



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) Networks Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Friday, April 11, 2025, 11:00-11:30 AM

Attendees: Bart Merrick, Zachary Carey, Stephanie Tuckfield, Jemima Clark, Payton Hesse,
Shannon Sprague

Welcome & Meeting Began at 11:03

Member Updates

- MELAN
 - o [Gen:Thrive](#) update: new tools and data visualization platform to provide better searching and resolution are under construction; re-launch is imminent and will show Maryland progress.
 - o Lower Shore meeting with MELAN happened recently with over 20 participants.
 - o Upcoming event: Blacks of the Chesapeake on April 22th at Earl Conservation Center, West St. (Elktonia Carr's Beach).
- MSDE
 - o LEA Environmental Literacy Plan Template is currently in development and incorporating feedback from LEAs; Network WG will be invited to provide feedback on next draft in the future.
 - o Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS) and National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA) Conferences emphasis on climate and sustainability education—[some session materials can be found online](#).



- DNR

- o Newsletter update: recently met with DNR communications and currently liaising with Governor's office; quarterly newsletter is recommended by DNR communications; first issue target is end of May (after partnership meeting) and will have option to share a quick bulletin if needed. Audience will not be limited to OLP representatives; sign-up will be available on DNR OLP website.

- CBP

- o Outcome Targets-Maryland discussion (Payton, Olivia, Stephanie, with NOAA optional) shall determine what percentage change is Maryland comfortable with prior to regional meeting with NOAA. Example from another state:

OUTCOME: Continually increase the number of students who are participating in inquiry-based environmental literacy instruction. OUTPUT: By 2035, 85% of the student population will be enrolled in a school district that offers a curriculum-embedded MWEE, with a target of at least one MWEE each in elementary, middle, and high school (reasoning: Based on 2024 ELIT data, 75% of students in Virginia are enrolled in a division with at least one MWEE K-12. That is an increase from 68% in 2017.

OUTCOME: Continually increase the number of school districts that have policies and practices to support environmental education and sustainable schools. OUTPUT: By 2035, the number of school districts in each state that are more prepared to deliver a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy will increase by 10% points, with a state target of 32% being well prepared. (reasoning: Based on 2024 ELIT data, 22% of divisions are well prepared, compared to 18% in 2017. This number is a little



harder to move because it takes into account several factors, but we wanted to be aggressive. Most of our divisions (around 60%) fall into the somewhat prepared category.)

- MAEOE
 - o Green Schools announcements pending and Youth Summit to happen on May 29.

Meeting Closed at 11:39