



THE NOAA BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM (B-WET)

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Presentation Overview

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- About B-WET
- Program structure
- Request for voting representation on Education Council



NOAA B-WET

“Local Implementation of a National Vision”

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Goal: Use hands-on learning experiences to increase understanding and stewardship of our marine and coastal resources, integrate classroom instructional requirements with meaningful outdoor experiential learning

6 regions: California, Chesapeake Bay, Gulf of Mexico, Hawai'i, New England, Pacific Northwest

Variations on a theme:

- Focus on **Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs)**
- Built on established local NOAA presence
- Specific implementation tailored to local needs



B-WET Competitive Awards

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Priority areas are defined annually in FFO:

- Student MWEEs
- Teacher Professional Development
- Local priorities as defined by regions

Projects:

- 1 to 3 years
- \$10K - \$200K annually

Eligible organizations:

- K-12 schools & school divisions, colleges, State & local agencies, & non-profits

Rigorous program evaluations: Chesapeake & California



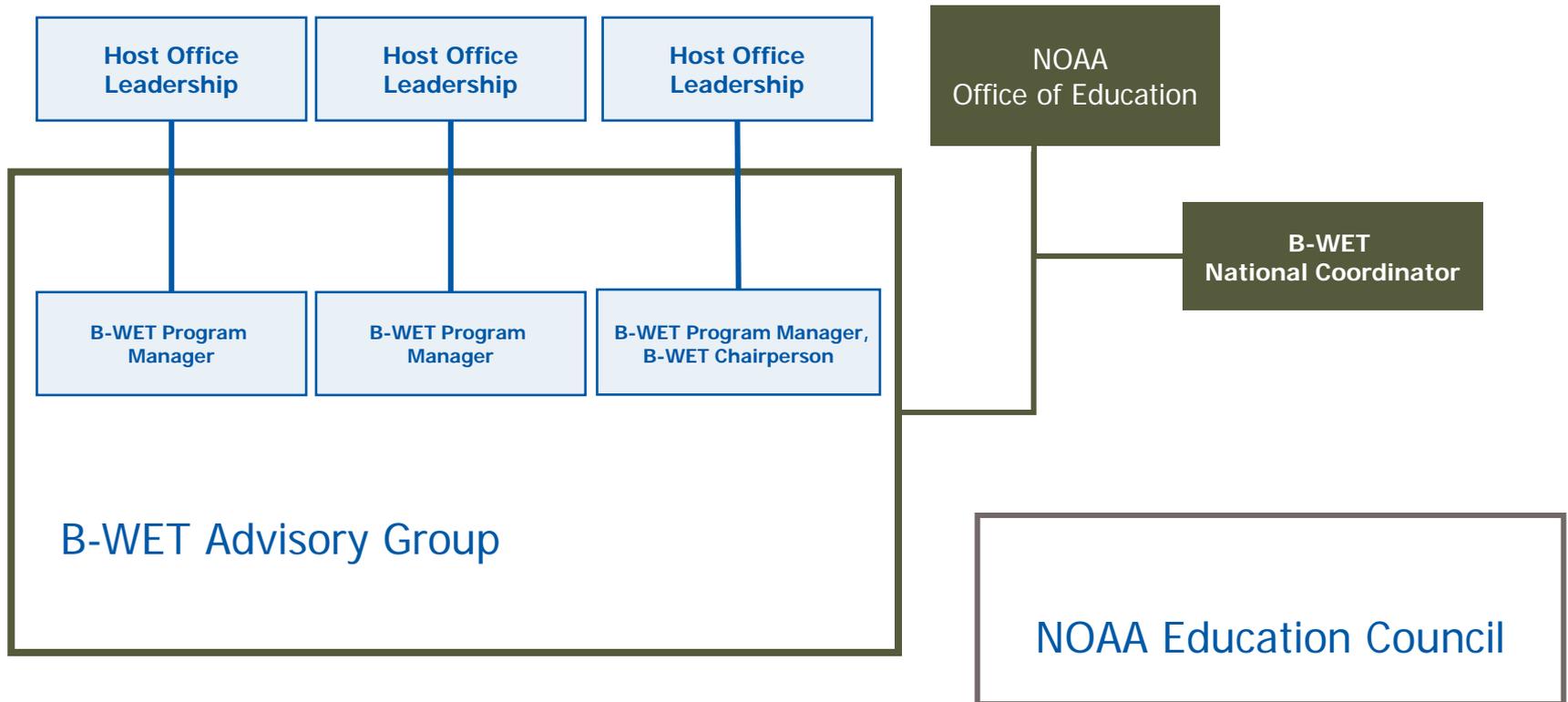
B-WET Regional Offices

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- 🇺🇸 California: **National Marine Sanctuaries**
- 🇺🇸 Chesapeake: **Chesapeake Bay Office**
- 🇺🇸 Gulf of Mexico: **Fisheries Southeast Regional Office**
- 🇺🇸 Hawaii: **Pacific Services Center**
- 🇺🇸 New England: **Fisheries Northeast Regional Office**
- 🇺🇸 Pacific Northwest: **National Marine Sanctuaries**

Program Structure

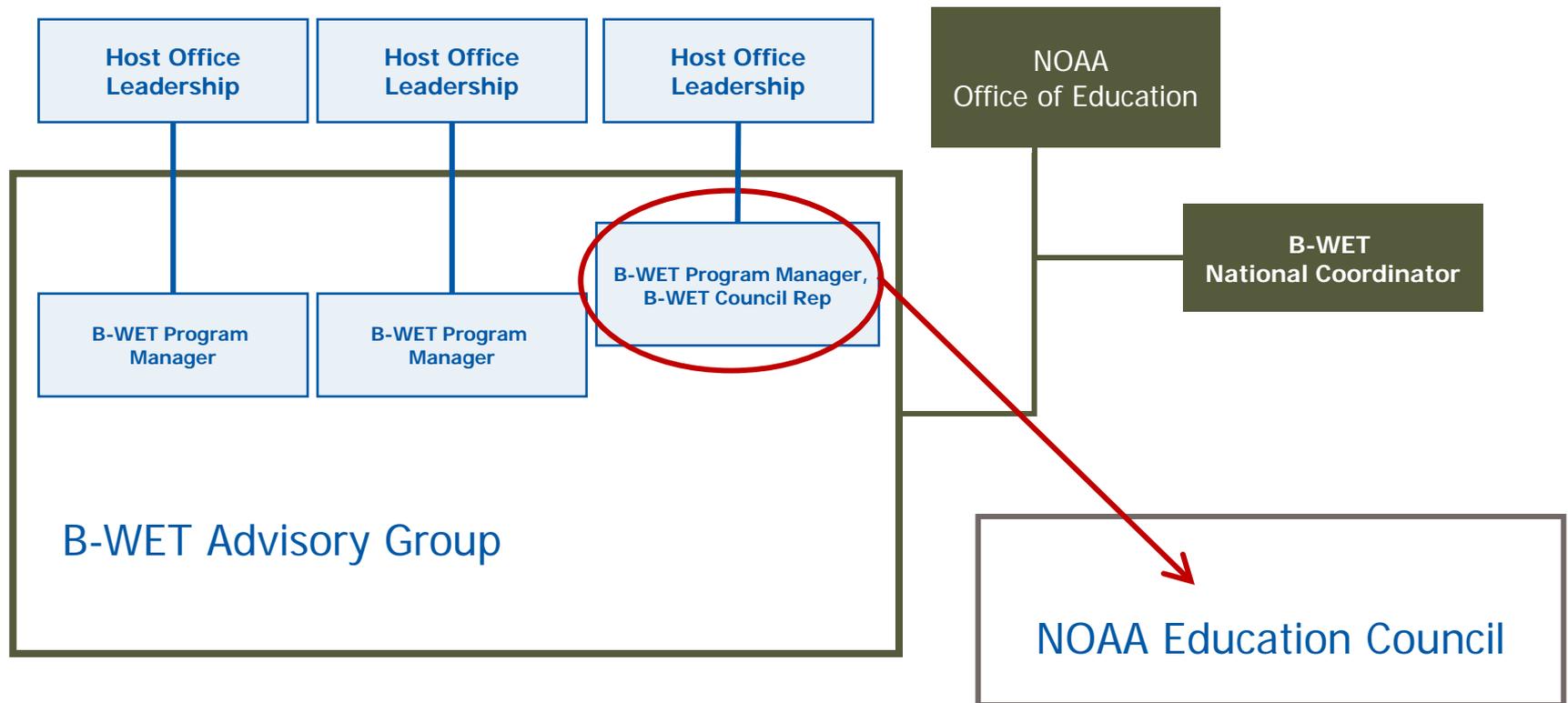
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B-WET Advisory Group coordinates cross-program interests



