

**Minutes from the SAB Ecological Processes Standing Committee Meeting
(May 19, 2011)**

- 1.) Opening statements made by NJDEP Bob Hazen (Lead liaison) and Dr. Emile DeVito (Chair)
 - Brief Overview/Discussion of February 14th (2011) meeting
- 2.) Presentations:
 - i. Larry Torok (NJDEP, Land Use Regulation Program - LURP): “Definitions of CWH in NJ regulation”. Discussion of how the Land Use Regulation Program defines CWH and wetlands using regulation, how this changes based on region, and how these decisions affect species locally and regionally.
 - ii. Dave Jenkins and Pat Woerner (NJDEP, DFW, Endangered and Nongame Species Program - ENSP): “Landscape Project Mapping and applied use of/rational in determining critical habitat for wildlife species using present regulation”; Focus on mission of the ENSP and how they work within the regulatory frame to protect and enhance E&T habitat, as well as the utility of the Landscape Project mapping and rationale behind ranks.
- 3.) Dr. Jenkins, in follow-up comments with committee, suggested that ultimately the goal of defining CWH is to look at regional ecological hotspots on protect of a larger scale (e.g. Highlands, Delaware Bay, Sourlands, Coastal Zone, Pinelands). It is important to also look at landscape linkages, to ensure and maintain gene-flow (state presently looking at eliminating physical barriers such as roads, and maximize usage of existing transportation/utility corridors).
- 4.) Committee Comments: Dr. DeVito and committee members agree that work must begin on the report for this charge. Bob Hazen and Joe Bilinski outlined the time frame for the report due date, which will be the later part of August 2011 (exact date TBD). Dr. DeVito stressed that a meeting for the organization of the work should be set for early June, and monthly meetings should follow.
- 5.) Past presentations and availability: Dr. Bentivegna, Dr. Luke and others asked if past presentations will be available on the NJ web portal. Mr. Bilinski said he will look into and contact presenters, and post as soon as available (note: limitations exist if presentations are proprietary or works in-progress).
- 6.) Future Meeting Dates: June 2011 for commencement of work group for report, plan of action, and assignment of tasks. Location: USGS Bear Tavern Rd. facility (courtesy of Dr. J. Kennen)

SAB Members in Attendance:

- Emile DeVito
- Carolyn Bentivegna
- Paul Bovitz
- Robert Hoke
- Jonathan Kennen
- Nai-chia Luke
- Zeyuan Qiu
- Michael Weinstein

NJDEP Staff:

- Bob Hazen, Lead liaison (OS)
- Joe Bilinski (OS)
- Dave Jenkins (DFW - ENSP)
- Pat Woerner (DFW - ENSP)
- Larry Torok (LURP)