

# Education Workgroup Meeting Minutes

## May 8, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**Joe Macknis Memorial Conference Room (Fish Shack)**

**410 Severn Avenue**

**Annapolis, Maryland 21403**

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:10 Management Strategy Update and Timeline (Jamie Baxter, Kristin Saunders)

The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement states that the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) will develop Management Strategies for the Outcomes that support the Agreement’s goals by June 2015.

The Management Strategy was drafted with input from the workgroup and was released for public input. This input period closed on April 30th and we have just started to process the comments we received from interested stakeholders. The draft strategy will be revised based on these comments and then sent to the management board for approval on May 22.

We will be developing a redline version of the strategy based on the comments and a spreadsheet indicating how we addressed, or why we did not address each comment in the strategy. Draft will then be sent to the workgroup leadership team for review. After the Management board approves the draft strategy, they will be formalized and released on June 30th. After Management Strategies are completed our focus will shift to developing a draft biennial workplan which is anticipated to be due November 1st.

10:20 Jurisdiction Updates

* State leads provided an overview of:
  + ELIT implementation plans
  + Status of Action Plan development and stakeholder engagement
  + Other state highlights

Virginia

**Eric Rhoades** – Chesapeake Bay interagency Workgroup has been pushing communications materials to superintendents and instructional leaders in school divisions regarding the 2015 Watershed Agreement and encouraging them to provide input on the management strategy. These communications were followed by face to face meetings and webinars with superintendents and school divisions about the management strategies as well as implementation of the ELIT tool.

On May 28th and 29th, the Virginia Science Education Leadership Association will be holding a two day meeting planned at Natural Bridge for about 60 school divisions to raise awareness about the goal and outcomes in the agreement, and working on their literacy plans.

On Earth Day the Governor of Virginia signed an executive order centered on Environmental Literacy challenging teachers and school divisions.

ELIT tool has been announced and gone live, we are asking for the data to be submitted by September 1st.

District of Columbia

**Rebecca Davis**- As a part of the targeted information campaign, Grace Manubay presented to the Healthy Youth and School Commission, DCEEC, and LEA institute regarding the ELIT tool and about the Chesapeake bay Watershed Agreement. Kurt Moser from Earth Force and Nancy Katz from OSSE met to discuss the targeted information campaign, and moving forward on the outcomes. The targeted information campaign also met with Sustainable DC model school teachers and walked through the ELIT tool. We will also be doing more work with Charter Schools who are participating in MWEE to help them to fill out the tool as well.

Grace Manubay has changed positions and has started at OSSEE as the environmental literacy coordinator. Sally Parker is now the Energy and Sustainability Liaison from DCPS. We are also looking to pull some of the ELIT tool questions for the Healthy School Profile survey.

Delaware

**Jonathan Wickert –**Meeting between Secretary of DNREC and division directors from parks to talk about who needs to be at the table for more consistent meeting across DNREC to more accurately communicate about Delaware’s effort towards the Watershed Agreement. We are also hiring a grant writer to focus on grants for MWEEs and bay education in DE state parks, as well as work with Children in Nature Coalition, and which should hopefully increase our capacity to support MWEE programs. We are also looking to hire a Children in Nature Coordinator.

**Helen Fishel-** We are still working on getting the Environmental Literacy plan accepted. The plan was submitted to the Secretary of Education and DNREC. Delaware Nature Society is hoping to coordinate with both secretaries to get the plan into next years legislation.

Maryland

**Britt Slattery-** Partnership for Children and Nature, main outlet for working towards the agreement and workplan, is working to define the partnerships action plan to better align action for next year to fully support implementation of the agreement. We met with the state superintendent of schools and new Secretary of Natural Resources, who were both supportive of Environmental Literacy efforts. We are also looking to reach out to others that have not been a part of the conversation so far, such as ground maintenance managers to work on school ground improvement projects, the Farm Community to develop more agriculture specific education, and higher education to incorporate more Environmental Literacy Training into teacher pre-service training.

**Gary Hedges-** We have been doing outreach for the combined MD program survey and ELIT tool survey. The tool is now live.

