**EDUCATION WORKGROUP MEETING** **MINUTES**

**Summer 2017**



**DATE:** Wednesday, August 30, 2017

**TIME:** 10:00-3:30pm

**LOCATION:** Fish Shack, Chesapeake Bay Program Offices, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD

**WEBINAR:** http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/star/

**CALL-IN:** 866-299-3188, passcode: 267-985-6222

**PURPOSE:** To update and engage the full Education Workgroup membership on progress to date on 2016-2017 biennial workplan.

Poll Everywhere responses and supporting documents influencing minutes are available on the [Chesapeake Bay Program Calendar](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/education_workgroup_meeting13). All presentations from our speakers can be found [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0Yu7uVgf0YQVmUyOWN2YzRFSDQ).

**Student Outcome**

MWEE Guide *Educators Guide the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience* (Amy Green, CBF)

Why the MWEE Guide? (Amy Green)

The group generated a list of questions that address possible uses of the Guide, transmission strategies, and importance to learning.

* If the MWEE should occur 13 years, should we encourage all teachers to do one while we are working with them?
* How long would it take someone to use the audit tool?
* Any thoughts about selling the hard copy MWEE Guide?
* How can it be utilized in teacher professional development? What (if any) training is needed for trainers?
* Use as a marketing tool
* How do get administrative support?
* How does this tie into the standards? What are the outcomes/benefits?
* Working with students of diversity with English as a secondary language/different learning capabilities?
* Universal for all learning differences
* Is there a tracking mechanism in place and which are most useful for users?
* There are no bookmarks on the guide. How could we restructure the pdf to make it as user friendly as possible?
* How many disciplines could this be used in (around the entire system)?
* Collective way to understand and predict barriers and figure out how to overcome these obstacles
* Can we post examples of good MWEE lessons online?
* Can we create a 1-2 page advertising piece for coordinator and principles saying why this guide should be used by teachers?
* What training should be provided to what people and in what kind of ways? What are the different needs to advance people in more productive ways?
* What is the need?
* What are the opportunities?

Discussion about funding needs (Tom Ackerman, CBF)

* Shannon, NOAA: Highlight examples that enable us to make more money
* Tom Ackerman, CBF: What percent is covered by your state for environmental literacy? We need to make this number to push for greater funding. Tom wants to sit down with a group regionally and determine an approach for finding this out-find examples and project costs of systemic environmental literacy projects. We can use this to advocate for more funding. Do we need to have the same funding every year? Are there matching costs? The Education Workgroup can help provide guidance.

State Highlights from Biennial Workplan

* Presentations for MD, DC, DE, VA, and PA available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0Yu7uVgf0YQVmUyOWN2YzRFSDQ)
* WV-Committed to implementing BMPs for nutrient and sediment on schoolyards and working on developing systemic MWEE across 8 counties focusing on nutrient and sediment

**Sustainable Schools Outcome**

Bay Backpack School Grounds Web Presence & NWF Stormwater Project (Julie Dieguez)

Progress update: Bay Backpack takes information from national and regional resources that provide training for teachers. Julie walks us through the different teaching resources offered and case studies that will become available in the near future. Examples of past projects show the planning basics that went into it and offer instructions for creating your own; safety and accessibility guidelines, etc. i.e. rain barrels, rain gardens, nature play areas

School Grounds for Learning: Stormwater BMPs (Holly Shields)

* + - Stormwater and water quality sections are available on Bay Backpack and demonstrate how BMPs are being used on school grounds and how they are being integrated in MWEEs, having resources available to support projects at any phase with visual and written components.
    - The focus is on urban and suburban school grounds.

Outcomes of the state Sustainable Schools capacity building projects funded by NOAA/CBT

* Holly Shields- PA Green and Healthy Schools Project- wrapped up sustainable schools project in PA, hosted in-person workshops and webinars-sessions on conservation and waste, stormwater and school grounds, healthy schools, schoolyard habitats, nature play areas, and including resources for each. Feedback was received from participants; schools could share local resources and support projects.
* Rebecca Davis-Designing Healthy, Green, Sustainable Schools for the District of Columbia, pull out questions that address healthy schools, health and nutrition, schoolyard habitat, energy, transportation, and waste management. DC has a Healthy Schools Act for elementary-high school, awarding schools that significantly improve their environmental portfolio. They found that agencies were not really moving forward figuring out what a certificate would look like so have begun working with groups that address these 6 topics.

**Action:** Get Sally Parker on board.

* Frank Rodgers-How do we expand? Rebecca: working with schools who are interested and working with teachers they know to develop curriculum, trying it in schools
* Vicki Fenwick Judy-Sustainable Steps Project to raise awareness for WV sustainable schools and help schools become sustainable-**next steps:** finding new audiences beyond teachers (it has been working with science teachers in the past)
* Laura Collard-Sustainable Schools MD, based on sustainable schools outcome in Watershed Agreement, proposed to create a guide that will be given to superintendents of 24 school jurisdictions in MD with the US E.D. Green Ribbon Schools 3 Pillars framework
* Kevin Schabow on behalf of Katie Bartaletta-Delaware Pathways to Green Schools Program provides one on one support for schools with a goal to expand this program beyond northern DE

