

# Minutes

## Estuary Education Seminar

New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Hudson River Park Trust

Hudson River Estuary Program and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve

December 18, 2018 10:00 AM –1:00 PM

### Location: Hudson River Foundation

17 Battery Place, Suite 915

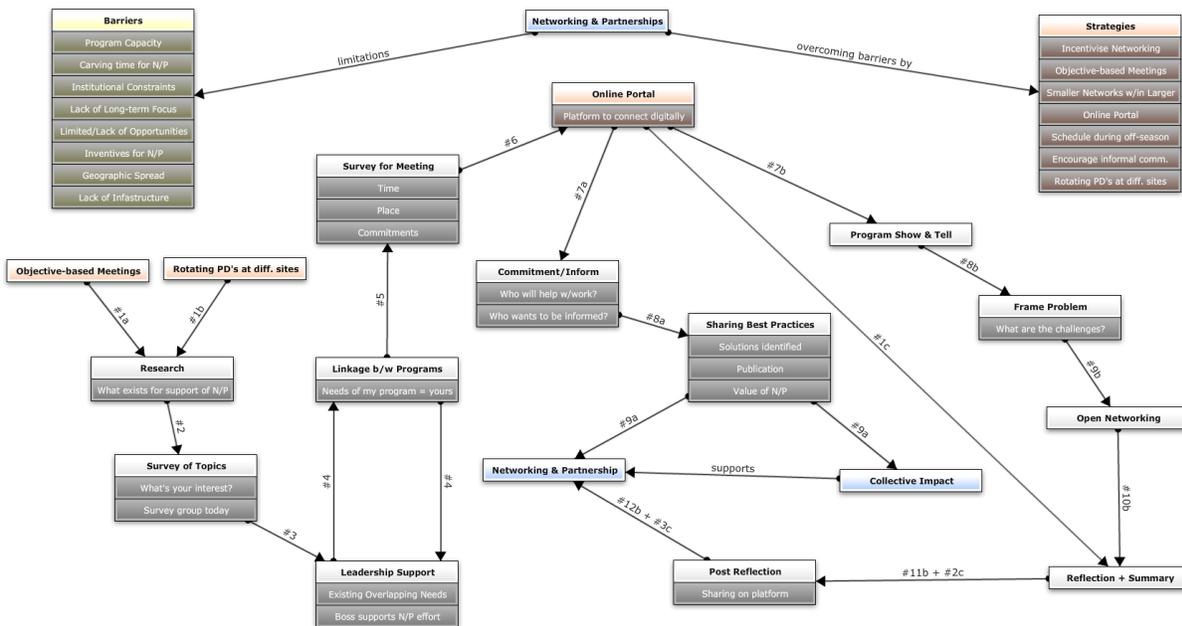
New York, NY

### Building our Community of Estuarine Educators:

- Quarterly meetings for larger network great, more frequent for smaller groups to address goals
- Having a public list serve (google drive) is important. Could we develop a generic Gmail account for Harbor Educators to access information that do not currently have a Gmail account?
- Newsletter that includes possible job opportunities, events, webinars, etc.
  - Possibly create a Facebook Group as a platform to share information
- Rotating around organizations for these meetings

