

# Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

Charles C.G. Evans, Jr., Chair

Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

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State Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

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**January 22, 2015 – Quarterly Partnership Meeting**  
held at Chesapeake College, 1000 College Cir., Wye Mills, MD 21679  
in the Higher Education Center, room HEC 213

## Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome, introductions, overview – *Kristin Saunders, Assistant Secretary, DNR*
- 10:10 – 10:40 **Guidance for our work**, updates – *Kristin Saunders, Britt Slattery, DNR; Gary Hedges, MSDE*
- CIN Recommendations to Gubernatorial Transition
  - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Environmental Literacy Management Strategy
  - MSDE Environmental Literacy Implementation Plan
- Discussion – *input will contribute to Bay Agreement management strategy development.*

10:40 – 11:30 **Planning for 2015** – breakout discussions

*What is needed in order to develop more environmentally literate young citizens in Maryland? To answer this ongoing question, participants will break into small discussion groups to look at needs and opportunities for action items for the Partnership in 2015. Resulting ideas will be used by the Steering Committee to develop the 2015 CIN Action Plan.*

Groups will be organized by topics as below, and each participant will work with two different topics. A list of highlights of CIN work done in these areas to date will be provided. Groups will brainstorm what is missing and what still needs to happen, then generate ideas for action items that the Partnership could do this year. Participants will be asked to consider and offer suggestions on **resources** and potential **opportunities** (including what they might be able to contribute directly) and **new partners** or stakeholders to bring to the table.

- **Means** – Do we have the means in place in all areas necessary to be successful? This group will discuss the “who and how” to engage (examples: reaching diverse audiences, preparing teachers, engaging parents/families, broadening partnerships, etc.).
- **Content** – “What” are some content areas we need to address in ways that we are not currently (such as climate change, big picture conservation issues, increased outdoor experiences, health considerations)?
- **Access** – Is nature accessible for all schools and communities? What are some areas that need attention to be sure all children have the “where,” i.e., green spaces available and easily accessed, transportation to natural areas, programming in parks and interest among families, and more.

11:30 – 11:45 **Exchange summaries from breakout groups**

11:45 – 12:00 Announcements

12:00 **Adjourn** – next meeting April 22 (see below) – *THANK YOU for your participation!*

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## 2015 Partnership meetings – mark your calendar!

*The full Partnership meets quarterly, with two meetings per year coinciding with Leadership Team meetings. The Steering Committee meets monthly. Workgroups meet periodically as needed and welcome participation from all interested.*

- **April 22** (Happy Earth Day!) -- Quarterly membership and Leadership Team meetings, at MD Dept of Natural Resources, Tawes Building, 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401 -- exact times (a.m.) tba.
- **July 23** -- Quarterly membership meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center, 5110 Meadowside Land, Rockville, MD 20855.
- **October 21** -- Quarterly membership and Leadership Team meetings at the Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201 -- exact times (a.m.) tba.