

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
October 16, 2015
12:00 PM**

Office of Natural Lands Management, Trenton, New Jersey

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:01 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	Adrienne Kreipke, alternate for Rich
James Hall, Vice Chairperson	Boornazian, Trustee representative for the
Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary- Treasurer	DEP Commissioner
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee	Ryan Benson, DAG, Trust Counsel
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee arrived 12:19 PM	Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee	Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
Matt Spayth, Trustee representative for the State Treasurer	Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

Emile DeVito, Trustee
Thomas Gilmore, Trustee
State House Commission representative (not appointed)

Guests:

Dale Rosselet, New Jersey Audubon Society
Kelly Wenzel, New Jersey Audubon Society
Ken Orben, Crowley Marine
John Hourihan, Crowley Marine
Karen Dempsey, Crowley Marine

General Public Comment: Representatives of Crowley Marine advised the Board that it is the leading ocean cargo carrier between the United States and Puerto Rico, the Eastern and Western Caribbean and Central America. Crowley operates a roll on/roll off facility at Petty's Island as part of its liner services. Crowley's lease with CITGO Petroleum for its Petty's Island facility will expire in 2017. Crowley currently employs approximately 90 employees. The Crowley representatives provided information to the Board about the history and future plans of Crowley and its liner services beyond the expiration of its lease with CITGO Petroleum.

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Ms. Kreipke seconded the motion and the Financial Statements were unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The **June 5, 2015 minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Eisenhower seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Wild provided the Board with a **Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County Status Report**

The Trust recently awarded a contract for an engineering feasibility study of the Crowley Ramp as a potential future visitor's center location. Based upon structural integrity analyses of the foundation and subsurface piers, the consultant found that the structure was sound and appropriate for use as the Cultural and Environmental Education Center. Additional study including a lateral analysis will be required after the building is designed.

In July, the William Penn Foundation awarded the Trust a grant in the amount of \$175,000 that, among other things, funds the services of a historian to research the history of Petty's Island as well as a documentary filmmaker(s) to make short films telling the story of Petty's Island's preservation and history. This month, the Trust awarded a contract to Hunter Research to conduct the historical research. The William Penn grant will also fund educational programming for the upcoming year.

The Trust awarded a contract to the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) for educational programming at the Petty's Island Preserve on November 1, 2011. It was a one-year contract with provision for renewal for four additional one-year terms. The Trust and NJAS have again enjoyed a very successful year of programming as will be explained in detail by Ms. Wenzel. Based on this success, the Trust will renew its contract with the NJAS and its subcontractors, Delaware Riverkeeper and Cooper River Watershed Association. Ms. Wenzel provided a power point presentation about the educational programming provided by NJAS during 2014-2015 and their plans for the upcoming 2015-2016 year.

New Business:

Mr. Catania advised the Board that the Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF) were still working out the details of the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Project 2016 Budget Request**. ENSP and CWF have advised that the proposed budget may be as high as \$102,500. The 2015 budget was \$58,800, \$44,000 less than the \$102,800 budgeted in 2014. In 2015, approximately \$55,000 was expended. The variability of budget requests, and occasional discrepancy between what is budgeted and what is spent, results from the uncertainty of the availability of federal funds for Delaware Bay shorebird activities. ENSP has done a tremendous job in obtaining federal funding for shorebird activities over the past couple of years, lessening the need for the Trust's Shorebird funds. Given the limited amount of funds remaining in the Trust's Shorebird account (approximately \$170,000 after this year's expenses are processed), the Board expressed its appreciation and support for efforts to maximize the use of federal funds for the continuation of the studies and surveys which were critical to the federal listing of red knot and horseshoe crab harvest quotas.

Based on a concern that the Board's limited meeting schedule might cause a delay in important shorebird activities, Mr. Catania suggested that the Board consider approving a conditional 2016 shorebird budget with the specifics of the budget subject to review and approval by the Executive Director and the Chair. It was noted that the Board typically approves the budget with a rider authorizing a reallocation of expenses between categories, subject to a limitation of the total budgeted amount, and authorized a \$35,000 upfront payment to CWF in order to fund Delaware Bay shorebird work to be done in May and June 2016 with receipts for such work to be provided at a later time. Ms. Kreipke motioned to approve the 2016 budget up to \$102,500, the specifics of which will be subject to approval by the Executive Director and the Chair, with a reallocation rider and upfront \$35,000 payment. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the 2016 shorebird budget was approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The Board considered the **Reinhardt-DiCola Land Donation Offer in Montague Township, Sussex County**. Ms. Yeany motioned to approve the land donation. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the offer was unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The Board considered the **Clarks Landing-Izenberg Land Donation Offer in Galloway Township, Atlantic County**. Ms. Lettman motioned to approve the land donation subject to an inspection by Trust staff and the property being found in acceptable condition. Mr. Eisenhauer seconded the motion and the offer was unanimously approved by a vote of 8 to 0.

The **2015 remaining Board meeting date** is December 4, 2015.

Ms. Kreipke motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. Hall seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 PM by a unanimous vote of 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,


Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer