

***Joint Meeting of the
New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Inter-agency Work Group***

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

DEP Headquarters, 6th Floor Conference Room, Trenton, New Jersey

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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| 8:45 a.m. | Coffee, tea | |
| 9:00 a.m. | <i>Welcome and introductions</i>
Welcome to <i>new members</i>
<i>Summary</i> of agenda/changes | Lou Iozzi |
| 9:15 a.m. | Review and discuss <i>Steering
Committee Meeting Notes</i> and
<i>Proposed Legislative strategies</i> | Lou Iozzi |
| 9:45 a.m. | 1. Review (and possibly adopt)
the <i>Stockton Alliance resolution</i>
* Tasks, assignments | Lou Iozzi |
| 10:00 a.m. | 2. Review and finalize " <i>introductory
mailing</i> " text to the Legislature | Karen Wintress
Anne Galli |
| 10:15 a.m. | BREAK | |
| 10:30 a.m. | 3. Report: Mary Sheil's comments
regarding the <i>referendum, key persons
and the commission's general approach</i> | Tanya Oznovich |
| 10:35 a.m. | 4. Develop commission statement
about environmental education (in
relationship to open space initiatives) | Lou Iozzi |
| 11:45 a.m. | <i>Committee updates</i>
<i>New business</i>
<i>Future agenda items/meeting logistics</i>
<i>Wrap up/depart</i> | Lou Iozzi |

***The New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Inter-agency Work Group Joint Meeting - Notes***

Tuesday, May 26, 1998

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

DEP Headquarters, 6th Floor Large Conference Room

Present: Joseph Eldridge, Joan Elliot, Anne Galli, Toni Hendricksen, Lou Iozzi, Pate Kane, Christine Keresztury, John Kirk, Bruce Marganoff, Kathleen McLaughlin, Tanya Oznovich, Barry Schlegel, Jim Shissias, Helen Skerratt, Barbara Solem, Suzanne Willis, Karen Wintress

- ***Pat Kane made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the Tuesday, April 28 meeting of the commission and work group. John Kirk seconded and all approved.***
- No changes were made to the agenda.
- ***Barry Schlegel, with EOHSI, was recently appointed to the commission to fill the "environmental health" slot. During introductions he shared brief information about his work with EOHSI.***
- ***Mr. Don Haverstroh, representing Partners for Environmental Quality, was appointed to fill the "interfaith religion" slot but was not present.***
- ***Ms. Barbara Rich, representing the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, was appointed to fill the "public interest/environmental organization" slot, but was not present.***
- ***Ms. Helen Skerratt was re-appointed to the commission, as the elementary school representative.***
- Lou distributed the notes from the 5/19 Steering Committee meeting and used them as a reference to discuss the following items that were of concern to the Steering Committee and were to set the agenda for this commission meeting:

A. Commission membership and attendance

Steering Committee members have a concern with the lack of commission attendance by some members. The group reviewed what was being done and what should be done better to encourage attendance.

- Establish commission meeting dates well into the future (see letter for upcoming 1998 - 99 commission/work group meeting dates)
- Tanya notifies absent members of any commission or committee meeting dates that they should know about, within 2 - 3 days after the meeting - this should continue

- Tanya has been doing phone call reminders before meetings and in between group mailings; she is also establishing an e-mail list so that information can be sent out more quickly electronically (and in hard copy to those without e-mail access)
- Tanya will research options for voting (in case a quorum is not present) so that decisions can be made at group meetings (ie. proxy, conference calls, voting by mail or phone, etc.) Tanyu will also research (future) creation of a "chat room" for members or with public access
- Tanya will update the commission on outstanding openings so that the group can solicit interested persons to submit to the Governor's Appointments Office for consideration

B. Major activities and projects (based upon the priority listing already established):

- Working and Communicating with the Legislature - Legislative, Funding and Steering Committees
- Specialty and local events (to promote what EE is, summer calendar) - Program Committee
- EE in the classroom - maintaining involvement with standards support, educating non-formal educators, teacher certification/con't education, assessment - Steering and Program Committees
- Earth Day and NJ Environmental Education Week 1999 - Program Committee
- Development of Annual Report, Revise the Plan of Action - Communications Committee
- Establishing speakers on behalf of commission/Plan of Action - Communications Committee
- Developing and Maintaining the Web Site - Network Committee
- Identification of funding sources and establishment of specific project needs - Funding Committee

C. Legislative strategies for Commission and Work Group consideration:

- Jim Shissias made a motion that the NJ Commission on Environmental Education support the open space resolution created by the Stockton Alliance, and that the commission become a member of the open space coalition of supporters. John Kirk seconded the motion and all approved. The Resolution will be accompanied by a letter from Lou.
- Jim encouraged the commission to pursue this opportunity as a stable source of funding. He is trying to get various EE representation at the Stockton Alliance meetings. He and Pat Kane are attending the governor's breakfast on June 2. Public support is needed if this becomes a referendum.
- Tom Gillmore (NJAS) advised Pat Kane and the commission to encourage key persons to get "education" in to the legislation NOW. Getting language for funding is not important now, too premature. The need and terms for "education" in legislation should be encouraged.
- Tanya Oznowich concurred and provided similar feedback from a recent meeting with DEP's Mary Sheil, who works fulltime with the State Legislature. She

commended that our "stance" stress the importance of education and why it is important, but that we should NOT request funding at this time., or else our input will be rejected. She also suggested that if it goes to a referendum, the text is usually written by the Governor's Chief Counsel (John Farmer) and the Governor's Assistant Counsel and Environmental expert (John Valeri). Commission members may want to reach out to these individuals via cc of support letters or through meetings.

- Pat Kane encouraged representatives from other organizations to write to their membership and to encourage their members to support open space initiatives. She distributed a sample letter. Copies should be forwarded to DEP's Judy Jengo and Jim Hall, as well as Maureen Ogden. And the Governor. All letters should be completed by the end of June.

D. Review of the introductory mailing to the NJ State Legislature

- John Kirk made a motion to accept the introductory letter text, stationary and commission fact sheet, created by members of the Communications Committee. (with change noted below). Anne Galli seconded the motion. and all approved.
- The term "farms" was added to page 1 (paragraph 3, line 3) of the commission fact sheet entitled "NJ Eommission on Environmental Education - Shepherding Environmental Education."

E. The Commission's statement on environmental education, to the NJ Legislature

- John Kirk made a motion to use the goal (of the Plan of Action) in the Plan of Action as the mission of the commission and as a descriptive statement of environmental education. Pat Kane seconded the motion and all approved.
- ***"The goal of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education and Inter-agency Work Group is to develop in the citizens of New Jersey the knowledge, attitudes and values, skills and behaviors needed to maintain, protect and improve the environment."***
- Tanya will work on the first mailing to the Legislature (to go out in June) and will create a draft of the second mailing for commission review and approval. (at the June meeting). The letter will re-introduce the commission to the Legislature and other key individuals, as well as stress the importance of having "education" referenced in open space legislation. Commission assistance and expertise is also to be offered. Both Toni and Joan offered clerical support from their departments to get the mailing out.
- Tanya Oznowich provided a brief update for Frank Gallagher regarding the website being developed at Cook College. The site is running and a lot of content is being organized. One meeting was held so far with Cook staff to determine the format of the website and how events, enrichment, networking and resources will be organized. The DEP received the computer bills and is in the process of reimbursing accounts at Cook.
- Tanya Oznowich, June 18, 1998