

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group AGENDA
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Public Hearing Room, 1st Floor**

- 9:00 a.m. COFFEE AND TEA**
- 9:30 Opening Remarks Dale Rosselet, Chair**
- Welcome and opening remarks
 - Group introductions
- 9:40 Business Items and Updates Dale Rosselet**
- March meeting notes (draft)
 - Review agenda/new business items
 - Report on NJCEE/IWG web site activity **Marc Rogoff**
- 9:50 NJ Environmental Education Theme Weeks Updates Tanya Oznowich**
- NJ Earth Day and EE Week events and activities
 - NJ Celebrate Afterschool! Outdoors in the Garden State campaign
 - 2010 anniversaries
- 10:05- Federal Legislation Update Pat Skelly or Anne Galli**
- Report on status of *No Child Left Inside* Act
 - Report on National Environmental Education Act Appropriation and NEEA reauthorization
 - Update on University Sustainability Grants Program
 - Other
- 10:30 Draft Call to Action Update Dale Rosselet**
- Status of draft plan pieces and content
 - Timeframe for plan for public access
 - Web site design and contents
 - Next steps
- 11:00 BREAK**
- 11:10 Special Presentation: Helen Rancan
Earthcaching and Geocaching – NJ Geological Survey
Playing Hide-and-Seek in Nature (with a GPSr)**
- Introduction to these caching activities
 - How caches are developed, why and who uses them
 - How activity helps to get people outdoors and in nature
 - Questions and group discussion
- 11:40 a.m. Meeting wrap up and closing remarks Dale Rosselet**
- Round-robin reports on spring EE efforts
 - Logistics for June meeting
 - Closing remarks

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education
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Wednesday, May 26, 2009
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 noon, Public Hearing Room**

Attendance:

NJCEE: Tanya Oznowich, Barbara Rich, John Shifranski, Iris Duffield, Marie Downes, Anne Galli, Rich Belcher, Dale Rosselet,

IWG: Marc Rogoff, Elizabeth Faircloth, Ray Nichols, Laura Scatena

Public/guests: Pat Skelly, Diane Cann (WDPL), Kimberly El-Sadek (HMFA-Green Homes Office), Marybeth Brenner (NJDEP), Helen Rancan (NJGS-presenter)

Opening Remarks

- Welcome and opening remarks: made
- Group introductions: made
- Additions to agenda: none

Business Items and Updates

- March meeting notes (draft) (No Quorum)
- Review agenda/new business items – no comments
- Report on NJCEE/IWG web site activity: 6,791 hits. Lower than average – usually happens in April because of a lack of Earth Day references. (Future references to Earth Day would increase hit rates.)

NJ Environmental Education Theme Weeks Updates

- NJ Earth Day and EE Week events and activities – www.Earthdaynj.org included 77 public events. Public interest was very high. DEP attended or supplied people and materials to a record number of events this year. Libraries also saw an increase in related interest. So many events lead to “competition” for the public interest. According to NJCEE members, their own municipalities showed an increase in related events and public participation. Sustainable Jersey helped to bring people “on-board” especially the “Green Teams”.
- “Green Week”, after Earth Day, was promoted by many organizations and a Governor’s Proclamation was signed. The state web-site featured a countdown to Earth Day and the new “Green” page. (The Green Generation was a phrase mentioned often.) Many water festivals are also held in May.
- Diane Cann – Green grant of \$5000 - environmental programs at the libraries – enthusiastic families, “Creative Ways To Be Green”, art gallery of dryer lint art work, art from recycled materials, and lamps made from recycled kitchen items, and global warming displays. Adult programs include gardening, NJ farms, etc. Looking for speakers and other resources. Programs will continue all summer and beyond.
- NJ Celebrate Afterschool! Outdoors in the Garden State campaign: Diane Genco spoke to the Commission in a past meeting. See the handouts and website. DOE’s 21st Century Classroom participated with events. 7 events occurred: Legislators, DEP officials and other speakers attended. Faculty training will continue through the summer. The one year campaign will be extended. (Supportive of NCLI) Several newspapers covered the events. (Courier Post article passed around – featured Marc doing a presentation.)
- 2010 anniversaries: 40th anniversary of Earth Day. We must prepare for the interest generated!

Federal Legislation Update

- Report on status of *No Child Left Inside* Act: Pat – On Earth Day identical bills were introduced to the Federal House and Senate. 60 co-sponsors are supporting this bill. 10 NJ Congressmen are supportive, and both State Senators. The current bill is an amendment of the 1965 education bill and includes support for environmental education. Includes environmental literacy plans, professional development and environmental education grants. (Bills: HR 2054 and S 866) \$100 million in 2010 to help states implement literacy and professional development including content knowledge and pedagogical skills development. States will have 1 year to implement funds. State Environmental Literacy Plans must be prepared prior to requesting funds. Congress will control amounts to be distributed. The objective of the interested public is to get more support from legislators, and thank those that are supportive. (Let them know why it is important to you!) For more information, contact www.ncicoalition.org or contact Pat Skelly. <Patriciaskelly1@gmail.com>
- John asked who would create the Environmental Literacy Plan and does the bill explain how it is to be created. Tanya answered that NAAEE has materials to assist these endeavors. DEP employees are pushing to have DEP and DOE prepare the plan. Our Plan of Action targets everybody, not just academic settings in K-12. Our Master Plan will include references to the literacy plan. NAAEE handout to be distributed for viewing. Both documents will refer to each other and work together. According to the law, ANJEE will also need to be involved.
- Report on National Environmental Education Act: Originally approved in 1990. Official funding ceased, but moneys were held at 9 million. The Presidents' new proposed budget approves 9 million for EPA EE office. The new bill proposes 14 million.
- Appropriation and NEEA reauthorization: This would strengthen the National EE Act and increase funding – support for this is less so that other bills above can get more support.
- Update on University Sustainability Grants Program: Passed August 14, 2008. Higher Education equivalent to Elementary and Secondary EE Act. Create programs to teach sustainability practices and integrate sustainability into other courses.
- Other – Environmental literacy study - www.fundee.org (“Green At 15”) Finding: US ranks 34th of 57 countries. Comments sought at site.

Draft Call to Action Update

- Status of draft plan pieces and content: Draft distributed to members. Brief time spent looking over document. Review of sections and topics.
- Timeframe for plan for public access: Initially the document needs to be reviewed by DEP staff and Commissioner. Public comment period to follow.
- Web site design and contents: (Fill in comments here)
- Next steps: Final plan to be presented to Commission in September

Special Presentation: Helen Rancan NJ Geological Survey

Earthcaching and Geocaching – Playing Hide-and-Seek in Nature (with a GPSr)

- Introduction to these caching activities
- How caches are developed, why and who uses them
- How activity helps to get people outdoors and in nature
- Questions and group discussion

Meeting wrap up and closing remarks

- Logistics for June meeting: Commissioner Mauriello will be attending the June 23rd meeting.
- Closing remarks