**Laura Collard-** MAEOE received 480 green school applicants , both new applicants and recertification applicants.

Pennsylvania

**Dorian Janney-** This summer we will be hosting the NASA summer watershed institute in Maryland. The institute will consist of 30 teachers and will teach them about NASA’s missions and how they empower the Chesapeake Bay, they will also develop a MWEE for their grade level and they will present them as posters.

West Virginia

**Frank Rodgers-** The state accepted the NGSS but is leaving out the climate change science portion. The new superintendent is very positive about environmental literacy. A three county small grant program for developing environmental literacy tools has been developed. WV environmental educator association is reconvening and combining with the Science Educators Association for their conference. CBP leadership has been a good champion for the development of a WV ELIT plan, but we are lacking a strong leadership on the state level for Environmental Literacy.

Pennsylvania

**Lorna Rosenberg and Estelle Ruppert –**On Earth day the green and healthy school partnership was launched. The Partnership has formed a taskforce focused on health, wellness, and Environmental Literacy. There were two green ribbon schools in PA. PA has adopted and is promoting the ecoschools as the program schools can take get rewarded and recognized through. We have also found that the state website is not very cohesive – so we are looking to develop a portal so that all of the efforts on school grounds that are not actually education driven can be found in the same place.

New York

**Susan Cox–** Potential NY contact- Will Jaks New York State Department of Education

11:30 Lunch (on your own)

12:15 2015 Mid Atlantic Environmental Literacy Summit

* November 9-10 at the National Conservation Training Center (Shepherdstown, WV)
* Review/brainstorm agenda for Summit

**Kevin Schabow**

* The First day of the summit is bigger and good for networking and communication, were as the second day is more of a working session and detail oriented.
* This year is smaller (~75 invitees) so we need to have more targeted invites.
* This year the summits theme is sustainable schools, on day 2 we will be asking the working groups to focus on recommendations on how states and the Bay Program can address that goal.
* Day 1 we will have a plenary session, where we will could invite green ribbon school district awardees to speak about how they achieved their success, as well as some time for jurisdiction representative to talk about current sustainable schools effort in their states. After the plenary we will have breakout sessions, and we will be looking to the workgroup for breakout session topic suggestions.
* We will be reconvening the Sustainable Schools subgroup in the next month to further address discuss the agenda and to go over you recommendations for the afternoon breakout sessions.

Group Suggestions

* **Estelle Ruppert-** Suggested speaker- Jamie Cloud- Cloud institute- advocate for sustainable education
* **Mike Forman**- We could potential gather the Superintendents for a half day meet and greet at the summit. Also could use day two to focus on the state actions in the workplans.
* **Jamie Baxter**- On day 2 we are planning on sharing the workplan draft and the ELIT baseline data.
* **Kristin Saunders**- Suggested Speaker- Model school system that we look to as a model to share their experiences and how they achieved that standard for a plenary talk. Could even be outside the watershed, if they are the gold standard model.
* **Tom Ackerman**- Virginia Beach school system maybe a good model. It may be more beneficial to look at examples at the school district level, instead of school level.
* **Lorna Rosenberg**- Marshall County Schools, Montgomery County Schools, Boulder County Colorado, and other Green Ribbon winners may be appropriate models.
* **Gary Hedges-** Suggested Speaker-Renee Foose for Howard County Public Schools may be a good example of a superintendent who could speak on the topic of sustainable schools at the district level. It may also be a good idea to invite speakers with expertise in each of the different Green Ribbon Schools pillars.
* **Kevin Schabow**- Suggested Speaker- Rachel Gutter- Director for the Center of Green Ribbon Schools. We could also have a speaker talk over lunch.
* **Dorian Janney** - Suggested Breakout topic-One of the breakout sessions could focus on tools such as GLOBE, Fieldscope, and Google products and how they can be used for student data and sustainability projects.
* **Susan Cox-** ESRI ArcGIS is also a good tool to talk about
* **Frank Rodgers-** Suggested Speaker- Jefferson County WV public schools, where NCTC is located, have a great model of sustainable facilities programs.
* **Anita Davis-** Suggested Speaker or Breakout Topics- We could invite a leader of a trade organizations, or facilities managers, or invite USFW representatives who have worked with facilities management groups in the past on sustainability topics and get their lessons learned.
* **Laura Collard-**One of the School Grounds for Learning training sessions will be focused on sustainable schools and will be inviting representatives from facilities maintenance, based on this training we may be able to identify what types of maintenance representatives would be the best fit for inviting to the summit.
* **Anita Davis-** Since the meeting is limited to 75 people this year will there be webinar capability?
* **Jamie Baxter** – Webinar is definitely a possibility. The invite list starts with the leadership team of our workgroup, then we will add in people suggested from the workgroup and state representatives, we will look for people in facilities and other lesser represented groups that would be a good target for this summit.
* **Kevin Schabow –** We will probably be following up with email feedback, and forming a smaller group for more detailed planning.

