

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education  
And Interagency Work Group - AGENDA  
Tuesday, February 7, 2006  
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Public Hearing Room**

- 9:00 a.m. COFFEE AND TEA – check in, handouts, socialize**
- 9:30 Opening Remarks Joni Elliott, Chair**
- Welcome, introductions & opening remarks
  - Review of agenda
  - Approval of meeting notes
  - Request for new business items and announcements
- 9:45 General Business Items Tanya Oznowich**
- Membership update & contact info forms
  - 2006 meeting logistics
  - Status of accounts for 2006
  - NJCEE/IWG Web site report Marc Rogoff
  - Committee overview Joni Elliott
- 10:00 Committee Updates**
- **Environmental Primer Update** Tanya Oznowich  
Purpose of committee  
Brief history/donations/distribution methods  
Status of Spanish version/future interests  
Committee membership
  - **EE Week/Earth Day 2006** Tanya Oznowich  
Purpose of committee/brief history Marc Rogoff  
Dates for national EE week 2006  
Web site additions/changes and activities  
Committee membership
  - **Nominations Committee** Tanya Oznowich  
Purpose of committee Fletcher Harper  
Membership needs and process of selection  
Committee membership
- 10:20 BREAK**
- 10:30 Committee Updates (Con't)**
- **Plan of Action Revisions Process** Karen Wintress  
Summary of activity to date  
Small group activity and group sharing  
Next steps
- 11:45 New Business and Closing Remarks Joni Elliott**
- New business items and announcements
  - Meeting highlights
  - Logistics for next meeting
  - Departure

DRAFT POA Mission Statement: *To encourage environmentally literate individuals in New Jersey.*

## **Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education And Interagency Work Group – MEETING NOTES -**

**NJCEE Attendees:** Anne Galli, Tanya Oznowich, Karen Wintress, John Shafranski, Corky Johnson, Janice Reese-Berardo, John Lysko, John Dougherty, Dan Watts, Barry Schlegel, Jim Shissias, Sule Oygur

**IWG Attendees:** Marc Rogoff, Kyra Hoffmann, Elizabeth Faircloth

**Guests:** Mike Skelly, Sr., Pat Skelly

**Note:** Chair and Vice-Chair could not be in attendance today. Quorum not achieved. Review of previous meeting notes for December and January to be up for approval at March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. DEP Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson is scheduled to attend then.

### **OPENING REMARKS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- The 2006 Watershed Conference will be held at the Meadowlands this year – Kyra asked if anyone of the NJCEE/IWG members were interested in presenting a workshop. See the website or contact Kyra if anyone has any questions.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

- **Membership** – any changes, please inform Tanya or Marc
- **Meeting Logistics** – Tanya reported that a full calendar should be posted and distributed prior to the March meeting. Status of accounts will also be presented.
- **Web site report** – Marc reported that the *SEEDS* annual report was submitted to the NJDEP Office of Communications in January. The numbers indicated an increase in usage across the board: the commissions' directory received **36,244 hits**; (A dramatic increase over the 8,249 hits from 2004!) and the Earth Day section received **23,467 hits**. (11,269 in 2004) If desired, contact Marc for a more detailed report. Please review the website regularly to help make sure that all items are accurate and current.
- Karen Wintress commented that the NJCEE/IWG members should help to share ideas/spread the word about current EE events at the local and statewide levels. (i.e.: earth day)

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

(New and sitting members are encouraged to join these committees.)

- **Environmental Primer** – Tanya reported on the history, creation and distribution of the Primer. The first printing, funded by the Commonwealth of New Jersey was distributed within 3 months. The second printing, funded by the New Jersey Science Education Leadership Association, has only a few copies remaining. Any one who wishes to distribute the last remaining sets, please contact Tanya or Marc. The third printing, funded and translated into Spanish by the US EPA Region 2, should be available in the near future. Many of these are already earmarked for distribution. The Commission is seeking another donation of money for a 4<sup>th</sup> printing. (DEP employees have come to expect that the commission will continue this successful tradition!)  
*Corky Johnson and John Dougherty volunteered to join this committee.*
- **Earth Day/Environmental Education Week** – Due to the heightened interest in the environment at this time of the year, the commission intends to continue what was started last year in regards to Earth Day/EE Week. The website, [www.earthdaynj.org](http://www.earthdaynj.org), is currently being updated for 2006. Like ANJEE, the commission will join NEETF in promoting EE Week in New Jersey. This will include a Governors' proclamation, event promotion, and other efforts.

*Karen Wintress, Elizabeth Faircloth, Sule Oygur and Kyra Hoffmann joined this committee.*

- **Nominations Committee** – Multiple positions within the NJCEE/IWG are open at this time. We are looking to fill the student representative position, a middle school teacher, a representative from the Department of Labor, a higher education slot, and the newly proposed positions of Associates and School Liaisons. These positions would boost the public's input and awareness of the commission.
- A new committee was proposed to examine the need for by-laws. One objective is to establish the exact number that would constitute a quorum. [According to earlier records, not posted on the internet, this number is to be half plus one of the number of sitting voting members.] *John Shafranski, Jim Shissias, and Dr. Watts volunteered to sit on this committee.*
- **Plan of Action Committee** – Karen Wintress reported on the history of the revision, “not an update, but a rethinking of the whole document”, and a need to show measurable improvements. Discussion followed on the wording of the “mission statement” at the bottom of the agenda. (John Dougherty suggested the wording of the DOE mission statement would be a good template – see [www.state.nj.us/education](http://www.state.nj.us/education), click on “educators”, then “standards”).  
*(Text at end of discussion: To encourage an environmentally literate and active New Jersey.)*

The new document will feature references to NAAEE literature and other national publications. (Those available on the internet will be added to the NJCEE web links in the coming days.)

- **BREAK OUT SESSION** – at this point the commission members were asked to work with the POA committee and work with one of the four theme groups to continue brainstorming ideas for the POA outline. Needed items include a summary of accomplishments, a historical timeline, examples of good EE, national and international references and quotes, and measurable objectives. (The next steps include; Governors’ message, glossary, and an executive summary.) Please email any quotes to Anne Galli prior to Fridays’ committee meeting.
- **Reconvene:** Each group gave a summary of their accomplishments during the break out session. **Group 1** made minor modifications and additions to the text of their section. **Group 2** expressed a desire to recognize Gaylord Nelsons’ “Think Globally, Act Locally” mantra and made references to community service and partnerships with schools. **Group 3** further defined their goals and objectives. **Group 4** discussed additional ideas and clarifications. Suggestions included activities for teachers and adult learners, faith based groups, character education and ethics concerning environmental stewardship, resources and training for education boards and EE awards.

*The next subcommittee meeting is to be held Friday, from 10-2 at Plainsboro.*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Two books were recommended by Pat Skelly and Marc:

Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv & Ecological Literacy, by Michael K. Stone and Zenobia Barlow.

- Next meeting: March 7<sup>th</sup>, NJDEP Public Hearing Room, 9:30 am - noon

Submitted by: M.R., 02/06