

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

Tuesday, November 23, 1999

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Dept. of Personnel Building, Clinton Street, Trenton

9:00 a.m. – Pick up coffee and tea at nearby coffee shop

9:15 a.m. - General Remarks

- * Welcome and Introductions **Frank Gallagher**
- * Review and approval of meeting notes **Frank Gallagher**
- * Establish Spring, 2000 meeting schedule **Tanya Oznowich**
- * Membership update – openings and nominations **Tanya Oznowich**
- * Update on EE videos (Dodge Foundation Project) **Tanya Oznowich**

9:30 a.m. - Committee Reports and Group Discussion

- * **Finance and Legislative Committee** **Frank Gallagher**
 - Update on Legislative and finance plan
 - Other:
- * **Program Committee** **Tanya Oznowich**
 - Update on two committee meetings
 - Review draft spending plan for Earth Day 2000
 - Other:
- * **Electronic Network Committee** **Frank Gallagher**
 - Update on network committee meeting(s)
 - Update on EPA grant implementation
 - Other:
- * **Inter-agency Work Group** **George Schlosser**
 - Finalize survey tool and discuss plans for state distribution
 - Other:
- * **Publications Committee** **Karen Wintress**
Anne Galli
 - Review draft annual report and finalize
 - Update on plans for Plan of Action revisions
 - EE brochure update
 - Other:

11:00 a.m. – Break

11:15 a.m. – Guest Presentation and Group Discussion **Frank Gallagher**

- * Ms. Diane Hewlett-Lowrie, President, ANJEE
 - The January, 2000 ANJEE Conference
 - The March, 2000 ANJEE Leadership Retreat
 - Strengthening relationships between the commission, work group and ANJEE – group discussion

11:50 a.m. – Wrap Up **Frank Gallagher**

- * New business
- * Summary of tasks and wrap up
- * Logistics for next meeting

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Present:

John Dougherty, Joan Elliot, Frank Gallagher, Rodney Groff, Toni Hendricksen, Pat Kane, Christine Keresztury, Kathy McGlaughlin, David Nash, Melanie O'Dea (DHS), Tanya Oznowich, Barry Schlegel, George Schlosser, James Shissias, Karen Wintress

Opening Remarks:

- Frank provided opening remarks as the new Chair of the commission. One practice that Frank abolished was the existence of a Steering Committee. Frank encouraged the committees to become more productive “working groups” and that the full group of commission and work group members act as advisors and decision-makers. He requested that everyone be open and honest with him.
- A quorum was not achieved. The group informally agreed to accept the meeting notes for the June joint meeting.
- The commission membership currently has two openings – A college professor in env. science or env. ed., and a school administrator.
 - For school administrator, it was agreed that Tanya would request resumes from Mr. Tim Lucas and Mr. Ray Farley. The commission was asked to bring additional nominations to the next meeting. A short article promoting the opening would be submitted for the NJPSA newsletter.
 - For a college professor, it was agreed that Tanya would request resumes from Mr. Gary Patterson (Rowan University), Mr. Jim Quigley (Ramapo College), and Mr. Fred Ellerbusch (NJ Institute of Technology). The commission was asked to bring additional nominations to the next meeting.
- Regarding Spring, 2000 meetings, it was agreed that there would be a joint meeting in late January and in March. Commission and work group members are also entitled to a FREE day at the January ANJEE Conference. It was also determined that commission and work group members may have one or two commitments in April (ie. the Legislative Forum). The January meeting will be at DEP (if we can get the room) and the March meeting will be at a state park central to the state.
- The relationship between The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) was described. As it stands, ANJEE is an affiliate of NAAEE. Commission and work group members are honorary members of ANJEE. NAAEE information is shared through the ANJEE newsletter as well as through periodic handouts distributed to commission and work group members. Commission and work group members are annually invited to attend a FREE day at the ANJEE conference. In addition, Frank and Tanya will assure that everyone is on the ANJEE mailing list in order to receive the newsletter.

