

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 10, 2009
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
2 pm – 4 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Sec. Griffin & Dr. Grasmick (10 minutes)

- II. National Update (10 minutes)
 - 1476 organizations represented on the Coalition. Largest environmental coalition in the history
 - Hoping to get 1500 by 2010
 - Expect Obama's state of union address to reference NCLI through ESEA
 - By Feb/March Harry Reed expects things to move
 - Bills will come out of committee in the summer
 - Fall 2010 vote
 - 17 senate co-sponsors
 - Governor Kane signed onto O'Malley letter – 13 governors signed on total
 - Stimulus fund possibility (5million for MD)
 - Have to submit a letter of intent
 - Then they will be invited to submit full proposal
 - Grasmick: what is MD's competition?
 - Baugh: everyone is looking to MD as the model. 50 million grants are wired. 5 million ones are up in the air.
 - Grasmick: individual school systems will be applying for the innovation funds.
 - Baugh: RFP will be released before Feb. 15th.
 - Grasmick: People need to be informed of this opportunity
 - Horan: do we want to select a group to put this proposal together? To see, as a Partnership, what we might want to support.
 - Baugh: at the national level, a state education agency must be involved. Using progressive counties as an example. The applicant has to be a LEA or non-profit and the Partnership can write a letter of support.

- o Grasmick – for the \$4 billion grant you have to pick the 2 lowest performing schools: PG and Baltimore City – have to get 50% of the money.

III. Maryland Update (30 minutes)

a. EE Briefing (Rebecca Bell, MSDE)

- i. We will look at Physical Education vs. Outdoor vs. Environmental
- ii. We will also look at Social Studies curriculum and where Environmental Education is integrated

b. Graduation Requirement (Dr. Grasmick)

- i. Superintendents are aware of the goals. Not gone to state board. Competition with financial literacy; they are going to Board of Public Works meetings and telling them of the curriculum they've developed. Individual school systems can make it a requirement.
- ii. No tolerance for requiring new courses due to financial cost of developing a new course. They are supportive of using the existing courses.
- iii. This may move as a graduation requirement, but no new courses.
- iv. Financial Literacy surfaced through the General Assembly and formed a Task Force. The recommendation is for it not to be a graduation requirement.
- v. Comptroller, Treasurer, superintendents, might want to hear about this issue and how EE is important.
- vi. Horan: what recommendations do you have for moving this forward?
- vii. Grasmick: currently getting feedback from Asst. Superintendents, then it will to Superintendents in January, and then board of education in February. There will be a comment period. This is where we have the opportunity to flood the State Board with letters (~60 days).
- viii. Becky Bell: looking at state curriculum and aligning with national EE standards. Then, superintendents can look at where the gaps are in their county and see how they are meeting the standards. Systems that don't have outdoor ed centers have the fewest outdoor experiences.
- ix. Grasmick: needs to be an effort on the part of higher ed so that we have highly qualified teachers.
- x. Bell: ETS will produce a new praxis – Becky Beecroft and Leeann Hutchison on the advisory committee. Higher ed has implemented pieces of this. The EE endorsement will help make this more standardized. MSDE cannot mandate higher ed certification.
- xi. Grasmick: 22 routes to become a teacher in MD.
- xii. Grasmick: will pas along feedback from Asst. Superintendents and Superintendents.

- xiii. Baugh: a letter of resolution to the general assembly to let them know we would support EL graduation requirement.
 - c. Anne Arundel County EL Plan (Steve Barry)
 - i. Dr. Maxwell included the NCLI as part of the board of education package. AA Co. has taken legislative action with respect to NCLI.
 - ii. Dr. Maxwell is willing to champion this on behalf of the Superintendents.
 - iii. George Margolis, chief of staff, putting together workgroup in implementing all recommendations in the state EL plan.
 - iv. EE is in the curriculum, they may get some exposure, but not all kids are actually reaching the level of environmental literacy. At a local level, we can move into EL by changing pedagogy and process.
 - v. Looking to get the “spirit” of a meaningful change.
 - d. Baseline Data survey (Elena Takaki)
 - i. Elena handed out a summary of the survey distributed at the Maryland State Fair this summer.
 - ii. This will be posted on the web site for review.
 - e. Maryland Green Schools/Student Summit grant opportunity (Bronwyn Mitchell, Executive Director, MAEOE & Jamie Baxter, CBT)
 - i. Maryland Green Schools ceremony is growing and MAEOE is limited by space. Expecting 100 applicants this year.
 - ii. Want to piggy back on the youth gathering
 - iii. Want to hold the Summit in one of the State Parks.
 - iv. The Summit would take place in early June.
 - v. Grasmick: include the students in the planning and execution of the summit.
 - vi. Baxter: use the Maryland Student Service Summit as an example.
 - vii. Planning meeting this Thursday at MAEOE
- IV. Garrett’s Light Foundation (15 minutes)
 - i. Kathryn provided background on the organization, mission and vision
 - ii. First mission was to form a reading garden at Quiet Waters (located within the butterfly garden)
 - iii. Family music and kite festival September 2009 raised \$28,000. 600 people attended the event. WRNR gave them 230 hours free advertising.
 - iv. Earth Day celebration at Quiet Waters. 100% of profits will go towards developing EE programs. April 24th.
 - v. Dec 9- April 10 “calling all artists” to submit a bench in the theme of a fairy tale character. On Earth Day, the community will vote on

the top 5 benches. The top bench will go to all the artists to sign and will go on auction on EBay.

vi. Elysia and Kathryn will send Elena ppt to post on our website.

V. Discussion of Work Plan (30 minutes)

- i. We will be updating the work plan quarterly.
- ii. The work plan reflects actions on behalf of state agencies.
- iii. There is a non-profit work plan that all organization can add to, in order to truly reflect Children in Nature efforts in Maryland. The Maryland NCLI Coalition will be responsible for posting and updating it.

VI. Speakers Bureau (15 minutes – Catherine Shanks, MD-DNR)

- Getting information out about how to get kids outside.
- Talking to PTA's, scouting groups, etc.
- Put together a speaker's bureau of Partners. We would put together a ppt and script.
- Opportunity to reach out to other groups.
- Delaney: there is a need for this
- Bowen: useful to have that ready in Grasmick's timeline and use for counties to present to local groups and boards of ed.
- Cathy & Elena will put together a presentation and send to board.

Future meetings:

February 18th – Outward Bound in Baltimore (10 a.m.-noon)

May 12th – Prince George's County (tentative) (10 a.m.-noon)

September 16th – MAEOE Headquarters in Jessup (10 a.m. – noon)

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 10, 2009
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
2 pm – 4 pm
Attendance

Elena Takaki, DNR
Bronwyn Mitchell, MAEOE
Tom Ackerman, CBF
Elicia Brand Leudemann, Garrett's Light
Kathryn Feldmann, Garrett's Light
Tracy Bowen, Alice Ferguson Foundation
Don Baugh, CBF
Jamie Baxter, CBF
Catherine Shanks, DNR
Dana McCauley, Crellin Elementary School, Garrett County
Patrick Delaney, Garrett County Schools
Stephen Barry, AACPS
Melanie Parker, AACPS
Julie Dieguez, MDNCLI
Jackie Carrera, Parks and People Foundation
Rebecca Bell, MSDE
Nancy Grasmick, MSDE
John Griffin, DNR
Jeff Horan, DNR
Sarah Haines, Towson University
Bob Dulli, NGS