



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) May Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thursday, May 15, 2025, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Attendees: Alexis Merriman, Amy Sawyer, Anna Manyak Davis, Chelsea McClure, Chiara D'Amore, Cindy Osorto, Coreen Weilminster, Dana McCauley, Emily Morrow, Emily Stransky, Hannah Sturm-IAC, Jared Williams, Jemima Clark, Jo Anne Murray, Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Karen Mullin, Katrina Jones, Larissa Pasco, Lee Derby, Lindsey Walker, Lorraine Andrews, Maria Prawirodijardjo, Mary Westlund, Melanie Parker, Michelle Hickerson, Payton Hesse, Sarah Haines, Serenella Linares, Shannon Sprague, Susanne Richards, Victoria Stone, William Forrester, Zachary Carey, Stephanie Tuckfield, Chris Weedleton, Adam Frederick, Tracy Kyttle

Welcome & Meeting Began at 10:01

Working Group Updates (5 mins per WG)

- Access to Nature: most recently heard from national initiative on outdoor school for all in order to make recommendations based on best practices. Oregon state example with high percentage of students receiving outdoor experiences. Next steps include processing and building towards recommendation in next meeting.
- Networks: reviewed MELAN GenThrive, Environmental Literacy Plan Template, Collaborative and HQIM and Chesapeake Bay Program ELit Outcomes.
- Environmental and Climate Literacy: focused on three buckets 1-assessing the landscape and where we can provide guidance; 2-higher education and environmental literacy and outdoor learning strategies; 3- opportunities to expand and reinforce environmental and



climate literacy. Next meeting we are looking for collaboration and diving into recommendations.

June 25th at Phillip Merrill Center MACE Conference

- College and Green Careers: in person, 3-hour meeting at IMET last week where 2 recommendations were drafted including: 1- recommending CTE pathway in environmental sustainability; and 2- AI model proposal to support interaction with and access to resources for green and sustainability work (examples of application could include creating CTE syllabus, improving access to data and information; audience could include OLP and its partners, educators, Maryland public). Workgroup organizing work in logic models and open to input on and resources for AI model.
Feedback included: application of model to include information on volunteer events.
- School Sustainability: reviewed draft environmental literacy goal for district planning

Environmental Literacy & Workforce Development in Maryland

- MD Blueprint Pillar III: College and Career Readiness ([Overview](#))
 - o By 2031, 45% of graduates must complete a registered youth apprenticeship or an industry-recognized credential (IRC)
 - o Registered apprenticeships must have 144 hours of related instruction (RI) and 250 hours of paid on the job training (OJT) as [defined by Governor's Workforce Development Board \(GWDB\)](#)
 - o Over 700% growth in apprenticeships since 2020 and myriad of ways that these opportunities are made available to students.



- [Industry-Recognized Credentials \(IRC\)](#): find the [current list of IRCs](#) and [Governor's Workforce Development Board \(GWDB\) Career and Technical Education \(CTE\) Committee](#) meetings where MSDE made recommendations to committee that reviews IRCs; MSDE will also send out new list of approved IRC, sample template, and strong IRC example when available.
- New IRC applications open from 8/1-10/31
- Note that students are also supported through a career connected learning system in a system being built where career coaches in secondary school can support all students on their paths.
- Traditional CTE program is moving to 'core flex' model with multiple on- and off-ramps to improve accessibility of CTE and academic pathways.
- [MSDE's College and Career Readiness Guidebooks](#) offer support for integration of college and career readiness in academic content.
- Reach out to MSDE Staff if you need support with Internships or IRCs (Apprenticeships and Internships- jennifer.griffin@maryland.gov, IRCs- pamela.clay@maryland.gov, CTE Partnership-william.forrester@maryland.gov)

Member Updates

- Amy Sawyer: interested in focus on reaching Spanish speaking community.
- MELAN: regional hub and community practice meetings ongoing this spring and work has included inventory of informal EE in local counties; GenThrive relaunch in next week with updated contact list and data and webinar on how to use GenThrive in June; email Jemima if interested in learning more and adding organization to the database.



- MAEOE: 54 new schools awarded as [Maryland Green Schools](#) bringing total green schools to 39%; 2,000 students planning to attend [Youth Summit](#) and open to more exhibitors particularly for green careers and internship opportunities and also volunteers.
- [MCCC ECO Climate Teach-In](#): more than tripled participation 223 educators representing about 100 schools and organizations; prize winners will be selected next.
- Additional events and resources shared: [Maine Climate & Me Youth Leadership](#); [Urban Forestry Careers Camp at UMCP](#), July 13-19; Bill related to local planning efforts - [SB 266/ HB 286](#) ; [Climate Art 101 Course](#); [Wethehopeful video](#).

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

- [ELIT Survey Results](#)
- Outcomes for Revised Watershed Agreement
 - o Two outcomes (Student Experiences and School District Planning) instead of three, shifting sustainable schools as stand-alone outcome to an indicator of success in the district planning outcome.
 - o Student Experiences Outcome: Continually increase the number of students who participate in inquiry-based environmental literacy instruction working towards at least one Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience in each elementary, middle, and high school.

Target: By 2040, state targets are reached that result in 75% of public school students being enrolled in a school district that offers a MWEE for all students.

By 2040, 97% of public school students in Maryland will be enrolled in a school district that offers a MWEE for all students.



- School District Planning Outcome: Continually increase the number of school districts that have policies and practices in place that support environmental education and sustainable schools.

Target: By 2040, all jurisdictions reach their target for the number of school districts that are well prepared to deliver a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy.

By 2040, 86% of school districts in Maryland are well prepared to deliver a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy.

- Next steps: public comment this summer and signed by Governors in fall/early winter.

OLP Updates

- Reflecting on our past and future work:
 - August 30-Deadline for drafting recommendations;
 - November 1- Final Annual Reports and Recommendations Submitted to OLP; and
 - Late November/Early December- Annual Meeting, voting on Annual Report & Recommendations.
- OLP Communications
 - Listserv: internal communication between OLP members/representatives to share opportunities or ask questions of the full partnership
 - Newsletter: external communication from OLP to the public, issued quarterly to share opportunities, resources, etc.; first issue anticipated in May and sign up will be available on DNR website



Public Comment

- None

Meeting Closed at 11:58