TO: Susan Summers, Chair

FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: May 22, 2017

Since the last work group report in March 2017, the Education Work Group held two regular meetings (4/5/17 and 5/2/17) and is working on the following projects, which are primarily a continuation of the work of the last couple of years. Another general topic of discussion has been the potential for the group to work collaboratively with the Maryland Planning Commissioner Association (MPCA) on outreach, networking, and training initiatives, as the MPCA has a very strong educational focus and extensive reach throughout the state.

1. Developing a Mission Statement

The Education Workgroup finalized and approved the following Mission Statement:

> *The Education Workgroup's mission is to support the Sustainable Growth Commission in areas of scholarship, collecting and disseminating information, community outreach and engagement, and other endeavors as directed by the Chairperson*

2. Reinvest Maryland

The Education Workgroup focused its work on further development of the general overview (Track A) and targeted professional Reinvest Maryland (Track B) trainings discussed in the March 2017 Workgroup report.

    A. <u>Collaboration with the Reinvest Maryland Workgroup:</u> Joe Griffiths and Jessica Zuniga of the Education Workgroup have participated in the Reinvest Maryland Workgroup's discussions to stay in tune with the reworking of that document and contribute opportunities in which the Education Workgroup can formulate both training tracks in a way that advances the objectives of Reinvest Maryland.

B. <u>General Overview Training</u>: To be completed shortly upon development of new Reinvest Maryland Document

C. <u>Targeted Professional Training:</u> The Education Workgroup completed the following tasks related to the in depth professional training

   a. Research into methodology for securing AICP credits for the training. It can be accomplished as part of its development
   b. Completion of a curriculum template for the training

D. <u>Timeline:</u> The completion of both tracks is contingent upon the development of a new document. But the following is a projected timeline for both tracks

   Track A: Completed: Summer - Fall 2017

   Track B:

   1. *Curriculum Template: Spring 2017*
   2. *Reinvest Maryland Section Determined: Summer 2017*
   3. *Educational Partner Outreach: Summer-Fall 2017*
   4. *Curriculum Developed: Fall 2017*
   5. *Training Begins: Winter 2018*

3. Children in Nature Initiative

DNR and Planning staff continue to discuss this initiative. The Education Workgroup provided Sandi Olek with feedback on a one-pager describing the workshop. DNR is organizing the Fall 2017 event with the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, and the Education Workgroup will continue to assist this workshop in the following ways:

A. Provide feedback to DNR on an informative one pager it is developing for the event
B. Suggest and help recruit workshop sponsors and presenters
C. Market the event and encourage others to attend and participate

Some updates regarding the fall workshop since the last meeting of the Sustainable Growth Commission are:

A. It will be a one-day event
B. Organizers are submitting a grant application for funding support
C. Still seeking speakers (Area in which the workgroup will assist)
D. Will be organized into two strands
   a. Planning tools and resiliency
   b. Community health and access
E. Need to start recruiting speakers and organizations
   a. Target audience for the workshop is adults, not children

4. Sustainable Growth Challenge (SGC)

The Education Workgroup has made significant progress reorganizing and developing marketing materials for the SGC. The following is an explanation of some of the changes that will be made to the Challenge.

Modifications: In response to feedback from faculty, the Education Workgroup suggests changing the SGC program in the following three areas to encourage greater participation:

  A. Submission Timeline
  B. Submission Format
  C. Faculty Incentives

Submission Timeline:

Reason for Changes: In previous years of the SGC, project submissions were due immediately following the completion of the fall semester. This made it difficult for faculty to fully vet and prepare the submission during a very busy time of year.

Proposed new timeline for 2017/18:

Date	Activity
Summer 2017	Education Workgroup representative outreach to faculty to discuss the SGC, encourage participation, and explain the timeline, submission requirements, and incentives
Fall 2017	Faculty inform their students about the SGC, register those who are interested, and communicate participation and project ideas to the Education Workgroup. Education Workgroup members are available for questions and/or a visit to a class to explain the SGC
January 2018	Submissions for the Fall 2017 SGC due to the Education Workgroup by mid-January

Submission Format:

Reason for Changes: The primary requirement for submission should be the completion of a successful project, not the completion of a burdensome form. Streamlining the submission process will encourage more faculty to engage in the SGC.

The following features will define the new submission format:

  A. Simple Form: Faculty and student(s) name and contact info
  B. A short explanation of how the project addresses 1 or more of Maryland's 12 visions
  C. In addition to the project itself, multimedia submissions (video, presentation, website, etc.) will be accepted. An in-person presentation is not required
  D. Students do not need to attend the awards ceremony
  E. College staff other than the professors themselves can complete submissions

Faculty Incentives:

Reason for Changes: A successful SGC depends on engaged faculty members who see a value, both for their students and for themselves, in participating. To advance their careers and bring a spotlight to their work and that of their students, faculty are looking for recognition and to establish connections in the state and in their field of study.

> The following features will encourage more faculty to participate in the SGC:

> A. SGC winners receive recognition at a statewide event or in a statewide publication
> B. The Education Workgroup invites the Dean or University President to the awards ceremony
> C. SGC winners (faculty and students) are invited to speak and present their winning projects at a conference, such as MPCA, MML, or APA MD
> Others to be developed

Timeframe for new SGC Project Design:

Date	Activity
May 2017	Securing of faculty incentives
June 2017	Completion of new program description and outreach materials
June/July 2017	Outreach to faculty to encourage participation, explain program changes, and outline submission requirements

The Education Workgroup has also established the following documents and resources to assist with the next SGC, set to start in the fall of 2017:

> A. Internal Program Outline
> B. Outreach Information Sheet
> C. Faculty Contacts List
>> a. Members of the Workgroup have assumed responsibility for reaching out to certain institutions of higher learning

The Next Meeting of the Education Workgroup is June 6 from 1:30 -2:30 PM