

## **FORESTRY POLICIES REVIEW SCOPE**

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE:**

Recent forestry activity within the Pinelands Management Areas has prompted the reconsideration of those provisions of the Implementation Element of the Comprehensive Management Plan that address Forestry (Subchapter 6. Management Programs and Minimum Standards, Part IV – Forestry, 7:50-6.41 through 6.50). The objective of this Forest Policies Review project (hereinafter “the project”) is to review, clarify and refine the Forestry provisions where such refinements are deemed necessary. The goal of the project is to ensure that harvesting, land preparation, and reforestation practices conducted within the Pinelands are consistent with the Pinelands Commission’s legislative mandate to maintain the Pinelands environment, consistent with the Pinelands Protection Act. A secondary objective of this project is to reactivate the Forest Advisory Committee. The tasks described below are intended to fulfill these project objectives.

### **PROJECT SCOPE:**

#### **Phase 1 – Forestry Policies Review**

##### **Task 1.1.** Summarize General Project Objectives, Scope, Schedule

Staff will develop a summary project description that will include a background description of the various factors that warrant the review of the current Forestry policies and CMP provisions. This summary description will include the development of a proposed project schedule.

##### **Task 1.2.** Presentation to the Policy and Implementation Committee

Prior to initiating the project, staff will confer with the members of the P&I Committee to review the project scope, schedule and objectives.

##### **Task 1.3.** Forestry Advisory Committee Meetings

To assure that the project incorporates a wide range of perspectives and in an effort to achieve adoption of any CMP modifications that may be deemed necessary, the Forest Advisory Committee (hereinafter “FAC”) will be asked to oversee this project. In preparation for the review of the Pinelands Forestry policies, the FAC will engage in a series of meetings to review current forestry practices and the implications of forestry activities on the integrity of Pinelands Forests. The following 5 meetings will be conducted:

###### *Task 1.3.1:* Meeting 1 - Review Scope/Schedule

The FAC will meet to review the project objectives, and the proposed scope and schedule. The objective is to achieve Committee consensus regarding the basic project direction as well as the timeframe within which the project will be undertaken.

###### *Task 1.3.2:* Meeting 2 – Overview of Forestry Resources in the Pinelands

The FAC will conduct an informational meeting to consider the environmental factors that constitute a forest and the unique characteristics that define Pinelands forest communities. It is anticipated that acknowledged authorities on forest communities would be asked to make a presentation to the FAC as background to this meeting.

###### *Task 1.3.3:* Meeting 3 - What is economically viable forestry

The FAC will conduct an informational meeting to consider current forestry practices to evaluate what efforts are necessary to ensure that forestry is an economically viable activity. A member of the NJ Division of the Society of American Foresters would be asked to make a presentation to the FAC regarding this topic.

*Task 1.3.4: Meeting 4 – Consequences of Forestry*

The FAC will conduct an information meeting to consider the consequence of forestry practices on the character of the pinelands forest.

*Task 1.3.5: Meeting 5 – Policies Review Focus*

Following the presentation and discussion meetings outlined in 1.3.1 through 1.3.4 above, the FAC will meet to consider the Commission's current forestry programs and CMP policies. The purpose of this meeting will be to determine where modifications, refinements and/or clarification may be needed and direct staff to prepare draft versions of such modifications for the FAC's review.

**Task 1.4: Status Report to P&I Committee**

Following the initial series of meetings described in 1.3.1 through 1.3.5 above, staff will meet with the members of the P&I Committee to review the findings of the FAC and the determination with respect to CMP modifications.

**Task 1.5: Draft CMP Language Modifications**

Staff will prepare a draft version of CMP language modifications together with a detailed description of the implications of such modifications on the Pinelands Commission forestry policies. These materials will be distributed to the members of the FAC.

**Task 1.6: FAC Meeting 5 – Review draft CMP language**

Staff will present the proposed CMP modifications to the FAC for review and comment.

**Task 1.7: Revise/Refine draft CMP Language**

Staff will revise/refine the proposed CMP language in response to FAC comments received during FAC Meeting 5 and redistribute the revised draft to the FAC.

**Task 1.8: FAC Meeting 6 - Review Draft, seek authorization for outside review**

Staff will present the revised draft CMP modifications to the FAC for review and comment. Staff will request FAC authorization to review the proposed draft CMP language revisions with members of the public and various agencies deemed to be parties of interest. Staff will present a list of interested parties to the FAC for their consideration.

**Task 1.9: Review Draft CMP Language with interested parties**

Staff will present the proposed CMP modifications to identified parties in interest in an effort to solicit additional comments and to encourage wide participation in the process of modifying the Forestry policies.

**Task 1.10: Status Report to P&I Committee**

Staff will meet with the members of the P&I Committee to review the draft CMP language modifications and the input received from the FAC and interested parties.

**Task 1.11: FAC Meeting 7 - Review interested parties input**

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Staff will meet with the FAC to review the input from interested parties and determine if such input deems additional modifications of the proposed CMP amendments.

**Task 1.12: Revise/Refine final draft CMP Language**

Staff will revise/refine the proposed CMP language in response to FAC comments received during FAC Meeting 7 and redistribute the revised draft to the FAC.

**Task 1.13: FAC Meeting 8 – Review final draft**

Staff will present the final draft CMP modifications to the FAC and seek the Committee's approval to present the modifications to the P&I Committee in anticipation of the formal adoption process.

**Task 1.14: Joint FAC/P&I Committee meeting**

Staff and the members of the FAC will meet with the members of the P&I Committee to review the final draft CMP language modifications and request that the members of the P&I Committee recommend the modifications to the Pinelands Commission for authorization to amend the CMP.

**Phase 2 – Public Review Process for CMP Amendments**

**Task 2.1: Initiate public review process to amend CMP**