



## Compliance and Enforcement Division Report February - April 2026 Prepared by CAED Enforcement Officer John Callagy

- We received 21 complaints during this period for dumping and clearing. The dumping was primarily miscellaneous pieces of furniture such as couches, chairs and mattresses.
- We've observed a larger increase in tires being dumped along the Long Island Expressway, which has been documented and reported to our law enforcement partners.
- Three separate properties were brought to our attention regarding the clearing of trees. One of which was found to be a DEC project conducted by Team Rubicon in the Rocky Point State Forest to restore natural grassland.
- Four arrests have been made by our law enforcement partners for three separate dumping cases from last year, and one earlier this year.
- Now that the snow is gone and Spring is in full swing, we are anticipating an uptick in dumping and will be scouting out additional camera locations for more active areas throughout the Pine Barrens.

Ryan P. McGarry  
*Chairman*

Jerome Halpin  
*Member*

Maria Z. Moore  
*Member*

Daniel J. Panico  
*Member*

Edward P. Romaine  
*Member*

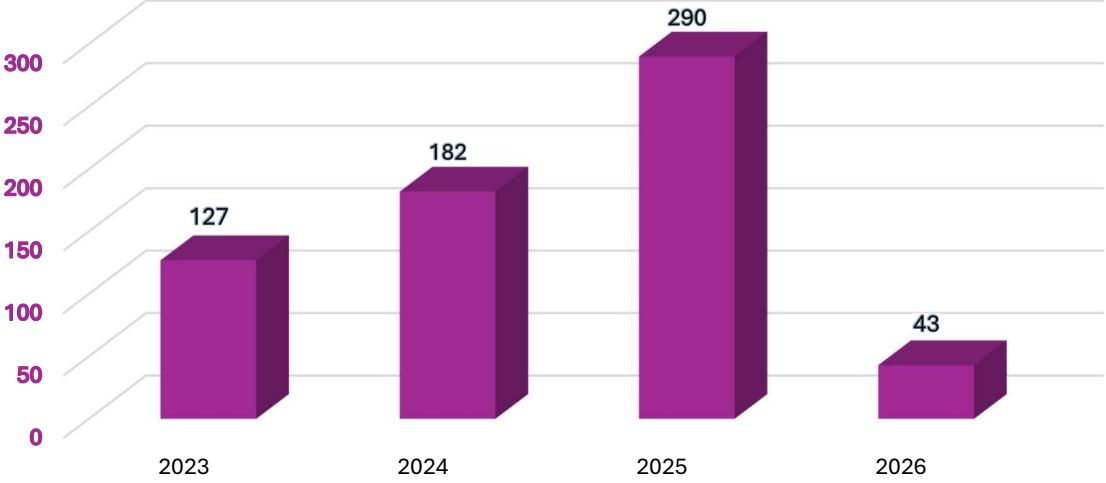
624 Old Riverhead Road  
Westhampton Beach, NY  
11978

Phone (631) 288-1079  
[www.pb.state.ny.us](http://www.pb.state.ny.us)

