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Speakers' Biographies

The Honorable Louis Cappelli, Jr., Freeholder Director, Camden County

Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr. has brought a fine legal mind, a fresh approach and innovative ideas to a lifetime in public service. He is a resident of Collingswood, where he was born and raised, and has five children. A graduate of Rutgers Law School, Lou first began his public service with a six-year stint on the Collingswood School Board. In 1993, he was elected to the Collingswood Board of Commissioners, becoming an integral part of a team that revitalized the town. Since 2003, when he was first elected to the Freeholder Board, Lou has brought the same commitment to public service he demonstrated in Collingswood. He has sought to transform county government, cutting the tax levy for three consecutive years. He has pushed for shared services and consolidation and has encouraged economic development. He was unanimously elected Freeholder Director in 2006.

In addition, Freeholder Director Cappelli is spearheading the effort to upgrade Camden County's 911 system, enhancing communications between municipalities and jurisdictions and assuring a quick response to those in need. He has also implemented and expanded the Camden County Video Court, which allows defendants to testify remotely, streamlining the hearing process and easing the strain on an overburdened court system.

Lou joined the law firm of Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader L.L.C in 2008 and is a Managing Partner, bringing his experience in a wide variety of specialties to the firm while managing to find time for community volunteer work. He also serves as a member of the Greater Camden Partnership, and as Chairman of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Lou was named 2011 "Freeholder of the Year" by the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.

Lorenzo Cuoci, Director of Public Works and Road Master for Warwick Township (Bucks County, PA)

Lorenzo began his career by working for two full service site-work contractors, MECO Constructors Inc., and John J. Dougherty & Son Inc., as an Equipment Operator Foreman and a Project Manager. In his capacity as Project Manager, he was directly responsible for the management and productivity of multiple projects with a value of up to 14 million dollars. He represented the company, procured the necessary project materials, scheduled the truck fleet and outside trucking sub-contractors, responded to union negotiations and/or grievance concerns, and oversaw a crew.



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Between 2005 and 2008, Lorenzo served as a General Superintendent at Kehoe Construction, Inc., where he hired new personnel; coordinated manpower, equipment, materials and sub-contractors on a daily basis; interacted with clients, inspectors, engineers, union officials, and state and local officials; managed all field personnel; delegated billing, estimating, schedule updates, and material deliveries; represented the company during all meetings from pre-construction through completion; purchased equipment; and created the company's safety training committee.

Today, he works as the Director of Public Works and Road Master for Warwick Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Lorenzo is responsible for the Public Works Department and its employees on a daily basis. He also oversees and directs the Parks & Recreation Maintenance employees. His duties include direct scheduling, material ordering, purchasing equipment and vehicles, equipment maintenance, discipline, as well as daily oversight without the aid of a foreman. He plans and manages both the Public Works Budget in the Township's General Fund as well as the Highway Aid and Road Machinery Funds.

Emile D. DeVito, Ph.D., Manager of Science & Stewardship, New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Emile has been the Manager of Science and Stewardship at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation since 1989. He received a doctorate in Ecology in 1988 for research on bird communities and vegetation landscapes in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Dr. DeVito develops management plans for NJCF's 20,000+ acres of holdings designed to protect and enhance biological diversity. Emile educates government officials, advocacy groups, land trusts, teachers and students on forest-interior habitat and migratory stopover needs of Neotropical songbirds. He is a trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the NJ Natural Lands Trust. He serves on the Endangered and Non-Game Species Advisory Committee within the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Invasive Species Council, and the Science Advisory Committee of the NY-NJ Trail Conference.

Patty Elkis, PP, AICP, Associate Director, Planning Division, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Patty Elkis is Associate Director of Planning at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, where she has worked since 1992. She oversees long-range planning, environmental planning, smart growth planning, economic and demographic analyses, as well as DVRPC's newer initiatives in energy, climate change and food system planning. Patty has partnered with a number of non-profits and other governments on regional projects, including the GreenSpace Alliance on the Economic Value of Open Space Study, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on TreeVitalize Municipalities, and Natural Lands Trust and the Philadelphia Water



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Department for the Schuylkill Priority Lands Strategy. She has worked on DVRPC's long-range plans with responsibility for the land use, regional economy and open space elements. Her land prioritization modeling work, greenway work and New Regionalism project have received awards of recognition from the Schuylkill Action Network, Delaware River Greenway Partnership, the Rancocas Conservancy, and APA Pennsylvania Chapter. Patty received her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Master of City Planning, with a Certificate in Appropriate Technology for Developing Countries, also from Penn.

