



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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PINELANDS COMMISSION APPOINTS JOHN STOKES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Brings 23-years of Pinelands planning and leadership experience to the job.*

NEW LISBON, NJ – The Pinelands Commission unanimously approved the appointment of John C. Stokes as Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission at its monthly meeting here on Thursday evening. Stokes' appointment comes two weeks after Annette Barbaccia announced her resignation as Executive Director for personal reasons.

Pinelands Commission Chairman James Florio stated, "The entire Commission is to be commended for its selection of John Stokes as Executive Director. John brings a wealth of knowledge, first-hand experience and the balanced view necessary to achieve the Commission's goals in protecting the Pinelands. Furthermore, John's selection will facilitate a smooth transition and allow the Commission to continue uninterrupted with the important work before us. This decision is a vote of confidence in John's achievements and abilities, and the Commission looks forward to his support and guidance as Executive Director. He has truly earned it."

One of the chief authors of the original Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), Stokes started with the Commission in March 1980 as an Assistant Director. He was instrumental in bringing 52 Pinelands municipalities into conformance with the CMP and has built a reputation as a consensus builder, leading efforts to develop a number of cooperative partnerships. For example, he spearheaded the development of a water resource planning, management and protection project in the upper Mullica River basin of Camden County which is implemented in cooperation with the county utility authority and three municipalities.

Prior to joining the Commission, John Stokes served as Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program Director for the US Department of the Interior, Northeast Region. He first joined the Interior Department in 1972, serving in various policy and planning positions in Philadelphia and Washington, DC. In 1979 he was awarded a National Intergovernmental Fellowship. John is chairman of his hometown planning board. Among other activities, he has also served as a member of the his town environmental commission, treasurer of the Camden County Council of Girl Scouts, assistant district administrator of the National Little League and member of the Haddon Avenue Transit Corridor Study Committee. Stokes holds a B.S. degree from North Carolina State University. He is a New Jersey Professional Planner and member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

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