



Chesapeake Bay Program
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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July 16, 2013

RE: STAC Environmental Literacy Workshop Report

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
Annapolis, MD 21403

Cc: Management Board, Foster Chesapeake Stewardship GIT, Education Workgroup

Dear Mr. DiPasquale,

Please see the attached STAC workshop report entitled, “Research-Based Best Practices in Environmental Education.” This report provides a summary of STAC’s August, 2012 workshop. The report also includes specific recommendations identified by workshop attendees. Attendees recommended the following:

Recommended Best Practices for Students

- A key suggestion made was that MWEEs (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences) should include analysis and evaluation periods throughout each stage of the MWEE (during preparation, action, and reflection stages).
- Expansion of the MWEE definition to include sustainability, energy, and land-use, with an explicit connection to the human communities/human interaction piece; this suggestion specifically related to the language that all MWEEs should consider the watershed (or local environment) as part of a system.

Recommended Best Practices for Educators

- Teachers implement instruction guided by learners’ interests and building on their prior knowledge.
- A goal of all teacher professional development (PD) in environmental education should be to increase the environmental literacy of the participating teachers, encouraging them to be environmental role models for their students.

Recommended Best Practices for Green Schools

- School buildings, grounds, and operations should make continual progress towards net-zero environmental impacts.
- Teachers and students should have access to school energy use, water consumption, and waste production data so these can be used in teaching.
- Schools should select green practices that have a local context that is culturally relevant, with school grounds a venue for investigating local environmental issues and taking environmental action.

We hope these recommendations are useful, and STAC looks forward to your feedback. Inclusion of such considerations are likely to increase environmental literacy throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

STAC respectfully requests a written response to the above specific recommendations from the CBP Management Board Chair by Monday, September 16, 2013.

Please direct any questions you may have about this report and its recommendations to Natalie Gardner, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Coordinator, and lead workshop steering committee member Kevin Schabow (NOAA-CBPO).

On behalf of the entire STAC, thank you again for considering these recommended next steps, and we look forward to working with you closely on this in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Havens', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kirk Havens
Vice Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

On Behalf of Chris Pyke Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee