



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
 Joe Lombardo, *Governor*
 James A. Settelmeyer, *Director*
 Denise K. Beronio, *Administrator*

Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Richard Bryan Building
 Bonnie Bryan Conference Room (1st Floor)
 901. S. Stewart Street
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Teleconference Access Information

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWfHtY2FkYTQtNjUzNC00NjcyLThjMGQtYWI2ZTc1NTEwZjA5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22639016bb-3935-4a62-8700-a284ce058da4%22%7d

Meeting ID: 231 153 958 160

Passcode: 8RxB5X

Or call in (audio only) [+1 775-321-6111](tel:+17753216111), [256887538#](tel:+17753212568)

Notification: Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, may be combined for consideration, and may be removed from the agenda or delayed for discussion at any time.

1. **Call to Order and Explanation of Meeting Format and Agenda for Breakout Sessions**

Call to order at 9:00 am by Chair Todd Hess

2. **Roll Call**

ADVISORY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS	Representation	Roll Call
Kendal Scott, Coordinator	Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation	Present
Andrew Snyder	Department of Education (Standards and Instructional Support)	Present
Julie Bless	Department of Wildlife	Present
Brandi Cuti	Teacher from urban area	Present (virtual)
Carrie McGill	Teacher from rural area	Absent
Vacant	Teacher from urban area	n/a
Todd Hess	School District Superintendent	Present
Sean Thornton	K-12 Pupil	Present
Melanie Erquiaga	Nature-based education provider	Present
Roz Brooks	Nature-based education provider	Present

Senator Julie Pazina	Senate member	Present (part of the meeting-virtual)
Carrie Buck	Senate member	Absent
Assemblyman Toby Yurek	Assembly member	Absent
Assemblywoman Erica Mosca	Assembly member	Present
Vacant	Early education specialist	n/a
Astyn Wielkie	Health care provider	Present

3. Public comment

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person. The public may request that items be added to a future agenda. No action will be taken on any matter raised during the public comment period that is not already on the agenda. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating and spelling their name for the record.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

No public comment.

4. Approve Minutes from the November 30, 2023 meeting (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)

Todd Hess calls to approve minutes, Melanie Erquiaga motions, Andrew Snyder Seconds. Approved unanimously.

Advisory Working Group members reintroduced themselves.

5. Nature Everywhere Presentation

Melanie Robinson, Program Manager, National League of Cities

David Beard, Director of Policy & Government Affairs, Children & Nature Network

David and Melanie presented on the Nature Everywhere program, the benefits of nature for children, shared resource we can use, and gave examples of how other states have connected children to nature through schools through policy, living schoolyards, youth leadership, and more.

Discussion: The group discussed how living schoolyards can address heat islands and how integrated funds could be used for schoolyards. Julie Pazina asks about the mental health benefits, which included less aggression, reduced stress, and more calm students.

6. Nature Everywhere Vision Lab Presentation

Roz Brooks, Founder of Blacks in Nature

Roz discussed the November Vision Lab in Atlanta and the great examples of program learned about there, like Prescribe Outside in Philadelphia. Roz emphasized how some of the most important benefits will be harder to see and we need to consider that.

Discussion: The group discussed integration with Portrait of a Nevada Learner. The group discussed how to best support teachers and gain feedback from them on our ideas. There is a need to not

overburden teachers and instead support capacity building with the Department of Education and nonprofits. We should think about the outdoors as a continuous thread through everything. Tap into relief potential for teachers.

7. **State Workforce Needs Presentation**

Kacey KC, Administrator, Nevada Division of Forestry

Eric Antle, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Forestry

Kacey and Eric presented their employment gaps and NDF involvement in outdoor education through grant programs and Project Learning Tree. They discuss high school pathways into forestry, firefighting, and more.

Discussion: Also discussed was the availability of curriculum kits and training for teachers as well as grant programs through NDF. There was also discussion around disconnect between workforce and available jobs, and how to communicate the job benefits. NDOR is working with UNR to push for further secondary education opportunities in the outdoor space.

8. **Review Purpose of Outdoor Education Case Studies**

Kendal presented an example of a case study with Plumas County Outdoor Mountain Kid program and provided instructions on how to look at the case studies and what information to bring back to the group.

Recess for small group activity¹ (30 minutes).

While in recess, small non-quorum groups examined materials for two case studies each. Refer to the Strategies for Advancing Outdoor Education document for case study overviews.

