

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group - Tuesday, November 25, 2003
Meeting Notes**

NJCEE Attendees: Fred Ellerbusch, Joni Elliott, Anne Galli, Fletcher Harper, John Kirk, Kathy McLaughlin, Tanya Oznowich, Leslie Parness, Barbara Rich, Dale Rosselet, Barry Schlegel, John Shafranski and Jim Shissias

IWG Attendees: Mimi Dunne, Elizabeth Faircloth, Joan Olawski-Steiner, Marc Rogoff

Honored Guests: Robert DeCicco and Nick Smith-Sebasto

EE Friends: Janice Reese-Berardo and Michael Skelly, Sr.

Meeting Notes:

- * Joni Elliott, Chair, opened the meeting and provided brief remarks.
- * Brian Vernachio, Director of the Plainsboro Preserve, welcomed the group (special thanks to New Jersey Audubon Society for use of their facility).
- * NJCEE members approved the meeting notes for the October NJCEE/IWG meeting.
- * Tanya provided formal remarks and presented a plaque to retired NJCEE member Robert DeCicco, for his time served on the commission as a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association.
- * John Shafranski was introduced to the group as a new member of the NJCEE. John is replacing David Nash as the representative of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association and is the Supervisor of Science for Edison Township Public Schools.
- * Group members enjoyed the atmosphere of an “outside of Trenton” and “back to nature” meeting location and agreed to have some of our meetings in more scenic locations similar to the Plainsboro Preserve.
- * Jim Shissias provided remarks about a federal coastal protection project and New Jersey’s activities related to it. He also provided information to the Plan of Action Committee about a grant opportunity (Environmental Endowment for New Jersey) and suggested that we apply for it for the Plan of Action revisions process.
- * Tanya introduced Nick Smith-Sebasto to the group. Nick then facilitated most of the meeting by conducting the round-robin discussion points provided in our October meeting agenda. He also responded to questions or concerns about the teacher survey. Basic points include:
 - The survey will gauge the perceptions, attitudes, training, experiences, resources and methods that are had by New Jersey teachers regarding environmental education.
 - It will provide the NJCEE with “a handle” regarding how EE is working and being delivered in New Jersey. It is a baseline study and its findings should provide foundation for new Plan of Action strategies for schools and school-oriented activity.
- * John S., John K., Anne Galli, Janice, Marc, Fletcher, Joni and Tanya agreed to review the follow-up information from this meeting. Nick offered to compile everything. Our list of ideas, along with a draft survey tool from Nick based on this input, would be circulated. Comments would be forwarded to Nick through DEP during the holidays and a revised survey tool would be circulated at the February meeting.