

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group - AGENDA
Thursday, May 11, 2006
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Public Hearing Room**

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|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | COFFEE AND TEA | |
| 9:30 | Opening Remarks
• Welcome and opening remarks | Joni Elliott, Chair |
| 9:35 | Business Meeting Items
• Review of agenda
• Meeting notes
• Request for new business
• Membership update
• 2006 meeting logistics
• NJCEE/IWG Web site report | Joni Elliott

Tanya Oznowich

Marc Rogoff |
| 9:45 | Round Robin Sharing of Spring EE Activity | Group Members |
| 10:00 | Committee Updates

• Plan of Action Revision Process
Summary of activity to date
Small group activity, group sharing, next steps
(Informal breaks during this time) | Dale Rosselet |
| 11:30 | Committee Updates (Con't)

• NJ Environmental Primer Update
Brief history/donations/distribution methods
Status of Spanish version/future interests

• NJ EE Week/Earth Day 2006
Brief history
Summary of spring activity

• Nominations Committee
Summary of activity | Tanya Oznowich

Tanya Oznowich
Marc Rogoff

Tanya Oznowich
Fletcher Harper |
| 11:50 | New Business and Closing Remarks
• New business items and announcements
• Meeting highlights & logistics for next meeting
• Departure | Joni Elliott |

**Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group
– MEETING NOTES –
May 11, 2006**

NJCEE Attendees: John Shafranski, Dale Rosselet, John Kirk, Karen Wintress, Tanya Oznowich, Joni Elliot, Jim Shissias, Janice Reese-Berardo, Barbara Rich, Mike Heinz

IWG Attendees: Marc Rogoff, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh (for Kyra Hoffmann), Laura Scatena

Guests: Avery Hart

OPENING REMARKS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Laura pointed out that “Air Quality Awareness Week” is next week!
- Introductions were made for those new to the commission.
- *Motion to accept minutes: Accepted by Dr. Kirk, seconded by Karen – all in favor.*
- *Motion to accept meeting notes from March: Tabled until next meeting.*

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Membership** – resumes are being reviewed for educator, non-academic position. Fletcher, Tanya and Marc met to review nominations. Two students have expressed interest in the student position – resumes to follow. We are currently looking for an applicant for the higher education position. Avery is being considered for the Governor’s office liaison. Lynn Keepers is still interested in a position on the commission (perhaps the labor opening which is a private citizen slot). There is a possibility that all open positions may be filled in ’06!
- **Logistics** – a question was raised about the calendar of meeting dates – should they be structured or is the current form preferred by the members of the commission? (Transportation issues and alternative venues were considered)
- In the end, the current method is preferred.
- **Web site report** – Marc reported the following hit-rate at the NJCEE site:
March 2006: 7,815 in total, 287 at homepage - A full report is available upon request. Both the commission and SEEDS have been showing record numbers of hits this year. (This led to a discussion about how citizens are experiencing the outdoors...)
Members of the commission informally agreed that we should post environmental sayings or quotes encouraging visitors to go outdoors after they get off the internet. “Thanks for looking, now go outside!”
Dale commented that visitation at the NJ Audubon websites is “through the roof” and although program attendance is increasing, visitation at the centers is not.
Dr. Kirk hypothesized that attendance may be lower because of the increase in places to go. John Shafranski pointed out that going to a “center” is not the only way to get outdoors. Janice compared the situation to a community ball field, where there are more people wanting to use it when only a few at a time can.
Dale asked if the commission could work to document participation in EE events occurring in a single week? (Should it be in the POA?)
Tanya pointed out that parents are an audience we would be missing.
Recent reports indicate that exposure to the outdoors when young is more important/influential than EE in school or adult life.
Perhaps the commission could do the survey in the fall or during EE week ’07?
Janice reminded the commission that ANJEE is currently working on the nature center directory which will include a statewide inventory of EE centers/practices.

Other comments/questions included;

- Where do the visitors come from, NYC?
- Society should not be “risk free” – people wouldn’t even visit a petting zoo.
- Kids that get outside have fewer allergies. (How do we get this info to the parents?)
- The data from the survey will give us a greater sense of direction of where to go from there.
- Joni asked Laura to draft a letter that would be sent to the nature centers for this survey. Tanya agreed to assist.

ROUND ROBIN

Karen – DEP Commissioner Jackson wrote a 2-page article for a League of Municipalities publication about construction/brownfields.

Tanya – we could look into it for further articles

Dale – value of place-based education could be a good article

Joni – a teacher article about how EE fits into the CCCS

Karen – Montgomery ED fair – wildly successful, over 30 tables of exhibitors from business and private community, all demonstrating environmental practices – will be replicated in the fall as a business fair

Mike – many trips to Washington – changes in NCLB – science is coming back – new regulations to improve science requirements. Approx. 74% in NJ are proficient in science.

- change AP courses to be more student centered
- sustainability being promoted
- Challenger Learning Center in south Jersey is looking to add EE
- Met w/Rutgers staff for students to use data in env. course (Marine Science Center)

Tanya – NJHEPS webquest problem based models on sustainability - may be able to get NJHEPS rep. to speak at future mtg.

John S. – NJ Principals and Supervisors – what assessments are determining science proficiency?

Mike – GEPA and ASK are the tests being used.

Tanya/Mike – deconstruction of many standards going on statewide and nationally. NJ is way ahead of national average.

Marc/Tanya – Connecticut initiative, “No Child Left Inside”

Tanya – Bioethics article in Phila. Inquirer – science anxiety toward a less fearful future

Tanya - NJCEE meeting was announced in NY Times calendar

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

- **Plan of Action** – committee met last month at Assumpink.
 - Worked on front matter and guiding principles – review and revise, and knowledge & values and skills portion.
 - Based on public, written, and NJCEE comments and contributions.
 - Break into 3 small groups (1/2 hour) for approval for draft revisions. (Notes from this time period will be reflected on the final draft of the POA.)
 - Skills list still being compiled.
- **Environmental Primer** – 16k printed for '06, many were distributed to Earth Day events. Spanish version is on its way.

Submitted by: M.R., 06/06