Education Council Proposal



Propose NOAA Education Council membership to be filled by rotating Advisory Group Representative



New Membership Criteria

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- Sustained, significant education programs
- High level of education capacity
- Capability that benefits Council and NOAA community
- Support from NOAA leadership
- Dedicated education staff
- Supports NOAA Education Strategic Plan
- Agree to implement Monitoring and Evaluation System



Sustained, significant education program

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- Began in 2002 in Chesapeake and has shown continuous resource and geographic growth
- \$9.7M annual program – one of NOAA's largest
- Since inception, invested over 40 million dollars in 530 regional education projects
- National priorities independent of line offices priorities



High level of education capacity

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- 6 regions covering 22 states
- Local partnerships with state departments of education, natural resource agencies, universities, and non-profits
- Reaches more than **125,000** Students and **6,000** Teachers through **130** projects annually
- Projects follow rigorous MWEE definition and include NOAA information, products, and services



Capability that benefits Education Council and NOAA community

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- Strong ties with NOAA regional structure
- Significant NOAA resources invested in regional education with expectation of grantees using NOAA products, information, and services
- Many and varied partnerships with local and regional constituents
- Influences systemic institutional change and builds capacity for NOAA education



Support from NOAA leadership

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- Strongly supported by
 - ✓ NOAA Administrator
 - ✓ Regional Collaboration Teams
 - ✓ Line Office Leadership in NOS and NMFS
- Major player in the national policy arena with respect to experiential education
- Multi-state, bipartisan Congressional support



Dedicated Education Staff

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- 6 NOAA FTEs as regional leads
- Additional NOAA FTEs and contract staff provide program support



Supports NOAA Education Strategic Plan

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- Worked with Council representatives to ensure B-WET priorities represented in NOAA Education Strategic Plan
- Strongly supports Goal 1
 - ✓ Key contributor to Outcomes 1.2 and 1.3
 - ✓ Also contributes to remaining Goal 1 & Goal 2 outcomes



Monitoring and Evaluation System

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- B-WET has undergone rigorous evaluation
 - ✓ B-WET Chesapeake independent evaluation
 - ✓ B-WET California constituent-driven evaluation
- Well-structured methods and outcomes
- Beginning work on national evaluation strategy that will incorporate and contribute to NOAA Monitoring and Evaluation System



B-WET would be a powerful asset to Council

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Thank you for considering our request for membership.



Bay Grasses in Classes
Chesapeake B-WET



Coastal Roots Program
Gulf B-WET



River Center Foundation
Pacific Northwest B-WET



B-WET Regional Contacts

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- ☑ **California:** <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/bwet/welcome.html>
Contact: Seaberry Nachbar, **NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries**, 831-647-4201, seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov
- ☑ **Chesapeake:** <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/formaleducation.aspx>
Contact: Shannon Sprague, **NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office**, 410-267-5664, shannon.sprague@noaa.gov
- ☑ **Gulf of Mexico:** Contact: Buck Sutter, **NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office**, 727-824-5301, buck.sutter@noaa.gov
- ☑ **Hawaii:** <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/psc/bwet.html>
Contact: Stephanie Bennett, **Pacific Services Center**, 808-522-7481, stephanie.bennett@noaa.gov
- ☑ **New England:** Contact: Kathi Rodrigues, **NOAA Fisheries Northeast Regional Office**, 978-281-9324, kathi.rodrigues@noaa.gov
- ☑ **Pacific Northwest:** Contact: Robert Steelquist, **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**, 360-457-6622 x19, robert.steelquist@noaa.gov



QUESTIONS?

