

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

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Public Hearing Room, First Floor, DEP Headquarters, Trenton

Agenda Items

9:00 a.m.	COFFEE, TEA	
9:15 a.m.	Meeting opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome to new commission members- Group introductions- Review, amend and/or approve 12/2 meeting notes	John Kirk
9:30 a.m.	New Business Items	
	* Dr. Bruce Marganoff's retirement from DOE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Correspondence with Bruce for his strong support- Bruce's continued, informal involvement- DEP to solicit new DOE representation	Frank Gallagher Karen Wintress
	* Update on the Core Standards and Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Insight into issues, challenges and solutions that could possibly effect the future of the core (EE) standards, due to assessment concerns	David Nash
	* Joint meeting of the NJCEE/IWG and ANJEE <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review ideas for who should participate, purpose of event- History of both groups working together, potential outcomes- DRAFT meeting agenda/discuss format and logistics	Frank Gallagher
10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
10:45 a.m.	Committee Reports/Group Discussion	
	* Finance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open space initiative, any opportunities- Government funds, status of	James Shissias Pat Kane
	* Program Committee/NJ Env. Ed. Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">- # of potential attendees/invitees/NJCEE, IWG to come- Agenda components/logistics/handouts/purpose- Env. ed. examples/finalize, or make assignments to do- Distribute 1999 Arbor Day/Tree information	Helen Skerratt/ George Schlosser Frank Gallagher
	* Communications Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status report regarding Plan of Action revisions- NJCEE annual report – input on components, design	Karen Wintress
	* IWG Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Status of other commission/council findings- Development of state resources inventory	Joe Eldridge
	* Network Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Short-term needs, long-term design efforts- Who's involved at Cook College/Demonstration	Frank Gallagher
11:50 a.m.	Summarize/Next Meeting/Closing	John Kirk

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education (NJCEE)
and Inter-agency Work Group Membership**

Meeting Notes – Wednesday, December 2, 1999

Attendees: Anthony Cancro (DCA), Emile DeVito, Elaine Demby-Fox (DHS), Anne Galli, Don Haberstroh, Patricia Hanratty, Jayne Haussler (DCA), Pat Kane, Christine Keresztury, John Kirk, Ray Mueller, Tanya Oznowich, Barry Schlegel, George Schlosser, Jim Shissias, Helen Skerratt, Kathleen McLaughlin, Barbara Rich, Paul Warmith (DOH), Suzanne Willis and Karen Wintress

Quote of the Day

"It's better to light the candle than to curse the darkness."

- shared by Dr. John Kirk on 12/2/99

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- Dr. Kirk provided a brief opening statement.
 - Tanya Oznowich provided an update on commission membership – nominations were approved by DEP for the openings noted below, but no word yet regarding appointment decisions from the Governor's Office. Tanya also explained the re-appointments process, which is already beginning with current commission members.
 - David Nash, representing the ***NJ Principals and Supervisors Association***
 - Robert DeCicco, representing ***NJ School Boards Association***
 - Erin Dougherty (Morris Museum) or Julie Johnson (Camden Aquarium), representing ***museums or nature centers***
 - Kathryn Schmidt, Senior, College of New Jersey, representing a ***student***.
 - The ***Network Committee Report*** was provided by Pat Kane, in Frank's absence. She discussed and circulated the grant written by Frank for EPA environmental education grant funds, to further the design and development of the environmental education web site housed at Cook College. The group would like to receive copies of the grant proposal and copies of the feedback from the earlier workshops (Frank should bring cc to 3/3 mtg.). The group agreed that the current web site needs additional content, design and format work.
 - The ***Inter-agency Work Group Committee Report*** was provided by Tanya Oznowich and committee members. At this committee's first meeting they agreed to explore other "in but not of" commission and council situations in each of their agencies, to determine the relationships between the group and the agency. Specific focal points include how the group was founded, how the group is funded, what type of staffing does the agency provide, etc. The group also discussed their role (via the legislation) and agreed that their first task as a group is the inventory or survey of environmental education resources at the state level. Commission members agreed that the relationship between the commission and DEP, as well as the function of the IWG, is unique.
 - The ***Program Committee Report*** was provided by Tanya Oznowich and committee members. The first agenda and concept of the NJ Environmental Education Forum was introduced and discussed. Commission members requested that teachers be put on the agenda, as well as other representatives presenting examples of environmental education. The purpose of the forum should be written up. What do we want to achieve?