State Highlights from Biennial Workplan

* DE-Sustainable Schools Milestones, partnered with Ceasar Rodney Schools, schools need more support than anticipated
* MD-Framework development and evaluation of green schools to us green ribbon schools pathway. Challenge remains outreach and influence (might be worth trying something different)
* VA-Currently reviewing environmental literacy for the state, both formal and non-formal avenues, and coming up with goals for the upcoming two years. Getting a more holistic view of what is going on in the state will enable VA to come up with goals that will reach more people and provide a more cohesive program. PD for teachers is ongoing with the intent of adding a secondary environmental course for graduate credit, going to the board for approval the first week in October. VA is working with different formal and informal educators as well as environmental partners to provide content guidelines for the course. Adopting the Green Ribbon School program for the Commonwealth so that it will be maintained in VA if it does not go forward at the federal level.
* DC-Trying to identify university partners and coordinate between agencies
* PA- Sept. 19th will be first workshop to talk about stormwater BMPs and uses; credits are available for participating teachers. NOAA had a BWET grant in PA that tied green schools and environmental literacy
* WV-

**Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome**

Report on Leadership Summit

**Action:** Finalized Indicator and Metrics-high level engagement from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed-approaches we can use to support and incentivize school districts, how sustainable school efforts have decreased cost, potential new 98-1 directive (how we are doing our work and how we want states to engage with their LEAs and the CBP)-put on hold and will ideally become active next year. **Deliverable:** Indicator will be available on Chesapeake Progress

**Action:** Drew will send out Q-Storming Results from Leadership Summit to the workgroup.

* Environmental Literacy Indicators-survey for school districts to measure how we are
* Sustainable schools-figuring out with the state which schools are/should be certified sustainable performing and have data show our progress. Indicator data will be published fall of 2017 and results will be available in early 2018. **New decision rule:** 25% or more landmass must be in the watershed to be considered in the Chesapeake Bay Region

NOAA B-WET Capacity Building Project overviews

State-wide environmental initiatives

* + - PA-assembled statewide 3 year project, engaged their leadership team to meet 4 main objectives-all activities linked to PA’s biennial plan to develop, expand, and improve partnerships; have past successful BWET grant projects available to guide new projects.
    - MD-UMCES has a grant-project increases awareness and capacity of curriculum providers, addresses standards and makes the connection. The project enhances the quality of MWEEs in MD as stewardship and restoration are overlooked as well as contributes to academic achievements and greater environmental literacy of students. Workshops will bring teams together between fall, 2017 and spring, 2018. The toolkit is a peer advisory system to provide feedback to each other and is in the format of a list of existing resources (“steps for success”).
    - VA-goal is to provide teachers and administer MWEE training to meet standards. Summer professional development will be available for teachers and administrations as well as the use of webinars for how to implement MWEES.

**Action:** First planning meeting will kick off September 20th

* + - Earthforce (regional)-Assessing what barriers exist and developing a tool to overcome barriers, help build other organizations’ capacities so they can implement and enhance their own projects.

**Meeting Recap: Comments, Questions, and Needs from the Education Workgroup**

* What struck you about today? What do we need to do in the next couple of years?
* Can we have these meetings more often and more opportunities to talk through programs, get more collective value?
* Shorter duration meetings/more frequency
* Lightning round/poll heavy/more interaction
* Having offsite meetings with different partners to gain new perspective.
* We have come a long way in the last few years in terms of quality of projects.
* Sustained interaction (maybe online through Facebook group, via webinar)
* There is a story being told here that is not being told anywhere else. This is a model for the rest of the nation and so should be marketed and promoted.
* There is a lot of complimentary work-need more time for networking.

\*Other Important Dates\*

Environmental Education Practitioners Forum to be held November 29th & 30th at NCTC

\*Additional online resources from Bart\*

MD DNR Program: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/education/Pages/streamed.aspx>

PA Program: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/environmentaleducation/grants/pages/default.aspx>

Bart: Chesapeake Bay Trust: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/>

NOAA BWET: <https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/bay-watershed-education-and-training-b-wet/bay-watershed-education-and-training-b-wet>

DC: <https://osse.dc.gov/page/environmental-literacy-grants>

Bay Backpack Funding: <http://baybackpack.com/funding/>

**Attendees:**

Shannon Sprague, NOAA

Drew Pizzala, NPS

Ann Faulds, PA Sea Grant

Cindy Etgen, MD DNR

Julie Dieguez, The Wild Child, LLC

Grace Manubay, DC OSSE

Amy Green, CBF

Bart Merrick, NOAA

Kevin Schabow, NOAA

Tom Ackerman CBF

Laura Collard, MAEOE

Steve Kerlin, Stroud Water Research Center

Vince Meldrum, Earth Force

David Pragoff, DE Nature Society

Frank Rodgers, Cacapon

Holly Shields, NWF

Coreen Weilminster, MD NERR

Dorian Janney, NASA

Bert Meyers, PA DEP

Lindsay Bumper, NWF

Rebecca Davis, DC Environmental Education Consortium

Kelcy (need last name)

Josh Montanari, NPS

Vicki Fenwick Judy, Experience Learning

Britt Slattery, MD DNR

Donna Balado, MSDE

Charlotte Rich, Bay Advisors

Tara Baker, CBT

**On the phone:**

Anne Petersen, VA DOE

Laura Casdorph, VA DOE

Betsy Ukeritis, NY

Cassie Doty, UMCES

Jon Wickert, DE State Parks

Lorna Rosenberg, EPA

Estelle Ruppert, PAEE

Bonnie Smith, EPA

David Christopher, MAMEA

Susan Cox, USFS