



**Warren County Environmental Advisory Committee**  
165 County Route 519 South, Belvidere, NJ 07823-1949

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00 pm

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:**

Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by forwarding a notice of the date, time and location of the meeting to The Star-Ledger, The Daily Record and the Warren County Clerk and by posting a copy thereof on the bulletin board of the Warren County Courthouse and Administration Building. Public participation is encouraged. In order to assure full public participation, those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting should submit any requests for special accommodations one week in advance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Kerry Pflugh, Clairanne Arcaro, Matt Polsky, Audra Frank, Sasha Fernandes, Michael Byrnes

Absent: Josephine Noone

**SALUTE TO FLAG/MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MILITARY MEMBERS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from **December 17, 2025**, motion to approve by Clairanne Arcaro, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sasha Fernandes, approved by acclamation with Audra Frank abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominations for Committee positions:**

- **Chair:** Kerry Pflugh- unanimous approval
- **Vice Chair:** Clairanne Arcaro- unanimous approval
- **Secretary:** Josephine Noone- unanimous approval in absentia

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS:**

**Michael Byrnes:**

Michael gave a summary of the model ordinance for data centers. He also spoke about the Regional Master Plan goals and how they might differ from municipality to county.

**Sasha Fernandes:**

Sasha would like clarity on which Highlands Planning Conformance document we should be looking into; Two were found for the years 2004 and 2019, but nothing more recent-Kerry will reach out to Ben Spinelli for clarification. Sasha shared that Ed Potosnak is the new commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Audra Frank:**

Audra shared that the mayor of Phillipsburg is implementing a new beekeeping course for Warren County.

**Josephine Noone:** ABSENT

**Matt Polsky:**

Matt shared that, contractor, Joe Basralian will be speaking at WCEACs next meeting about his pilot program for deer management. Kerry would like to pass a resolution to implement it countywide. Matt also spoke about litter around the county and asked what outside groups would be involved in cleanup events. Matt also mentioned that a review of WCEAC bylaws might be due. On the same note, Matt shared that the 2025 Annual Report is due. Lastly, Matt shared that Emily Hammer is open to state funding after completion of her Energy Audit project-Kerry suggested the NJEDA grant. This funding includes for green energy for small businesses and can reimburse from \$21,000- \$50,000, depending on project parameters.

**Clairanne Arcaro:**

Clairanne shared that Rutgers is hosting the Rutgers Environmental Stewards (RES) Summit in the fall and has asked the Pollinator Protectors for an article or presentation to be used at the event. Clairanne also mentioned that the Star Ledger printed an article titled Environmental New Year Resolutions for Warren County, and would like to know who put it together so that perhaps the WCEAC could be consulted for future similar articles. Clairanne suggested that we invite newly sworn in New Jersey Highlands Council members to our next meeting.

**CHAIR REPORT (Kerry Pflugh):**

Kerry spoke on the deer management presentation for our next meeting, adding that if the resolution is passed, it would be the first of its kind in the state. Kerry also shared that Commissioner Kern is to be sworn in as President of the Association of New Jersey Counties on 1/23/2026 at 11am in Trenton-not open to the public.

**Discussion Notes:**

There was discussion about data center regulation and the need to include sustainability practices. Matt mentioned that data centers might be important for the growth of the county if properly sited and if environmental and other factors are satisfied.

Clairanne spoke to the need for towns to review possibly outdated regulation or Master Plans and update them. She also mentioned it is important to remember that municipalities make their own ordinances, not the county.

Kerry mentioned that Committee members will each have designated tasks so that we may complete a white paper as part of Commissioner Kerns planning conformance project. Sasha suggested that a shared Google Doc could be created for us to work out of.

**OLD BUSINESS: N/A**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm by Kerry Pflugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sasha Fernandes, approved by acclamation.

Submitted by Sasha Fernandes