

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group - AGENDA
Wednesday, May 14, 2003
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, 7th Floor Large Conference Room**

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| 8:30 a.m. | COFFEE AND TEA | |
| 9:00 | Opening Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening remarks from Chair • Review of agenda and request for new business items • Review/acceptance of March meeting notes | Joan Elliot |
| 9:30 | Environmental Education Updates – Round Robin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on EE activities among members, such as: • The annual ANJEE conference • The EIC Approach in New Jersey – June event • The Tour de Sol • The Envirothon | Everyone |
| 10:00 | Plan of Action Committee – Report and Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Committee meeting highlights • Plans for summer/next steps | Anne Galli |
| 10:15 | BREAK | |
| 10:30 | Earth Day Committee – Report and Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding a publication and/or an event • Summary of NJDEP Earth Day activities • Plans for summer/Next steps | Rev. Harper
Marc/Tanya |
| 10:45 | EE Network Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of EE Network activity • Review of website contents • Plans for summer/next steps | Tanya/Joan |
| 11:00 | Review of Summer Plans and Discussion Regarding
Additional Long-term Interests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of 01-02 annual report/ mailing – early June • Completion of NJCEE membership/appointments • Enhancement of IWG membership/managerial appt's • Increase NJCEE/IWG visibility – strategies • Pursue/establish stable funding source – strategies • Establishment of a summer working group • Meeting schedule – 2003-04 | Joan/Tanya |
| 11:45 a.m. | Wrap Up and Departure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership update, if any; attendance roster | Tanya Oznowich |

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Meeting Notes - Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

NJCEE Attendees: Rich Belcher, Fred Ellerbush, Joni Elliott, Frank Gallagher, Anne Galli, John Kirk, Kathy McGlaughlin, Tanya Oznowich, Leslie Parness, Barry Schlegel, Jim Shissias

IWG Attendees: Elizabeth Faircloth, Darren Port, Marc Rogoff

Guests: None

Opening Remarks

* **Joni Elliott**, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

* **John Kirk** made a motion to accept the meeting notes from March 13 (with no changes); second was provided by **Frank Gallagher** and the motion carried.

Round Robin Discussion – Current Environmental Education Activities

* **Kathy M.** – has been working with gifted and talented students (using EE to bring in more parental involvement) and also teaches inmates in a correctional facility. Through her efforts four Project (EE) workshops were offered to faculty at the correctional facility, as the educators there also need to accrue professional development credits. Though the materials must be utilized in an indoor setting, the workshops were well received.

* **Jim S.** – Jim has been instrumental in arranging grants for environmental projects and EE efforts in the geographic range covered by PSE&G in New Jersey. Such grants have gone to schools, organizations and local government. He has also been involved with employee recognition efforts and the company has encouraged their employees to get involved locally in environmental activities during Earth Week. He compiles an annual “honor roll” of employees who, each year, have conducted community-based or volunteer environmental projects. **Joni** suggested documenting such a program and using the NJCEE website to promote the program idea to other companies.

* **Frank G.** – has been busy working with various site-based issues at Liberty State Park. Things were hectic for awhile but are getting under control. He has gained a lot of experience in working with the public and management on such issues. New site construction is underway at the park. Frank also continues to site on Project Learning Tree’s national committees and is staying informed about environmental education issues at the national level through these committees.

* **Anne G.** – co-instructs a class at Cook College (with Pat Kane) on education and natural resources. The students get involved with developing an environmental education project. Anne and Pat incorporate the use of the EE Plan of Action into this class. Anne is also involved with instruction at Brookdale Community College.

* **Leslie P.** – Through Leslie the arboretum received a Dodge grant to incorporate schoolyard greening projects in all of the schools in Morris County. They conducted a professional development program for local teachers on horticulture and the monarch butterfly, which was held in March. She also received another grant for their “Branching Out” programs at Bamboo Brook.

* **Fred E.** – Fred has been involved with various research projects and has been conducting community outreach projects in Camden and Voorhees that have to do with landfill redevelopment. The course that he teaches for graduates is on urban environmental health. He has also been involved with an env. risk assessment project in Thailand.

* **John K.** – Continues to support local EE initiatives and is involved with fishing education with urban youths, even though he has retired from the NJSOC. He is still active with the United Nations and helps promote the Environmental Sabbath, an Interfaith partnership that now exists in many countries around the world through schools, NGOs and businesses.

* **Erin D.** – The Morris Museum ran Earth Day workshops during Earth Week and attracted over 350 students – the workshops focused on art, history science and theatre and the programs were offered during school break. She is busy as the exhibitions director. Her EE staff person is active in the NJ EIC program and is President of the NJ Marine Education Association.

* **Elizabeth F.** – Project Learning Tree has developed several high school modules, the newest focusing on “energy and society” and “risk assessment.” She has been busy filling workshop requests for these new modules.

