**Delaware Environmental Literacy Update**

**June, 2019**

**State Working Group Update:** The Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE) has adopted the Delaware Children in Nature program and is working on guiding the work that was started in 2008.

**NAAEE Affiliate Update: Delaware Association for Environmental Education (DAEE)**

**Standards of Learning/Curriculum:**

In 2010, NGSS was adopted. The Delaware Science Coalition adopted new resource materials, TCI-Bring Science Alive, at grades 6-8th. Ed Reports came out in January 2019 stating that TCI, Bring Science Alive, is not aligned with NGSS. The Science Coalition is still keeping the resource materials, because of the huge investment. However, working with the company to make better alignment. Science Coalition is getting ready to pilot elementary resource materials at grades 3 and 4, fall 2019. Adoption at the elementary level will take place fall 2020.

The Delaware Department of Education and Delaware Teachers of Science is holding a STEM Conference on July 16th. Many of the presenters are focusing on Environmental Education-MWEE opportunities, how to keep a vegetable garden growing in your schoolyard, PLT-Growing Wild, Native Meadows and Pollinators, Schoolyard Ecosystems Assessment to Discover NGSS and Support Wildlife, etc.

**State Efforts to Support Environmental Literacy**

I. DDOE, Delaware Nature Society, DNREC, Stroud Water Research Center, and Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education are working on a DE Watershed Literacy program for non-formal and formal educators. They provided NGSS training for non-formal educators, and the leadership group is working on a mission statement and goals. The hope is to create curricular units for elementary, middle and high school with field trip experiences.

II. DOE, DNREC and the Governor have partnered to provide a 3rd grade classroom at South Dover Elementary with a Governor’s camping experience. Students and their families will spend the night at Killen Pond State Park. They will receive a sleeping bag and a science book along with environmental activities to do throughout the evening.

**Current Challenges**

● The focus at the Department of Education is K-3 literacy and middle school math.

● Equity-How do we make sure All students are getting science/environmental science?

**Goals and Opportunities**

● Create more opportunities for teachers to have environmental education opportunities.

● Continue working together with non-formal and formal educators

● Delaware Teachers of Science and DAEE working together to provide social and learning events for classroom teachers

For questions or concerns, please contact Tonyea Mead (tonyea.mead@doe.k12.de.us).