Drew Gilchrist, Director, Center for Conservation Landowners, Natural Lands Trust

Drew began his employment with Natural Lands Trust in 1987 at the newly established 272-acre Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve in Montgomery County, PA. As Preserve Manager, Drew was charged with converting farmland into a diversity of wildlife habitats (ponds, wetlands, and native meadows for grassland bird species), as well as battling invasive species and planting thousands of native trees and shrubs. From 2000 - 2008 Drew has served as the Regional Director of Land Protection, working with landowners and municipalities to protect land adjoining NLT preserves and other targeted landscapes in eastern Pennsylvania through fee acquisitions and easements. In 2008, he became the Director of the Center for Conservation Landowners and leads the marketing, and educational programming of the Center, which is focused on providing public and private landowners with sound advice on managing open lands for natural habitats.

Alison Hastings, Senior Environmental Planner, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Alison Hastings is a Senior Environmental Planner at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). DVRPC is the regional planning forum for the Greater Philadelphia region, with a focus on transportation, land use, the environment and economic growth. Ms. Hastings manages DVRPC's Regional Food System Planning work and its Municipal Environmental Planning Services program, among other projects. Before joining DVRPC's Office of Environmental Planning in 2003, Ms. Hastings explored various career paths, including higher education and student life, environmental conflict resolution, and place-making through public art. Ms. Hastings received a BS from Cornell University and a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Hastings resides in Collingswood, NJ.



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Michael Hogan, South Jersey Land and Water Trust

Mike Hogan manages various volunteer programs and grant projects for the South Jersey Land and Water Trust (SJLWT), including the Stewards of Open Space Camden County, a volunteer cleanup program, on behalf of the Camden County Department of Environmental Affairs. Mike became deeply involved in environmental protection and education through his photography of nature. He was active in the effort to pass the open space trust fund in Camden County, and in preserving Old Pine Farm and Timber Creek Park in Deptford Township. Mike works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to educate the public about swamp pink in order to preserve the remaining populations in southern New Jersey. In addition, he has designed and taught various workshops for the NJ Pinelands Commission's Short course at Burlington County College. Previous appointments include serving on Advisory Boards of The Nature Conservancy, Delaware Bay Shore Office and as a volunteer land steward for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Mike has photographed the beauty and natural resources in many of south Jersey's watersheds, and his photography can be viewed at www.hoganphoto.com.

Craig McGee, Project Director, Camden County Soil Conservation District

Craig McGee is a Project Director with the Camden County Soil Conservation District. He is currently supervising multiple watershed improvement and restoration projects in Camden and Gloucester County. Working with a broad group of partners, these projects are demonstrating cost effective methods to improve water quality, reduce stormwater impacts and enhance wildlife habitat on public and private land.

Mr. McGee also served as project director for the development of eight Regional Stormwater Management Planning projects. These projects have resulted in the NJDEP approved Watershed Based Implementation Plans and opened the approved project areas to funding to support various restoration and implementation projects. These projects encompassed nearly 185 square miles of watersheds in southern New Jersey. Mr. McGee has worked with the Camden County SCD since 1988. He has been involved in all the district's activities including implementation of New Jersey's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act.



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Molly Morrison, President, Natural Lands Trust

Molly K. Morrison, President of Natural Lands Trust since 2004, is Chief Executive Officer of one of the largest regional non-profit land trusts in the United States. In addition to providing strategic leadership and fundraising for a staff of 70, Ms. Morrison oversees a network of 40 preserves and 280 easements totaling 40,000 acres. She has been instrumental in creating conservation strategies for complex real estate transactions for the Trust, including the recent acquisition of the ChesLen Preserve. Prior to joining our staff, Ms. Morrison worked for the Chester County Board of Commissioners, where she served in a variety of positions over a twenty-one year period, most recently Director of Policy and Planning. In that role, she was responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the county's nationally-recognized open space program (which has resulted in over 20,000 acres of permanently protected land in Chester County) as well as for policy development and program implementation for planning, parks, water resources, community development, housing and environmental protection. Ms. Morrison served on the Natural Lands Trust Board of Trustees from 1997 – 2000.

Jenn Rogers, County Naturalist, Mercer County Parks Commission

Jennifer Rogers, County Naturalist, (Mercer County Park Commission) is responsible for habitat management in the County Parks and the County's Nature Programs and Activities. She directs the Park Commission's deer management program, is the environmental project manager for the development of Mercer Meadows, coordinates stewardship activities on park properties, and is an active member of the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team. Jenn is active in research projects at County Parks such as the breeding bird survey and Birds in the Forested Landscape Study at Baldpate Mountain. As an educator she hosts over 100 programs per year; these programs range from adult trail hikes to children's nature camps and presentations at environmental conferences.

