



New Jersey Pinelands Commission **PRESS RELEASE**

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Longtime member of the Pinelands Commission steps down; Ocean County's new representative on the Commission introduced

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission introduced the successor to longtime Commission member Alan W. Avery during the panel's regular monthly meeting here today.

Avery, who served as Ocean County's representative on the Commission for the past 21 years, tendered his resignation as a Commission member in November.

"Alan Avery spent countless hours volunteering his service and considerable skills as a member of the Pinelands Commission during the past 21 years, including the last 10 years as vice-chairman," Commission Chairperson Betty Wilson said. "I have valued his prudence and his wisdom during the years that I have served on the Commission. We are disappointed to see him leave, but we wish him well."

A resident of Toms River, Avery had served on the Commission since January 6, 1984 and had been the Commission's vice-chairman since 1995. Avery was appointed the Administrator of Ocean County in July 2005, a move that followed many years of service as Ocean County's Planning Director and Director of Solid Waste Management.

Avery's successor, John A. Haas, attended his first meeting as Ocean County's representative on the Commission today. Haas has served as the District Recycling Coordinator in Ocean County for the past 20 years. A resident of Seaside Park, Ocean County, Haas was appointed to the Pinelands Commission in mid-November by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"I certainly appreciate being appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders," Haas said. "The Pinelands Commission was set up to protect a significant natural resource of the State of New Jersey, and I'm very pleased to be appointed to the Commission."

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Haas has worked in the Ocean County Department of Planning and Solid Waste Management for the past 25 years. He also has experience as a former member of the Borough Council, Board of Education and Planning Board in Seaside Park. Haas holds a bachelors of science degree in biology from Monmouth University and a masters of arts degree in environmental education from Rowan University. Haas is the current president of the Church Council of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Toms River. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of New Jersey Recyclers and on the Board of Trustees of the Barnegat Bay Watershed and Estuary Foundation.

“John Haas brings an abundance of knowledge and experience to the Pinelands Commission,” said John C. Stokes, Executive Director of the Commission. “We look forward to working with him as the Commission continues its mission to protect, preserve and enhance the Pinelands.”

The Pinelands Commission consists of 15 members: seven appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties and one appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered three-year terms and are uncompensated for their service.

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