

Regional Planning, Full Group Discussion:

During the remainder of the afternoon, the group reconvened as a full group to report out on their local break-out discussions. Participants were asked to highlight potential place-based projects or opportunities that they felt most ready for development (or in cases, adding value to existing efforts). Moreover, participants were asked to share what types of regional resources, coordination, and support would most benefit their local projects and work (or interest in potential projects and work). This aspect of the discussion was intended to address aspects of interest and capacity toward a regional support network or “hub”; and if developed, what might a regional support network look like in the context and scale of northeast Michigan? Who would be the appropriate leaders and developmental partners be? And finally, what types of roles and responsibilities, services and assistance would a regional support network need to provide to be efficient, effective, and successful in supporting place-based work in the region?

The following summarizes the guiding questions and group discussion occurring as a result of this afternoon discussion:

Locally Specific Projects and Opportunities that would benefit from PBE Developmental support:

“Community connections” field trips for school/teacher/students?

...Exploring/developing specific projects -- were there any projects/opportunities that stand out today?

- A)
- B)
- C)

After reconvening, each break-out group shared and discussed specific place-based projects that they considered to most partner and resource ready. They described specific resources, partners, and other necessary support required for these opportunities to be successful. Broadly, the group demonstrated a strong interest and investment in place-based education work in the region. If a regional support network or Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative “hub” were to be developed for northeast Michigan, these represent immediate projects that would benefit from directly from developmental assistance.

The following summarizes reporting out from break-out discussion groups:

“Cheboygan/Otsego (and Jo-Berg from Montmorency)” Group

- YES, very interested in Place-Based Education work
- PBE Projects most ready for developmental investment:
 - Kevin’s Watershed Work:
 - Not looking for more, but sustainability funding
 - Salmon in the Classroom/Project F.I.S.H.
 - Want to be doing more in-class hands-on
 - Study/Habitat work with State Parks/Coastal Properties: Cheboygan’s 4-H connect with The Nature Conservancy

- Sturgeon Education: research, interpretation, potentially Sturgeon in the Classroom
- Ship-based Education – education opportunities out on the water (research vessels, tall ships, etc.)
- Challenges/Resource Needs/Necessary Support:
 - More time to I.D. and develop curriculum/lessons (Inland Lakes H.S.)
 - \$\$\$ Funding for:
 - Teacher Time Release
 - Mini-grants for teachers and projects
 - Equipment and training
 - General support in sustaining programs
 - Administrative buy-in and support
 - Meeting required benchmarks and standards
 - More staff/people time to take advantage of all the opportunities!!!
 - Need volunteers/man power from the community

“Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona (AMA) Educational Service District (ESD)” Group

- YES, Place-Based education an important investment for the region
- Projects:
 - Water Quality Testing
 - Lafarge connections/projects:
 - Fossil Park – working with active Alpena Quarry
 - Paxton Quarry – usage for educational opportunities
 - River Center Interpretive Development (with City of Alpena)
 - Youth Advisory Council
- Challenges/Resource Needs/Necessary Support:
 - Educational Service District (ESD) level training and support
 - Math and Science Centers providing resources and professional development support
 - Tying content to Michigan Benchmarks
 - Training for Teachers
 - Public Awareness/Support
 - Tools & Funding to Implement

“Presque Isle” Group

- YES, Place-Based education important; important to use natural resources in learning; already working to achieve through Ocqueoc River Celebration and Salmon in the Classroom work
- Projects:
 - Ocqueoc River Celebration: sustaining, growing, sharing lessons-learned with other interested schools
 - Salmon in the Classroom – sustain and grow opportunities with community partners
 - Field Trips with Resource Experts – be specific, connect with “sense of place”

- Planning Retreat/Professional Development opportunities for COP ESD: connecting teacher ideas with community connections, and supporting with service learning/PBE in-service training
- Challenges/Resource Needs/Necessary Support:
 - Promoting opportunities with administrators
 - Matching benchmarks with community projects
 - Sponsor ESD-level meeting to provide:
 - Place-based education in-service
 - Plant seeds about what's out there and potential opportunities
 - Service Learning a big part of county school's investment; place-based education and community-based education can help facilitate integration of projects with community

Developing a Regional Support "Hub":

Group discussion identified that there is strong interest in place-based work within the region, with multiple examples of educators interested, projects (or potential projects), and community partners and support. Regional support for place-based work is important, and given the context of the region, a 6-county scale is appropriate for a regional Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative support "hub," so long as there is adequate support for more locally specific schools and projects.

The regional Educational Service Districts and Math and Science Centers were identified as most important in generating administrative and developmental support. In support of successful place-based work, a supportive regional "hub" would seek to provide administrative support, facilitate communication and resource-sharing across the region, provide access to professional development opportunities, assist in "match-making" between schools and potential community partners, and seek sustainable funding for sustaining existing efforts and facilitating start-up resources for new efforts.


