

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting February 4th , 2026, at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Stephen Fiedler, Co-Chairperson, Alex Perri, Co-Chairperson

Members Present - Dick Colby, Joe Ambrose, Dan Crum, Belinda Chester, Velecia Bush

Members Absent - Lisa March, Emma Witt

Commissioner Representative – Richard Dase -absent

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W.- present

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. – present

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 PM.

Guest Speakers: Dr. Bill Thomas, New Jersey Coastal Coalition

Dr. Thomas provided the group with background on his time spent in New Guinea helping local residents build parks while preserving their ecological resources. The discussion then turned to the purpose of the NJCC, which is to provide a united response to help rebuild coastal communities.

Dr. Thomas talked about the flooding app intended to be used by Office of Emergency Management representatives as well as the intermittent funding from FEMA. Considerable time was spent discussing tidal flooding and the FEMA flood insurance program. Mention was made of the Keystone 1-10 scale and the reduction in flood insurance rates for better aggregate scores.

The presentation ended with discussion regarding the rate of flooding in New Jersey and the fate of open space throughout the state.

Round Table Discussion:

There was no round table discussion due to the length of the presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th, at 7PM at the Canale Training Center in EHT.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
John Risley Jr., Chairman - Board of County Commissioners
Richard Dase, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members