

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group AGENDA
Thursday, November 5, 2009
NJDEP Headquarters, Trenton
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Public Hearing Room, 1st Floor**

9:00 a.m. COFFEE AND TEA

- Sign in for public attendees who wish to provide comments on draft plan

9:30 Opening Remarks/Business Items

*Dale Rosselet,
Chair*

- Welcome, opening remarks and introductions
- September meeting notes (draft)
- E-motion regarding plan's title
- Review agenda/new business items

9:50 Draft Call to Action - Public Testimony

Dale Rosselet

- Listen to public testimony (if any) and collect copies
- Respond to questions from public attendees (if any) about plan

10:15 Draft Call to Action – Update on Activities

*Dale Rosselet
Tanya Oznowich,
NJDEP Staff*

- How DEP and NJAS have promoted draft plan
- Group discussion regarding how each member is promoting it
- Update on incoming comments (volume, interests)
- Update on review process and timeline for finalizing plan
- Updates/changes to NJCEE web site and plan's web site
- Highlighting plan at ANJEE conference – Friday/Saturday activities

11:00 BREAK

11:10 Earth Day/NJ Environmental Education Week

Tanya Oznowich

- 40th anniversary of Earth Day (international)
- Purpose of NJ EE Week and national
- Group discussion about promoting plan/contents this spring
- Formation of a committee

11:25 Federal Legislation Update

*Pat Skelly, and
(NJ EE Advocate)
Anne Galli,
Vice Chair*

- Update, if any, on *No Child Left Inside* Act activities
- Report on National Environmental Education Act Appropriation and NEEA reauthorization
- Update, if any, on other federal bills with EE components
- Update on ANJEE regarding EE advancement in NJ

11:45 a.m. Meeting Wrap Up

Tanya Oznowich

- Update on appointments and nominations procedures
- Reminder about ANJEE conference and awards promotions
- Meeting dates/logistics for 2010
- Meeting wrap-up and closing remarks

Dale Rosselet

**Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group Meeting Notes
Thursday, November 5, 2009**

Attendance:

NJCEE: Tanya Oznowich, Dale Rosselet, Anne Galli, Iris Duffield, Rich Belcher, Pat Skelly, Barbara Rich

IWG: Nicole Worland, Laura Scatena, Ray Nichols

Public/guests: Michael Chodroff, Marybeth Brenner, Cherice Smith, Zachory Lewis, Ebony Cintron, Bruce Barber, Hanna Toft

Opening Remarks/Business Items

- Welcome, opening remarks and introductions
- September meeting notes (draft) – no quorum; no vote this meeting
- E-motion regarding plan's title – unanimously approved by Commission members electronically
- Review agenda/new business items - no changes or additions

Draft Call to Action

1. Update/Review of Public Participation to Date

- An overview of how the plan has been distributed was discussed. Three public meetings were held around the State, each with a good turnout.
- Received input on plan from their expertise
- The Commission has been working with that information to come up with most recent draft

2. 11/5/09 Public Testimony

- Comments on the Plan were taken at this meeting. Feedback on the Plan was also requested from Commission members. Discussion around the comment is included in these notes as well.
- The decision was made to not take comments regarding copy editing because the Plan would be going to the editor and those errors would be fixed at that time.
- Section 5, Action 1, Parts B, C, D: There was a concern on how proper assessment would be achieved through the Plan. How effective will the assessment be and what is being created to properly assess the programs? (M. Chodroff)
 - Part of NJCEE's role is the overseer/facilitator of the assessments and the NJCEE is unfunded; there are no resources to come up with assessments and the plan is to look to the educational community for those assessments to see if the NJCEE is realizing its goals in the Plan. Consistency is key to create a product, not necessarily a test, that shows the application. Having something produced takes the pressure off of teachers to create something new.
 - What is the recommendation? If Federal law is passed, then a literacy plan will be based on course requirements and it will be up to the Dept. of Ed. (DOE) to pick up in assessments; funds can be secured from the DOE.
 - A statewide assessment would need to be federally approved if literacy plans are required. Part of the DOE's reporting mechanism is the assessments/feedback on the program; it was suggested to include language reflecting that and include discussion on funding. Teachers' feedback on the assessment portion of the Plan is important.
 - For consistency, it was recommended that the commenter submit a recommendation on the plan. Receiving and incorporating outside comments give additional weight to the Plan.

- For after school programs, it was recommended to focus on academic enrichment; highly recommend curriculum (developed with Liberty Science Center); use programs to pilot new courses/programs
- Strategic initiatives
- #1 and #2 – using ‘ecological’ and ‘systems’- what do others think about that? Very different than last plan (A. Galli)
 - Statement about what New Jerseyans value
 - On the right path comparing to Ballot question #1
 - The initiatives are on track and are similar to #4. What divides people are long v. short term goals; not doing enough long term planning. Another angle and potential 5th point: “Encourage the use of environmental examples and problems to be used by default in the instruction of math and science.” Everyone can use the sciences for problems. We don’t need to separate them from the “environment.” (B. Barber)
 - Social studies courses currently have several env. references; NJCEE needs to collect ideas and help support initiatives (T. Oznovich)
 - There was significant discussion on these points, i.e., planning and managing systems with respect to economical, social, and environmental issues; short vs. long term planning and priorities; perspectives on potential impacts (Film, “Sense of Wonder,” Rachel Carson’s impacts); how people develop perspectives at an early age with respect to teacher/classroom emphasis and involvement; historical data gathering on NJ programs; importance of understanding local resources/organizations
 - Teachers need to model behavior not just teach it; put together consistent “env. group/club” framework so students become advocates and not teachers; create a space on the web for current examples from teachers for others to review (M. Chodroff)
 - Incorporate language into the Plan reflecting that with an emphasis on green schools and programs (T. Oznovich)
 - Hybridize that language with the Sustainable Jersey program (outlines a plan with points; anticipated release of an updated version) and model program (D. Rosselet)
 - Reference the applications for Env. Excellence awards and post them as models (M. Brenner)
- Section 5 – Capacity building (T. Oznovich)
- Local provider is a teacher or outside advocate to assist schools
 - Absent from this section are student-led or directed initiatives
 - Section 6 – references to youth
 - Plan should not dictate what schools should do; only guidance
 - ANJEE – has funds to create directory but not people power to produce it; no searchable database currently; would become part of NJCEE’s tasks to guide it and get additional funding to make happen; need to maintain directory
 - Look at planning perspective regarding economic impact. Action #4 needs to incorporate env. and economic impact of those decisions and how it impacts “you;” tying in the correlation would help the educational and community decisions (Z. Lewis)
 - Comments were made regarding how these factors were reflected in the recent Ballot question. Education for adults vs. youth and real day/short term issues/concepts vs. long term strategies were discussed.
- Suggestion to develop an appendix documenting public outreach efforts in the final version (L. Scatena)

- The discussion was concluded by thanking the public for their comments and discussion. The feedback and comments will be reviewed for incorporation.

3. Update on Activities

- How DEP and NJAS have promoted draft plan
 - Online announcement sent to members to solicit to others; intended audience are the direct users are educators
 - DEP employees email and a session held
 - Future – smaller committees? To discuss
 - ANJEE alert – do a reminder?
 - ANJEC members announcement
 - EPA Region 2 (M. Ippolito)
 - Green schools network and committee
 - Env. Ed. News
 - There is currently a list of distribution lists
- Group discussion regarding how each member is promoting it (Deadline is Nov. 25)
 - Audobon – sent around and asked to share; one of major organizers of “Keep It Green”
 - DEP Air – listservs; web posting on program sites?
 - Sent through the Envirothon; 21st century groups; Grantees
 - John Henry, Green Schools committee (Green Building): highlighted where green building is referenced – specified audience’s interest in the message (took ownership)
 - Discussion on expanding recipients – env. consultants (critical group of people); Churches/GreenFaith; conservation districts (Dept. of AG); Rutgers Coop office; “Keep It Green” to send to members; DEP Councils and Commissions (Jason, DEP Contact)
 - NJCEE funding from env. foundations? Tanya keeping a list? Jim may have done that?
 - Messaging is critical. It needs to be tailored specifically to the audience. At least get them to read the exec. summary (start of process).
 - Tanya will resend generic message but people can tailor it to the audience
 - New “Basic” Message – If you talk to others about the env., we invite your comments on the plan for all of the citizens in NJ
 - Provide suggestions on who to distribute to with the new Administration
- Update on incoming comments (volume, interests)
 - A number have been received – 15? and they are diverse
 - Last plan – 40 comments
 - Goal is to have as many as possible
- Update on review process and timeline for finalizing plan
 - Nov. 25 deadline – extend?
 - After that, comments will be reviewed by a committee and be considered to make changes to the plan (meet in early Dec.)
 - Next meeting in Dec. and report back to the Commissioner
 - Timing distribution is key with recent election
 - Will provide documentation on public outreach
- Updates/changes to NJCEE web site and Plan’s web site
 - Members and meeting attendees encouraged to visit the site
 - Statistics were not reported
- Highlighting plan at ANJEE conference – Friday/Saturday activities
 - Annual conf. in Jan – would like to have it highlighted there; final hard copy available
 - Workshop on Sat. about the plan – “What is in it for me?” To show how it applies and shows what they are doing

- Addressing formal education on Friday and nonformal on Sat. – would like to make it prominent on both days

Earth Day/NJ Environmental Education Week

- 40th anniversary of Earth Day (international)
 - A lot of hype
 - 4th week in April
 - Earthdaynj.com
- Purpose of NJ EE Week and national
 - Showcase good examples of programs around the state, 3 week of April
- Group discussion about promoting plan/contents this spring
 - Promote field of env. ed. and all that is going on in NJ as “good” env. initiatives
 - Would like to do more; in the law to promote the week
 - Will be put on Dec. agenda
- Formation of a committee
 - New ideas welcome on how to promote
 - Collecting information already (online survey developed by the NJCEE)
- Members to think about what they and their constituents do to promote

Federal Legislation Update

- Update on *No Child Left Inside* Act activities
 - Designed to modify NCLB (elem. and secondary education act)
 - Provide professional development for teachers – not just a lack of time but lack of education on how to teach env. ed.
 - National coalition (450 member orgs); growing
 - Bills in the Senate and House – introduced on Earth Day 2009, 17 sponsors on Senate bill and 90 sponsors on House
 - Not much action due to discussions on global climate change and health care
 - Monthly update conference calls
 - Jan – more action will occur
 - For more information, contact Pat Skelly
 - Main action item – contact your local legislator to support this Bill
 - Bullet points are available on legislation to talk to legislators; Pat will write some specific to NJ
- “Education for a Green Economy”: 1% could go to Education for a Green Future, including green jobs and funding for 12 programs (another proposal)
- Report on National Environmental Education Act Appropriation and NEEA reauthorization
 - NEEA – never officially reauthorized; authorized by being funded each year; includes budget for EPA’s Env. Ed. Office (and grants)
 - \$9 million budget for this (Obama Admin.); still being considered. \$14 million on the table
 - Work in progress to write a stronger Env. Ed. Act
- Update on other federal bills with EE components
 - Not much movement because of other items
- Update on ANJEE regarding EE advancement in NJ
 - How to strengthen advocacy efforts; to develop policy in more public process; to become more proactive in communicating to individuals in the field (calls or emails)
 - EE advancement references in the plan to EE certifications (other states are doing and NJ watching); reviewing them as a professional association; guidance in ANJEE; interpretive naturalist program

- Pat will be developing message about educating everybody, lifelong; goal is to strengthen the network of support
- ANJEE conf. – Pat will be doing a workshop on Advocacy

Meeting Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

- Update on appointments and nominations procedures
 - Need to work internally to move forward
 - Next meeting goal but due to election may need to resubmit
 - Continue to be public members until process is resolved
- Reminder about ANJEE conference and awards promotions
 - Flyer provided
 - No funding to support Commission members
 - Ask/encourage Commission members to attend
 - Areas conformed to sections of the Plan
 - Student rates; scholarship fund being considered
 - Awards – link at the website (env. ed. awards at the conf.)
- Meeting dates/logistics for 2010
 - Not decided; in progress; will have by Dec. meeting. **Next meeting is Dec. 8**
- DEP awards – closed for this year; will be given in Dec.
- Recruiting for Rutgers Env. Stewards – next class, Jan. – June
 - Meets during the week and during the day
 - envirostewards.edu, 4 locations in the state. Contact Bruce Barber for more details.
- Soil conservation districts – new curriculum; new soils
- New newsletter by Carol Stratman (first elem. teacher on Commission)
- Posters available on Env. Ed.
- Request for a contact list of the Commission and meeting participants

Submitted by Laura Scatena on 11/09/09

