



Minutes
Gateways Network Working Group Meeting
Chesapeake Bay Foundation Offices
July 11, 2002

Present: David Bancroft, Lee Epstein, Bob Carter, Melanie Teems, Pat Stuntz, Elizabeth Hughes, Ron Weis, Lisa Gutierrez, Marci Ross, Meriwether German, Maria Vonderheid, Wilmer Henninger, Bob Campbell, Skip Meehan, Jonathan Doherty

The Working Group reviewed the minutes of the June 12 meeting, making no changes.

Support Organization Discussion

Conceptual Framework and Principles for Developing a Support Organization:

David Bancroft and Bob Carter reported on the revised “Conceptual Framework and Principles for Developing a Support Organization”. They noted that the steering committee had met with Claudia Schechter to incorporate changes proposed by the Working Group at the June 12 meeting. Moreover, they recommended that the Working Group use the principles as revised as the starting point for consultations with designated Gateways. Working Group members agreed the revisions reflect the group’s prior comments and that the revised draft is a good basis for pursuing further consultations with Gateways.

Consultation Process for Developing a Support Organization

David Bancroft and Bob Carter also outlined the draft “consultation plan” for talking with Gateways about the potential for a support organization. Working Group members generally felt the multi-venue approach (individual meetings, working group meetings, conference calls, etc.) for discussing the concept with Gateways made sense. Members felt it was very important to couch any presentation of the concept within a larger picture of what the Network is and what it could be; Gateway partners are still just learning about the Network and getting comfortable with the existing organization. Members also felt it important to make clear to Gateways that their would be a range of opportunities for providing input and feedback. Marci Ross raised the question of whether and how outside constituents in the private sector might be brought into the discussion. In particular, she was concerned that the Network should begin to help build relationships with private sector supporters around Gateways who could benefit the sites. While members generally felt there is a commitment to talk first with designated Gateways about the support organization concept, they also recognized that bringing in partners to individual sites through means other than just the support organization discussions would benefit the Network and the sites. Working Group members also wanted to be sure that consultations with Gateways were not rushed too quickly and allowed to develop in a reasonable manner; their may be good reasons for extending the discussions over a bit more time. Overall, members agreed the steering committee should proceed with the consultation process, while considering the comments made during the discussion.

Second Grant Round Review

The Working Group reviewed pending grant applications and made recommended funding decisions.

Pending Nomination Review

Working Group members reviewed information on the Lee's Mill Park nomination and determined it did not meet Gateway designation criteria at the current time. They did recommend meeting with Newport News officials to consult on other possible options.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.