

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

- 9:00 a.m. COFFEE AND TEA**
- 9:30 Opening Remarks** **Joni Elliott, Chair**  
  - Welcome and opening remarks
- 9:35 Meeting with DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson**  
  - Group introductions
  - Remarks, Q/A and discussion
- 9:55 Business Meeting Items**
- Review of agenda **Joni Elliott**
  - February meeting notes
  - Request for new business
  - General announcements
  - Membership update **Tanya Oznowich**
  - 2006 meeting logistics
  - Status of accounts for 2006
  - Draft bylaws
  - NJCEE/IWG Web site report **Marc Rogoff**
- 10:15 Committee Updates**
- ***NJ Environmental Primer Update*** **Tanya Oznowich**  
Brief history/donations/distribution methods  
Status of Spanish version/future interests
  - **NJ EE Week/Earth Day 2006** **Tanya Oznowich**  
Brief history **Marc Rogoff**  
Dates for national EE week 2006  
Web site additions/changes and activities
  - **Nominations Committee** **Tanya Oznowich**  
Brief history **Fletcher Harper**  
Membership needs for 2006
- 10:35 BREAK**
- 10:45 Committee Updates (Con't)**
- **Plan of Action Revisions Process** **Dale Rosselet**  
Summary of activity to date  
Small group activity, group sharing, next steps
- 11:45 New Business and Closing Remarks** **Joni Elliott**  
  - New business items and announcements
  - Meeting highlights & logistics for next meeting

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education  
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– MEETING NOTES –  
March 7, 2006**

**NJCEE Attendees:** Fred Ellerbush, Anne Galli, Tanya Oznowich, Karen Wintress, Jim Shissias, Dale Rosselet, Kathy McLaughlin, Rich Belcher, Dan Watts, Barry Schlegel, Joni Elliot, John Dougherty, Sule Oygur, Janice Reese-Berardo, John Lysko, Toba Noble (for Marianne Evanko)

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

**Guests:** Mike Skelly, Sr., Pat Skelly, Mike Heinz, Avery Hart, Nicole Jackson, Laura Scatena

**OPENING REMARKS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- Comments were made concerning outreach to planning boards; the commission should promote ecological principle training – DCA requires training for planning boards and a course is given by Rutgers/Coop Ext. Anne suggested we try to secure someone from DCA for the IWG.
- Karen challenged the commission members to all attend at least one local environmental commission meeting this year. (Karen, Anne, Sule and Marc are all members of their townships environmental commissions/boards already.)
- *A motion was made to accept Karen's challenge: Accepted by Anne, seconded by John Lysko – all in favor. (By February 2007)*
- Jim suggested that Tanya attend a business community meeting to spread awareness to their environmental committees of the commission.

**GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

- **Membership** – any changes, please inform Tanya or Marc
- **Status of Accounts** – Tanya reported that we have 2 closed accounts: Dodge and DCA's Energy grant, and 2 open accounts: the Trust fund with \$8,478.00 and the Earth Day Education fund with \$14,600.00. (An updated budget is not available)
- Money is regularly used for contributions to the ANJEE conference, parking passes, POA printing, and newsletter contributions.
- Money from the ED fund will be allocated for the publication of the 2006 Primer to be used for Earth Day distribution.
- Dr. Watts suggested that a representative from the commission should meet with the new environmental program rep. at the Dodge Foundation to reconnect with them.

**Commissioner Jackson's arrival**

- General introductions were made concerning the roles of the commission attendees both on the commission and in their careers.
- Joni commented on the role of the commission and the Primer (36,000 distributed last year, and an upcoming Spanish version), and the Plan of Action revisions.
- Dale reported on the status of the POA, including concrete actions for the commission and public participation. The use of thematic areas, planning board applications and stewardship.

**Comments by Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson**

- Change is needed (stewardship) for environmental protection
- We are tough on our point sources in NJ – we still need to be tough on stormwater and air protection

- Developed areas are more appropriate for construction than rural areas
- Non-point pollution from individuals needs work – change people through education
- ATV's – need to educate people re: impact on environment
- We need to be aggressive where we need regulatory responsibility
- Show changes in peoples attitudes and behaviors

### **Themes stressed by Commissioner Jackson**

- We are part of our ecosystem
- Growth issues and personal choice
- Green buildings/design, energy conservation, sustainability
- Riparian issues, urban issues – still an ecosystem
- Conservation of resources
- Funding for Fish and Wildlife – “Nintendo effect”
- “This is what it means to live in NJ” – being from NJ is being a steward of the environment
- For fines to be used for educational funding the programs need to demonstrate concrete and measurable results

### **Discussion resulting from Commissioner Jackson's Comments**

- Tanya – We should look into this possible source of funding for specific initiatives
- Karen – the commission needs a specific set of goals for us to accomplish
- Anne – the POA needs to support the commissioners goals
- Joni – DOA wants concrete and measurable goals as well – “quality is hard to measure”
  - Performance measures for quality – how do we do this?
- Tanya – pleased to know that Commissioner Jackson understands the value of education
- Kyra – lifestyle choices will be a significant focus of the administration
- Dale – due to the Nintendo effect, there has been a decrease in the number of people attending Audubon programs, and there is an impact in a monetary/economic way. (See Richard Louv's “Last Child in the Woods”)
- John Lysko – “virtual world” vs. “hands in the dirt/feet in the water”
- Anne – for children to experience the environment – where do they go?
  - “They are still plugged in”
  - Fear of the natural world is promoted by the media
  - How do we reconnect?
  - Systems!!
- Avery – special education – environmental effect – kids feet have never touched the ground – they need “family hikes”

### **GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS (Continued)**

- **Draft By-Laws** – Tanya reported that an existing set of by-laws is being personalized for the commission and a draft should be ready for presentation in May.
- **Web site report** – Marc reported the following hit-rate at the NJCEE site:
  - December 2005:** 4,049 in total, 243 at homepage
  - January 2006:** 3,793 in total, 231 at homepage
  - February 2006:** 5,441 in total, 221 at homepage
  - Earthdaynj.org for February 2006:** 1,522 in total, 418 at homepage
  - A full report is available upon request.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

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

- **Environmental Primer** – Tanya asked for suggestions for funding needs for the next printing of the Primer. \$3,500.00 is needed.
- **Nominations Committee** – Meeting tomorrow, discussion will be on agenda for the May meeting.
- **Earth Day/Environmental Education Week** – Marc asked all commission members to keep on the alert for events that can be posted at earthdaynj.org.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES WORKING GROUPS**

This time is set aside for the POA committee to present the current Guiding Principles to the commission for review/recommendations/changes/comments. The committee at their next meeting in April will use information from this session. (Site to be determined – Asumpink likely)

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Diocese of Trenton – NJ Coalition for Env. Justice – environmental issues being promoted among churches.
- Next meeting: May 11, NJDEP Public Hearing Room, 9:30 am – noon
- **Motion to Adjourn**: *Made by Jim Shissias, seconded by Rich Belcher, all in favor.*

Submitted by: M.R., 05/06