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Report: Finance and Legislative Committee:

- The draft 1999 – 2000 strategy was distributed and reviewed. Dave stressed that the Legislature must see tangible projects that have short-term results, as well as long-term. They are more apt to fund programmatic needs vs. administrative needs. We should not request operational funds.
- Suggested tangible and timely items include funds for professional development (timely with the 100 hours soon to be needed by NJ teachers) and a state grants program for environmental education initiatives. Through timely meetings and updates, along with showcasing current successes in EE, we should strive to develop a “track record” with the Education and Environment Committees.
- Suggested Tasks: Identify key Legislators that are personally known by commission, work group and ANJEE members, and develop a list (Frank will do). Identify key members of the Education and Environment Committees. (Frank and Dave will do.) Develop a white paper for action (Frank will do). Develop a draft EE piece of legislation (Dave will do). Jim agreed that the plan should be productive and useful. The group agreed to seek \$100,000 for professional development and \$100,000 for an EE grants program for special projects that would develop models featured in the Plan of Action.
- The group agreed to include “env. health and human health” in their planning. The group also agreed to continue to solicit grants from EPA, for EE in NJ.
- Frank and Tanya met with George, Toni and another DLPS member to discuss possible funding options for EE, as related to environmental fines. Such a plan must be finalized between the DEP Commissioner and the Attorney General. Alternative penalty funds can be used as specifically funded EE projects. The commission cannot garner the funds for operating costs though. Usually the funds are used geographically near where the penalty occurred, sometimes in accordance with the damage (ie. water pollution fine can be used for a watershed project). Christine shared that the West Deptford Library received funds that were linked to a local company – sometimes they are willing to do this, especially for the publicity. The key is to know the cases in advance and to have a list of specific EE priority projects already developed. This is a discretionary decision for the company to do.

Report: Program Committee:

- The commission received \$50,000 from the Governor’s discretionary funds to use specifically for Earth Day 2000. The group agreed to use the funds to work on professional development, Earth Day support/programs, the EE network, the EE brochure, and the Legislative forum. A spending plan would be created by the Program Committee. The funds are housed in a DEP state account, in Tanya’s name. Jim suggested that we consider as an alternate, having a public meeting chaired by the commission, asking Legislators to speak.

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- The August joint meeting between ANJEE members and members of the commission was successful. The group swapped “history” and updates about each group’s interests and responsibilities. Afternoon sessions produced valuable input on EE publicity and publications, EE funding and legislation, ANJEE membership and EE programs.

Report: The EE Network Committee:

- The commission and ANJEE received a \$5,000 grant from the EPA Environmental Education Grants program to fund further development of the EE network. Funds will be used to develop an EE directory and a “real-time” data sharing platform. The Center housing the network paid for some minor technical repairs. The web site also received a new “look.”
- Funds from Earth Day 2000 will go towards network development. The ED site will be part of the EE web site. The commission should explore a distance learning link with DOE.
- Both the Network Committee and the Legislative and Finance Committee need a new chair – see Frank if you are interested.

Report: The Inter-agency Work Group:

- The group reviewed the draft survey – no comments received. Due to the low turnout at the meeting we agreed to mail it out to everyone for comment. It was agreed that future annual reports will be expanded to include information received from the survey. The survey will be conducted at the state level this winter – results should be included as part of the EE web site. Comments regarding the survey should be sent to George.
- The survey tool can be modified and used to collect information for the EE network. A statewide inventory must be conducted, primarily in hard copy since most people don’t know that the EE network site exists.

Report: The Publications Committee:

- A draft copy of the revised Plan of Action (what was gathered thus far) was circulated for comments. Karen needs comments by the end of October. Use of dates was eliminated. Added “media” as a target audience.
- Should get a member/representative from the Society of Environmental Journalists to come to the commission meetings. Invited them as a speaker first and develop a partnership with them afterwards. Pat shared that “media” was in an older version of the Plan of Action. A media representative could not be on the Governor’s advisory council. This was considered, not overlooked. They can always be invited as guests.

- Anne is getting price quotes for the EE brochure that can be adapted at the state level. She is looking for good EE photographs and the supporting organizations must be determined.

Special Presentation:

- **Ms. Callie Lasch, Lasch Media Productions in Red Bank, New Jersey**
- Focus of video efforts: "Using Environmental Education as a Tool for Better Education" – part of the Highlands Initiative supported by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- Lasch Media Productions will produce a 30-minute video that will explain and promote EE to a general audience (ie. PTA, School Boards, families, etc.). They will also produce a 30-minute video that will explore EE more closely, to be shared with teachers. Finally, they may produce a short 10-minute EE promo to be used as part of EE workshops, seminars, etc. Both Dodge and Lasch Media will distribute the videos statewide to NJ schools, as well as nationally.
- The group viewed the video, which did not receive any major negative comments – it was supported by everyone. Joan questioned its packaging and who it would be sent to, in order to avoid it being trashed and to encourage that it be viewed.
- Tanya would look into getting a quantity of the videos for use by ANJEE and the commission, as well as getting an insert into the video for EE resources in New Jersey.
- Closing remarks and wrap up, noon.