

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

Monday, June 29, 1998

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room,  
DEP, Natural Resource Building, 501 E. State Street

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- 8:45 a.m. Coffee and tea will be available
- 9:00 Welcome Lou Iozzi  
Review the agenda/changes or additions  
Update on commission and work group Membership Tanya Oznowich  
Review next four joint meeting dates Tanya Oznowich  
Round-robin introductions on each member
- 10:00 Update and discussion on the Governor's open space initiative and related Legislative activities
- 10:30 Looking ahead:  
\* Committees will meet once this summer (see below)  
\* First, review: Commission and Work Group priorities and tasks for 1998 - 1999
- 10:45 Break up into Committees, discuss the following:  
\* Identify one meeting date, site and times this summer  
\* Identify task(s) or activities to be focused on at the meeting  
\* Identify scope of committee work for 1998 - 1999  
\* Arrange for absent committee members to be contacted  
\* Turn in committee notes to Tanya for meeting minutes
- 11:15 Plan of Action Revisions:  
\* Divide into smaller groups based upon affiliation  
\* Review plan strategies (and text) that relate to your affiliation/discuss deletions, changes and new additions  
\* Keep notes and give to member of the Communications Committee for future editing
- 12:00 noon Wrap up discussion on committee decisions and Plan recommendations  
Next meeting logistics  
Departure

**Meeting Notes - the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education  
and the Inter-agency Work Group  
Monday, June 29, 1998, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
DEP, Natural Resource Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Trenton**

**Present:** Richard Belcher, Frank Gallagher, Toni Hendricksen, Lou Iozzi, Kathleen McGlaughlin, Tanya Oznovich, Barry Schlegel, George Schlosser, James Shissias, Karen Wintress

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- Welcome and introductions of new members (Barry Schlegel and George Schlosser)
- Jim made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from Tuesday, May 26  
Frank seconded the motion and all approved, with no changes.

***Funding Opportunities through the Open Space Initiative***

- Its crucial times in the Assembly. Current proposed legislation is all for acquisition and no monies are referenced for operations. It doesn't look good in terms of getting a % of funds for environmental education.
  - The mailings to leaders and supporters did help though, the commission's interests were noticed and mentioned.
  - With the passage of legislation the commission had the chance to receive funds; with the bond issue, the funds are for acquisition or will go to DEP only. Hopefully the mailings generated an awareness of our existence and our need for funding . . .
  - Currently, 13 counties are deliberating over local open space issues and over 50 municipalities are voting on open space initiatives. The statewide attention to the issue could have harmed the local initiatives, if voters saw all of the initiatives as extra costs.
  - If still feasible, the commission and work group could set up "strategic" environmental education events and invite legislators; or, have a private meeting with Assemblyman (?) Coredemus, the head of the Environmental Committee; or, set up other private meetings with key legislators; or, invite them to the commission meeting in October.
- ***Obtaining Funding for the Commission***
    - Obtaining funds for the commission is another issue. The Hudson River Environmental Fund is a possibility, the commission should look into private foundations that have environmental criteria. Lou suggested trying for NEETF funds - he is on the review board and will look into this possibility.
    - Both George and Toni would like to get involved with obtaining funds through environmental fines. They suggested that this be done on an individual basis and that the companies being fined may be receptive to the idea. It would be worthwhile to explore getting an Administrative Order drafted for this purpose, in order to establish the idea as "policy." Different states have tapped into environmental fines - its not an idea unique to New Jersey. Toni and George will pursue. The group agreed that multiple sources of funds for commission use, should be sought.

- A suggested procedure to get this in place is to use the DEP's Strategic Plan as leverage, and to approach Commissioner Shinn and the Commissioner of the Department of Law and Public Safety, by letter. They should cc the County Prosecutors Offices. The letter should request consideration for a % of settlements for environmental education. To be considered would be any potential linkages with the Governor's Office of with the Department of Education.

- ***Revisions to Environmental Education in New Jersey: A Plan of Action***

- The body of text and the columns of information must be updated. The current layout emphasizes a lot of dates. The new version could avoid dates but state that a task or strategy is "done" or "still to be done."
- The plan was reviewed with minor "tweaking" to audiences (ie. DEPE was changed to DEP,

The DOH was changed to the DOH&SS, and the DHE is now the Commission for Higher Education). Additional audiences include "in but not of" environmental groups to DEP, environmental commissions, and a role for the DLPS.

- The next step is to turn the "how's" in the current (more conceptual) plan, into a more detailed work plan. The plan's text also requires much further review.

- ***Committee Meetings and Responsibilities***

- ***The Steering Committee*** should meet once this summer, sometime in late July or early August. The group would focus on committee charges and what the commission must accomplish during the 1998 - 99 school year.
- ***The Network Committee*** - will continue to finalize content for the website and to work with Lou and Cook staff on design ideas.
- ***The Communications Committee*** - will develop the commission's first annual report, will finalize the fact sheet for distribution, and will work on revising the Plan of Action.
- ***The Funding Committee*** - will identify potential funding possibilities and will begin to match-make commission priority projects and needs with potential funding requests.
- ***The Program Committee*** - will work on NJ Environmental Education Week 1999 and any special events that are needed during the 1998 - 99 school year (ie. for legislators).
- ***The Inter-agency Work Group*** - should meet over the summer to further define their role and responsibilities, as defined in the law and Plan of Action.

- ***Please Note . . .***

- Barbara Rich has expressed an interest in being on the Program Committee.
- George Schlosser has expressed an interest in being on the Network and Funding Committees.

Submitted By: T. Oznowich, 8/31/98