



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building
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May 8, 1997

The Honorable James M. Seif
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

The Honorable John C. Oliver
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
PO Box 8767
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767

Dear Secretaries Seif and Oliver:

The Citizens Advisory Council and the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council have formed a Joint Environmental Education Committee. It has come to our attention that both agencies are interested in better defining and potentially elevating the role of environmental education within each department. We support this wholeheartedly and are very interested in participating in such an effort.

The Committee has been requested to review specific aspects of environmental education in each department. Rather than approach it piecemeal, we feel that it would be more productive to conduct a holistic review of the form and function of environmental education programs within both departments, providing advice for future direction. The Committee is very interested in pursuing this project, but requests some specific assurances, information and limitations before undertaking what could be a major task:

- First, we ask that you each clarify for us your "vision" of what elevating environmental education within your respective department and between the departments means to you, and what you hope to accomplish, both in the short term and in the long term.
- What are the parameters and limitations within which this task must be accomplished? Please define both those parameters which are not open for discussion, and those which you are willing to consider changing (e.g., staff complement, classification, and organization; operating budgets, infrastructure and capital resources; mission and goals; intra- and inter-departmental organization, roles and relationships; etc.)

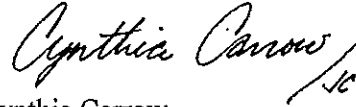
We would hope to work in close partnership with both departments and ask that you each designate a senior level staff liaison to work directly with the committee. To make the effort most productive, this individual should be at a decision-making level so that issue areas can be resolved and direction changed in a timely fashion when needed.

We hope that this approach is agreeable to both of you and meets your needs. We are available to discuss this further, either as a group or through Kurt Leitholf and Sue Wilson. We also ask that you respond to the above requests in writing as a means of communicating with the larger group and to help us stay on task and within agreed upon limitations. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Paulette Johnson in cursive script, followed by a small handwritten mark that appears to be 'JC'.

Paulette Johnson
CNRAC Cochair

Handwritten signature of Cynthia Carrow in cursive script, followed by a small handwritten mark that appears to be 'JC'.

Cynthia Carrow
CAC Cochair