Past work experiences include Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation (Park Naturalist), South Branch Watershed Association (Environmental Educator) and the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association (Teacher Naturalist Intern). Jenn holds a B.S. in Wildlife Management with an education minor from the University of New Hampshire.



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Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Barry Seymour serves as Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), one of the nation's largest and most respected Metropolitan Planning Organizations. DVRPC is the regional planning forum for the Greater Philadelphia region, with a focus on transportation, land use, the environment and economic growth.

At DVRPC, Mr. Seymour leads the Board and a staff of 120 with a \$25 million annual operating budget. As both staff director and liaison to the DVRPC Board, Mr. Seymour has the primary responsibility to craft a regional agenda and an annual work program. DVRPC's long-range plan and short-term Transportation Improvement Program allocates over \$1 billion annually for transportation improvements across the region. In his time at DVRPC, Mr. Seymour instituted the first municipal grant program for revitalization of urban neighborhoods and older suburban communities, created a growth management planning program for suburban communities, spearheaded the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Smart Transportation initiative, oversaw a regional food system plan and is now directing efforts to improve energy efficiency in the region. He is a recipient of the 2008 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

Prior to joining DVRPC Barry Seymour was Director of Waterfront and Open Space Planning for the New York City Planning Commission, where he was instrumental in establishing the Waterfront Revitalization Program for New York City, revising the City's Zoning Ordinance to reflect the unique conditions of waterfront development, establishing policies to increase public access to the waterfront, and leading the design review of waterfront projects. Before New York City, he worked as an environmental planner at the Long Island Regional Planning Board.

Professional degrees include a Master of Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology from Tufts University. In 1989 he was certified AICP by the American Institute of Certified Planners.



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Tahirih Smith, Executive Director, Sustainable Lawrence

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree as a chemist, she went on to do research in the Inorganic Research Lab at the University of Puerto Rico. Later, she received business administration training and owned and managed an IT consulting business Fortune 100 clients in the Caribbean and USA. A sixteen-year resident of Lawrence Township, with her husband of 24 years, she has raised four children through local schools and volunteered with local civic organizations. She is a 10-year member of the township Historic Preservation Board and is active in many other township committees and boards, including the township's Green Team.

As Outreach Coordinator for Sustainable Lawrence, she worked with local groups, organizations, schools and government agencies, organizing service projects, teaching sustainability concepts and facilitating cross cultural communications. Now, as the Executive Director, she is managing the evolution of the organization from its grassroots format to a self-sustaining educational organization that will become a clearinghouse for sustainability resources and a catalyst for projects that promote stewardship for our planet and a healthier life in our town.

Eric Stiles, Chief Operating Officer, New Jersey Audubon

Eric currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for New Jersey Audubon Society, New Jersey's oldest conservation organization, and will become President and Chief Executive officer in April 2012. Eric came to New Jersey Audubon in January of 2002 to serve as Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship. He grew his department from a staff of 1 and a budget of less than \$100,000 to a staff of 8 and a budget in excess of \$1,000,000. He chaired the "Halt the Harvest Campaign" which succeeded in the passage of legislation to place a moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs on the Delaware Bay until the greatly reduced populations of crabs and shorebirds can rebound. For his leadership on this environmentally significant issue, Eric was awarded the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. He also co-founded the "Keep It Green Coalition" which successfully advocated for the passage of three ballot initiatives to fund park capital improvements and acquisition.

Eric currently serves on the board of the NJ Academy of Aquatic Sciences and is the past chair of the board of directors of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. He also serves on the board of directors of the Environmental Endowment of New Jersey and was a founding board member of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters. Eric earned a B.S. in Biology from Stockton College, a M.S. in Ecology & Evolution, from Rutgers University, an M.P.A. Executive Program from Rutgers University and has completed his Ph.D. Ecology & Evolution course work at Rutgers University. Prior to joining NJA Eric served as Senior Zoologist for



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the Endangered & Nongame Species Program in the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife where he was awarded the 2000 NJDEP Excellent Award for his innovative leadership on the citizen science project-NJ Herptile Atlas.

Peter Williamson, Vice President, Conservation Services, Natural Lands Trust

A registered landscape architect with twenty-five years of professional experience, Mr. Williamson is responsible for administering all of the Trust's land acquisition, conservation planning, and municipal assistance activities. Before undertaking this role, he served as NLT's Director of Land Protection for seven years. Prior to focusing on land protection, he also authored a variety of river corridor and landscape-scale projects, adjoining lands protection plans for Gettysburg National Military Park and the Fairmount Park system, master plans for limited development, preserve master plans, and educational publications. Mr. Williamson has been an employee of Natural Lands Trust since 1989.