



## **New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Stacey Roth

Phone: 609.894.7300

E-mail: [info@njpines.state.nj.us](mailto:info@njpines.state.nj.us)

### **Pinelands Commission approves Kirkwood-Cohansey Work Plan**

NEW LISBON, NJ - At its monthly meeting tonight, the Pinelands Commission advanced a significant scientific study of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer.

The Commission began the meeting with a public hearing to receive comment on the work plan for the Kirkwood-Cohansey Research Project. The plan sets forth methods to obtain and assess the key hydrologic and ecological information needed to determine how current and future water supply needs can best be met while protecting the unique ecology and natural resources of the Pinelands. The goals of the research plan are to develop hydrologic and ecological "models" that can accurately predict the effects of proposed groundwater diversions within the Pinelands.

Later in the meeting, the Commission passed a resolution authorizing the Executive Director, John Stokes, to execute an agreement with the project partner agencies to implement the study. The research partners on the project are the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers University, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey.

"The Commission's action tonight marks a significant milestone in what amounts to a major step toward gaining greater understanding of the aquifer, which is likely the single greatest influence on the ecology and natural landscape of the Pinelands," said Commission Chairman James Florio. "As development increases demand on water resources, it is critical that we fully understand the limitations of the aquifer so that water supply needs can be met without harming the aquifer or the natural resources that depend on it."

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