

Governor Martin O'Malley's

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

John R. Griffin, Chair

Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Bernard J. Sadusky, Chair

Interim State Superintendent of Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

January 19, 2012

10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401
in the Lower Level Conference Rooms 112 & 114

Meeting Agenda w/ Minutes submitted by Cindy Etgen, MD DNR

10:00 **Welcome** – *Earl F. “Buddy” Hance, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture*

Mary Cary introduced Secretary Buddy Hance after thanking him for hosting the Partnership meeting and signing ceremony. Secretary Hance sees this Partnership as a great opportunity to educate children about the environment and where food comes from. He stated that agriculture is the number one industry in Maryland, but that is changing. He talked about some of the school programs including the Farm to Schools program. Secretary Hance also talked about the Urban Garden Program in Baltimore City...you don't need a backyard to have a garden; people are using vacant lots, apartment gardens in pots, and others small gardens in urban settings. He talked about how expanding Farmer's Markets as a way for urban residents to meet the farmers that grow their food.

Mary then introduced herself and acknowledged that she was standing in for Dr. Sadusky today. She recognized that a lot of people in the room worked to help Britt build the new structure and move it forward. The new agenda is very robust; some of the initiatives had been on the back burner but the time is now ripe to bring them forward. We are committed to move this forward and these actions are the critical core of this agenda.

Mary then introduces the organization of the Leadership Team and Steering Committee (see document) and each of those members.

10:05 **Welcome / Overview / Introductions** – *Partnership co-Chairs*

John Griffin, Secretary, MD DNR; Mary Cary, Assistant State Superintendent for Instruction, MSDE

John thanked the group for the amount of hard work done since the last meeting and then had everyone else stand and introduce themselves.

10:15 **New Partnership Agreement – Signing Ceremony** [and photo] – *Partnership co-Chairs*

Individual and group photos were taken.

10:30 **The New Structure, Leadership, and Responsibilities** – *Catherine Shanks, MD DNR*

Overview of the new structure, clarify roles and process / **Discussion**

Catherine provided an overview of the new structure, clarifying roles and the process of moving items through the structure.

Leadership Team: Approves the Work Plan

Provides guidance; meets twice annually; will meet again in July; are the official representatives of the Partnership.

Steering Committee: Develop the Work Plan

Coordinate with the work groups; define what the work groups will be doing; provide day to day and month to month coordination; meet monthly; organizes meetings and events; reports to Leadership Team.

Leads: Do the work; help get folks to get task done; may attend steering committee meetings; pull all work together, raises any issues to steering committee.

Work Group Members: Extremely important! Made up of people not necessarily in this room; may be broadened; meet as much as necessary.

11:00 **Partnership Actions for 2012 – Britt Slattery, MD DNR**

- **2012 Actions / Work Plan –**

Review actions listed, discuss the process for developing the plan more fully and how everyone can get more involved.

DECISION: The Leadership Team is asked to approve the plan and direct the Partnership to proceed with additional planning and implementation.

This is still the original plan. A lot of the actions have already happened: Conservation Corps already over capacity; Graduation requirement passed, Natural Play Spaces moving along.... At the September meeting four (4) main areas of focus for this year were discussed (see document). The plan is incomplete, it is meant to be a guide, but it needs to be tightened up. Work groups need to be formed and we need to decide whether to refine, lump, split out these actions.

Outreach and Communication

For example, serve to help the broader public understand getting outside and closer to nature.

Everyone in this room has events in June and their sites – we can jointly advertise and highlight all of those opportunities. This action would also include a social marketing campaign.

Environmental Literacy

This action includes planning a webinar to provide information about environmental literacy.

Environmental literacy regional meetings between formal (LEA) educators and environmental educators (providers) are being set up for February and March of 2012; Additional training opportunities for EE providers; Coordinating more with higher education including hosting a session to bring University folks together with K-12 folks; Schoolyard Habitat has been rolled into the Green Schools Program.

