



## Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, March 06, 2025, 10:00-11:40 AM

### Attendees

Lorraine Andrews, Meg Boyd, Jemima Clark, Chiara D'Amore, Katie Dell, Lee Derby, Emily Morrow, Isabel Layton, Olivia Wisner, Stephanie Tuckfield (OLP Co-Chair's Designee), Trystan Sill, Robert Godfried, John Adam Frederick (Working Group Co-Chair), Jacquelyn Freeman, Rick Garber (Working Group Co-Chair), Sarah Haines, Michelle Hickerson, Victoria Howard, Katrina Jones, Amy Lambert, Anna Manyak Davis, Chelsea McClure, Karen McDonald, Karen Fedor, Cindy Osorto, Jared Williams, Deborah Her Cornwell (Working Group Co-Chair), Larissa Pasco, Alexis Merriman, Thomas Waters Jr, Jo Anne Murray, Maria Prawirodihardjo, Payton Hesse, Swapnil Joshi, William Forester (Working Group Co-Chair), Zachary Carey (OLP Co-Chair's Designee), Karen Mullin (Working Group Co-Chair), Melanie Parker, Susanne Richards, Amy Sawyer, Mark Scallion, Trystan Sill, Shannon Sprague, Victoria Stone, Emily Stransky, Mary Westlund, Chris Wheedleton, Monica Wiedel-Lubinski

### Welcome & Meeting Began at 10:01

### Member Updates

- Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation (MAEF)
  - o [2 scholarships OPEN, due March 25<sup>th</sup>](#). Please share with your networks.
- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)



- Environmental Literacy Collaborative to be hosted on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- NorthBay
  - [The NorthBay Podcast](#) recently launched. The podcast is devoted to the power of outdoor learning. The first few episodes focus on outdoor school.
- DNR
  - Salisbury Professor Shane Hall is using the Conservation Careers Guide developed by Project Green Classrooms as part of a Green Futures Program. Trystan Sill and Emily Morrow attended a green careers panel.

### **OLP Working Group Updates**

- College and Green Careers Working Group
  - Next Meeting: TBD, survey of working group members forthcoming.
  - The working group is utilizing a logic model to chart the path for their shared work. The logic model includes background information, the current job landscape, current inputs and possible outputs.
- Access to Nature Working Group
  - Next Meeting: Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 3:00.
  - Used first meeting to better understand the responsibilities of the working group outlined in the Executive Order.
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will discuss what's been done with respect to Access to Nature in previous iterations of the Partnership.
  - Interest in inviting a researcher to speak to the working group about the social science that supports this work.



- Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group
  - o Next Meeting: TBD, survey of the working group members forthcoming.
  - o Used first meeting to discuss their “why” for choosing to participate in the Environmental and Climate Literacy working group.
  - o Members reviewed a draft timeline that back-maps their work over the next year.
- School Sustainability
  - o Used the first meeting to share updates about the Sustainable School Outcome of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, review the MAEOE Sustainable Schools Summit, and outline the goals defined by the OLP Executive Order.
  - o Going forward the working group members plan to share brief presentations about resources from their organizations that can support sustainable schools.
- Networks
  - o Next meeting: Friday, March 14th, 11:00-11:40. Interest in supporting the other working groups in engaging existing networks to further their OLP work.

### **Legislative Updates**

- o [HB0540 Maryland Green Schools – Website, Outreach, and Designations \(Green Schools Stewardship Act\)](#)

### **2025 Maryland Climate Education Week and Teach-In**

- Event Date: April 13-19, 2025 (flexibility for spring breaks).
- The [Maryland Climate Teach-In](#) is an annual week of events (K-Adult) focused on climate change education and solutions sponsored by the Education, Communication & Outreach (ECO) Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. It



brings together educators, students, and community members to discuss this critical issue and empower people to act to mitigate the causes of climate change.

- Confirmed participants will: receive a certificate of participation, receive school recognition at a Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting and on the MCCC webpage, be included on a report of participant to their Superintendent, be eligible for prizes.
- Please share this opportunity with your networks and consider registering an event.

### **Share-Out: Bridging Environmental Literacy and Career Pathways Workshop**

- Workshop hosted by the NOAA Environmental Science Training Center in collaboration with DNR and MSDE, held on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The workshop highlighted the opportunities to advance green careers through the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Pillar III: College and Career Readiness- by 2031, at least 45% of ALL Maryland high school graduates must complete a [registered youth apprenticeship](#) or earn an [industry-recognized credential \(IRC\)](#).
- Discussion:
  - o Guest speakers at the workshop that shared that an interest in robotics and Legos led them to pursue their studies in oyster population monitoring. What other nontraditional pathways encourage student to pursue green careers?
  - o Travel can be a barrier to participating in some internships and apprenticeships.
  - o [Green jobs as defined globally with references from UNESCO.](#)
  - o MSDE and the [Career & Technical Education Committee](#) of the Governor's Workforce Development Board maintain a state-approved list of Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs) that have been vetted and meet standards.



- Office of School Facilities has [A Practical Guide to Planning, Constructing, and Using School Courtyards](#) and collaborates with schools and the IAC to make recommendations for school renovations and new construction.

### **Summary: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum**

- Hosted Feb 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) with support from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).
- The goals of the Forum were to develop an understanding of how local leaders make funding decisions, craft messages that demonstrate the value of environmental literacy, and identify key partners and tools for strategic outreach.
- Consider registering for the [2025 Environmental Literacy Forum | Virtual Recap](#) and sharing with your networks.
  - o March 21st, 2025, 9 AM to 12 PM
  - o This session will provide a recap of resources shared at the in-person Environmental Literacy Forum

### **Collaborating in Dropbox**

- Members reviewed guidance on creating and editing collaborative documents and presentations.
  - o When creating a document or presentation in Dropbox, it is best to use Microsoft Word or Microsoft PowerPoint.
  - o When editing or collaborating on a document or presentation in Dropbox, users must select "open with" and then "Word for the web" or "PowerPoint for the web".

**Meeting Closed at 11:34**