.46	1	172.39	-	338.17	-	1057.02	1
Credits redeemed	418.65	0.29	142.25	-	180.83	-	741.73	0.29
Credits not redeemed	127.81	0.71	30.14	-	157.34	-	315.29	0.71
Credits sold	594.99	-	238.29	0.20	287.02	4	1120.3	4.2
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$33,082,519	-	\$9,251,447	\$17,300	\$20,271,632	\$348,550	\$62,605,598	\$365,850
Average Credits value		-		\$86,500		\$87,138		\$87,107
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	0.54		-		-		0.54	
# of Inspected CE Parcels	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	6
# of Installed CE Signs	134	-	18	-	92	-	244	0



SUFFOLK COUNTY COMPTROLLER

330 CENTER DRIVE RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901-3311

Telephone: (631) 852-1501 FAX (631) 852-1507

JOHN M. KENNEDY, JR.
COUNTY COMPTROLLER

March 3rd, 2023

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and
Policy Commission
P.O. Box 587
Great River, N.Y. 11739-0587**

**Dear Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse
Board of Advisors:**

**Attached please find our financial report on the Pine Barrens Credit Program for the
month of February 2023. Thank you.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina M. Withers

**Christina M. Withers, CIA, CPFO
Executive Director of Finance & Taxation**

**Suffolk County Comptroller's Office
The Pine Barrens Credit Program**

Balance as of December 31st, 2022	\$2,554,546.05
Additional Deposits	0.00
Interest (see below for details)	419.96
Disbursements	0.00
Balance as of February 28th, 2023	\$2,554,966.01

**Interest Earnings & Disbursements
For the Months of January - December 2023**

Interest Earnings

Premier MMA - Public Fund

January	223.97
February	195.99
March	0.00
April	0.00
May	0.00
June	0.00
July	0.00
August	0.00
September	0.00
October	0.00
November	0.00
December	0.00
	<u><u>\$419.96</u></u>

<u>Interest Period</u>	<u>APR</u>
01/01/23- 01/31/23	0.1000%
02/01/23- 02/28/23	0.1000%
03/01/23- 03/31/23	0.0000%
04/01/23- 04/30/23	0.0000%
05/01/23- 05/31/23	0.0000%
06/01/23- 06/30/23	0.0000%
07/01/23- 07/31/23	0.0000%
08/01/23- 08/31/23	0.0000%
09/01/23- 09/30/23	0.0000%
10/01/23- 10/31/23	0.0000%
11/01/23- 11/30/23	0.0000%
12/01/23- 12/31/23	0.0000%

Disbursements

None	<u>\$ -</u>
	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>