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<http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/educationmain.aspx>

<http://www.oesd.noaa.gov/BWET/>



Backup Slides

Illustrating a MWEE



Experiences are investigative or project-oriented.

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Middle school students document the occurrence of purple loosestrife to share with an online community of students and scientists.

Vital Signs, Gulf of Maine Research Institute

New England B-WET

Experiences are an integral part of the instructional program.

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An elementary student interviews a Hawaiian elder “kupuna,” about traditional marine resource management.

Kupuna Wisdom Project,
Community Conservation
Network

Hawaii B-WET



Experiences are part of a sustained activity.

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Chesapeake B-WET



Coastal Roots Program,
Louisiana State University
Gulf B-WET



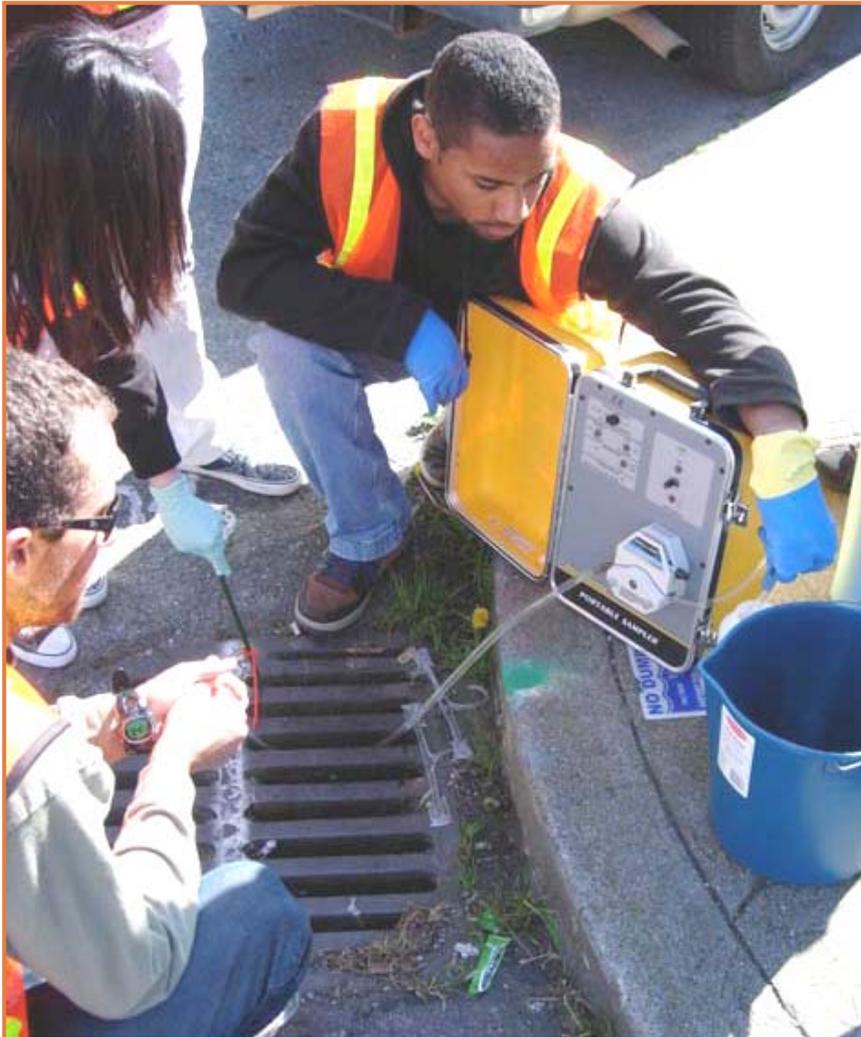
River Center Foundation
Pacific Northwest B-WET

A suite of activities illustrates the phases of MWEE projects.



Experiences consider the watershed as a system.

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Urban students collect storm water samples to test for environmental contaminants.

Reaching Out to Communities and Kids with Science in San Francisco, San Francisco State University

California B-WET