* **Richard B.** – Presented an overview of the spring “Envirothon” competition that is sponsored by the NJ Department of Agriculture with a variety of partners (conservation districts, cooperative extension, DEP). The 2003 competition was the tenth year it was conducted in New Jersey (it is a national competition as well). Elizabeth and Marc both assisted with coordinating it. It is designed for teams of high school students (5 students plus 1 alternate are allowed on a team) and almost reached its capacity with 28 competing teams in 2003 (36 had registered but some had to cancel). During the competition (held over a weekend) the teams rotate to various theme stations, where they make presentations and respond to questions from experts. Various prizes are awarded. In national competition, New Jersey place it’s highest of 5th and it’s lowest of 15th. It will be held in 2004 at NJSOC in Sussex County. The theme for 2004 is development in urban areas – urban renewal.

* **Barry S.** – EOHSI has received 1 of 8 grants given out in the United States - \$2 million to focus on environment-based instruction in grades 2, 5 and 7, with a focus on one of their env. health curriculum packages. Staff is working on materials, activities, testing and monitoring mechanisms. The 2003-04 year is the development and implementation phase for grades 4 and 7; in the latter part of 2004 it will include the 2nd grade.

* **Tanya O.** – Tanya has been active nationally with SEER (implementation of the EIC model in New Jersey) and NEEAC (EPA advisory council). She also provided a brief summary of EIC status in New Jersey in its nine schools.

* **Marc R.** – Marc provided an update of spring EE activity – the NJ Science Olympiad and the Tour de Sol. He also reminded everyone that he serves as the EE liaison to the New Jersey to the New Jersey Science Teachers Association on their Board of Directors, and he keeps them informed of commission and ANJEE activities.

Committee and Project Updates/Meeting Logistics

* **Plan of Action Committee (Anne G.)** – Marc will send out the outline for the POA revisions to the group for review. Comments will be collected throughout June.

* **Joint Meeting Work Group (Kathy M.)** – The meeting is scheduled to be held at Plainsboro Preserve, NJAS’s newest nature center – special thanks to the staff there for hosting the meeting at no cost to the commission or ANJEE. Commission and work group members had proposed the following items for discussion at the meeting: the state EE Network; EE funding; and, a revisions process for the Plan of Action. These were posed to ANJEE leadership as well, who agreed with the topics. A traditional portion of the agenda is to provide an overview, and history of, the Alliance, commission and work group.

* **NJ Environmental Education Network (Tanya/Joni)** – DEP staff reviewed the commission and council websites housed at DEP server and created an outline of what contents of a NJCEE and IWG website could look like that could be housed in SEEDS, linked to all appropriate avenues, and maintained by Marc and Tanya with input from the group. The NJEEN website was reviewed and the group agreed to separate commission and work group formal activities from the actual NJEEN contents. Contents of the new website for the commission would include POA contents, purpose of the commission and work group, access to the state law, meeting logistics, agenda’s and meeting notes; publications and announcements and membership. A draft design would be sent to the group in the summer for review and would be finalized at the September meeting. Starfyre, Inc., would

continue to receive \$600 annually from the NJCEE/IWG for hosting the NJEEN at their server and for other services related to this. Members of the NJCEE and IWG will engage in discussion with ANJEE about a partnership to help further the NJEEN. **Kathy M. made a motion to separate the formal activities of the commission and work group from the NJEEN website; Anne G. provided a second and the motion carried.**

* **Meeting preferences for the upcoming school year (Tanya O.)** – The group agreed to keep the overall meeting schedule “as is.” The commission and work group meet together beginning in September through June. Specifically, they meet in September, October, and November; and then in February, March, May and June. December is skipped due to the holidays. In January all members are encouraged to attend at least one day of the ANJEE conference; and, in April they are expected to participate in some type of Earth Day program or function. The group will continue to meet in Trenton at DEP, which is central for everyone. They want to avoid Monday or Friday meetings – the group will continue to meet in the mornings for ½-day.

* **Round-Robin Sharing Sessions:** At least once per season the group wants to include the “round robin” sharing session that was used during this meeting; or, to ask various members to provide an update at each of the meetings. They would also like to continue having periodic guest speakers – one in particular would be a NJ Legislator, who could explain the politics and the legislative process to the group. **Joni** offered to contact a legislative friend of hers to do this. **Darren** suggested that a current topic be volunteered in advance of the meetings so that commission and work group members at each meeting introduced a new topic or two. He suggested the Enviromentors Program as an example, as many didn’t know of it.

* **Professional Development Sessions:** It was suggested that professional development topics be included in future meetings, but no specific topics were offered up by the group. After a discussion on increased marketing, fundraising and promotions **Leslie** offered to conduct a training-type of program for the commission on these topics and based on her work, training and experiences. Others thought that PD experiences were not the purpose or function of the commission and that PD related only to their actual charge would be fruitful or appropriate.

* **Committee or Project Work Sessions:** It was suggested that planned time be included during lunch after the joint meeting for committee work, since almost everyone would be together at the same place. An afternoon meeting room would need to be arranged through DEP for this function.

* The **meeting schedule** for autumn was distributed and would also be mailed to everyone later in the summer.

* **Joni** provided a meeting summary and brief closing remarks.