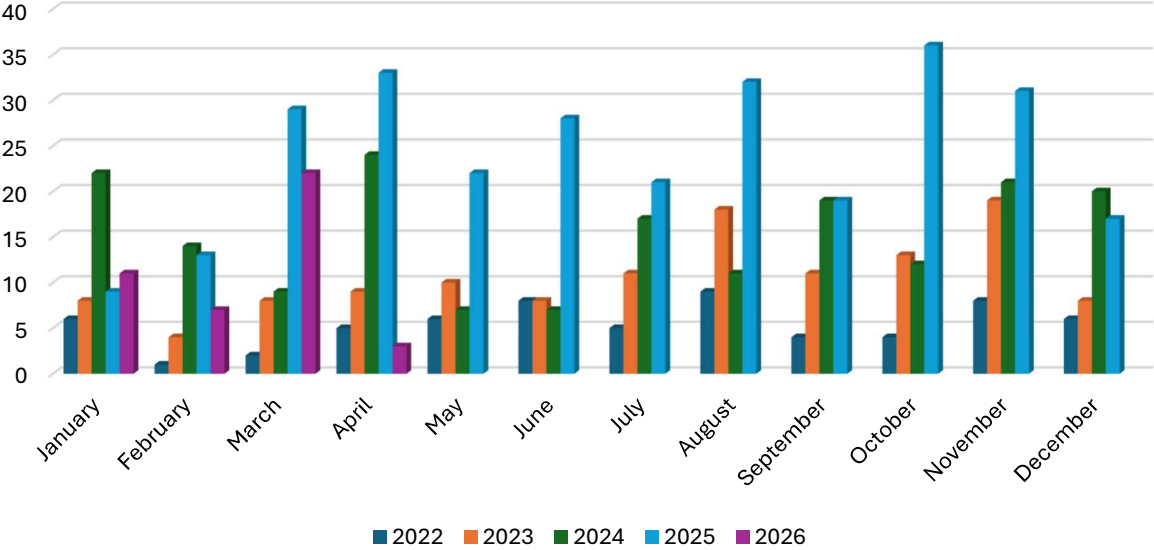


<b>Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2023 - 2026</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Intake</b>				
Sent by Agency to Commission	17	9	4	
Discovered by Commission Staff	104	163	280	42
Called in by Individual to Commission	6	10	6	1
Total Incidents Reported	127	182	290	43
<b>Location of Incident</b>				
Brookhaven	69	102	187	33
Southampton	50	75	93	9
Riverhead	8	5	10	1
<b>Occurring on</b>				
Public Land	79	158	268	31
Private Land	23	22	22	12
Public & Private Land	25	0	1	
<b>Location</b>				
Core	78	140	213	33
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	39	30	62	10
Core & CGA	1	0	1	
Outside CPBA	9	10	14	
<b>Nature of Incident*</b>				
Clearing/Encroachment	20	21	32	4
Structures	2	1	0	
Dumping	103	153	254	39
Mining	0	1	0	
Hunting	1	0	0	
ATV	0	0	0	
Other	1	2	4	
<b>Referrals*</b>				
Sent to Town	6	4	22	2
Sent to County	36	31	32	6
Sent to State	33	17	18	2
Commission	8	1	0	1
Sent to AG	0	0	0	
Other	37	16	14	
<b>Status</b>				
Founded	125	179	288	43
Unfounded	2	1	2	
Open	52	51	77	14
Closed	75	131	213	29
<b>Inspections</b>				
Conservation Easement Inspections	0	0	6	
Development Project Inspections	0	0	5	2

### Complaints by Year as of April 2026



### Complaints Month/Year





**Tires off LIE in Manorville**



**Casket off LIE ramp in Yaphank**



**Carpets and construction debris on Speonk-Riverhead Road in Northampton**



**Couch on Pleasure Drive in Flanders**



**Tree clearing on South River Road in Calverton**



**Ottoman off N. Country Road in Shoreham**

**Mattresses off Red Creek Road in Hampton Bays**



**Bags of leaves on Ashton Road in Middle Island**



**Couches off North Street in Manorville**



**Misc. trash off Wading River Hollow Road in Middle Island**



**Tree clearing in Rocky Point State Forest in Ridge**



**Wooden furniture off S. River Road in Calverton**



# **Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update**

**April 2026**

**Submitted by Tim Motz, Educational Outreach and Communications Coordinator**

## **Barrens to Bay Summer Camp**

- **Even factoring in a 20% increase in capacity we initiated last year to allow more families to send their kids to camp, we are nearly full for this year's camp. As of April 7, we are at 97% capacity, with just four vacancies available in Session 3. All five other sessions are full.**
- **All supplies for the summer season have been ordered.**
- **Re: counselors, all schedules—volunteer and paid have been set. Our attention now turns to getting in all paperwork from counselors and campers and for the counselors, setting up a roundtable to go over protocol and activities and to hold the Counselors Cup competition.**
- **We are also at work on creating new activities for the season. We presently have five new activities, but will aim to add a couple more. Our goal is to keep the games, activities and crafts the kids love the most, but continually add new ones to the mix to make sure camp continues to engage all campers.**

