



## Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) December Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 12

### Attendees:

Alexis Merriman, Brenda Miller, Chris Wheedleton, Coreen Weilminster, Dana McCauley, Jemima Clark, Jillian Storms, Jo Anne Murray, J. Adam Frederick, Katrina Jones, Karen McDonald, Kristen Komlosy, Larissa Pasco, Laura Collard, Mary Westlund, Meg Boyd, Semaj Tucker, Shannon Sprague, Stephanie Tuckfield, Victoria Howard, Zachary Carey, Andrew Walker, Payton Hesse, Ela Carpenter, Cindy Orsoto, Katie Dell, Anna Davis, Monica Wiedel-Lubiniski

### Welcome & Meeting Began at 10:00

- Thanks to all for contributing to and attending the November OLP Leadership Meeting

### Member Updates

- **Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE)**
  - Registration is open for the [MAEOE Conference](#), held in Ocean City, Maryland from February 6-9; scholarships are available; February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> feature the sustainable schools pre-conference summit, including speakers Dr. Andraé Townsel (Superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools), a representative from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and keynote address from Symone Barkley; this year's conference celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Green Schools and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MAEOE conference.
- **Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network (MELAN)**



- MELAN is kicking off an initiative to add 50 members in 50 days to the network; reach out to Jemima Clark ([melan@maeoe.org](mailto:melan@maeoe.org)) to join.
- **Youth Climate Institute (YCI)**
  - Howard County student speaker, James Obasiolu, shared his excitement and thanks for the opportunity to address OLP's members and leaders including Maryland Secretaries, and the State Superintendent during the November Leadership meeting and for all the support demonstrated.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**
  - The [Chesapeake Executive Council](#) met earlier this week setting the expectation of having a revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (CBWA) next year; discussion touched on the importance of youth and community support.
    - CBWA's Environmental Literacy Goal and Outcomes is relevant to our work.
    - ACTION: reach out to Shannon Sprague ([shannon.sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:shannon.sprague@noaa.gov)) to contribute to outcome revision.
  - NOAA will not be releasing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant this year but is hoping to next year.
- **Association for Nature Based Education (ANBE) (formerly Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools (ERAFANS))**
  - 8<sup>th</sup> year of [nature based teacher certification course](#) for early childhood educators and offered as a week-long in person course in multiple locations or as a 6-week online course; both models provide 36 hours of training for MSDE credit.
  - ANBE's [3<sup>rd</sup> winter solstice teacher retreat](#) was held this month and spring solstice retreat will be held in 2025.



- Public comment period for the [Outdoor, Nature-Based Child Care License Pilot Program](#) recently ended and will be discussed in the Maryland State Board of Education's January Meeting; reach out to Monica Wiedel-Lubinski ([director@anbe.org](mailto:director@anbe.org)) if you'd like to learn more.

#### - **University System of Maryland (USM)**

- USM Environmental Literacy Summit held December 10, increasing networking with Local Education Agency (LEA) Science Supervisors and USM; Craig Strang from Berkeley provided CA's example, looking to Chancellor to look for philanthropy opportunities and branching out to partners strategically.

#### - **Maryland State Department of Education**

- U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School (ED-GRS) application window for Maryland has closed; Maryland review shall begin this month, with nominations being made in February.

### **OLP Updates: Calendar & Working Groups (WG)**

#### - **2025 Schedule**

- January—Partnership Meeting 1/16/25, plus individual meetings with WG Co-chairs
- February—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)
- March—Partnership Meeting 3/6/25
- April—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)
- May—Partnership Progress Meeting 5/8/25
- June—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)
- July—Partnership Meeting 7/10/25
- August—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)
- September—Partnership Meeting 9/11/25



- October—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)
- November—OLP Annual Meeting (date & time TBD)
- December—Working Group Meetings (dates & times TBD by each WG)

#### - **Working Groups**

- WG engage as independent communities of process, each identifying initiatives and recommendations for consideration by the full Partnership and reporting efforts during full Partnership meetings.
- WG meeting times will be determined with WG member input and are not required to meet on Thursdays at 10 AM; WG meetings led WG Co-Chairs will begin in February.
- WG meetings must be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and post information on the OLP Website.
- *Representatives may choose to only attend Partnership meetings or WG meetings, depending on interest and availability.*

#### **Meet & Greet: Working Group Breakouts**

- ACTION: confirm your availability to meet, so that WG co-chairs may determine meeting date and time via When2Meet (data based on information provided in WG survey):
  - Environmental and Climate Literacy: <https://www.when2meet.com/?27828193-LUxG9>
  - College and Green Career: <https://www.when2meet.com/?27831523-klja9>
  - Access to Nature: <https://www.when2meet.com/?27832160-7IK9u>
  - School Sustainability: <https://www.when2meet.com/?27832935-8nX1G>

#### **Public Comment**

- None.

**Meeting Closed at 11:00am**