

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
September 27, 2013
12:00 PM
Duke Farms
1112 Dukes Parkway West
Hillsborough, NJ 08844**

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:16 PM and roll was taken. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was read as follows: Notice of the date, time, location and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was also noted that such notice was provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information in order to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson
James Hall, Vice Chairperson
Emile DeVito, Trustee
Matt Spayth, Trustee representative for the
State Treasurer
Thomas Gilmore, Trustee

Larry Torok, DEP Trustee
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee, joined the
meeting by phone at 12:55 PM
Ryan Benson, DAG, Trust Counsel
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

Ed Mulvan, alternate for Rich Boornazian, representative for the DEP Commissioner
Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary- Treasurer
Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee
State House Commission representative (not appointed)

Guests:

Kelly Wenzel, New Jersey Audubon Society
Amanda Dey, DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program
Lawrence Niles, Conserve Wildlife Foundation

General Public Comment: None

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2013. Mr. Gilmore motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion and the Financial Statements were approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

The **June 14, 2013 minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by a vote of 6 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Catania provided the Board with a report on the status of activities at **Petty's Island Preserve in Pennsauken Township, Camden County**. Mr. Catania updated the Board regarding its contract with the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) for educational programming and stewardship at the Petty's Island Preserve. The contract awarded November 1, 2011 was a one-year contract that can be renewed for four additional one-year terms. Mr. Catania noted that the Trust and NJAS have had a very successful second year, as will be explained in detail by Ms. Wenzel, and the Trust plans to renew its contract with the NJAS and its subcontractors, Delaware RiverKeeper and Cooper River Watershed Association, for another year. In a power point presentation, Ms. Wenzel provided details regarding NJAS's educational and stewardship activities at Petty's Island over the past year along with their community relations efforts, especially with public and charter schools in Camden County. Through this contract, hundreds of people have obtained access to Petty's Island.

Mr. Catania provided the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Subcommittee Report**. He shared the Board's concern that the Trust's shorebird account may be depleted in two to three years, and indicated that the Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird subcommittee will continue to explore ways to replenish the account. The Delaware Bay beaches are important to migratory shorebirds from a hemispherical perspective making it critical that we continue to monitor the shorebird and horseshoe crab populations and take measures to maintain and restore critical habitat. An example of this important work occurred when five bayshore beaches impacted by Hurricane Sandy were restored in time for the horseshoe crab spawning season in May. The State and Trust worked with a number of groups such as American Littoral Society, NJ Recovery Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Corporate Wetlands Partnership to make the restoration happen. Ms. Dey congratulated the Trust on its role in the restoration and on its continued support of Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird research.

New Business:

Ms. Dey presented the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2014 Budget Request** for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF) and for the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP). Mr. Gilmore recused himself from this matter because of his position with NJAS, which is a CWF subcontractor on this project. Ms. Dey advised the Board that the annual amount the Trust provides to CWF and ENSP is critical because it helps develop the scientific support for regulatory actions such as horseshoe crab harvesting restrictions and red knot listing. In fact, Ms. Dey announced that just today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the red knot as a threatened species. Ms. Dey indicated that the peak count of the stopover population of red knots on Delaware Bay during 2013 was 25,596, roughly the same as last year. Mean horseshoe crab egg density in 2013 was low but stable. Counts in January 2013 of red knots on their main wintering area in Tierra del Feugo decreased to 10,105 (from 14,770 in 2012). As mentioned at prior Trust meetings, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will implement the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) Model to set harvest quotas for horseshoe crabs. The model relies on data from Delaware Bay and will base harvest quotas on biological measures, not historic or political quotas.

The proposed 2014 shorebird budget is \$102,800; \$4,000 more than budgeted in 2013. In 2013, only \$59,701 was actually expended. The large discrepancy between what was budgeted and

actually spent was the result of uncertainty as to what, if any, federal funds would be available for Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project activities. This will be true again this year. It is hoped that federal funding will become available and the full amount being requested from the Trust will not be needed.

Mr. Catania noted that, as with prior budgets, the 2014 shorebird budget should be approved with a rider authorizing a reallocation of expenses between categories subject to a limitation of the total budgeted amount. He also noted the need for authorization of a \$35,000 upfront payment to CWF in order to fund Delaware shorebird work to be done in May and June 2014 with receipts for such work to be provided at a later time. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the 2014 budget with the reallocation rider and upfront \$35,000 payment. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and the 2014 shorebird budget was approved by a vote of 6 to 0 with Mr. Gilmore abstaining.

The Board considered the **Bear Creek Project Area in Allamuchy and Frelinghuysen Townships, Warren County**. Mr. Gilmore motioned to approve the Bear Creek Project Area on the condition that lands within the Project Area that would present management concerns, such as structures, improvements or contamination or that would require the expenditure of Trust funds, be brought to the Board for specific approval before acquisition. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the offer was accepted by a vote of 6 to 0 with Ms. Yeany abstaining.

The Board considered the **Revision of Management Guidelines/Appendix 1 to authorize Hagedorn Preserve for hunting**. The Board considered whether the Hagedorn Preserve should be opened to the general public for bow hunting. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the Revision of Management Guidelines/Appendix 1. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion and the Revision to the Management Guidelines/Appendix 1 was unanimously approved by a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. Cartica explained that the **Revised Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2013** is necessary in order for the Trust to acquire a new vehicle for the Trust's Land Manager, Martin Rapp. Mr. Rapp has recently experienced numerous mechanical problems with his current vehicle, which has over 125,000 miles. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the Revised Spending Authorization for Calendar Year 2013 to authorize the purchase of a new Trust vehicle. Mr. Gilmore seconded the motion and the Revised Spending Authorization was unanimously approved by a vote of 7 to 0.

The remaining **2013 meeting date is** December 6, 2013.

Mr. Gilmore motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. DeVito seconded the motion and, by a vote of 7 to 0, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer