Joint Meeting of the New Jersey Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group - AGENDA
Tuesday, November 25, 2003
New Jersey Audubon Society’s Plainsboro Preserve, Plainsboro
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

8:40 a.m. Coffee, tea and morning snacks

9:00 a.m. Welcome and opening remarks from chair Joni Elliott &
- Welcome to new members/group introductions Tanya Oznowich
- Review agenda
- Review/acceptance of October meeting notes
- Recognition to Robert DeCiccio for past service on the NJCEE
- General updates and spring meeting list

9:30 Overview of important goals and features of EE research and surveys – Q/A Dr. Nicholas Smith-Sebasto

9:40 Round-robin group discussion - EE research questions
- Master list of EE research questions/topics will be compiled through a round-robin group discussion
- No debate is allowed/all input and ideas will be included

10:05 Clarification of EE research questions on the list
- Each item on list is read and discussed briefly for clarity
- Comments can be offered in agreement or opposition with each item

10:45 Prioritization exercise and BREAK
- Each participant will select 5 research topics/questions from the list that he/she perceives as most important. Each research topic/question is to be written on a piece of paper with the rank assigned to it
- Five pieces of paper will be submitted to facilitator from each person

11:10 Development of a priority list of EE topics/questions
- Facilitator collects notes and creates a final priority list of EE research questions and topics based on the sum of ranked values
- Summary of process and the results of the process

11:25 Additional Business Items:
- Next steps for survey – labels, supplies and budget Nick/Tanya
- Next steps for environmental primer – content and design Fletcher/Tanya
- Next steps for Plan of Action revisions – process and needs Dale/Tanya
- Reminder about January ANJEE conference Pat/Elizabeth

11:55 Meeting summary and closing remarks Joni Elliott
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Meeting Notes

IWG Attendees: Mimi Dunne, Elizabeth Faircloth, Joan Olawski-Steiner, Marc Rogoff
Honored Guests: Robert DeCicco and Nick Smith-Sebasto
EE Friends: Janice Reese-Berardo and Michael Skelly, Sr.

Meeting Notes:

* Joni Elliott, Chair, opened the meeting and provided brief remarks.

* Brian Vernachio, Director of the Plainsboro Preserve, welcomed the group (special thanks to New Jersey Audubon Society for use of their facility).

* NJCEE members approved the meeting notes for the October NJCEE/IWG meeting.

* Tanya provided formal remarks and presented a plaque to retired NJCEE member Robert DeCicco, for his time served on the commission as a representative of the New Jersey School Boards Association.

* John Shafranski was introduced to the group as a new member of the NJCEE. John is replacing David Nash as the representative of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association and is the Supervisor of Science for Edison Township Public Schools.

* Group members enjoyed the atmosphere of an “outside of Trenton” and “back to nature” meeting location and agreed to have some of our meetings in more scenic locations similar to the Plainsboro Preserve.

* Jim Shissias provided remarks about a federal coastal protection project and New Jersey’s activities related to it. He also provided information to the Plan of Action Committee about a grant opportunity (Environmental Endowment for New Jersey) and suggested that we apply for it for the Plan of Action revisions process.

* Tanya introduced Nick Smith-Sebasto to the group. Nick then facilitated most of the meeting by conducting the round-robin discussion points provided in our October meeting agenda. He also responded to questions or concerns about the teacher survey. Basic points include:
  - The survey will gauge the perceptions, attitudes, training, experiences, resources and methods that are had by New Jersey teachers regarding environmental education.
  - It will provide the NJCEE with “a handle” regarding how EE is working and being delivered in New Jersey. It is a baseline study and its findings should provide foundation for new Plan of Action strategies for schools and school-oriented activity.

* John S., John K., Anne Galli, Janice, Marc, Fletcher, Joni and Tanya agreed to review the follow-up information from this meeting. Nick offered to compile everything. Our list of ideas, along with a draft survey tool from Nick based on this input, would be circulated. Comments would be forwarded to Nick through DEP during the holidays and a revised survey tool would be circulated at the February meeting.