Joint Meeting of the NJ Commission on Environmental Education
And Interagency Work Group AGENDA
Thursday, January 14, 2010
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/Business Items
• Welcome and opening remarks
• Introduction of group members
• MOTION to accept December meeting notes (draft)
• Review agenda/new business items, if any

9:45 Call to Action and NJCEE/IWG Membership Status
• Status of Governor’s appointments to NJCEE
• Status of Cabinet level appointments to IWG
• Update on finalization of plan
• Meeting schedule for 2010 and spring plans for related activities
• Update on changes to the NJCEE/IWG web site contents

10:00 National and State EE/Education Updates
• EPA Region II EE grant proposal – ELP development (ANJEE)
• Updates from NJDOE regarding EE/science ed. interests
• ANJEE EE Conference Update
• Federal EE related legislation update

10:35 Earth Day/NJ Environmental Education Week
• 40th anniversary of Earth Day and EE Week – national themes
• Review of NJ web site contents/group discussion about changes to it
• Group discussion about using EE Week to promote CTA and EE initiatives
• The NJ Environmental Primer
• Formation of a committee

11:00 BREAK

11:10 Special EE Presentation
• Rutherfurd Hall – The Past, Present and Future
  - Using EE to Link Rutherfurd Hall and Mountain Villa School
    (Allamuchy Township School District)
  - Q/A and group discussion

11:40 a.m. Meeting Wrap Up
• EE announcements from group
• Logistics for next meeting
• Meeting highlights and closing remarks
• Departure at noon
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Thursday, January 14, 2010
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Attendance:
NJCEE: Tanya Oznowich, Iris Duffield, Barbara Rich, Dale Rosselet, John Shafransky, Mike Heinz, Marie Downes
IWG: Elizabeth Faircloth, Haydee Perez, Laura Scatena, Ray Nichols, Kyra Hoffmann
Public/guests/Nominees: Mike Chodroff, Joe Kociolek, Crystal Motlasz, Zachary Lewis, Neil McDonald, MaryBeth Brenner, Rebecca Jordan, Fields McDonald (Marie’s husband)

Opening Remarks/Business Items
- Welcome and opening remarks – the May 12 meeting will be held at the Willow School
- Introduction of group members
- MOTION to accept December meeting notes (draft) – No quorum; request for any changes/additions (none); vote at a later meeting or electronically
- Review agenda/new business items, if any:
  - MaryBeth – New item – update on Transition process
    - Announcement of new commissioner, Bob Martin (on BPU transition team)
    - Mark’s last day is noon on Tues.
    - No start date is known for the new Commissioner
    - Transition team met and created a draft report about the DEP to be given to Gov. Christie’s transition team – that team will review reports of all depts.
    - Commission was in a section of the report and the plan was mentioned
    - No other appointments have been made
    - Commission is established under state law
    - Other commissions have already been reviewed for efficiency
    - DOE (Heidi) – similar process; new Commissioner; everyone else is still there, Bret Shundler is the new Commissioner of DOE

Call to Action and NJCEE/IWG Membership Status
- Status of Governor’s appointments to NJCEE (Tanya, MaryBeth, Dale)
- Status of Cabinet level appointments to IWG
  - Current administration filling appointments to commissions not filled yet
  - This commission’s appointments have not made yet but may have been in the last batch yesterday; MaryBeth will keep the commission updated/any appointees should contact Tanya if they receive a letter
  - Everybody currently on the commission needs to be reappointed
- Dale – Update on finalization of plan
  - Completed draft copy
  - Small group reviewed comments and incorporated as appropriate (Shorter but integrity was kept)
  - Release of final plan: Wait for the new Administration to settle in and reflects new priorities before going to the editor before going Final.
  - Next steps: Format to hard copy, website; introduce to Legislature and others; implement
National and State EE/Education Updates

- **Tanya** – EPA Region II EE grant proposal – ELP development (ANJEE)
  - Solicitation notice last year, $32,000, to create environmental literacy plan
  - NJ does not have a literacy plan but it is needed
  - Has to be administered by the DOE
  - Partnership with ANJEE and DEP with the DOE Office of Math and Science
  - Applications currently being reviewed; notification will occur in April
  - Included in the application, a concept to create an EE electronic directory (what NJ offers in terms of EE services); an online searchable database of resources
    - ANJEE is working on Phase 1 of the directory – will be posted on the ANJEE website
    - Marc will maintain the database
  - If the law is passed, states have 1 year to develop the plan
  - 21st century declared a 4th goal (handout provided at the meeting)
    - What is the difference between ‘.com’ v. ‘.org’? Any influence over Federal DOE?
      - ‘.com’ was established prior to the federal program; many federal people attend their workshops
    - Handout Pgs. 1-3: address skills
    - Handout Pg. 4 – an initiative under career and technical information (Nancy Trivett); piloting a new curriculum, CASE; strong natural resource component

