

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

**Friday, January 25, 2002**

NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Public Hearing Room

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee/Tea**
- 9:00 a.m. Group Introductions and Welcome**
- Welcome by Chair
  - Review of agenda – changes, new business
  - Review of meeting notes from October meeting – changes, approval
  - Circulate attendance list and make appropriate corrections
  - 2002 meeting logistics – circulate copies, note August revision
- 9:15 a.m. General Remarks and Updates**
- Changes in Government and related challenges, benefits & strategies
  - Status regarding commission/work group membership & strategies
  - Review of priority 2002 goals/plan and any revisions/adjustments
  - Discussion regarding state EE progress indicators development
  - Update on the draft classroom standards and review process & strategy
- 10:00 a.m. Guest: Marty McHugh (Light House Camp)**
- 10:15 a.m. Committee Reports and Group Discussion**
- Finance and Legislative Committee Report
  - Program Report
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 a.m. Committee Reports and Group Discussion, Con't**
- Network Committee/Demonstration
  - Publications Committee
- 11:30 a.m. Meeting Summary and Wrap Up**
- New business, if any/Distribute publications
    - Update: The EIC Approach in New Jersey
    - Update: School Reconstruction in New Jersey
  - Logistics for next meeting and meeting highlights
  - Departure

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on EE And Inter-agency Work Group**  
**Meeting Notes – January 25, 2002 – Page One**

**Introductory Remarks**

\* Frank opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda/Introductions were made

\* **New Business/Agenda Item:** Frank introduced Jim Sciascia (DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife) who would later discuss the division's latest education project – 'Lighthouse Camp'

\* **New Business:** Karen Wintress talked briefly about "Leadership New Jersey" and a forum they will have in Trenton some time in the future – she is working on planning this and an environmental component would be a nice addition; Brief discussion was also held regarding potential commission involvement with the annual Governor's Schools on the Environment and on Policy and Issues.

\* **Meeting Notes:** Barbara Rich made a motion to accept the meeting notes from November meeting; Bob DeCicco provided a second; all were in favor

\* **Membership:** Tanya reviewed current membership and length of terms (will have copies at next meeting); the terms of five persons are completed in February – Frank requested that people think about if they would like to continue to serve on the commission and to let him or Tanya know, and they will be re-nominated; current membership situations are as follows:

- Gracelynn Johnson resigned – teacher (high school) slot is open
- Pat Kane resigned/Dale Rosselet is sub – term is up in February
- Frank Gallagher – term is up in February
- Erin Dougherty – term is up in February
- Anne Galli – term is up in February
- Joan Elliot – term is up in February

\* In general, Frank questioned the makeup of the commission and work group and whether the current makeup is working or not in terms of committed participation and overall makeup; while the slots determined in the bill is more difficult to change, with the new administration we could possibly bring on new representatives from other agencies – should think about the makeup of the groups.

\* **Opening Comments/Priorities for 02:** Frank provided a brief overview of changes he's seeing in state government, both within the DEP and within the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education. He stressed that we need to review our own environmental education priorities, align them with priorities in environmental protection and in education, and these would become our primary focus areas since they are also priorities for this administration.

\* **Funding:** George had two suggestions for possible stable or regular funding allotments – settlement funds from the natural resource injury/damages program; and, settlements from enforcement arrangements – such funds should be investigated in this new administration.

\* **Priority areas of work for 2002,** as determined by the group at the November meeting:

- Professional development (use of Earth Day Education funds)
- Establishment of the New Jersey EE Network/Directory
- Funding source(s) pursued and/or renewed Legislative effort for funding
- Revisions to the Plan of Action
- Annual Report(s)

## Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on EE And Inter-agency Work Group Meeting Notes – January 25, 2002 – Page Two

\* Tanya summarized her January lunch meeting with Art Mitchell, in order to get caught up with changes in the DOE and the process of revising and updating the core curriculum content standards. The draft standards are now posted at the DOE homepage. Environmental content is still prominent in standard 5.10 (formerly 5.12) with a new format; some environmental content is in the other standards as well. Art encouraged environmental educators to review and provide written comment and support; attend and testify at a publicized public meeting; or, organize an environment-based focus group with DOE. Those present agreed to hold a focus group and promote it to ANJEE and other environment-based groups, for participation. Tanya also shared Helen's input about the standards and her concerns with the draft language related to ecology and human interaction with natural systems. Tanya agreed to organize a statewide approach to gathering support for the draft standards, as well as to organize a focus group.

\* John Dougherty, DOE, supported Tanya's comments and encouraged advocacy. In Social Studies, the former 6.9 (environmental studies/geography) standard was folded into the new 6.7 – environmental references still remain but are weaker. The draft review process was tackled this past summer by 30 teachers in the areas of history, civics and geography.