## **"A Day in the Life" Program**

- **We are seeking to add two or three schools to the program, with a particular focus on adding schools within or in the vicinity of the Central Pine Barrens, so we have more schools conducting their student science within the region.**

## **Cooperators Meeting Videos**

- **Our primary focus at the moment is producing two new videos for the commission's annual Cooperators Meeting. One will be a look at the animals (or "fauna") of the Central Pine Barrens and will likely be around 20 minutes in length. The second will be a quick (five minutes or so) look at one of the bedrocks of the Cooperators Meeting agenda—the Environmental Officer of the Year awards.**
- **Additionally, the division is playing a major role in producing the event, including coordinating the primary speakers. Helping the speakers craft their addresses will also be a focus of the division in the coming months.**

### **Southampton CWPP**

- **The division is also working the interim executive director and the Science and Stewardship division on an effective plan to reach residents about the importance of the Southampton Community Wildfire Protection Plan and to encourage their attendance at an upcoming public meeting at which residents can offer their input about the plan.**

**Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission**  
 Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town	Southampton Town
<b>Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, inquiries, proposals, items and other activities</b>	Meeting inquiry for potential request to construct a 150 foot tall cell tower and compound for private and public carriers on a Credit Program conservation easement property in the Core in Calverton.	<b>Core Hardship:</b> 645 Grumman Boulevard, Calverton, reuse industrial site with three vacant buildings for indoor cannabis cultivation on 20 acres in the Core. Decision deadline 6/1/26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Hardship:</b> Joseph F. Gazza, Old Riverhead Road, Westhampton, request to clear vegetation to reduce wildfire risk on six properties in the Core. Decision deadline 4/15/26.</li> <li>• <b>Compelling Public Need Waiver:</b> Hampton West Park, Westhampton, parking lot expansion, restroom, sports courts resurfacing and habitat restoration in a Town Park in the Core. Decision deadline 6/2/26.</li> </ul>
<b>Commission Division Activity, Regional Project Participation and Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and analysis of land use development project applications for Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, property inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction and conformance reviews. Development applications involve residential and commercial, industrial and mixed uses, zone changes, site plans, subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, Critical Resource Areas and other development activities.</li> <li>• Monitor sites for compliance with decisions and conditions of approval.</li> <li>• Perform site inspections and land use surveys for applications.</li> <li>• Provide technical support on FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement violations, consent orders, Credit Program items, communications on land use matters, unauthorized development, habitat clearing activities and protected land encroachments.</li> <li>• Collaborate and coordinate activities with Commission divisions and interagency partners.</li> <li>• Prepare application materials for monthly Commission meetings.</li> <li>• Manage the USGS-Commission two-year 2024-2026 water resources study continues with groundwater sampling and monitoring in Peconic River and Carmans River. Surface water quality sampling in the pine barrens was conducted in November 2023, May 2024, November 2024, June 2025 and December 2025. The final sampling event in this contract is planned for June 2026. USGS seeks to continue monitoring under a new contract.</li> <li>• Update the Commission website and content management.</li> <li>• Continue coordination among Commission boards and councils including the Advisory Committee, Credit Clearinghouse, Law Enforcement Council, Protected Lands Council and Wildfire Task Force.</li> </ul>		





## **Wildfire Task Force**

The Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force is a multi-agency partnership dedicated to reducing wildfire risk and improving emergency response across the Pine Barrens region of Long Island. The Task Force brings together fire departments, emergency management officials, law enforcement, land managers, and public safety partners to coordinate planning, share information, and strengthen regional preparedness. Key efforts include wildfire prevention, public education, prescribed fire coordination, and improving communication and response strategies during wildfire incidents. Through collaboration, the Task Force enhances the region's ability to protect communities, natural resources, and critical infrastructure.

