



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

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE OUTDOOR
 EDUCATION ADVISORY WORKING GROUP**

Date and Time: Thursday November 30, 2023,

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

*** This meeting was held
 virtually for all attendees ***

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ADVISORY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS	Representation
Kendal Scott, Coordinator	Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
Andrew Snyder	Department of Education (Standards and Instructional Support)
Julie Bless	Department of Wildlife
Brandi Cuti	Teacher from urban area
Carrie McGill	Teacher from rural area
Vacant	Teacher from urban area
Todd Hess	School District Superintendent
Sean Thornton	K-12 Pupil
Melanie Erquiaga	Nature-based education provider
Roz Brooks	Nature-based education provider
Senator Julie Pazina	Senate member
Vacant	Senate member
Assemblyman Toby Yurek	Assembly member
Assemblywoman Erica Mosca	Assembly member
Vacant	Early education specialist
Astyn Wielkie	Health care provider

1. **Call to order:** Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation (NDOR), Denise Beronio

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Kendal Scott, Andrew Snyder, Julie Bless, Brandi Cuti, Carrie McGill, Todd Hess, Sean Thornton, Melanie Erquiaga, Roz Brooks, Julie Pazina, Toby Yurek, Erica Mosca, Astyn Wielkie.

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. **Review and approve agenda**

Kendal Scott moves to approve, Andrew Snyder second.

5. **Welcome**

- a. Steve Yaeger, *Speaker of the Assembly*
- b. Denise Beronio, *Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation Administrator*

6. **Introductions**

Advisory Working Group (AWG) members all introduced themselves and talked a little bit about their backgrounds working within outdoor education and personal experiences with outdoor recreation.

7. **Review of AB164 text and tasks**

- Study approaches to incorporate outdoor recreation into the curriculum for PreK-12
- Study curriculum integration opportunities in physical education, scientific inquiry, technology, environmental science, physical sciences, language arts, art, humanities, social and emotional learning, public service, etc.
- Prepare and submit a written report describing the activities, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by December 31, 2024
- May request the drafting of one legislative measure which relates to matters within the scope of the Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group by December 31, 2024

8. **Processes and Procedures**

a. **Nomination and election of Advisory Working Group Chair and Vice-chair**

- Chair: Kendal Scott nominates Todd Hess, Erica Mosca seconds.
 - Yes: 13; No: 0
 - Todd Hess was selected for Chair.
- Vice-Chair: Kendal Scott nominates Erica Mosca, Julie Pazina seconds.

- Yes: 13 No: 0
- Erica Mosca was selected for Vice-Chair.

b. Review of operating procedures

- State and local government officers and employees are to be relieved from regular duties to prepare and perform tasks related to the Advisory Working Group without loss of compensation or leave used.
- Members are to perform tasks generally without compensation.
- NDOR may accept gifts, donations, and grants to assist with the administration of the advisory working group.

c. Nature Everywhere Introduction

The AWG was selected to participate in Nature Everywhere , a technical assistance program that allows us access to support, resources, and peer learning opportunities about how to connect children with nature. A few AWG members attended a Vision Lab in Atlanta earlier in November to learn about those resources and opportunities. They will be sharing more about what they learned there at the next meeting.

More here: <https://www.childrenandnature.org/nature-everywhere/>

i. *Melanie Robinson, Program Manager with the National League of Cities*

Melanie shared more about the Nature Everywhere process and the chance to extend the reach past the December 31, 2024 deadlines of the AWG.

ii. *David Beard, Director of Policy & Government Affairs with the Children & Nature Network*

David discussed the policy opportunity of the AWG and the other policy work the Children and Nature Network has done with other states and communities.

9. For review and discussion: Project Schedule

- November 2023: Nature Everywhere Vision Lab and Virtual Kickoff
- In person workshop: January 30, 2024
- January – September 2024: Research and regular meetings
- October – December 2024: Finalize recommendations and write report for the Legislature
- December 31, 2024: Deliver report to Legislature and submit Bill Draft Request

10. For review and discussion: The State of Nevada Outdoor Education

Kendal Scott, Outdoor Education Lead, NDOR

- Take 17 minutes outside from NDOW <https://www.ndow.org/take17/>
- Portrait of a Nevada Learner <https://www.nvfutureoflearning.org/process>
- Discovery Pass for 5th grade students
 - Free entry to Nevada State Parks <https://parks.nv.gov/learn/for-kids>
- Nevada Outdoor Education & Recreation Grant

- Provides high-quality outdoor education and recreation opportunities for all Nevada students
- Funding for two grant rounds: 2023 & 2024
- <https://dcnr.nv.gov/divisions-boards/ndor/grants/nevada-outdoor-education-and-recreation-grant-program>
- Statewide Programs & Curricula
 - Inventory of outdoor education school programming opportunities from nonprofits, community-based organizations, and government agencies.
 - Available through NDOR <https://dcnr.nv.gov/divisions-boards/NDOR>

Senator Pazina also mentioned SB244, which provides funding for school gardens: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bill/10069/Overview>

11. Schedule next meeting

- January 30 in Carson City: In-person workshop at Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. There will be a virtual option.
- Homework for the AWG before the next meeting to come from NDOR: Case studies, background info on what others are doing to support outdoor education. If AWG appointees have content they would like to be included in that homework for the group, they should get it to Kendal Scott at k.scott@ndor.nv.gov by January 5th.
- For public interested in updated on the AWG, the Advisory Working Group Public Notice email list can be registered for at this link: [https://hal.nv.gov/form/AB164 Outdoor Education AWG/Outdoor Education Advisory Working Group Public Notice](https://hal.nv.gov/form/AB164_Outdoor_Education_AWG/Outdoor_Education_Advisory_Working_Group_Public_Notice)

12. Public comment

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Annette Dawson Owens: From Childrens Advocacy Alliance. Supported AB164, thrilled to see this group having worked in outdoor education and seen need for outdoor education in Nevada and such untapped potential. There are many benefits including mental health and wellness for students. Happy to advocate for outdoor education in any way they can and appreciate efforts. Studies Teton Science Model and it was excellent.

Lea Case: Here on a personal behalf as a recipient of outdoor education in Lyon County and current Carson City resident. One of Lea's favorite organizations is River Wranglers. As a 2nd grader and high school student Lea learned to love the Carson River and watershed through outdoor education. Lea

would love to see the program replicated in Southern Nevada. Link to River Wranglers:
<https://www.riverwranglers.org/>

13. Adjournment

- Julie Pazina moves to adjourn at 4:13 pm.
- Andrew Snyder seconds and meeting is adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Attendance: Kendal Scott, Andrew Snyder, Julie Bless, Brandi Cuti, Carrie McGill, Todd Hess, Sean Thornton, Melanie Erquiaga, Roz Brooks, Julie Pazina, Toby Yurek, Erica Mosca, Astyn Wielkie, Denise Beronio, Steve Yeager, Cathy Erskine, Brandon Bishop, Mary M. Huck, David Beard, Melanie Robinson, Amy, Annette Dawson, Lea Case, Nikhil Narkhede, Trystin St. Denis.

Notice of this meeting was also posted on the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Website at: <http://dcr.nv.gov/> and <https://notice.nv.gov/>, as well as the Lobby inside the DCNR Bryan Building, 901 S. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701, the Nevada State Library, 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701, and the Nevada State Legislature Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701

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Please contact Denise Beronio at: 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 1002, Carson City, Nevada 89701; dberonio@ndor.nv.gov; or 775-684-2716 to obtain support material for the agenda. Materials will also be posted on the [DCNR website](#).