

Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force

Friday, December 9th, 2011– 10:00am to 1:00pm

Department of Forestry - State Forester's Office

Old Board Room – Building B

2600 State St., Salem, Oregon 97310

Present:

Carolyn Devine, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Traci Price, Task Force Chair

John Sheehan, Metro

Lori Stole, Sustainable Oregon Schools Initiative

Jim Quiring, Tillamook Forest Center & Department of Forestry

Bora Simmons, National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education

Brent Searle, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Stephanie Wagner, PSU Center for Science

On the phone:

Jon Yoder, Salem-Keizer School District

Greg Smith, Lewis & Clark College

Update on White House Executive Order: Traci Price

The No Child Left Inside Coalition (<http://www.cbf.org/page.aspx?pid=687>) is calling on the White House to encourage President Obama to issue an Executive Order to establish the President's Council on Environmental Literacy and a parallel Advisory Committee on Environmental Literacy. So far, the White House has expressed interest largely due to the broad diversity of support for this effort from the business, environmental, congressional, and faith-based communities.

You can read more about the call for the order here:

<http://www.acacamps.org/sites/default/files/images/publicpolicy/EL-Executive-Order-Case-Statement.pdf>

Brent – is there intent to include the natural resource industry? (*Monica – recent effort to include support from the ag community especially in the EO)

Update on No Child Left Inside: Monica Healy

About 6 weeks ago the Senate HELP committee reported the draft Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) out of committee. They created a “Well Rounded Education” within the ESEA to include support for civics, arts, history, environmental education (EE) – longstanding support for established programs in history, civics, art but not yet for EE. They included EE because members of the committee heard from their constituents.

Senator Merkley is a member of the HELP committee and led the inclusion of “Well Rounded” education, STEM amendments – very active in the committee.

NCLI Act provides \$ for state EE but it won't pass as a stand alone bill – goal was to get \$ in the reauthorization of ESEA (include \$ for EE)

House – chance of getting \$ is slim at best, they're moving in the opposite direction, moving ESEA in a piecemeal way – 5 different pieces that they're moving separately (charter schools, accountability, etc.)

Senate does not want to introduce ESEA to the floor until they know what's happening on the House side

Working to include EE under STEM and other parts of the ESEA, not just under "Well Rounded"

Merkley is really important moving forward with strategy – keep Merkley informed about state plan progress, can help build his support

Rep. Walden – didn't vote on it

Reauthorization of ESEA will NOT happen this year

Once chairman brings it to the floor (next year – but may not even happen because it's an election year – still need to work with committees to be prepared for ESEA moving) it will ensue weeks of debate

Merkley – get him to cosponsor NCLI

President's Executive Order – separate approach but connected. White House will factor in how much support they have on the hill; also looking at when NCLI was introduced on the floor during the 111th Congress

Important to get Senator Wyden on as a cosponsor

John S – sense of Merkley's reluctance to cosponsor?

Monica - Nothing negative – thank him for being a cosponsor of the "Well Rounded" amendment and ensuring that EE was part of the ESEA

*Traci – put together a message for folks to connect with Merkley
Schedule meeting with Merkley & Wyden

Education Standards Working Group Update: Bora Simmons

Updated Chapter 3 and crosswalks

Greg helped fine tune and clean up

Waiting to do double-checking to make sure all alignments are correct. Two weeks or so out
Would be able to post crosswalks on ODE website early in 2012

Traci - Already on ODE's website: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2886>

Bora - Will wait for final versions to update ODE web material; hope to get links to more obvious sites: EEAO, OFRI, OCF, etc.

Traci - could we post on agency/participants web page? Ag? Metro?

John - where do teachers go? OSTA, Social studies teachers groups, Tillamook Forest Center, Tryon Creek

Bora - Send an email to EEAO distribution, NOCLI distribution, etc.

Be sure to send link, not actual documents

Include link in notes

ODE approved new social studies standards in Aug. New standards not going live for another year. Bora will update crosswalk accordingly.

Next generation science standards will be finalized by 2012. Oregon probably will adopt them, but not known for sure. Won't be before 2014 in any case. We'll need to update crosswalk eventually.

Susan - standards are never done—consideration for funding

Traci - should non-formals be encouraged to align with ELP strands directly?

Bora - Will be a back and forth until schools are more comfortable

Stephanie - Will always have to pull standards out

Bora - That's the crosswalk; allows non-formal and formal educators to link their programs/curriculum to each other.

Bora - Green Schools ramp-up w/ environmental literacy as 3rd pillar should look to this tool as well.

Susan - Lots of literacy plans coming out: ag, architecture; how do we crosswalk with those literacy plans? They're the content part of what the ELP envisions. We need to be able to articulate the connections

Bora - Those plans are finer grained, ELP broader. We can say here are the strands, here's where forest literacy (e.g.,) would fit in.

Stephanie - Creators of those plans should be encouraged to do that work—link their content to the strands. Teacher workshops "unpacking" those plans and drawing the connections

Susan - Norie and she trained facilitators to start seeing the content lit plans connected to the ELP, we're prepping folks for fuller implementation

Jim - The easier we make this process for teachers, the more successful we'll be

Bora described Green Ribbon Schools program <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/09/final-plans-announced-for-green-ribbon-schools/>

Lori – SOSI is coordinating the award program for Oregon

The announcement will be released for applications in January through ODE

Teacher Professional Development Working Group Update: Susan Sahnaw

Small group discussed framework for a larger group to respond to about what is different here than has already been defined as good professional development (PD): Main difference is the outdoor element

Took ELP key characteristics and looked at the outdoor components—what are best practices? Created the draft framework out of that.

Saw some opportunity to refine the characteristics

Held facilitator training w/ 25 folks; shared draft with them, all were on board with the concept; waiting for detailed comments

Next steps are to gather 15 PD providers to review and provide comment; happening 12/19; invited about 25, wanted folks who are familiar with the Plan

Will further refine through Gray Fund PD process

Still to come: guidance on specific grade cohorts. Just don't have the capacity right; plus the assessment piece; make it researchable

Jon Y. - Need to develop rubrics and tools for assessment across teacher skill levels

Brent - offered ideas about ag-related teachers/experts to join 12/19 group.

Stephanie - Has a grad student who'd like to take a look at research on this kind of PD

Susan - Get people w/ potential to do research on this involved at the outset

Traci - NAAEE released assessment framework; focused on national/international scale at present. <http://www.naaee.net/framework>

Stephanie - Link with PSU STEM Center - can outdoor experience encourage teachers to teach more science? Let's come up with a consistent assessment measure. Maybe develop a research question to build data around. It would be great to begin measuring teacher efficacy as a result of this PD process. Very doable, pretty easy. Could be a pretty significant statewide research piece.

Governor Committee Working Group Update: John Sheehan

Highly successful meeting w/ Ben Cannon; he said he'd support and push forward a draft Executive Order (EO) that we should submit

Draft has been submitted earlier this week.

Traci discussed reasoning behind proposed changes to council membership

Duncan Wyse proposed that OCF support the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) w/ \$200K on their focus areas. Duncan is also on the state board of Ed and a member of OBA.

EL Council could also serve as OCF community of interest fund advisory board

Business rep could be David Vernier who is strongly involved w/ STEM, supports the ELP, on Gray Family board

Ben Cannon's office thinks this may happen before the New Year.

Questions we submitted with draft EO: Staff support? MOU in/out? (we'd like it in)

Recommendations for the positions?

Discussion of various staffing ideas followed

Susan - What's the liaison w/ the Governor's office? Natural resources office?

Brent - We probably don't need a governor's office liaison on the council

Plan B: if no EO take concept to the OEIB