Group Discussion:

In regards to project specific discussions, group identified administrative support & leadership as critical to place-based work in the region, including:

- Promoting opportunities with administrators
- Administrative buy-in and support
- Educational Service District (ESD) level training and support
- Math and Science Centers providing resources and professional development support

Regional Support "Hub" Concept

- Regional "Hub" funds out there – is "regional coordinated support" beneficial?
 - MDE Grant (COP ESD, Onaway Schools)
 - GLFT Grant (funding, per today's discussion)
- Interested in pursuing? ...who would want to participate?
- ***WHAT MIGHT THIS LOOK LIKE???
- Scale?
 - For grants, 6 county regional partnership makes you stronger, more competitive;
 - practically, smaller scale (ESD or school level) better when offering PD opps or just working on specific projects (i.e. your breakouts
 - Which is better?maybe both???
- Organization?
 - A once-a-year networking meeting?
 - Does this mean to create a new entity (i.e., formalize this group)?
 - Support Staff Person in existing agency (ESD's, Math/Science Centers, etc.)
 - A "virtual hub" working funding, collaboration, coordination of roles/contributions of many existing entities?
- Other ideas?



General discussion about regional “hub” development:

- Generally, interest from all three breakout groups in developing place-based opportunities
- Virtual hub probably best option (rather than starting a completely new entity)
 - However, going to need to identify staff or point person
 - “somebody has got to be in charge”
- 6 counties (COP ESD, AMA ESD) is a “good scale” for a regional hub
- Could envision meeting regionally (all 6 counties) on a yearly/annual basis; and would anticipate that several smaller “sub-groups” could meet locally and more regularly on specific project details and development
- Communication strategy is key to regional hub; important to share ideas, resources, and lessons learned across counties
- Administrative support must be involved; would require a process for updating and involving administrators (administrative buy-in is important)
- Functions of “hub” might be to identify, plan, and address issues of \$\$\$, time, training, and benchmark achievements with administrators.
- Need to address issues/challenges of taking kids out of classroom (e.g., travel,)

Regional Communication:

Regional Communication?

How do you want to learn about resources/opportunities?

- Regional Newsletter? ...useful?
- Website? ...large investment – worthwhile?
- Can continue to house meeting notes/resources on web:
www.miseagrant.umich.edu/education/gl-aquatic-edu-network.html
- Email/Listserve? ...Quick, Easy & Free – useful???
- Regional Networking Meetings? ...are these useful?????? ...

Supporting regional networking, communication, and resource sharing has and continues to be a value for northeast Michigan. This meeting represents the second such regional networking and planning event this region has hosted in discussing youth Great Lakes and aquatic education opportunities. The region anticipates a continuation of these annual types of regional opportunities. Participant lists, development of a regional listserve, and a catalog of meeting proceedings on the internet are ways of investing these connections made in specific projects and opportunities throughout the year. Fostering

regional communication is one specific role and responsibility that a regional Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative support “hub” would serve in benefit to northeast Michigan.

Group discussion:

- Yearly regional meetings are valuable – topics can be identified via input from listserve
- Regional website:
 - Website could serve as “on-line dating service” model to match needs & Resources
 - Have youth create a website for this group
 - Youth can be involved in developing websites, giving school buy-in to developing and maintaining websites
 - Project FISH can help with web development

- Listserve –
 - Use a list-serve (many agreed on this)
 - quick, friendly and free [this identified as a priority and “low-hanging fruit” for region to achieve quickly in enhancing communication]
- Emphasize communication between teachers and administrators in offering in-services. In-services should:
 - Draw on peer to peer sharing/mentoring opportunities locally
 - Offer shorter follow-up sessions/follow-up opportunities following in-services
 - Break-out sessions to develop projects

In regards to specific projects discussed, group identified the following need for and value of community partners and support:

- Need volunteers/man power from the community
- Public Awareness/Support

Professional Development Opportunities:

Professional Development/ In-service/training opportunities??

Related to PBE/CBE -- any interest in offering these types of opportunities for NE MI educators/schools?

- DTE Freshwater Institute (SEE-North)
- CBE Institute (Jon Yoder, Oregon/National Science Foundation)
- Service Learning training (Nick Holton – KCC)
- PBE training (Shelburne farms)
- Conservation Stewards Program (mini-training Dec. 13-14th)
 - send a team of 2 or 3?
- Fisheries Oriented? ...Project FISH (MSU, 4-H)
- Wetlands Oriented? ...Project WEBFOOT (DU, WET, WOW combo)
- Research Oriented? ...COSEE/NOAA Teacher at Sea Program
- Integrated Learning Curricular Resources
 - MEECS Curriculum (DEQ)
 - Caring About the Future (MAEOE, MSU)

Professional development is an integral component of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, and was considered a very important and necessary aspect of place-based programming development for northeast Michigan. In discussion related to specific place-based project opportunities, group identified that success depended upon access to professional development opportunities, time and support for further exploring project opportunities, and learning about curricular resources and training to help connect their place-based work with state learning benchmarks and standards.

Group Discussion:

In regards to specific projects discussed, participants described the following professional development needs.