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- **The Program Committee Report**, (Con't)
Motion made by Tanya Oznowich: *“That the NJ Commission on Environmental Education adopt DEP’s theme for NJ Environmental Education Week and Earth Week this year, focusing on the benefits of tree planting. This theme is aligned with the state’s 50th anniversary celebration of Arbor Day.”*
Second by Helen Skerratt; Approved by all.
 - * Emile DeVito agreed that the theme is important and necessary, there’s a lot of bad information in the public’s hands regarding how and when to cut down trees, etc.
 - * DEP will provide commission and work group members with a set of Arbor Day and tree information at next joint meeting.
 - * DEP will get the Earth Day and Arbor Day information onto the Cook College web site.
 - * Helen Skerratt will see if NJEA can promote the effort through NJEA publications.
 - * ANJEC is a good resource to receive these materials, are they being sent to environmental commissions? Tanya will check on this, didn’t know.

- The **Finance Committee Report** was addressed by Jim Shissias. The state’s open space referendum passed 66% to 34%. This action is receiving national attention now. Education is NOW the issue, though it wasn’t an issue when the referendum was seeking support. It is a legacy issue for children, who must be educated. Jim continues to support educational needs as a member of the New Jersey Outdoor Council and the Open Space Coalition. Current issue revolves around the state park system. If state funds go to parks, it will be used for “education” via interpretive staff and facilities, trail maintenance, etc. If the committee seeks funds through grant proposals, they must be project-specific; so, what are the group’s needs? The second type of funding to pursue is legislative, which we continue to strive for when educating the legislature. We also need a budget, which we haven’t done before.
 - * Emile/Anne - open space interests are not usually associated with educational needs.
 - * Anne – key topics in open space interests include maintenance, conservation, preservation, restoration and acquisition.
 - * Tanya – we must use a similar analogy: “Purchasing land without conducting natural resource education is like buying a resident a car and not providing driving lessons.”
 - * Each committee should state one project need, along with an estimated budget.
 - * We should set up a meeting with Eileen McGinnis, the Governor’s designee on the commission. We should open up communications with her on this topic.

- The **Communications Committee Report** was provided by Karen Wintress. The following comments were made regarding the development of the annual report:
 - * The report should include the following types of information: Who we are, what have we accomplished, what are our needs, examples and models of what EE is and what the commission is supporting.
 - * The annual report should have broad distribution and be designed for all.
 - * We should use the report to get the commission’s name recognized.
 - * Objectives of the production of the report include statutory obligation, keeping the audiences informed, name recognition and specific education for the NJ Legislature.
 - * The contents should also reference the knowledges, attitudes/values, skills/behaviors referenced in the Plan of Action. The report should challenge the reader to do these.
 - * A poster should be developed to promote EE and the commission’s existence. A catchy and educational design and message is needed. Tanya would look into costs.

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- Regarding revisions being made to the **Plan of Action**:
 - * Though many commission members reviewed their constituency sections and provided comments, many sections haven't been touched.
 - * Some ideas in the Plan are outdated, such as the environmental education network concept and the Global Forum concept.
 - * Each commission member should revisit the "What," "How" and "When" of their section and of a generic section, and give comments to Karen in the beginning of January.
 - * We should start collecting key organizations, in order to make additions to the targeted audiences in the Plan of Action. One example is "the media."

- **Final Notes**
 - * Next commission Meeting Date (also on flier in last mailing): March 3rd, DEP
 - * 1/8: Due date for **Plan of Action** revisions
 - * 1/12: Program Committee meeting, DEP
 - * 1/20: IWG Committee meeting, DEP
 - * 6/29: Joint commission and IWG meeting, DEP

Submitted: T. Oznowich