



STATE OF NEVADA
 Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
 Joe Lombardo, Governor
 Vinson Guthreau, Director
 Denise K. Beronio, Administrator

Outdoor Education Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 28, 2026, 2-4pm

Richard Bryan Building
 Tahoe Meeting Room
 901 S Stewart St
 Carson City, NV 89701

Teleconference Access Information

Microsoft Teams meeting

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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 2:02pm
2. Roll Call

Name	Position
Denise Beronio X	Division of Outdoor Recreation Representative
Andrew Snyder X	Department of Education Representative
Julie Bless X	Department of Wildlife Representative
Joe Girdner X	Nevada Association of School Superintendents Representative
Shelly Cruz-Crawford not present	Senate Member
Max Carter not present	Assembly Member
Kristofer Peterson X	Teacher
Vacant	Teacher
Vacant	Pupil
Melanie Erquiaga X	Nature-based Education Provider
Vacant	Nature-based Education Provider

3. Public comment - NONE

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. NONE*

4. **Approve minutes from last meeting motion, Melaine Erquiaga motioned, Joe Girdner second, passed**

5. **FOR DISCUSSION – Discussion with Melanie Erquiaga and Julie Bless informal, no action –**

Melanie Erquiaga from NV Outdoor School, talked about what NOS does serving mostly rural NV, sometimes, Urban, but mostly rural. Youth, training, and nature-based programs, summer camps, training and skills training. Partnering with other organizations and groups to educate and promote skills and safety. NOS does this through outdoor educators, usually National Americorp members. NOS has lessons and templates, serves primarily K-4th grade. Jr High and HS kids receive more OHV and helmet training. It will be great through the council to formalize this training. Risk and behavior management are a focus. Including STEM helps teacher more easily integrate the outdoor curriculum. Being a non-profit helps.

Julie Bless, NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW): Professional background started in HS and college in conservation, State Parks's NPS, National Audubon society etc. NDOW focus is outdoor wildlife educator. K-12 classroom programs and 2 are recognized. Hunter and fishing education, archery, NASP K-12 and teach teachers to be archery instructors. Program educators across NV. NDOW also has Americorp, and instructor volunteers. Julie is state coordinator for Project Wild, set of curriculum guides of conservation and wildlife. And they provide educator workshop training. Outdoor teaching concepts and how to integrate into the classroom and how to maybe modify lessons etc. through training provided. Several K-12 programs available including online training modules for specific topics. Healthy connections and wildlife connectivity are hot topics right now. Wild school sites to help improve school grounds to improve school grounds. The curriculum already in place between NDOW and NOS will be helpful to develop outdoor curriculum for the council to pass on to schools.

6. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Teacher of the year award updates – 24 nominations so far. Still open until July 1, 7 total on the decision committee for the award as per the committee guidelines, Tate could serve in Joe's place. July 17th will be day decisions are made.**

7. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION - Updates from subcommittees**

- Teacher Training – Chip and Melanie and Andrew got together to work on some course items and templates.
- Outdoor School Designation – no updates
- Tech Assistance – no updates

8. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION - NAAEE discussions, and long-term planning for council. NAAEE is the main national organization supporting school-based environmental education and outdoor learning**

9. **FOR DISCUSSION - UPDATES FROM NATURE EVERYWHRE, works with NAAEE regularly. David will be looking at ways to assist and be innovative for environmental learning. Next year conference in Jacksonville, 2027.**

10. **Public comment - NONE**

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11. Next Meeting: TBD

12. Adjournment motion Chip Peterson, 2nd Andrew Snyder. Adjourned at 2:50pm

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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