

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – May, 2022  
*Chesapeake Bay Program*



# Environmental Literacy Planning

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Environmental Literacy Workgroup Co-Chair*

*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*

## Goal: Environmental Literacy



### Planning Outcome:

Each participating Bay jurisdiction should develop a comprehensive and systemic approach to environmental literacy for all students in the region that includes policies, practices and voluntary metrics that support the environmental literacy Goals and Outcomes of this Agreement.



## Environmental Literacy Preparedness (2015 - 2019)



2019 Environmental  
Literacy Indicator Tool  
(ELIT) data, self-reported  
at the school district level.  
Next ELIT survey will be  
administered in 2022.

# Environmental Literacy Preparedness: By State

## of LEAs within Chesapeake Bay Watershed (2019)



2019 Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) data, self-reported at the school district level. Next ELIT survey will be administered in 2022.



# Learn

*What have we learned in the last  
two years?*



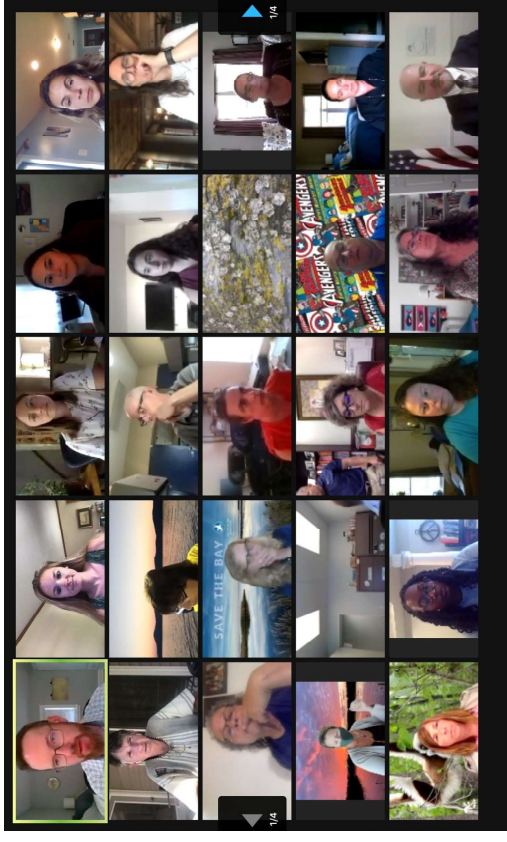
## Successes and Challenges

### What Worked

- Resources tailored to state priorities
- Mid-Atlantic Environmental Education Network
- Outdoor Learning Network Initiative
- Leadership Summit

### What Didn't Work (yet!)

- Figuring out sustainable funding model
- Collecting and distributing examples





## On the Horizon

What is impacting our progress?

### **Funding**

- First round of NOAA B-WET grants focused on school district capacity building + state capacity grants
- Potential for large, short-term influx of funding to school districts

### **Networks**

- Shift from establishing/learning to implementing State Networks in Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Network



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# Adapt

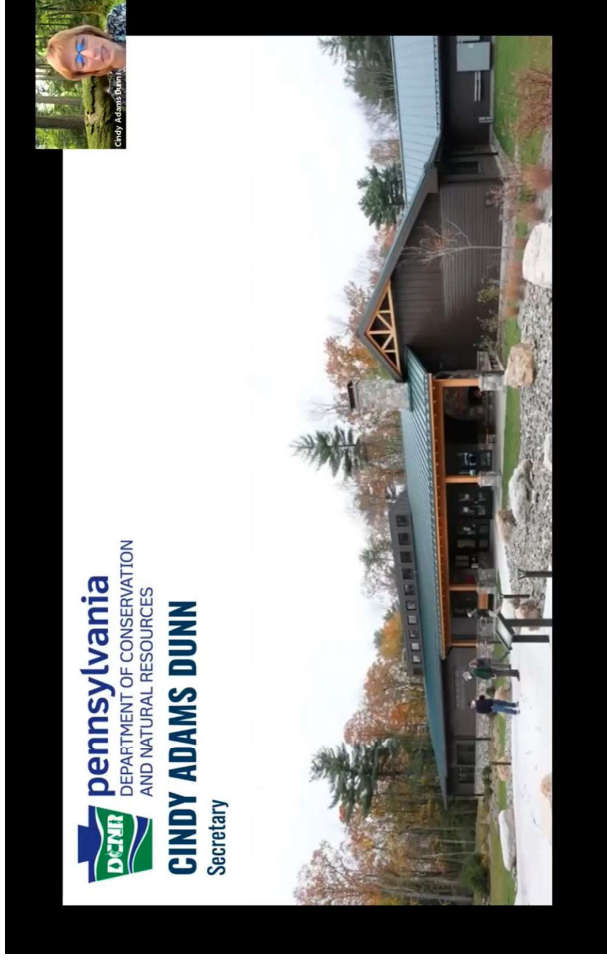
*How does all of this impact our  
work?*





Based on what we  
learned, we plan to ...

- Provide technical assistance to strengthen and diversify environmental literacy networks
- Support state efforts to develop district-level environmental literacy plans
- Assess impact of COVID-19 through ELIT Survey
- Determine cost of MWEE implementation and work to fill the gap
- Continue Leadership Summits





## Equitable and inclusive restoration ...

- Working with CBP data team to ensure up-to-date information on Diversity Dashboard
- Encouraging states and other funders to use that data to identify priority geographies
- Supporting Outdoor Learning Network Initiative (OLNI)
- Increasing state and regional Network Development



## Awareness

### What do we want you to know?

Critical gap at the Chesapeake Bay

Program:

- No Workgroup focused on youth who have graduated from high school but have yet to settle into career path (e.g. college students; first jobs; internships)
- Creates gap for workforce conversations





# Planning Discussion

*In your states or agencies, what efforts exist that are focused on creating a more diverse workforce in environmental fields?*



# Help

*How can the Management Board  
lead the Program to adapt?*



## Help Needed

**Overarching Need:** Establish environment-focused pathways in both Career Technical Education (CTE) and STEM for each state to produce workforce ready graduates.

### Specific actions to address need:

1. Management Board Members: If you choose, nominate staff from from the jurisdiction you represent to participate in a conversation around diversifying the environmental workforce through youth programs (high school/first jobs/college), including exploring intentional pathways involving CTE/STEM. Email names to Shannon Sprague ([shannon.sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:shannon.sprague@noaa.gov)) by May 26th.
2. Management Board Members: Establish an Action Team at the Chesapeake Bay Program to focus on Workforce pathways (Education Workgroup, Diversity Workgroup, STAC, others).



## Help Needed

**Overarching Need:** Sustainable funding to implement systemic environmental literacy programming in each school district.

Specific actions to address need:

Department of Education representatives/Management Board Members: We need to understand the cost required to implement and sustain systemic MWEs in your state. CBP could assist by providing the sample survey we have prepared and/or hiring a contractor to interview district reps. Would like numbers by the end of the calendar year.

1. By the next Management Board meeting, we are seeking a “yes” or “no” from each state as to whether they will provide a number by the end of the calendar year and what assistance they need.



## Help Needed

**Overarching Need:** Up-to-date data and information from every school district in the watershed on their efforts to create and sustain EL programming.

Specific action to address need:

1. Department of Education representatives: Send the Environmental Literacy Indicator Tool (ELIT) survey to district superintendents and content supervisors for each of the school districts in your states.





## Help Needed

**Overarching Need:** Maintain high level focus and coordination of state cabinet members and partners on Environmental Literacy Goal.

Specific action to address need:

It is Maryland's opportunity to host the 2023 Environmental Literacy Summit. PSC is the co-host of the event with Education Workgroup.

1. Seeking agreement from Maryland PSC representative to co-host, and staff level contact(s) to begin planning in Fall.

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# Discussion

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