

November 10th Meeting Summary

At the last meeting at Liberty Science Center, we updated the [Waterfront Action Agenda](#), got ideas from you on how to develop a Waterfront Scorecard for measuring success and found ways to work together to get greater regional funding for our collective waterfront goals. A subcommittee is already working to develop a document of what people in NYC and NJ need to know from both sides of the Hudson about the Harbor. See below for more information on this.

Here is more about what we accomplished at the meeting:

Updates

One of the reasons for this meeting was to get your input on updating the [Waterfront Action Agenda](#) and [Harbor Education White Paper](#). The updates you provided help us keep this policy agenda current and timely. Thank you for your contributions on these important policy documents and please let us know if you have any other updates. Your input is important as we continue to hear these materials are reviewed and used by decision makers.

Brainstorming fundraising ideas

Maritime and water-oriented environmental education is currently segmented and fragmented due to a lack of resources and for other reasons. We had a great conversation about creative ways to overcome these barriers and how the Alliance can work together to attract more private, State and Federal funding for water-based environmental education. See below for the minutes from this discussion. Please continue to send us more information about your ideas for attracting more funding and how it can be best accomplished.

Scorecard

To attract regional funding, MWA will poll the Harbor Education task force member as well as other harbor education organizations to gather information for the Waterfront scorecard.

In order to develop the survey, please complete this short questionnaire so that we can finalize the key indicators: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GV7NS2Q>

We received a lot of great ideas about the Waterfront scorecard indicators. In addition to your ideas, MWA will work on determining how much:

- Money per kid is spent on environmental education
- Money is available from governmental sources for NYC and NJ
- Money is available from governmental sources for NYC only
- Money is available from governmental sources for northern NJ only and
- How many existing waterfront parks and ferries are being used for education?

One of the great opportunities that will come out of the development of this framework document and scorecard is we will have an important communication tool which will

guide future work and influence decision makers. Please continue to send us your ideas and input.

Discussion of ways to improve harbor education

It was brought to our attention that the region needs an inventory of traditional and nontraditional environmental education programs to clarify who does what, improve continuity and facilitate communication between organizations and constituents.

Teachers need a clearing house of information that offers:

- A framework about what students and teachers should know about the harbor;
- A list of public programs as potential field trip sites;
- A list of all organizations' physical addresses;
- Pre and post trip toolkit;
- Training opportunities;
- Transportation costs assistance;
- Service learning opportunities; and
- Resources

Some of the Resources include:

1. **New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program's Teacher's Guide**
<http://www.harborestuary.org/pdf/teachersguide.pdf>
2. **Green Schools Alliance materials** <http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/>
3. **Common Core Standards Initiative** <http://www.corestandards.org/>
4. **Schedule** for introducing science curriculum
<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/Science/default.htm>
5. **New York State Outdoor Education Association** is a leader in developing the statewide Environmental Literacy Plan. Jessica Kratz, the NYSOEA's Metro Region Representative wanted to extend an invitation for you to join the New York State Outdoor Education Association (see enclosed NYSOEA membership form).
6. **New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary** is updating their map and database of civic environmental groups working in the NY-NJ Metro Area. If you have not joined yet, please fill out a brief assessment of your organization
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QdqOW2tZ3W5Tyn0KKx3m_wg_3d_3d
7. **DEP** is in the process of compiling a Jamaica Bay education resource directory.

There was agreement that we need a framework outlining what people should know about the harbor.

Starting in January, a four member subcommittee will develop a clear message of what we want our constituencies to know about the harbor. What are the 10 most important things kids should know about the harbor and how can we create materials that educate students about them? The subcommittee will include:

- Kim Estes-Fradis, NYCDEP
- Claire Antonucci, New Jersey Marine Science Consortium
- Betsy Ukeritis, NYSDEC, Region 2
- Stephen Stanne, Hudson River Estuary Program/NYS Water Resources Institute

The subcommittee will build off of “Estuary Essentials - Key Understandings for K-12 Study of the Hudson River” developed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This Hudson River Framework document has direct links to NYS learning standards and was reviewed, measured, and used by scientists and college faculty. For the new document, the committee will define the boundaries of the harbor to include both sides of the harbor and the Hudson up to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Long-term goal

To ensure harbor education policy opportunities are identified and acted upon in legislation, it was suggested we should use the results of the scorecard to mandate an environmental literacy plan in NY and NJ. The Alliance partners need to communicate as a unified front to get money through the government and the legislative process. Due to the size of our region, there is no reason why we should not have a similar environment-based education program like B-WET in CA.

Details from funding discussion

- Fundraising through governmental and legislative processes:
 - MWA should help multiple organizations get larger amount of money through government and the legislative process. MWA should contact the following elected officials: Congressman Steve Rothman (NJ), Congressmen Donald Payne (NJ) and Congressman Jose Serrano (NJ) to see if they are able to get funding for harbor related issues. Senator Robert Menendez and Council Member Peter F. Vallone could also be influential. We should strengthen our relationships with Judith Enck who is now at EPA region 2 and Lisa Garcia at the national EPA to push for more funding. MWA should connect with DEC Region 2 officials to see why NYC DEP does not have a line item for environmental education even though the state law requires DEC to provide environmental education programs.
- Outreach to funders:
 - MWA could work with Sandy Hooks pilots to do a harbor tour for elected officials and invite Environmental Grantmakers Association.
- National funding opportunities
 - The NOAA California Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program provides funds to support environment-based education throughout the watersheds of San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, and Santa Barbara Channel. Despite the size of our region, NY and NJ lack a similar type program. NOAA should have a similar type program

specified for our region due to our size. There are 1.1 million public school kids in NYC in addition to the private and parochial school kids. A bi-state congressional coalition could influence NOAA to create a similar type program.

- Pursue restoration funding for a Billion Oysters project
- Environmental reparation funding
- EPA Supplemental Environmental Project
- Other creative ideas:
 - Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is coming up for renewal. How do we tap into this and use ADA as a way to improve access to the water?
 - At Stevens Institute they have gotten funding from Homeland Security Funding. Is there a way we can tap into this?

Don't forget to complete the short [questionnaire](#) so that we can develop the final survey and scorecard.

Please call me if you have any questions and thanks for your great work!

Cortney

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