- Professional Development & Opportunities for Project Exploration:
 - Training for Teachers
 - Sponsor ESD-level meeting to provide:
 - Place-based education in-service
 - Plant seeds about what’s out there and potential opportunities
 - Service Learning a big part of county school’s investment; place-based education and community-based education can help facilitate integration of projects with community
- Meeting Benchmarks & Standards:
 - Tying content to Michigan Benchmarks
 - Meeting required benchmarks and standards

- Matching benchmarks with community projects
- More time to I.D. and develop curriculum/lessons (Inland Lakes H.S.)

General discussion about professional development opportunities for the region:

- Encourage In-services to occur through ESD's and Math/Science Centers → Communicate to ALL!
- Annual meeting – different topics each year
- ESD staff in-service with resource people
- Get info to ALL teachers & don't reinvent the wheel/repeat effort
- Short time frame (2 hrs) with small focus group for single topic trainings, then follow-up meeting [in-service model]
 - Sprinkler Lake can help facilitate this
- Planning retreats for developing one program → teacher with specific resource people (Annie's Big Nature Lesson)
- Benchmark oriented field trips (e.g., fossil day @ Lafarge)
- Sponsorships to send teachers to conferences (MAEOE, MSTTA, etc.)

Professional Associations of Interest

May be worth knowing about – they host professional conferences, too!

- National Marine Educators Assoc. (NMEA)
- GLEAMS (regional NMEA Chapter)
- Aquatic Resource Educators Assoc. (AREA)
- Michigan Alliance for Env. And Outdoor Education (MAEOE)
- National/Michigan Science Teachers Assoc. (MSTA/NSTA)
- Others?

Facilities and Potential Field Sites:

Field Sites/Facilities:

- How do we best use regional facilities such as:
 - Ocqueoc Outdoor Center,
 - Sprinkler Lake,
 - Alpena "Wetland Classroom"
 - Others?
- Are there properties that could become "Outdoor Learning Labs" developed by students, for students?
 - Alpena Wildlife Sanctuary (Twp or City properties)
 - State DNR Parks properties
 - Lafarge Paxton Quarry
 - Others?

Field sites and facilities are an important consideration in this region. There are several existing and established outdoor centers and outdoor classrooms that are often considered underfunded and underutilized (often a result of lacking funds). Moreover, there are significant assets of coastal and other natural areas in corporate, federal, state, and local government ownership. Developing opportunities to use these facilities and properties as "outdoor classrooms" for student learning is a tremendous opportunity for the region. However, challenges such as funding, travel

logistics, and increased demand for field trips to demonstrate "test score" impacts limit these opportunities. This is a potential role and opportunity that may benefit from regional investment and leadership through a Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative support "hub".

Group Discussion:

- Concerns about losing valuable facilities that can serve as “outdoor classrooms”
 - Funding challenges
 - Reduced science emphasis by state
- Currently, facilities are under utilized
- Increased demand that facilities show “test score” impacts
- Transportation issues/challenges
- Could be a university project (a Master’s project) to study/evaluate impact of facilities usage in region
- Concerns about liability

Funding & Grants Discussion:

Funding Opportunities?

- Funding Identified and available:
 - External -- (GLFT, MDE, MCSC, EPA Env. Ed., Toyota Foundation, DEQ Coastal Management Program, and others?)
 - Within Region -- Community Foundation, Lafarge, Conservation Clubs, others?
- In regards to funding, are you:
 - happy to know what funding/funders exist and how to apply?
 - interest in collaboratively developing regional projects/proposals?
 - Pooling resources – possible local “funders collaborative” to strategically seek to serving BOTH specific local projects and also providing regional resources/support????????????????



Funding continues to remain a challenge and concern for this region – both for sustaining existing programs and fostering development of new opportunities. Addressing issues of funding was also identified as a priority need and opportunity during 2006 regional planning discussions. Successful programming requires sustainable funding resources, as funding is required for professional development, project start-up, equipment purchase, and even field trips to immerse students in the “places” considered in a place-based program.

It is assumed that development of a regional Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative support “hub” would also require significant funding in developing regional opportunities, such as in-services and trainings, communication systems and networks, and other administrative costs and duties. A role of such a “hub” should be to identify and support in developing funding opportunities for the region.

Group Discussion:

In regards to projects discussed, group identified the following need for funding for professional development, place-based project development and implementation:

- Tools & Funding to Implement
- need \$\$\$ Funding for:
 - Teacher Time Release
 - Mini-grants for teachers and projects
 - Equipment and training
 - General support in sustaining programs

General group discussion related to funding:

- Potentially offer grant writing sessions?
- Have a grant writer accessible (tied to hub development?)

- From a funder's standpoint:
 - READ Request for Proposals, and respond to funders' needs/goals/questions
- Next regional workshop might focus on grant-writing for specific projects identified
- Alpena County Library provides access to foundation → access to right grant, for right project (NE MI Community Foundation can help with this)

Potential Grants & Funding Sources Identified::

- Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
- KATCH GRANT
- Fish Ed Grants
- Community Foundations (www.cfnem.org)
- Fish America
- USFWS Habitat Action Fund
- Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Glassen Foundation
- Fish Ed (RBFF)
- Michigan Community Service Commission