

# MINUTES

## Education Workgroup Conference Call

Monday, June 10, 2013

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.



### Workgroup Member Action Items

- Please email [sarah\\_brzezinski@partner.nps.gov](mailto:sarah_brzezinski@partner.nps.gov) if you are interested in participating in a webinar to walk through the Bay Backpack mock-up.
- The process of collecting information to build-out the current lists of field study and professional development providers for Bay Backpack 2.0 is beginning. Please send email [sarah\\_brzezinski@partner.nps.gov](mailto:sarah_brzezinski@partner.nps.gov) any pre-established lists or databases of field study & professional development providers.
- If you are interested in helping to draft the Best Practices document, please contact Kevin Schabow at [Kevin.Schabow@noaa.gov](mailto:Kevin.Schabow@noaa.gov)
- Sarah Brzezinski will contact representatives from Virginia to assess the extent to which the gubernatorial election on November 5<sup>th</sup> is likely to impact Summit participation. If it looks like this will cause significant conflicts for members of the Virginia delegation, additional summit dates will be explored and a doodle poll will likely be circulated to Workgroup members.

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### A New Bay Agreement

The Chesapeake Bay Program has formally supported environmental literacy since the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement established an objective to provide curricular and field experiences for students. This commitment was renewed and expanded with signing of Education Directive 98-1 in 1998, and with the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (an outdoor student experience that is part of a comprehensive unit of study) keystone commitment of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement.

Recognizing that many goals of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement have been completed or expired, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership has begun the process of drafting a new Bay Agreement to be signed this fall. Members of the Education Workgroup discussed the status of this agreement and confirmed support for the inclusion of the following proposed goal and outcomes:

**Goal:** Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle, and high school that were supported by teachers who have received professional development in environmental education and schools that are models of environmental sustainability.

- **Student Outcome:** Increase the number of students participating in meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle, and high school.
- **Educator Outcome:** Increase the number of teachers receiving sustained professional development to provide and support student meaningful watershed educational experiences.
- **School Outcome:** Increase the number of schools in the region maintaining their buildings, grounds, and operations using best practices to support environmental and human health.
- **Local Education Agency Outcome:** Increase the number of local education agencies implementing system wide approaches for environmental education that include meaningful watershed educational experiences.

The proposed goal and outcomes align with those found in the Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy. It was developed with significant input from states as well as academic and nongovernmental organizations with the intent of creating shared goals and outcomes. The new Chesapeake

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Bay Program Agreement formalizes this intent.

**Associated Documents/Presentations:**

- [A New Agreement](#)
  - [Outcome Justification - Environmental Education](#)
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## **Metrics Development**

During this session, Jamie Baxter and Shannon Sprague presented information on the evolution of the Chesapeake Bay Program's commitments related to environmental education and the development and tracking of the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) metric. During past Education Workgroup meetings, members agreed that it is a priority to revise and enhance the MWEE. Shannon and Jamie provided updates on actions that have been taken to this end, presented a timeline for metric revision, and introduced Tina Goodwin-Segal and Suzanne Weinlein, evaluation experts from Measurement Incorporated who will be assisting the Workgroup with the completion of the strategy and instrument that will be developed for this effort.

Specifically, Measurement Incorporated will be collaborating with the project team to develop a draft Program Capacity Evaluation Tool to track the implementation of environmental education activities at the local level (LEA) and working to recognize high priority indicators/metrics with effective environmental education in order to identify gaps and needs in the implementation of environmental education. Tina and Suzanne discussed the scope of their work with the workgroup and outlined a timeline for their project.

**Associated Documents/Presentations:**

- [Building Better Metrics](#)
  - [Development of Environmental Education Program Capacity Evaluation Tools](#)
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## **Updates on Other Chesapeake Bay Program Projects**

### **Best Practices**

In August 2012, a workshop was conducted to bring together members of the academic community with regional environmental education professionals to identify best practices in K-12 environmental education based on current research and evaluation. This workshop also supported ongoing efforts to improve the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience indicator. A workshop report is currently in the final stages of drafting, with an anticipated release in July of this year. A document identifying essential and suggested research-based best practices for environmental education in the areas of students, educators, and schools is also in development.

### **Bay Backpack**

Through meetings with partner organizations and stakeholders, several key priorities for the build-out of Bay Backpack have been identified. These priorities include the reorganization of teacher resources into collections, the inclusion of a "search by address" option for field study locations, improvements to the teacher training section of the website and providing stronger connections to state and affiliate partners. In the spirit of efficiency and collaboration, and in recognition of the high expense of developing individual teacher resource websites at the state level, the Bay Backpack development team has been examining ways to serve information onto partner websites and to work more closely with affiliates throughout the build-out process.

### **Education Summit**

The Education Summit is biennially convened to advance conversations around how partners at all

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levels (federal, state, and local) can be more effective and efficient at developing and implementing environmental literacy programs. In 2013, the Education Summit will take place at the Westin in Annapolis, Maryland. Proposed Summit goals were outlined in the [Education Summit Draft Agenda](#) and November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are being explored as potential dates.

#### **Education Workgroup Co-Chair**

Jamie Baxter (Chesapeake Bay Trust) and Rebecca Davis (DCEEC/MWCOG/Clean Air Partners) were both nominated for the vacant Education Workgroup co-chair position. Prior to the conference call, Rebecca expressed her preference to remain a member of the Workgroup rather than a co-chair and graciously declined the nomination. During the conference call Jamie's nomination received support from additional workgroup members, and with no objections being raised, he formally accepted the position. Shannon Sprague (NOAA) and Jamie will now serve as co-chairs of the Education Workgroup.

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#### **Meeting attendees included:**

- Tom Ackerman
- David Bauman
- Jamie Baxter
- Sarah Bodor
- Sarah Brzezinski
- Pat Buckley
- Libby Campbell
- David Christopher
- Laura Collard
- Susan Cox
- Anita Davis
- Rebecca Davis
- Lisa Deaton
- P. Trinh Doan
- Ann Faulds
- Drew Ferrier
- Mike Foreman
- Melanie Frisch
- Suzie Gilley
- Tina Goodwin-Segal
- Gary Hedges
- Page Hutchinson
- Chris Kemmerer
- Grace Manubay
- Barbara McGuiness
- Tonyea Mead
- Karen Mullin
- Ashley Peebles
- Chris Petrone
- Bill Portlock
- Ann Regn
- Eric Rhoades
- Frank Rodgers
- Ruth Roperti
- Kevin Schabow
- Shannon Sprague
- Elena Takaki
- Coreen Weilminster
- Suzanne Weinlein
- Kacey Wetzel
- Barbara Young