



Maryland Outdoor Learning Partnership (OLP) Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Thurs, Nov 6th 2025, 10:00 – 12:30

Attendees

Stephanie Tuckfield (Co-Chair's Designee), Olivia Wisner, Isabel Layton, Emily Morrow, Trystan Sill, Jenn Brown-Whale, Jillian Storms, Maria Prawirohardjo, Jo Anne Murray, Will Forrester, Karen Fedor, Lisa Jones, Deborah Herr Cornwell, Susannah Beckerman, Larissa Pasco, Michelle Hickerson, Mark Scallion, Emily Stransky, Karen Mullin, Tom Ackerman, Lorraine Andrews Warnick, Victoria Stone, Laura Johnson Collard, Jemima Clark, Diane Lill, Lee Derby, Andrew Walker, Lindsey Walker, Anna Davis, Rick Garber, Amy Sawyer, Victoria Howard, Dr. Melanie Parker, Joanna Pi-Sunyer, Katie Dell, Meg Boyd, Chris Wheedleton, Christina Gladmon, Adam Frederick, Chelsea McClure, Monica Wiedel-Lubinski

Welcome

Stephanie Tuckfield (Co-Chair's Designee)

Review Voting Procedure

Olivia Wisner

- The decision-making process we follow is outlined in the OLP Procedures and Bylaws document, and follows a structure inspired by Robert's Rules of Order.
- A quorum of OLP members must be present to hold a vote.
- A simple majority is required for a motion to pass.

Voting: OLP Actions & Recommendations

Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group Actions

- Action: Strengthen and incorporate environmental literacy in teacher preparation programs. The action was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 25 yes, 2 no, 1 abstaining vote.
- Action: Elevate climate literacy by establishing guidelines for a Climate Literate Maryland Graduate. The action was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 27 yes, 0 no, 1 abstaining vote.

School Sustainability Working Group Actions

- Action: Facilitate a gathering of LEA facilities and operations staff around sustainability. This action included a friendly amendment from the School Sustainability Working Group to include "with OLP and MAEOE" a descriptive sentence in the action so that it reads "Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) will co-host the series with OLP and MAEOE and provide high-level support to shape strategy, content, and outreach. The action was approved with the friendly amendment for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining votes.

Networks Working Group Actions

- Action: Maintain and align state networks supporting environmental literacy. The action was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report with 28 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining votes.

College and Green Careers Working Group Actions

- Action: Develop a local AI search and modeling program pilot to help OLP synthesize and analyze large volumes of information related to environmental literacy programming specific for Maryland with a strong focus on career connections and climate resilience lessons. There was a motion to send this action back to the working group for more clarification. The motion was approved, receiving 13 yes, 12 no, and 3 abstaining votes. This action will not be included in the OLP Annual Report.
- Action: Update the 2020 MD Conservation Careers Guide to include new industries, career spotlights, and chapter on MD Youth Apprenticeships. The action was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstaining votes.

Access to Nature Working Group Actions

- Action: Work to create equitable access to Outdoor Learning for All Maryland Students through the establishment of an ad hoc committee on data. The action was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 26 yes, 0 no, 1 abstaining vote.

Environmental and Climate Literacy Working Group Recommendations

- Recommendation: Revise Maryland's teacher preparation policies and program requirements to ensure that all pre-service teachers receive training in environmental literacy across content disciplines. The recommendation was approved as written for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report, receiving 19 yes, 4 no, 3 abstaining votes.
- Participants were informed of staffing transitions currently underway within the Science Branch at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and directed to address any questions to Dr. Elise Brown, Assistant State Superintendent for Instructional Programs, elise.brown@maryland.gov.

School Sustainability Working Group Recommendations

- Recommendation: The Governor will establish a Maryland Sustainable Schools week to promote sustainable schools and to highlight the achievements of Pre-K-12 Maryland Green Schools. This recommendation included friendly amendments from the working group, updating the suggested implementor from "Maryland General Assembly" to "Governor's Office" and the addition of the phrase "Pre-K – 12." The recommendation with friendly amendments was approved with unanimous consent for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report.

Networks Working Group Recommendations

- Recommendation: The Environmental Literacy Specialist position at the Maryland State Department of Education be both (1) maintained during any assessment of PINs for alignment with mission priorities and (2) granted an exemption from the current state hiring freeze. There was a motion to approve this recommendation as written. The motion received 3 yes, 17 oppose, 3 abstain votes. The motion did not pass to approve this recommendation as written. A second motion was offered to amend the language to "Maryland State Department of Education reinstate and hire the Environmental Literacy Specialist position." This motion was accepted with 19 yes, 0 no, 5 abstaining votes. The amended recommendation was approved for inclusion in the OLP Annual Report receiving 19 yes, 0 no, 5 abstaining votes.

Public Comment

- Former Congressman John Sarbanes complimented OLP on the Partnership's collective work.

Preparations for the Leadership Meeting

- Agenda item not reached.

Meeting Closed at 12:59