



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Jessica Rittler Sanchez, a former planner with the Delaware River Basin Commission, sworn in as New Member of the NJ Pinelands Commission

NEW LISBON, N.J., January 12, 2024 – Jessica Rittler Sanchez, a longtime Pinelands resident with decades of experience in regional planning, was sworn in as a member of the Pinelands Commission's 15-member board during the agency's meeting this morning.

"I am honored to join the dedicated members of the Commission and committed to ensuring that the special qualities of the New Jersey Pinelands are sustained for future generations," Ms. Rittler Sanchez said.

"Jessica Rittler Sanchez brings a wealth of expertise in regional planning to the Commission, and I welcome her active participation in the Pinelands protection effort as a member of the Commission," said Susan R. Grogan, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission.

A resident of the Pinelands for nearly two decades, Ms. Rittler Sanchez was appointed as a gubernatorial representative on the Commission in December 2023. She filled the seat that became vacant when Bob Barr resigned as a Commission member in 2019.

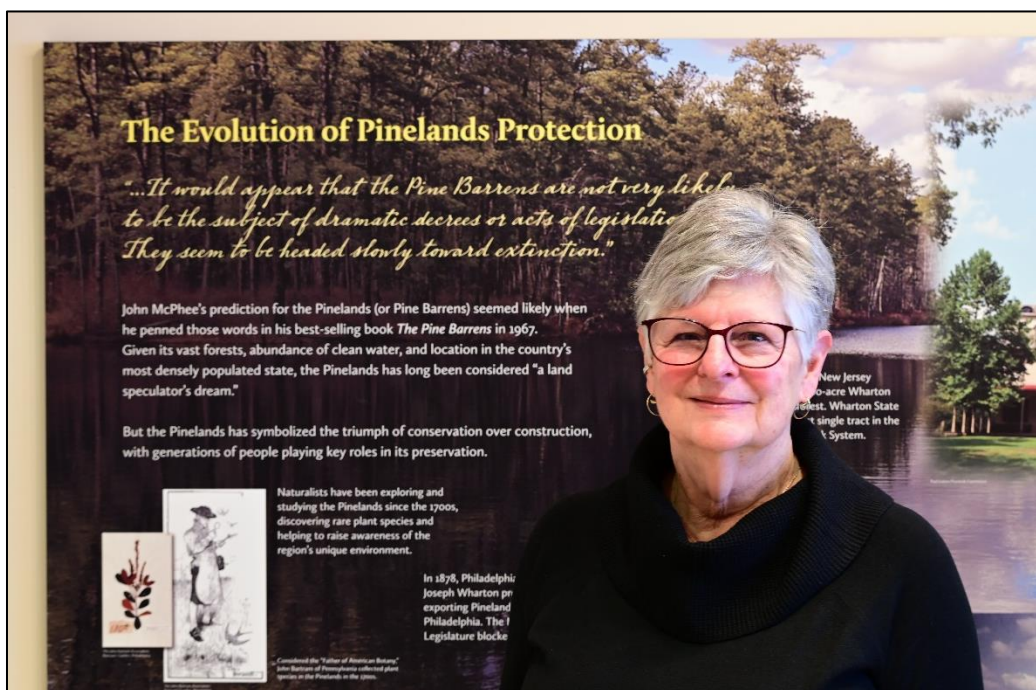
Ms. Rittler Sanchez is a regional planner who believes that a healthy environment and healthy economy are inextricably linked. She retired from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) after two decades in government service, including 16 years in water resource planning and management at the Delaware River Basin Commission and four years with the NJ Office of State Planning. Prior to joining the DRBC, Ms. Rittler Sanchez was an Environmental Projects Coordinator with the New Jersey Office of State Planning, where she was responsible for reviewing a wide array of environmental initiatives and coordinating with appropriate agencies to ensure integration with the *State Development and Redevelopment Plan*. Included in her purview were wastewater, stormwater, watershed management and water supply planning. She participated in the Brownfields Redevelopment Task Force and New Jersey's Comparative Risk Project and co-authored the original policy that guaranteed protection for the Highlands in the NJ State Plan. Ms. Rittler Sanchez was a Marion Johnson Fellow at Rutgers, where she pursued an interest in the successful joining of science, policy, and planning. She was awarded a Master of City & Regional Planning and a Ph.D.

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

The Commission's 15-member 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. Commission members are unpaid volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their time and expertise while serving on the Commission.

***** ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS:** High-resolution photos of Commissioner Jessica Rittler Sanchez can be obtained via e-mail, including the photos below. Please contact Paul Leakan at Info@pinelands.nj.gov.



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