\* **Guests:** Marty Mchugh (Commissioner's Office) and Jim Sciascia (Division of Fish and Wildlife): Marty began by discussing his current role in the Acting Commissioner's Office and the support that Bradley Campbell has for public and environmental education. Both he and Jim provided an overview of "Lighthouse Camp," a 95-acre property formerly a camp for the blind. It is located between Sedge Island and Island Beach State Park. The division cannot staff it, so they have entered into a lease for the site and the property was purchased by the Trust for Public Land. While the site offers much in educational opportunities, it needs funding for renovations. (Lynn Keepers mentioned that she has program staff and participants already at the site and helping with renovations – she supported the notion that it is a valuable and beautiful site).

\* Jim also discussed the proposed federal CARA Act (if passed, will take funds from the off-shore oil lease fund to fund state wildlife conservation and education needs). Though the bill has wide-spread support, it is having difficulty with passage. Though it has been reintroduced in Congress, with the projected federal deficit and the current state of the economy, it may not be passed. Smaller portions of CARA funds have been allocated – example used was funds for facility at Island Beach State Park. If the bill is passed, it would provide the country with 3 billion annually. This amount is calculated out to the states by population. It is estimated that New Jersey could receive 350 million of this for conservation education – about 8 ½-million per year. Matching funds are required.

\* Marty stressed that we shouldn't compete for funds but should work together. We should start networking to get matching resources. Jim suggested that we promote to environmental education community to have them 'sign on' to cooperative work through the division's web site. Frank suggested that we start networking now through ANJEE to promote this idea and opportunity.

\* **The Program Committee:** Tanya discussed promotions done so far for the Earth Day Education stipends (10 \$1,000 stipends) for professional development. They were handed out and promoted at the ANJEE conference and were distributed through ANJEE ONLINE. The DEP will do a mailing to ANJEE and non-ANJEE members in mid-February. The stipends will be promoted through the end of February, selected in April and concluded by the end of August. Helen, Leslie and Marc volunteered to review the applications. The DEP will promote the awards through a press release around Earth Day.

## **Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on EE And Inter-agency Work Group Meeting Notes – January 25, 2002 – Page Three**

The second activity is the organization of 2 or 3 education-based seminars for non-formal educators, to take place in May. Tanya is finalizing details and logistics with Dr. Looney. The third activity is the April Legislative Forum. Tanya provided a brief update of EIC implementation in the 10 schools participating in this Dodge-funded program. The EIC implementation culminates at a closing event on June 4<sup>th</sup>, to be held in the Trenton area. The group agreed to cancel the April Legislative Forum concept and to merge their \$1,000 for the forum with this June event. Tanya will hash out details with all partners (DEP, the Commission, DOE and SEER). Ideas for content, goals and objectives are being sought (none suggested). The fourth activity is the August Joint Meeting. Ideas for content, goals and objectives are being sought – no work has been done on this yet.

\* **The Legislative and Finance Committee:** Frank provided an update regarding the status of the bill and its final weeks in December. If its reintroduction is pursued, he suggested a long discussion with Dave Nash and then individual meetings with committee chairs. Frank also raised the question of pursuing other funding sources besides the proposed bill. Jim suggested that meetings with chairs are good since there are new faces in these positions. Bob had sent letters asking for support to six representatives in his district but had only one response to his letters.

Frank suggested submitting another request for discretionary funds (former white paper, \$204.00, distributed). He and Tanya discussed possible foundation possibilities for grants - to get grants for work to be done as well as for pass-through monies for smaller grants within the state. Barry receives e-mail announcements for funding opportunities that he offered to get to Tanya; Frank also suggested that our funding needs be brought up at the March ANJEE Leadership Retreat, which has the theme of 'fundraising' this year for the organization.

\* **The Environmental Education Network/Inter-agency Work Group:** Mike Skelly, George and Marc provided a demonstration of the commission's EE directory format, to date. Features included a home page; calendar; search engine for resources; EE links; EE content (i.e. guiding principles); and a possible list-serve that can be subscribed to. Tanya provided a brief overview summarizing how we had gotten to this point (original link with Cook College), why Mike Skelly was involved, and where the funding was coming from for his services (EPA grant to ANJEE). Mike met with Bob Bonja and looked over the equipment there, which is small and antiquated (1991 system). If we use the server there, the system must be updated. Discussions still must be had and decisions still must be made regarding the format and components of this home page and its primary functions. The Network Committee has been extremely active, meeting every couple weeks for the past 3 months. The goal is to announce the site in April, around Earth Day. Additional work to be done includes graphic design and 'the wrapper' or 'wrapping.' Janice also provided a brief introduction to the new ANJEE web site unveiled at the January conference. Mike made a good point about viewing both sites as 'daily newspapers, with nothing chiseled into stone. The only ongoing piece of either site is the day-to-day maintenance and updating.'

\* **The Publications Committee** – There are three publications that are in production in 2002. The 99/00 annual report will be completed in February; the updated Plan of Action should be available for Earth Day (April); and, the 01 annual report should be available in June. Tanya is spearheading these publications and received all Plan of Action input from Barry.

\* **New Business:** Barry announced the NJ Clean Air Councils' Clean Air Student Summit (in March) with DEP; some new publications were announced; Frank summarized the meeting and wrapped up slightly after 12:00 noon.