The Wildfire Task Force meeting held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Manorville Fire Department highlighted several key initiatives to strengthen wildfire preparedness and response across Long Island. Updates included seasonal fire weather conditions remaining abnormally dry despite recent precipitation, and ongoing planning for the Southampton Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which will assess risks, improve coordination, and unlock future grant funding for fire departments. Additional discussions covered a proposed wildfire detection camera system using AI and remote monitoring, utility vegetation management and aerial patrols to reduce fire risk, prescribed fire operations for the upcoming season, and the importance of enhancing coordination through initiatives such as air-ground training with National Guard partners.

The next meeting will be held June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy**

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) has a long history dating back to 1998 and has trained thousands of students (approximately 8,000–10,000) in NWCG wildfire and Incident Command System (ICS) courses.

For 2026, NYWIMA will shift its operations from the traditional October Academy to a new December training session, which will be held at Brookhaven National Laboratory from December 5–11. This session will include chainsaw (S-212) training, which is better suited to winter conditions due to seasonal restrictions in October. Core course offerings will include S-130/190, Urban Interface (S-215), and ICS courses.

Changes in wildfire activity nationwide have made it more difficult to secure out-of-state instructors in October, prompting adjustments to the program. As a result, the Academy is moving toward more flexible and modern training methods, including blended courses that combine online coursework with shorter in-person field sessions to better accommodate participants' schedules.

NYWIMA is also launching a new initiative to bring training directly to local fire departments through June 1, allowing departments to request courses that fit their needs. This approach will also support the

development of local instructors, reducing reliance on out-of-state personnel and helping ensure the long-term sustainability of the program.

### **Law Enforcement Council**

The Central Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council is a collaborative group of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working within the Central Pine Barrens region. This council met on February 19<sup>th</sup> and focused on protecting the area's land through coordinated enforcement efforts, information sharing, and joint operations. Its priorities include preventing illegal dumping, off-road vehicle use, and other activities that threaten natural resources and public safety. The Council helps ensure consistent enforcement and long-term stewardship of the Pine Barrens.

The next Law Enforcement Meeting is April 16<sup>th</sup> at Southaven County Park.

**Item 2.e. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for April 15, 2026:**

Activities in the Credit Program for 2026 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
  - Seven easements are currently in progress.
  - 23 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
  - Redeemed: 3.3 Credits have been redeemed for commercial and residential projects.
  - Conveyed: 3.49 Credits have been sold in the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
  - The average price is \$128,000 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account
  - Balance: \$3,286,312.
  - The Clearinghouse owns 2.29 Credits.
- The Pine Barrens Credit Program is administered by a five-member Credit Clearinghouse Board of Advisors. Currently there are three active members:
  - James T.B. Tripp, Esq., Chairman
  - Mitchell H. Pally, Esq., Member
  - Robert Anrig, Member

The last Credit Clearinghouse Board of Advisors meeting took place on March 1, 2023.

**Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2026.**

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of April 8, 2026								
	Brookhaven	2026	Riverhead	2026	Southampton	2026	Total	2026
Parcels	534	2	37	-	471	-	1042	2
Acreage	840.89	7.22	516.78	-	889.51	-	2247.18	7.22
Average parcel size	1.57	3.61	13.97	-	1.89	-	2.16	3.61
Credits generated	553.89	3.63	173.39	-	340.26	-	1067.54	3.63
Credits redeemed	428.91	0.14	146.53	1.40	195.62	1.76	771.06	3.3
Credits not redeemed	124.98	3.49	26.86	-	144.64	-	296.48	3.49
Credits sold		4.97		1.90		2.7		9.57
Total value of PBC transactions		\$740,950		\$187,000		\$297,000		\$1,224,950
Average Credits value		\$149,085		\$98,421		\$110,000		\$127,999
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	2.29		-		-		2.29	
# of Inspected CE Parcels		15		-		8	-	23
# of Installed CE Signs	142	1	15	-	91	-	248	1



# CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

## Science And Stewardship Program

### Bimonthly Report

April 15, 2026

#### Spring 2026 Fire Season

The remaining five (5) seasonal prescribed fire crew came onboard in March bringing the total crew to six (6) staff for the spring. This season some of the burn operations will be limited due to the NYSDEC's Burn Boss being unavailable for parts of the operational period. As a general statement, typical prescribed fire operations will occur every other week, again due to Burn Boss availability. The other weeks, the prescribed fire crew will assist the DEC's Lands and Forests staff and SUNY ESF students conducting research with an air curtain burner (ACB). The ACB operations are intended to address issues like slash from manual or mechanical thinning treatments to reduce the fuel they provide while reducing the amount of carbon monoxide and other harmful particulates in the smoke that firefighters are exposed to.

Due to the atypical winter conditions experienced this year coupled with early spring rains the Pine Barrens are still very wet. These conditions will delay the start of the Spring Fire Season, both by reducing the chance of wildfire, but also by keeping prescribed fire operations at bay as moisture levels are still very high. This extra time, however, has been put to good use and the crew has been able to complete additional training in wildland-urban-interface, intermediate fire behavior, and operational classes like saws and pumps. Some DEC staff were also able to take advantage of the training too.

The fire crew provided a home wildfire protection assessment for the Gazza properties and provided the results of that assessment to the Executive Director and the Commission Board to assist in their deliberations on these issues before them.

Also, the annual notice to neighboring residential communities that are in proximity to the planned prescribed fire operations for the 2026 spring season were mailed out by the first week in April to inform locals of these events and how to learn more about them.

Lastly, a conservation issue that was identified last season has been researched to mitigate some of the impacts on Woodland (aka Eastern) Box Turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*), a NYS High Priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need, during prescribed fire operations. It was reported last year that after a burn an estimated thirty (30) Box Turtles were impacted by the fire. Approximately, twenty (20) had died. The other ten (10) were still alive but may have succumbed to their injuries afterwards.

There are a few simple and easily adaptable strategies that can be used to reduce the potential of Box Turtle take during prescribed fire operations. Primary among them is shifting burns in Box Turtle habitat (woodlands adjacent to grasslands, ex. the burn units for the South of Currans area in Rocky Point) to earlier in the fire season (April in favor of May), thereby



# CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

## Science And Stewardship Program

### Bimonthly Report

April 15, 2026

reducing the likelihood that the turtles are present at the time of the burn. Burns in Box Turtle habitat that occur later in the season (mid- to late-May) can use simple hold and sequester techniques to remove any Box Turtles found before the burn takes place, secure them out of harm's way, and release them during mop-up operations. This may require an incidental take permit from the DEC to hold the turtles for the afternoon, but it is likely that the prescribed fire operations already have an incidental take permit from the DEC that could be revised.

Woodland Box Turtle prescribed fire mitigation strategies could be adapted by the DEC and CPBC, formally or informally, as part of the adaptive management process, incorporated into the incidental take permit recommendations, or simply added to the other best management practices that DEC and CPBC staff regularly follow during prescribed fire operations.

While these mitigation suggestions are straight forward and uncomplicated, understandably, they may not be able to be adapted until the 2027 fire season.

### Southampton CWPP

The Southampton Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) has continued to progress. Monthly meetings with the consultants, SWCA, are also bearing fruit as quality control/quality assurance of mapping products and addressing content through the review of the current outline have been ongoing.



Planning for the upcoming public outreach meeting is underway and is scheduled for May 5, 2026, from 6-8 PM at the Flanders Senior Center in Westhampton. This meeting will be hosted by SWCA in partnership with the CPBC. An

informational brochure was developed, by Education and Outreach staff, to assist in the raising public participation with local fire houses and other organizations we are hoping to bring into the CWPP planning process



# CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

## Science And Stewardship Program

### Bimonthly Report

April 15, 2026

Scheduling for a meeting with local experts on fuel loads and fuel behavior modeling is also being arranged with SWCA. This meeting will focus on fuel assessment surveys being conducted by SWCA, and the existing data that is being used to assess fire risk across the Southampton CWPP area.

