



State of New Jersey

THE PINELANDS COMMISSION

PO Box 359

NEW LISBON, NJ 08064

(609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands



PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor


SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

General Information: Info@pinelands.nj.gov
Application Specific Information: AppInfo@pinelands.nj.gov

RICHARD PRICKETT
Chairman
NANCY WITTENBERG
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Land Use, Climate Impacts and Sustainability Committee

From: Nancy Wittenberg
Executive Director 

Date: July 8, 2019

Subject: July 17, 2019 Committee meeting

Enclosed please find the agenda for the Committee's upcoming meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. A summary from the February 15, 2019 Committee meeting is also being provided.



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LAND USE, CLIMATE IMPACTS AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Richard J. Sullivan Center
Terrence D. Moore Room
15 C Springfield Road
New Lisbon, New Jersey

July 17, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
3. Update on the February 15, 2019 Committee Meeting
4. Spring 2019: weather and wildfire events in South Jersey
5. Topics and speakers proposed for future meetings
6. Frequency of meetings, including proposed dates and times
7. Public Comment
8. Committee Member Comment

Suggestions from the February 15, 2019 LUCIS meeting and follow up emails

Support for having input from experts. We should be informed first. Need a land use/planning expert to advise as to what we can do to mitigate/adapt/reduce our carbon footprint. What do we want the "experts" to talk about? We need to decide before we invite.

We need to determine the relationship of the Pinelands to climate change. Need to do this first. Try to come up with a number. Example, how much carbon does a cranberry bog absorb.

Need baseline first – hard to get this on a specific level.

Need baseline set of concerns.

Document change taking place. Establish baseline.

Look at management areas. Can we make development decisions differently? We need data. Example what is the impact of clearing one acre of forest for solar (which has little impact on climate change)

Work backwards and identify if Commission actions have had a positive or negative impact and look forward to identify what are the impacts that will occur.

Can we calculate how much energy is consumed in the Pinelands and the effect of emissions?

Identify how climate change will/may affect the Pinelands. Then prioritize.

Focus on our authorities. Prioritize.

Communities are being affected: flooding, weather, wild fires. Need to address big storms, ecology/wildfires. Need to preserve the resource.

Think globally act locally. Lay foundation as to what we need to be sensitive to. Then apply policy to what we do.

Incremental things can be done but we cannot do much globally. We can make solar more permissible and affordable. We need a balance. Whatever we do has to fit with the Statute.

Do solar first

Identify the things we think are going to happen to the Pinelands. What are the pressing issues?

Need to identify specific, practical examples of climate change and land use e.g. cranberries /blueberries

The Commission is a land use entity. Should climate change inform our policies on land use and if so how. Need to obtain/develop information and use it to shape land use policy.

Mitigate/adapt. Mitigate our impacts too. Can we do anything to mitigate? How critical are forests?

Identify why are these things a problem? Flooding, drought...etc....

Look for grants

Global Warming Response Act – check what the state is doing.

Post meeting comments:

Implement a “framework”/model for a baseline study (or report) for climate and environmental impacts in the Pinelands. A starting point for future action based on what we already know. The model would investigate both the ways in which the Pinelands contribute to climate and environmental change as well as the ways in which the Pinelands will be impacted by climate and environmental change.

Going beyond studying the potential areas of impact the Commission could look at the net carbon impact of proposed projects by making it part of our application process and have the applicant determine the net carbon impact of their project. From there you could identify what the applicant can do to avoid, reduce or mitigate carbon impacts.

Look at what the Pinelands Commission could do at its facilities.

Need a policy statement as a preamble to any CMP amendments proposes.

To determine local impacts the Commission should get information from the Counties regarding climate impacts. Look at county Emergency Management Plans to see how climate change is impacting the county.

Develop a set of criteria to be used in assessing the CMP.

- Minimize the use of fossil fuels
- Maximize the use of renewable energy
- Maximize the sequestration of Carbon
- Minimize the need for abatement and associated cost on a county and local level resulting from climate change
- Minimize the release of greenhouse gases from utilities and landfills
- Minimize property value decline as a result of climate change
- Maximize economic opportunities addressing climate change.