12:45 CBT/NOAA Capacity Building Projects

* Provide feedback on proposed actions to support Environmental Literacy Goal and Outcomes

**Jamie Baxter**

* NOAA and CBP have some resources to support efforts that will help advance the work done by the workgroup. The Education Workgroup Leadership Team was asked to identify projects and actions that they thought would be a good fit for these resources, and then these projects were prioritized to produce a work plan.
* See workplan document for project details - <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/calendar/event/22617/>
* **Estelle Ruppert**- Will the Data visualization tool to be able to show us progress? Will this tool be state level or watershed level?
* **Jamie Baxter**- Yes it could have this capability but the scope will be figured out within the workgroup
* **Tara Baker**-Will you be working with communications professionals to develop the MWEE guides and handouts?
* **Kevin Schabow**- We will be working with Educators to develop the content and with Communications professionals to polish.
* **Jamie Baxter**- We are also hoping that the MWEE communications will include example programs especially ones that focus on lesser represented topics such as math.
* **Estelle Ruppert**- Is there a way to see the work that other goal team work groups are working on?
* **Kristin Saunders**- Collaboration is a new focus for the Bay Program, you can see the Management Strategies for the other goals online, and we will be working towards greater communication in the near future.
* **Coreen Weilminster**- Can we create a way to show progress or produce a timeline that can give others outside of this group a model of how we are achieving these goals?
* **Jamie Baxter**- This is a good idea to start thinking about.
* **Jamie Baxter**- MWEE communications and MWEE guide will live on Bay Backpack, so any supporting MWEE documents should be also posted there.
* **Britt Slattery**- I think one of our major communications needs is to promote Bay Backpack better.

1:15 Next Steps

* **Kevin Schabow**- We will be following up on Summit agenda finalization as well as management strategy drafts.

1:30 Adjourn

Attendees

Estelle Ruppert

Lorna Rosenburg - EPA

Barbra McGuiness U.S. Forest Service

Laurie Jenkins- Montgomery County Public Schools

Trena Ferrell- NASA

Sarah Brzezinski- Chesapeake Biological Lab

Emily Beck

Vicki Fenwick- Judy The Mountain Institute

Ariel Trahan DCEEC-Anacostia Watershed Society

Mike Forman Department of Recreation and Conservation

Eric Rhoades - VA Department of Education

Suzanne Cox- US Forest Service

Grace Manubay – OSSE

Trinh Doan- District Department of the Environment

John Wickert - Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Chris Petrone- DE sea grant and University of Delaware

Rebecca Davis- DCEEC

Frank Rodgers - Cacapon Institute, WVEEA

Kevin Schabow- NOAA

Dorian Janney -NASA

Jamie Baxter- CBT

David Christopher- National Aquarium in Baltimore

Tom Ackerman - CBF

Gary Hedges - MD State Department of Education

Britt Slattery- MDNR

Tara Baker- CBT

Julie Walker- CRC

Helen Fishel - DE Nature Society

Laura Collard- MAEOE

Kristin Saunders- MDNR

Anita Davis- NASA

Coreen Weilminster -Chesapeake National Estuarine Reserve