



New Jersey Pinelands Commission

PRESS RELEASE

January 14, 2022

Contact: Paul Leakan, NJ Pinelands Commission

Phone: (609) 894-7300, ext. 124

E-mail: info@pinelands.nj.gov

For Immediate Release:

Three New Gubernatorial Appointees Sworn-in as Members of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission

NEW LISBON, N.J. January 14, 2022 – Three new gubernatorial appointees have been sworn in as members of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission.

Theresa Lettman, Laura E. Matos, and Davon McCurry took the oath of office during the agency's virtual meeting today. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy nominated the three to serve on the Commission's 15-member board, and their appointments were approved by the state Senate on Monday. Gov. Murphy also designated Ms. Matos as the Commission's new Chair.

"Theresa, Laura, and Davon will bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and new perspectives to the Pinelands Commission," said Governor Murphy. "I congratulate them on the start of their service to the Commission and the people that its work impacts. The preservation of the sensitive and treasured Pinelands environment has never been more important and I know that this mission will be fulfilled with the addition of these three dedicated members, and with Laura as the new board chair."

The three new members expressed their excitement about joining the Commission.

"The Pinelands are always struggling with pressures from the land uses surrounding them, and I am looking forward to working with the other Commissioners and staff on the ongoing effort to protect the Pinelands," said Lettman, who monitored activities in the Pinelands while working for the nonprofit Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) for 26 years before retiring in 2016.

"I am extremely grateful to Governor Murphy and the New Jersey State Senate for affording me this tremendous opportunity to serve on the Pinelands Commission," said Matos, who is the New Jersey Managing Director at Kivvit, a national public affairs consulting firm. "As someone born and raised in a Pinelands community, and whose parents still live in that same home, I've seen the area's great beauty and possibilities first-hand. I'm looking forward to working in coordination with all stakeholders on a long-term vision to make sure this critically important region remains a State treasure."

"I would like to thank Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Senate for this opportunity. I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners and the Commission staff in protecting this incredible resource," said McCurry, who is the Deputy Head of Government and Market Affairs

for New Jersey at Ørsted.

Ms. Lettman fills a seat on the Commission that has been vacant since the passing of Candace McKee Ashmun on May 22, 2020. Ms. Ashmun had served on the Commission from its inception in 1979.

Ms. Lettman has been a resident of Ocean County for 52 years and currently lives in Manchester Township. Ms. Lettman has been a Board Member and Secretary for the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust since 1995, and she has been a member of the Ocean County Solid Waste Advisory Council since 1990. She is a former member of the Manchester Township Council and the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust Advisory Committee.

Ms. Matos replaced a seat on the Commission that was held by Richard Prickett, who joined the Commission in January 2012 and had served as the board's Chairman since May 2019.

Ms. Matos is a native of Medford Lakes, which is located entirely within the state Pinelands Area. In her position at Kivvit, she works across multiple client teams firmwide, specializing in advocacy, coalitions management, and public education efforts. She worked in the New Jersey Governor's Office for eight years for Governors McGreevey, Codey, and Corzine, working in Operations, Legislative Affairs, Cabinet Affairs and as an Assistant Chief of Staff. She also served as director of business development and communications at a top New Jersey law firm. Ms. Matos has also served on numerous boards for Governor Phil Murphy, including the 2017 Transportation and Infrastructure Transition Advisory Committee, the Governor's Restart and Recovery Advisory Council and on the New Jersey Complete Count Commission. She serves on the Board of Latina Civic Action and as President of the Board of Latina Civic PAC and previously served on the board of PlanSmartNJ. She attended Rutgers University and lives in Belmar, NJ.

Mr. McCurry was appointed to a seat on the Commission that was previously held by D'Arcy Rohan Green, who joined the Commission in July 2011.

In his role at Ørsted, Mr. McCurry helps to develop and implement strategies to ensure the successful advancement of Ørsted's existing New Jersey offshore wind projects and shape Ørsted's position and standing in the state. Additionally, he is specifically responsible for the company's stakeholder relationships in Atlantic City. He previously served as Director of Legislative Affairs at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. As Director, Mr. McCurry served on the Commissioner's senior leadership team, managing the Department's intergovernmental relations with the state Legislature and New Jersey's congressional delegation. Mr. McCurry is a graduate of Rutgers University–New Brunswick. As a resident of Willingboro, he serves as a member of the Willingboro Zoning Board and the Willingboro Environmental Commission. He previously served as a member of the Burlington Township Planning Board. In 2014, Mr. McCurry was one of the recipients of the Burlington County Times' 40 under 40 award.

Jonathan Meade, who was appointed as the federal representative on the Commission in December 2021, also attended his first meeting as a Commissioner today. 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.

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 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.

####