9. **Discuss Case Study Takeaways, Strengths, and Challenges**

Groups discuss their case studies including Tierra de los Ninos, Outdoor School, joint-use agreements, environmental literacy plans, the Georgie Council of Outdoor Learning stations and toolkits, living schoolyards, recess rights, and environmental education teacher training. The need for sustainable funding support with any legislative acts is discussed. There is also a need for addressing safety and maintenance of programs that initially get built with funding input. For long-term success, a specialist position at the Department of Education is needed.

Recess for Lunch (1.5 hours)

10. **Discuss and Review Vision Statement of Advisory Working Group (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION)**

Kendal gave directions on breaking into small groups and using the vision statement started at the vision lab to work from.

Recess for small group activity (20 minutes).

While in recess, small non-quorum groups examined materials for two case studies each.

¹ The recesses for the small group activities will involve a non-quorum amount of members of the Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group and will therefore not be open to public via in person, telephone, or video teleconference.

The group gathered again to workshop the vision statement together. After reviewing each groups thoughts on the statement, the group deliberated until settling on the following statement:

To collaborate with schools, community leaders, and stakeholders to grow sustainable PreK-12 outdoor learning policies, programs, access, and spaces for the benefit of all NV student's overall wellness.

Call for possible action from Todd Hess to put the adoption of the vision statement to vote. Erica Mosca motions to adopt the vision statement and Astyn Wielkie seconds. Passes unanimously. Vision Statement is adopted.

11. Discuss and Review Initial Ideas and Recommendations for Outdoor Education Implementation

The group all contributed the ideas they would like on an initial list of recommendations for the report to the legislature. The list was organized into categories and subcommittees for these categories were proposed.

Outdoor Learning Infrastructure:

- Every school has an accessible outdoor learning space, whether on or off campus
 - Involve students in planning, stewardship, implementation

Schoolyards

- Every school has a green/living schoolyard
- Bring the park to students – community partnerships that bring in outdoor resources
- Cross-grade programming: high school students' mentor elementary schools

Nature Access

- Every student sees all of Nevada
- 4x4 school transportation
- Technical assistance in creating joint use agreements between

Capacity Building

- Dept of Education position dedicated to supporting outdoor learning
- Nature learning specialist at each school or district
- Funding for non-formal programming to come into classes and support teachers
- Engage parents and community- landscapers, outdoor professionals

Content Integration

- Outdoor learning integration into existing curriculum and standards
 - Outdoor aspect in all subject areas
 - Incorporate Portrait of NV Learner/Graduate
- Dedicated outdoor education classes
 - Galena High School model
 - Aerobic walking (SKID)
 - Locally relevant skills- archery, winter or desert survival, OHV safety
- More stewardship opportunities – turn them into workforce development opportunities

Policy

- Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Minimum recess/physical activity break for all grade levels (Take 17)
 - Discourage withholding recess for academic or behavioral reasons
- Everybody gets to go policy - don't restrict based on socioeconomic status or other factors
- Structure semesters to allow dedicated days for field trips in middle/high school
- Integrated funding
 - Look at funding sources from EV, tobacco products, etc.
 - Corporate school adoption includes funding for outdoor education infrastructure

12. Schedule next meeting

Kendal will send out the list of initial ideas to the group and proposed subcommittees. The group is asked to review and make edits by 2/29, after which Kendal will set up meetings for the subcommittees, which will not be in quorum nor conducted publicly. These subcommittees will meet virtually for the next several months and focus on soliciting feedback on the initial ideas of the AWG. The larger group will reconvene in the fall, possibly in Clark County.

13. Public comment

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No public comment.

14. Adjournment

Todd Hess calls for adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Astyn Wilkie and second by Julie Bless. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.

Attendance: Kendal Scott, Andrew Snyder, Julie Bless, Brandi Cuti, Todd Hess, Sean Thornton, Melanie Erquiaga, Roz Brooks, Julie Pazina, Erica Mosca, Astyn Wielkie, Denise Beronio, Joe Girdner, Tailar Purciel, David Bearn, Melanie Robinson, Annette Dawson, Victoria Supple, Christi Cabrera, Margaret Lord, Justin Luna, Zoe Houghton

Notice of this meeting was posted in the following location:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada State Library, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada State Legislature Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701

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Nevada Public Notice website at <https://notice.nv.gov/>, and Nevada Legislature Administrative Notices at

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Notice/A/>

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