#### Remote Sensing Update

The equipment purchasing process is still nearing completion. SCWA Purchasing staff has been assisted with acquiring bids from vendors. The bidding process closed on March 18, 2026. Science and Stewardship staff are continuing to work with the purchasing department to finalize vendor selection and complete the process.

At the same time, the initial flight training program (knowledge, exercises, and competency requirements) has been developed for basic UAS flight proficiency, and the training for intermediate UAS flight skills is being developed. Advanced training exercises and competency requirements for specialized UAS operations will focus on the sensors themselves and how to properly calibrate and collect data with them. As such, exercises will be developed after the equipment is in hand and operational manuals for the sensors can be consulted.

Tentative plans to coordinate with the SUNY ESF ACB vegetative research has also been discussed. The ESF student(s) (coming in June and July) will be conducting traditional vegetative surveys this season as part of the ACB project. This affords an opportunity to use the LiDAR mobile scanner and the forestry analysis software on the same plots and comparing/contrasting the results of the two surveys.

#### Conservation Plan

Progress in drafting the narrative of the plan has slowed during this reporting period. However, conversations with local researchers and organizations have continued and are helping to refine the plan itself. These conversations directly influence the recommendations being put forth in the conservation plan and ensure the actions are grounded and therefore more likely to be accomplished. These conversations also help define research parameters within specific recommendations and identify previous, planned, or ongoing efforts so that recommendations are considerate of data or research already performed or completed.



# CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

## Science And Stewardship Program

### Bimonthly Report

April 15, 2026

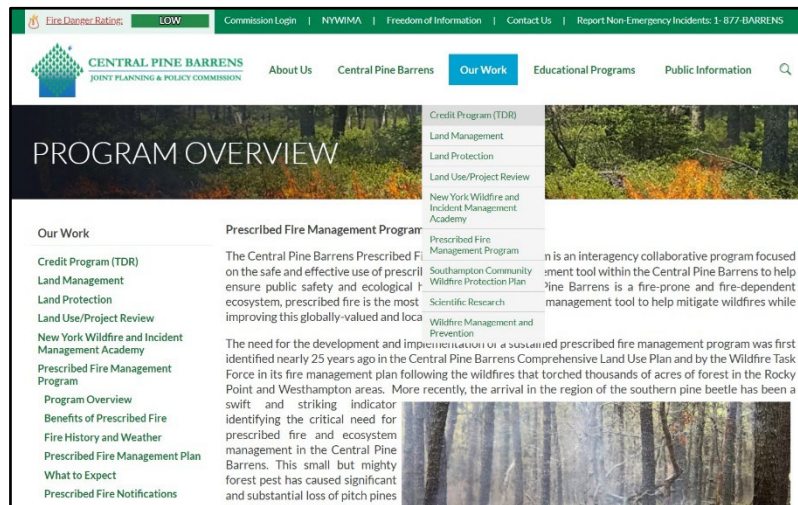
#### WFT Meeting

On March 25, 2026, Science and Stewardship staff attended the Wildfire Task Force meeting at the Manorville Fire Department. S&S presented on the Southampton CWPP, the upcoming Rx Fire Season, and provided a brief description of how forest health monitoring will be done through remote sensing techniques.

#### Website Content Update

Science and Stewardship has begun to review the existing S&S content on the CPBC’s website. Previous content will be revised and updated, if needed, to be more in keeping with the current trajectory of the S&S division and the types of projects that are underway. Data collected during remote sensing surveys should also be a nice addition to website content including

visually aesthetic images and real wildlife auditory experiences.



#### Protected Lands Council

##### Schedule

The early planning for the next PLC meeting to be held in 2026 has begun. There are numerous issues that need to be addressed during the next

meeting that are intended to rejuvenate the PLC and its value to both the Commission and to PLC membership organizations. These issues include discussions on PLC structure including selecting the Chair and Vice Chair, meeting frequency, meeting content, and how to engage PLC members in both group-implemented collaborative projects as well as the development of conservation initiatives that would benefit from PLC support.