

## Climate Committee Meeting

This meeting was conducted remotely.  
All participants were present via Zoom conference.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBgpC8sbR3Acrjo7ppxs3Uw>

### Minutes July 14, 2021

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Mark Lohbauer, Edward Lloyd, Chairman Richard Prickett, and Shannon Higginbotham

**STAFF PRESENT:** Acting Executive Director Susan R. Grogan, Ernest Deman, Stacey Roth, Ed Wengrowski, Jessica Lynch, Jessica Noble, Charles Horner, and Paul Leakan

**Governor's Authority Unit:** Rudy Rodas

**1. Call to Order at 9:33 a.m.**

**2. Adoption of the May 19, 2021 Committee meeting minutes**

Commissioner Higginbotham moved the adoption of the minutes from the May 19, 2021, meeting. Chairman Prickett seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted with all voting in favor.

**2. Presentation from the New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS), New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

Bernard Isaacson, Courtney Compton, Lauren Gazerwitz and Bill Zipse from the NJFS made a presentation to the Committee entitled "Forest Carbon & Climate Information".

During their presentation, the group discussed Existing Frameworks, Profiles in Carbon, Changes in Store and Sustaining Solutions. To view the full PowerPoint presentation, please click here:

[https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/presentations/PinelandsClimateCarbon\\_20210713.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/presentations/PinelandsClimateCarbon_20210713.pdf).

Chairman Lohbauer thanked the NJFS staff for the wonderful presentation and all the information provided.

Chairman Prickett asked what the difference is ecologically between an intense burn and a prescribed burn. Mr. Zipse said that there is an ecological value to both types of fire. Ecological value and carbon value can differ from each other.

Mr. Isaacson said as far as carbon, an overarching goal in the State's Forest Action Plan is that we don't want the State Forest lands to become a net emitter. A big concern is

those types of fire that cause massive amounts of emissions and long-term net emitters. He said in terms of ecological value, intense fire is good; it's a forest at a different stage. From a carbon perspective, the goal is to make sure carbon is coming into the system and not being exported.

Mr. Zipse said he would be happy to share the NJFS data on this subject matter.

Chairman Lohbauer said he appreciates that because that is the goal of the Climate Committee: to propose a good carbon policy as a recommendation to the full Commission.

Acting Executive Director Susan R. Grogan said the presentation has been very useful and she is impressed with the level of detail, and all of the data that the NJFS is relying on will be very helpful for the Commission.

Chairman Lohbauer said he really values the collaboration that continues with the NJFS. He said it is critical for the work that is done at the Pinelands Commission.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Rhyan Grech of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) extended condolences and sympathy on behalf of the PPA on the passing of Executive Director Nancy Wittenberg. Ms. Grech thanked Bill Zipse and the team from NJFS for a very informative presentation. She said she thinks it's important to balance all of the factors presented. She said given the current climate crises and its current disproportionate outsized influence on the Pinelands, the reason we are in this crisis is because of the careless overuse and the lack of protection for our natural resources. She said there has been a lot of forestry conversation in the State of New Jersey over the past year; PPA's concern is that New Jersey not be painted with a broad brush. She said the Pinelands is unique. She said the presentation did not mention the subject of pro-forestation, a low cost tool and potential solution. She said she would be interested to hear the NJFS' thoughts on pro-forestation.

In response to Ms. Grech's comment on pro-forestation, Mr. Zipse said New Jersey is one of the few states that identifies pro-forestation in their Action Plans as a strategy. He said to also consider the markets for non-extractive use of the forest, like carbon credit trading.

Chairman Prickett said he enjoyed presentation and he thinks it helps to provide a better understanding of what's good for the ecology of the Pinelands. He thanked the NJFS.

Commissioner Shannon Higginbotham thanked the NJFS for a wonderful presentation. She said it was very educational and she appreciated all the wonderful reference material.

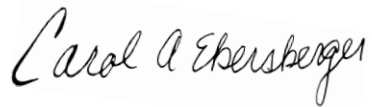
Commissioner Ed Lloyd thanked Mr. Zipse and the NJFS team for a very informative presentation. He said he would like to pursue continued discussions about the threat of

the southern pine beetle as that seems to be the biggest threat to the Commission's climate change goals. Chairman Lohbauer agreed.

Chairman Lohbauer said he is hoping to work with the staff to review and analyze the Commission's operations to determine the Commission's carbon footprint and possible steps the Commission can take to reduce its carbon footprint.

Commissioner Higginbotham moved the adjournment of the meeting. Chairman Prickett seconded the motion, and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted as true and correct.



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Carol A. Ebersberger  
Business Specialist

Date: August 31, 2021