



## New Jersey Pinelands Commission **NEWS RELEASE**

**September 10, 2004**

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### **Commission to Receive DEP Funds to Develop Model Stormwater Ordinance**

#### ***Also approves agricultural re-zoning in Buena Vista***

SOUTHAMPTON, NJ - At its regular monthly meeting today, the Pinelands Commission approved a resolution authorizing its Executive Director, John C. Stokes, to enter into an agreement with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a joint Stormwater Control Model Ordinance for Pinelands municipalities. As part of the agreement, the DEP will provide the Commission with \$15,000 to fund development of the model ordinance.

In early 2004, new DEP Stormwater management rules became effective, requiring municipalities to amend their stormwater control ordinances. Pinelands Area municipalities are in the unique position of having to implement stormwater management ordinances that comply with both DEP and Pinelands regulations.

The Commission has long provided Pinelands municipalities with planning assistance in developing ordinances that implement Pinelands land-use, development and resource protection standards. Through this latest effort the Commission will assist towns in the development of a model ordinance that integrates both DEP and Pinelands regulations to avoid duplication of effort among municipalities.

“This collaborative effort will help save local governments time and money,” said Stokes. “It will provide regulatory predictability and ensure consistency among Pinelands municipalities that are charged with protecting shared surface and groundwater resources. The Commission greatly appreciates DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell’s support of this effort.”

In other business, the Commission approved certification of an amendment to the Buena Vista Township development ordinance which re-designates approximately 87 acres from Pinelands Forest Area to Pinelands Agricultural Production Area. This measure makes farmland within the re-zoned area eligible for Pinelands Development Credits and encourages the permanent preservation of farmland through the State Agricultural Development Committee’s Pinelands Direct Easement Purchase Program.

In 2002, the Commission certified a similar amendment in Buena Vista Township which re-designated about 825 acres from the Forest Area to the Agricultural Production Area.

“Agriculture is an important and traditional pursuit in the Pinelands which the Commission is charged with preserving,” said Stokes. “Buena Vista Township is to be commended for recognizing the economic and cultural importance of farming in its community and facilitating measures that will help protect open space and encourage farmers to continue farming.”

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