

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group - AGENDA
Tuesday, May 25, 2004
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Public Hearing Room**

9:00 a.m. COFFEE AND TEA

9:30 Opening Remarks

**John Kirk
Tanya Oznowich**

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Review of agenda
- Request for new business items
- Review/acceptance of February meeting notes
- Staffing situation this spring

9:45 Updates and Discussion on Projects

Group Members

- Commission and Work Group Membership
 - Status and next steps
- Teacher Survey
 - Status and next steps
- *Plan of Action* Revisions Process
 - Status and next steps
- *Environmental Primer* Publication
 - Status and next steps
- Environmental Education Basics - Power Point Presentation

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Reports on Partnership and New Initiatives

Group Members

- Environmental Stewards (Pilot) Training Program
- Interactions with the Governor and his Staff
- EIC – NJ Initiative
- Energy Education Partnership
- School Construction Corporation Interests
- Draft Conservation Education Plan

11:30 Closing Remarks

Tanya/John

- June meeting
- Summer activity, joint meeting and group communications
- Autumn meeting schedule
- New business, if any
- Meeting highlights
- Closing remarks/departure

*Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group – Meeting Notes - May 25, 2004*

NJCEE Attendees: Rich Belcher, Marie Downes, Erin Dougherty, Anne Galli, John Kirk, John Lysko, Kathy McLaughlin, Tanya Oznowich, Barbara Rich, Barry Schlegel, Karen Wintress

IWG Attendees: Glenda Glasio-Riveria (DHS substitute)

Guests/EE Friends: Janice Reese-Berardo

Opening Remarks

- * Vice Chair John Kirk provided welcome and opening remarks. Introductions were made.
- * New member to the Interagency Work Group was introduced – Ms. Maryann Evanko is replacing Lynn Keepers as representative of the Department of Human Services. She is from the DHS Office of Education. While Maryann could not make this meeting she sent a designee from her office, Ms. Glenda Glasio-Riveria.
- * John provided a brief overview of work performed this past school year, interests in increasing the group and boosting attendance by filling empty slots; he also solicited new business items
- * John reviewed the agenda - no changes were made. Barry was added to the agenda with an item of new business – an update on, and summary of, their NIH environmental health education grant.
- * The group reviewed the February meeting notes. Erin’s name was added to attendance list.
- * **Barry Schlegel made the motion to approve the February meeting notes with changes; Anne Galli provided a second; all were in favor.**

Business Items

* **Commission Membership:** Tanya provided an update on submissions for new slots as well as resumes being collected for current members with terms to be renewed. Outstanding appointments include those from NJEA and NJSBA, which should be filled by the September meeting. Another discussion focused on the opening for the Commission on Higher Education. This discussion could not be resolved because the group did not have a quorum and were not sure of the qualifications preferred by the Commission on Higher Education that their representative should have – Tanya would investigate further. The need for commission by-laws or practices was suggested and the group agreed that existing practices should be investigated.

* **Teacher Survey:** Tanya circulated 12 copies of the draft teacher survey and answer form that Nick had developed, based on input from the group at the October meeting, along with subsequent comments from individuals. It was agreed the survey could not be done this school year due to time needed to develop it, along with time needed to determine how to distribute it. Appropriate staffing and services in NJDOE had been discovered for teacher labels and a random selection of them could be done (with time and funding). Nick now needs the OK from the group to plan for the survey to take place in the autumn. There was much group discussion on this but without a quorum the group could not agree if the survey should be completed or tabled. Tanya also raised the question of payment for Nick for work that was done, whether the survey is actually carried out or not.

* **Plan of Action Revisions Process:** Tanya shared a report from Dale, the committee chair. The “Environmental Endowment for New Jersey” did not consider the commission proposal for funds to offset the revisions process. However, the commission agreed to move forward with the process regardless of this grant, and to use its own funds or solicit new funds through other grant opportunities. This committee would like to meet this summer to script the revisions process and assemble all of the pieces needed to make this happen in 2004-05. This discussion will be finalized at the June meeting.

* ***Environmental Primer:*** Tanya is still to get final edits back from DEP managerial review of the publication. It will be made available for summer events though and quantities needed from commission members will be collected at the June meeting.

Updates and Reports

* ***Environmental Stewards Class (Pilot):*** Tanya circulated a draft curriculum outline and list of field trip and lab activities that Rutgers Cooperative Extension is currently reviewing and finalizing for their adult education course on environmental stewardship. Bruce Barbour had given a presentation on the course to commission members earlier this year and Tanya would continue to keep the commission apprised of their activities.

* ***Governor McGreevey and ANJEE/EE Professionals:*** The governor's office approached ANJEE and some commission members in northeastern NJ to gain support for the Highlands initiative, as well as some other state priorities, through a meeting with the governor held earlier this spring. ANJEE President Pat Skelly led this cooperative effort, which also included getting some ANJEE reps on a Highlands bus trip with the governor. Commission members at this meeting shared their comments with the group.

* ***EIC-NJ:*** Tanya provided a summary of how the delivery of the EIC model to 9 schools in NJ is winding down. This was a partnership between the commission, work group and DEP.

* ***Energy Education Grant:*** Tanya provided a summary of work to be done with this grant. It is a partnership between DEP and DCA, with the commission and work group to act as advisors for this project in 2004.

* ***EE Interests from the NJ School Construction Corporation*** – Tanya discussed a meeting DEP staff had with a representative from the Corporation. They have raised interests regarding EE applications in curriculum and instruction as being linked to school construction, design and grounds management. There is an interest to have an EE directory created that can be presented to faculty at each new school in NJ. This will be explored by DEP staff.

* ***NJ Conservation Education Plan (Draft):*** Rich provided an overview of past and current interests that the NJ State Soil Conservation Committee and conservation districts have had regarding the statewide delivery of conservation education over the past 3 – 4 years. At issue is the draft conservation education plan, which focuses on a portion of environmental education and, if supported through legislation, will strive to secure a substantial amount of annual state funds. Features of the plan include salaries for conservation education staff; a central education office in Agriculture; block grants program; statewide conservation education program funds; needs assessment of teachers; and, funds for professional development for teachers. DEP staff did not agree with portions of the plan because they either conflicted or overlapped with ongoing work of the commission and work group. A joint meeting to look at these differences will take place later in May and will be attended by commission members Rich, Tanya, Jim and Frank.

Closing Remarks and New Business

* Barry provided an overview of the NIH grant-funded project that EOHSI has undertaken for several years to deliver env. health curriculum in a New Brunswick school district. Most of their research and funding is focused on student performance and assessment, which should draw much EE attention to this project when it is completed.

* A speaker (from DOE) to address “No Child Left Behind” issues was requested for an upcoming commission/work group meeting this autumn.

* Tanya distributed copies of the autumn meeting list.