

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

November 26, 2008
Maryland Department of Environment
Terra Conference Room 10-12 a.m.

- I. Welcome – Secretary Griffin (5 minutes)
- II. Discussion: Measuring baseline data and increased time spent in nature by children – Elena Takaki/Martin Storksdieck, Ph. D., Director of Project Development, Institute for Learning Innovation/ All (10 minutes)
- III. Outreach to Diverse Audiences – Nancy Herron, Outdoor Learning Programs Manager & Ernie Gammage, Urban Outdoor Programs Branch Chief, Texas Parks and Wildlife (30 minutes)
- IV. Chesapeake Bay Field Scope – Daniel Edelson, National Geographic (15 minutes)
- V. Community and Public Lands workgroup report – Tracy Bowen and Jackie Carrera (30 minutes)
- VI. Environmental Literacy workgroup report – Mark Herzog and (30 minutes)

II. Measuring Baseline Data

- What is the right question to ask?
- What story do we have to tell? Who are we telling the story to?
- Simple indicators to measure success
- Baseline data is number based
- Short-term goal: what do we want kids to do?
- Long-term goal: how do they act as adults?

Here is one way of doing it:

- Ask: Teachers, children, parents
- Ask kids of various ages
 - o Looks at children's responses to nature
 - o Problem: access to schools
 - o Solution: working with school teachers as a way to understand their kids better
 - o Sample of "typical" schools – Maryland Green Schools

- Ask Parents:
 - o Access to parents: attitude, concerns, actions they take
 - o PTA's with top-down support, bottom-up usefulness

Question from Dr. Grasmick: What is a good sample? How much time in class?

Martin: Want to look at HS, MS, ES; 10-15 minutes

- at least schools, diversity within those schools.
- Given 1,600 schools, look for 10% of schools

Dr. Grasmick: PTA is 220,000 parents

Martin – look for a “typical” sample; ~10%

Dr. Cousin – just completed a comprehensive survey.

- Do it on line as well as pencil/paper
- 90% response rate.

Martin – if you want to see how things change over time, you need high sample size.

Discussion about how to implement this realistically

Cost: low six figures

Tracy – get parents in a room and find out what it would take to get their kids outside
Schaeffer center integrates questions

Heather White – be careful how we word the questions so the focus is not on child abduction

Public Opinion v.s. in-depth studies

- interest in doing focus groups – JG can bring in Schaeffer Center to do focus groups at no cost to us.
- People interested in working on this:
- Allen, Tracy, Becky, Martin, Sarah, Becky, Heather, Janice

III. Outreach to Diverse Audiences – TX is filing a bill similar to our Executive Order. Nancy Herron and Ernie Gammage showed a short movie produced by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) on diversity. They then gave a short power point presentation on how TPW made outreach to diverse audiences a priority and what they've implemented thus far.

IV. Chesapeake Bay Field Scope

- Danny Edelson mentioned that the EC encouraged this at the last EC meeting.
- Take home point: Geography is not a set of facts, it is something you do.
- Danny then showed us how the Field Scope Project works.

Comment from Dr. Grasmick: connection to service learning; can integrate this systemically

Mark Herzog – Funding for Substitute teachers is critical to getting teachers trained.

Allen – can see this as a tool for citizens using data to propose restoration projects.

- Connect to SYH projects

Becky – Kids would like to make restoration recommendations and then write proposals to enact them

Martin – how easily is this transportable to other watersheds?

Jacky – Baltimore is one of the two long-term ecosystem research projects. They have been collecting data since 1997 possibility to integrate the data.

Jamie – One of the biggest barriers to kids learning about watersheds is access to streams.

Danny – Green Print will give public lands data

Danny – Some schools have access to long-term measuring. Another option is to have sites (Arlington Echo) post the long-term data.

V. Community & Public Lands Workgroup

- keep in mind incorporation diversity
- trying to get a draft December 12

VI. Environmental Literacy Workgroup

- Recommendations are bold
- Becky Bell presented where the EL Workgroup was and how they are going to address the EO
- EE Endorsement would be helpful to have support letters from the public

Tracy – Next Meeting – focus entirely on plan

Partnership For Children In Nature
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MDE

Please Sign In

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
1. Rebecca Bell	MSDE
2. Mark Kerzog	Harford County Public Schools
3. Cernelious Jones	Blacks of the Chesapeake
4. Richard W. Allen	MDNR Ofc of Fair Practices
5. Julie Dieguez	CBF/MDNCLI
6. Heather White	NWF
7. Sarah Haines	Towson U /MAEDE
8. Martin Sterksdieck	Institute for Learning
9. Nancy Shasmick	MSDE
10. Sarah Bodor	CBT
11. Jamie Baxter	CBT
12. Rebecca Beecroft	WCPS
13. Claudia Donegan	DNR
14. Patricia Delaney	Garrett County Public Schools
15. Sydney L. Cousin	Howard County Public Schools
16. William McDonald	Discovery Communication
17. Jackie Carrera	Parks & People Foundation
18. Tracy Bowen	Alice Ferguson Foundation
19. Allen Hance	Chesapeake Bay Trust
20. Elena Takaki	Maryland DNR