

February 8, 2022

Friends of New Jersey School of Conservation  
Ms. Kerry Plough, President  
PO Box 358  
Brick, NJ 08723

Dear Ms. Plough

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (Rutgers), looks forward to developing a partnership with the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation or its designee (Friends) to ensure the effective and efficient management of scientific research activities at the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC). Such a partnership is critical to the development of a research agenda for the site and the continued operation of the weather station at NJSOC which is part of the Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist at Rutgers. In addition, the partnership will promote NJSOC as a facility in which credit-earning, post-secondary educational opportunities exist related to environmental sciences, environmental policy, and other matters relating to environmental awareness. The partnership is not exclusive and will promote collaboration with other institutions of higher learning that would benefit from the unique environs of the NJSOC. The relationship between Rutgers and Friends will be memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Collaboratively, Rutgers and FONJSOC will develop a structure for research proposal review and clearance, with the intention that the process will result in a Rutgers administered protocol for obtaining necessary approvals from applicable authorities for selected research projects, coordinating the research activities at NJSOC in a manner consistent with the overall mission of Rutgers and NJSOC. It is also the intention of the parties that Rutgers will have access to NJSOC as a field center for its faculty and students pursuing research or coursework related to environmental topics and, to the extent such courses are provided in a manner that meets all relevant criteria and is otherwise creditworthy, students successfully completing such coursework. It is envisioned that such coursework would be eligible for college credit and such credits would be recognized similarly to other college credits in the State University of New Jersey system. Further, it is envisioned that NJSOC will be the site of vocational, other professional and continuing educational programming relating to environmental matters and that, to the extent that the parties deem it appropriate will consider bringing in Rutgers's



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Cooperative Extension activities especially in Sussex County to the site for relevant programming as part of the partnership.

I believe that this partnership will prove mutually beneficial for many years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura J. Lawson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura J. Lawson  
Interim Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Interim Executive Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences  
Interim Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station