

Governor Martin O'Malley's

# Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

John R. Griffin, Chair

Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Nancy S. Grasmick, Chair

State Superintendent of Schools,

Maryland State Department of Education

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December 19, 2008  
North Point State Park  
10-12 a.m.

- I. Welcome Dr. Gasmick
  - o Bob Iman gave a brief history of North Point State Park
- II. **EL Summary** – Kevin Maxwell
  - o summarized the four key workgroup goals
  - o Mark discussed the vision for EL – will work to make it a more cohesive document
  - o Don Baugh mentioned the NCLI coalition has a side-by-side comparison. There are many overlaps, and some additional recommendations were highlighted.
  - o Dr. Grasmick (1) Partnership review these recommendations; (2) – EL workgroup review recommendations, so when the Partnership meets next time, we can have some final decision
  - o Eric S. – for GS recommendation, talk with MAEOE regarding filling in concrete dates.
  - o Tracey Bowen – U.S. Green Building Council is focusing on schools now and may have some funding.
  - o Mark – EE is powerful tool that will make schools relevant to kids. Pulls together teachers, custodial staff, students.
  - o Becky Bell – working with MEA and developing partnerships with utility co's. Goal is to power down the school. Cecil County saved 35% on bills
  - o Heather White – priorities – Energy Infrastructure Education using the economic stimulus package to garner funding
    - Short term and long-term job creation.
  - o Dr. Grasmick – met with Obama staff – re: service learning
- III. **C & PL Workgroup Update**
  - o Working with a large group of people to get input
  - o Subgroups working on detailed plans
  - o National experts from around the country provided feedback
  - o Tracy – this group is unique in that education overlaps with the community

- Jackie – Bills of Rights will be a challenge to merge together, but will be great when they are.
- Tracy – Overlap among workgroups
  - access to open areas
  - connection to nature is connected to education
- Review of recommendations
  - SYH
    - Concern for urban areas and if they could do SYH where they have all concrete
- Review of barriers
- Rebecca Beecroft – would like to see the regional coordination of teachers systematically put in place (for GS, SYH, outdoor ed)
- Sarah B. – this highlights the need for merging the two separate plans
- Rebecca Beecroft – No language for “highly qualified” teachers, which brings up a whole set of issues
- Dr. Grasmick – need to work with higher ed to get highly qualified teachers.
- Becky Bell – That is why this EE endorsement is critical: It is the first step to getting an EE Certification
- Dr. Grasmick – Change EL recommendation to not require this, but create steps to move towards it.
- Dr. Grasmick
  - It is important to see the intersection of the recommendation
  - Any curriculum development needs to be done in tandem with MSDE.
  - Need to have the process fit within the existic rubric (Master Plan for each school system)
- Steve Barry -- the curriculum is there, it needs to be supported and barriers removed
- MSDE staff to review the language: Rebecca, Becky, Nancy Carey
- Pat Delaney – need to make sure we don’t do this as an “add on” – that this gets integrated into the curriculum.
- Heather – There are jobs (stimulus package) creation being recommended.

#### **IV. Public Opinion Poll – Allen Hance**

Allen talked about the key findings

#### **V. Overview of Plan outline – Sarah Bodor**

- Sarah gave an overview of what the plan would look like
- Allen Hance – lets provide Sarah with some guidance on how to merge the recommendations because that is the strength of this plan

## VI. Timeline

- January 9, 2009 – to the Partnership
- January 26, 2009 – To the Governor
- Tracy – get public input January 5, 2009 and give people one week to respond.
- Jamie – can do in-person listening session
- Allen – gather a group to look at how the plans are organized b/c EL Group is policy oriented and C & PL is programmatically organized and how we can merge the two financially.
- Tracy – would like a stimulus package proposal put together for January.
  - Allen, Heather, Don Baugh, Tracy

### Attendees

Elena Takaki - DNR  
Rebecca A. Beecroft, WCPS  
Patricia R. Delaney – Garrett County  
Allen Hance – CBT  
Sarah Haines – MAEOE  
Mark Hevzeg – HCPS  
Kevin Maxwell – AACPS  
Sydney L. Cousin – HCPSS  
Don Baufut – CBF  
Bill McDonald - Discovery  
Heather White – NWF  
Sarah Bodor – Writer  
Tracy Bowen – AFF  
Jackie Carrera – P & PF  
Ansu John (sitting in for Bob Hoyt – Montgomery Co. DEP)  
Stephen Barry – Arlington Echo & AACPS  
Kevin Bell – MSDE  
Nancy S. Grasmick – MSDE  
Eric Schwaab - MD DNR (for Selty Griffin)  
Nancy Carey – MSDE  
Dawn Lynch Jones – MSTA  
Kathryn Foat – MD Zoo In Baltimore  
Steve McCoy – MD DNR – Maryland Park Service  
Jamie Baxter – Chesapeake Bay Trust  
Catherine Shanks - MD DNR  
Cindy Etgen – MD DNR  
Charlie Stack – NCLI Coalition  
Laura Murray – U.M.D. Center for Environmental Science  
Claudia H. Donegan – DNR

Joe Harber – National Aquarium

Pat Rebeson - Maryland Geographic Alliance

Jeff Horan – MD DNR

Mary Rivkin – U.M.B.C.

Bob Dulli - National Geographic

Gabriel Albornoz – Montgomery Co. Dept. of Recreation