- **Mike Heinz** – Updates from NJDOE regarding EE/science ed. Interests
  - Meeting with 5-7 env. science teachers to write the core for the HS science courses, minimum standards
  - National Lab Day – White House initiative
    - Traditionally, 1 day in May that professionally refurbishes high school labs
    - Presently, a clearinghouse for science/math professionals to link to schools in a meaningful way
    - Nationallabday.org
    - Fits into NJ goal to get the community involved with schools (all levels, ages)
    - Should incorporate into the Commission’s plan/actions
    - Information will be provided at the ANJEE conference, newsletter, and/or online

- **Elizabeth Faircloth** – ANJEE EE Conference Update
  - 200 people registered for Fri., 150 for Sat.
  - Open until Jan. 21; cannot do walk-ins
  - Key note presentation on Sat. – option to just attend for that presentation, $10
  - Information available online, www.anjee.net

- **Dale** – Federal EE related legislation update
  - NCLI - See handout; the request is to help with the initiative, if your organization allows
  - Dale will submit a letter on behalf of the Commission

- **Tanya** – State health initiative – ECCS; family fun
  - Creating a model that other states are looking at
  - Will be online in May

Earth Day/NJ Environmental Education Week

- 40th anniversary of Earth Day and EE Week – national themes
- Formation of a committee for the forum and a separate committee for the EE Week/Earth Day
- 3rd week in April
- Proclamations usually occur – give about a month’s notice to the Governor’s office
• Goal: To make it an education-based initiative
• DEP anniv. date, as well
• Should use this opportunity to highlight NJCEE and the plan
• Review of NJ web site contents/group discussion about changes to it
• NJ online calendar of activities
• 2nd goal - talk to constituents about events in April so NJCEE can promote
• Videos of kids doing activities, interactive online media, give examples to put on the website
• Group discussion about using EE Week to promote CTA and EE initiatives
• Recommended actions for strengthening statewide structure and support for EE in New Jersey
• The Commission’s guiding document; agreed to put energy into
• May or may not be the lead org.; will play a role in the actions
• Action #10 – coordinating EE week and Earth Day activities
• Action #3 – leadership forum for strategic planning, etc.
• Jan., 25th EE conference
• Include Actions #4 and #5 as part of a teacher’s curriculum; have them implement; target science and art teachers
• Include existing curriculum and projects
• Top down and bottom up approach both need to happen but the bottom is already passionately involved and can influence the top
• Showcase school page on the State page; Facebook page?
• Mike Chodroff, Joey Kociolek, Zachary Lewis, Laura, Barbara – committee on recommendations for the next meeting
  • ANJEC supportive of a grassroots type approach and willing to work on these items
  • Link to these items to link to the State website
• Leadership Forum: Need a committee; law states that we need to do a global forum (did it once at the State House); would like to recreate it
• How often? Requests were made for monthly and quarterly meetings
• Promotional materials, media involvement
• Will be on the Feb. agenda
• Need natural resources professionals at the table
• Committee – Rebecca Jordan

Special EE Presentation
• **Rutherfurd Hall – The Past, Present and Future, Patrice Maillet, Director of Rutherfurd Hall**
  - Using EE to Link Rutherfurd Hall and Mountain Villa School (Allamuchy Township School District)
    • History of the property before the school was built
    • Highlands Act came into play
    • Partnership with Green Acres; Board contributed money
    • Came to be the Allamuchy State Park (Warren County)
    • Drawings of the school provided at the meeting; rooms available for use
    • Rutherfurd family remains to serve a major role
    • Outdoor classrooms
    • Community involvement
      - Senior citizens entrance
      - ADA compliance entrance
    • Solar panels on school (pre-K – 2)
    • Windmills on site
      - Both will be teaching tools
Hydroplant for the mansion – will apply for a grant to renovate
Enterprise Zone – that part of the building will be self-sufficient; no taxpayer dollars; any dollar raised over the cost of operations goes back to the community for tax relief
Maintain historical integrity
Maintain environmental integrity of the property
  ▪ Imported vegetation from around the world
  ▪ All construction done with this in mind
  ▪ Want to be involved with the NCLI efforts
Exit 19 off Route 80
Create pilot programs there?
Summer 2010 – pre-service program with for Env. Ed.
Before and after-school care
2-day workshop
Feb. 9, brainstorming session
- Q/A and group discussion
  How to go about getting the word out to use these facilities? Want to be able to continue the relationship among different govt. agencies
  Need to find ways to fund; get into some recurring funding opportunities
  Overnights available? School will open in Feb.; it will be available later; outdoor housing may be available (tents, etc.)
    ▪ Trying to explain to the community that the commerce will be increased by this; encourage visitors to stay at local hotels, eat at local restaurants, etc.
    ▪ Goal is to have weddings on the weekends
    ▪ Mansion could house about 100? Infrastructure exists.
    ▪ 9,000 acres; altering the land by gardens, farms, etc. might be an option
    ▪ The school is a LEED-certified building

Meeting Wrap Up
• Logistics for next meeting
  • Feb. 17, same time and place
• Email about the ANJEE conf. will go out this afternoon; tickets must be reserved even for the key note speaker
• Post-meeting for more discussion
• Formation of committees

Submitted by Laura Scatena on 1/20/10