



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

December 23, 2021

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For Immediate Release:

Pinelands Commission Welcomes Jonathan D. Meade of the National Park Service as its New Federal Representative

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission welcomes Jonathan D. Meade as the new federal representative on the agency’s 15-member board.

“We’re excited to work with Mr. Meade, who has a wealth of experience in protecting natural resources in the northeastern U.S.,” said Susan R. Grogan, the Commission’s Acting Executive Director.

Acting Director Grogan said Mr. Meade’s arrival comes at a critical time for the Commission, which has several vacancies on its board and has faced challenges in obtaining a quorum for meetings. Eight members must be present at meetings for the board to reach a quorum and act on important matters such as rule changes, public development applications, municipal master plans and ordinances, and other initiatives that advance the protection of the Pinelands.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland designated Mr. Meade as the Commission’s federal representative earlier this month.

Mr. Meade has served as the Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Science for the National Park Service’s (NPS) Northeast Region in Philadelphia since January 2018. Prior to his current post, he had served as the NPS’ Deputy Regional Director for the Northeast Regional Office since 2014. In his current role, he leads the NPS’ efforts to manage natural and cultural resources and oversee planning and compliance activities across a 13-state region.

Prior to his current work at the National Park Service, Mr. Meade served as the Director of Watershed Programs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, as well as the Executive Director of the four-state Highlands Coalition and the Vice President of Planning for the Heritage Conservancy. He also worked in the National Park Service’s Washington, D.C. headquarters, leading their business management group.

Mr. Meade holds a bachelor’s degree in ecology from the University of Richmond and a master’s degree from Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Alberta.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency that is governed by a 15-member board of directors. The board consists of seven members who are appointed by the New Jersey Governor, one member appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties, and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The federal seat on the Commission has been vacant since the passing of Frank Hays on March 3, 2017.

“I want to thank the 10 members of the New Jersey congressional delegation who wrote to Interior Secretary Haaland in May 2021 to urge the appointment of a federal representative on the Commission,” Acting Director Grogan said. “We have numerous important initiatives in the works, and it’s vital for our board to reach a quorum and advance our work to protect the Pinelands.”

The Commission is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the 938,000-acre state Pinelands Area, which includes parts of 53 municipalities in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

Members of the Commission’s board are unpaid volunteers who devote a significant amount of their personal time and expertise while attending monthly meetings and serving on the Commission.



Above: The New Jersey Pinelands Commission is charged with protecting the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Pinelands, which features the largest body of open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard between Boston and Richmond.

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