



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

Date and Time: Thurs, Dec 18, 2025, 10:00-10:55 AM

Attendees: Bart Merrick, Stephanie Tuckfield, Shannon Sprague, Olivia Wisner, Jemima Clark

Meeting Began at 10:00

Maryland Environmental Literacy Advisory Network (MELAN) Updates

- MELAN meeting 12/17/2025 was a success
- More luck engaging the non-profit providers as weavers than representatives from the local education agencies (LEA)
- Baltimore City –update from K Garner, using Canvas LMS to document artifacts of Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). Anne Arundel may also use
- 5 regional hubs up and running (SMD, WMD, Lower Shore, Mid Shore, Frederick Area)
 - o Anne Arundel and Harford Counties added as county hub
 - o Annapolis Maritime Museum might serve as the weaver
- Jemima submitted CBT Capacity Building grant to leverage Green Schools data
- Jan 8th in-person MELAN meeting around professional learning
- Are participants in regional meetings generally formal or non-formal? It's a mix, dependent on who the weavers invite but generally more non-formal.
- Alice Ferguson Foundation weavers attended a meeting at the St. Mary's Commission on the Environment, invited participants from the Southern Maryland Hub. Follow up meeting on Jan 12th to Build Hub participation.
- Western Regional Hub meeting attended by Science Supervisor for Allegany County



OLP Action: Maintain and Align State Networks Supporting Environmental Literacy

- Need to define networks and communication pathways
- Increase WG meetings time to do some work; need to develop a scope and one-pager for each network that exist
- Put networks in buckets- active, interest, potential
- Next steps define questions we want to ask
- Set up time to meet with Melissa to discuss Maryland State Park (MSP) networks
- MELAN hubs are regionally focused; we need something similar at the state level
- Implementing this action:
 - o Step 1- develop a list of existing networks. Pull from the Gen:Thrive list that already exists/ invitees to the MELAN regional hubs.
 - o Step 2- What are the networks? What do they do? What are the existing communication pathways? Then identify the gaps.
- Want to strengthen the state level network of LEA points of contact with the non-formal providers.
- OLP meetings are open to the public, Sec Kurtz encourages statewide participation in the Partnership
- MAEOE has recently hired a data specialist, working to develop one-pagers for each county around Green Schools

OLP Recommendation: Hire an Environmental Literacy Specialist at Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- Agenda item not reached.

Action Items:

- Jemima to book a MAEOE office space for Networks meeting on Jan 14th at 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401- Earl Conservation Center
- Homework: identify the networks that are working to make change state-wide



- Olivia to draft agenda 1/14 and add address to calendar invitation
 - o Networks action
 - o ELit Specialist Recommendation
 - o Determine a new meeting time for the Networks WG in 2026 that is longer than a half hour

Meeting Closed at 10:55