Communities and Community Planning

Park Equity Analysis (#22) is in the review stage.

We have the opportunity to make recommendations/input into land planning that includes recreation and open space (Long Range Recreation and Parks Plans) Completion - December – 2012

Health and Food (Agriculture) Connections

Things in the past have happened in fits and starts. Possibility of having a Forum to bring some of the health folks together with us. How can we contribute to some of the programs going on?

Farms to Schools – help promote the program

What is it that the Partnership can do to help promote and contribute to the program?

Reminder: At lunch everyone can sign up for work groups!

John Griffin asked the members of the Leadership Team if there were any thoughts on the above actions.

John Racanelli, National Aquarium made a motion to move the action items forward. Laura Collard from MAEOE seconded the motion. Motion passed.

11:30

• **Updates** on recent actions (brief) –

○ **Environmental Literacy webinar and regional meetings** – *Julie Dieguez, MD NCLI*
Julie updated the group on the E-Lit webinar that will be held sometime after the MAEOE Conference to bring folks up to speed on the E-Lit graduation requirement. The regional meetings to bring county school systems and environmental education providers will start in February and run through March. There will be seven (7) regional meetings. There is also going to be an E-Lit Briefing at the end of March at the Smith Center in Montgomery County.

At the upcoming MAEOE Conference (February 9-12), there are going to be three (3) E-Lit sessions conducted by members of the Partnership.

○ **Green Ribbon Schools** – *Laura Collard, MAEOE*

There was a planning meeting yesterday. Green Ribbon Schools applications are due on February 27th. MAEOE has notified all Maryland Green Schools and Green Centers of the new Program. Joanne Schmader (Maryland Green Schools Coordinator) has put together a matrix that aligns the Maryland Green School Program and the Green Ribbon School Program. This is a pilot year and only 4 schools from Maryland can be selected.

○ **MSDE LEA Certification Survey** – *Gary Hedges, MSDE*

The survey is focusing on high schools right now. The LEA's are identifying points of contacts. The surveys are due on April 30, 2012. They know there are going to be some gaps. Mary did note that in the Code of Maryland regulations the Superintendent of the County can ask for an extension of time to certify that they have everything in place. (Another note: Maryland applied to be a state lead in helping to write the National Science Standards to make sure that Environmental Standards are incorporated into National Science Standards!).

○ **Nature Play Spaces pattern book** – *Sandi Olek, DNR*

Sandi showed the pattern book online; a collection of places around the state. Go to: <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/cin/NPS/index.asp>

○ **Docs in Parks/ Institute for a Healthiest MD** – *Tom Donlin, MRPA*

Mentioned the model in Baltimore with Mary Hardcastle and Michael Dorsey. Events at Herring Run with Pediatricians. Talked about Healthiest Maryland Businesses – letting businesses know what is available to workers and their families.

○ **No Child Left Inside update** – *Don Baugh, CBF/ NCLI Coalition*

11:45

Pledge Signing [and photo] – *Catherine Shanks, MD DNR*

Partnership members commit to implementing the actions.

11:55

Announcements/ upcoming events

- Feb 9-12, [MAEOE Conference](#), Ocean City, MD
- Feb 22, [Farm to School](#) workshop in Cambridge, MD
- Feb 23, Greater Baltimore Children & Nature Network [Conference](#)
- Feb 27, Maryland schools [applications](#) due for USDE's [Green Ribbon Schools Award](#)
- ANY Day: Be a Part of "[No Child Left Inside@ Days](#)"
- April 2-4, MD Recreation and Parks Assoc. [Annual Conference](#), Clarion Hotel, Ocean City
- *Dates for 2012 quarterly CIN Partnership meetings: **Apr 19, July 19, Oct 18** – locations TBA*

12:00

Adjourn – Thank you to Maryland Department of Agriculture for hosting!

Lunch provided – Please visit the work group sign up sheets during lunch!