### Theory of Change: Harbor Educators Focus Goals:

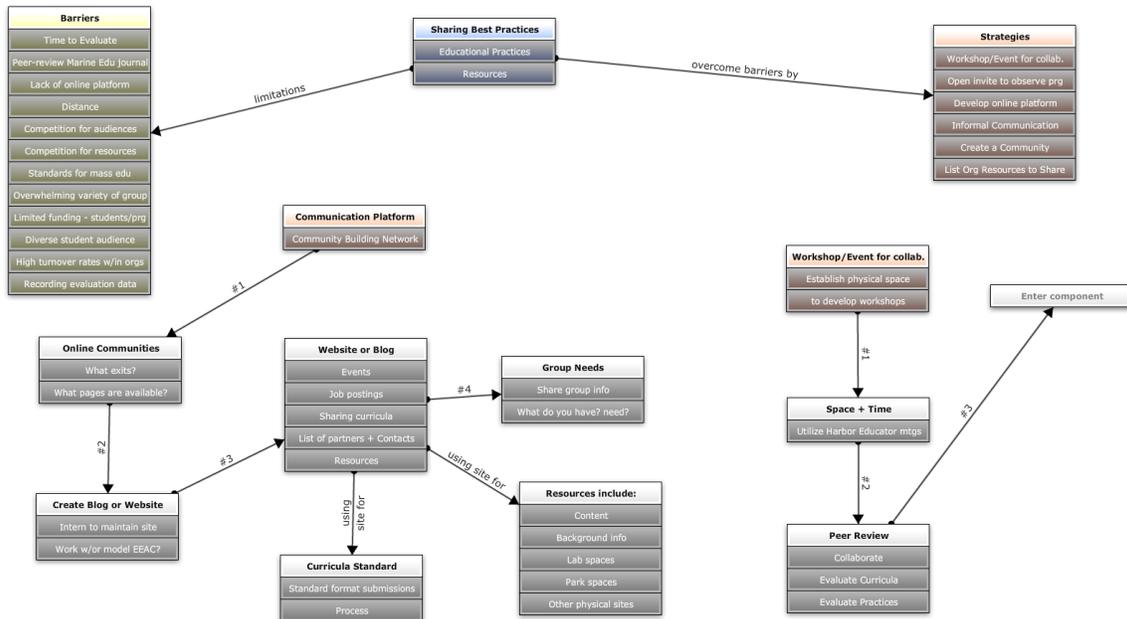
#### 1. Networking and partnership



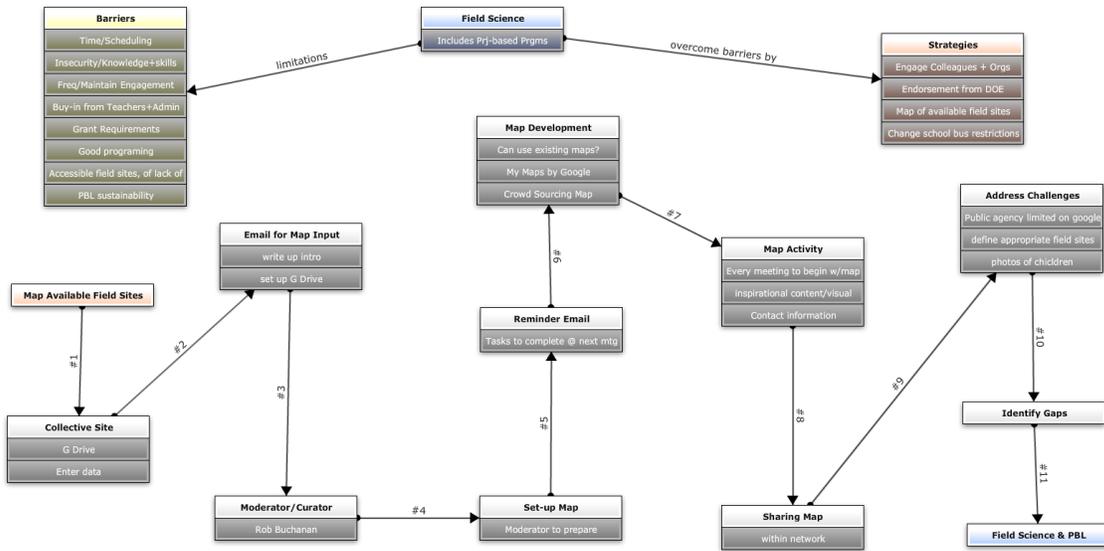
- The following are pressing topics provided by individuals post-meeting for an objective-based meeting to be established:
  - Content-specific topics:
    - Estuary ecology

- Microplastics Education & Pharmaceuticals – understanding impacts
  - Birds
  - History of the Estuary
  - Outreach to public schools
  - Environmental Justice
  - Climate Change
- Lesson plans
    - Development – indoor and outdoor
    - Critiquing/Review
  - Resource sharing
    - Mapping in locations and contacts of partners
    - What are active citizen science/broad-based estuary related research projects besides BOP? How do we get involved in those?
  - Field Science – how do we make field science more focused or educational rather than experiential experiences?
    - Student research that is focused on qualitative data
  - Professional development
    - Training on how to evaluate a program (Program Assessment)
    - Specific content training
    - Informal educators to teach formal educators
    - Long-term/intensive format for informal educators
  - Transitioning from a seasonal to permanent employee
  - Network and Needs Assessments

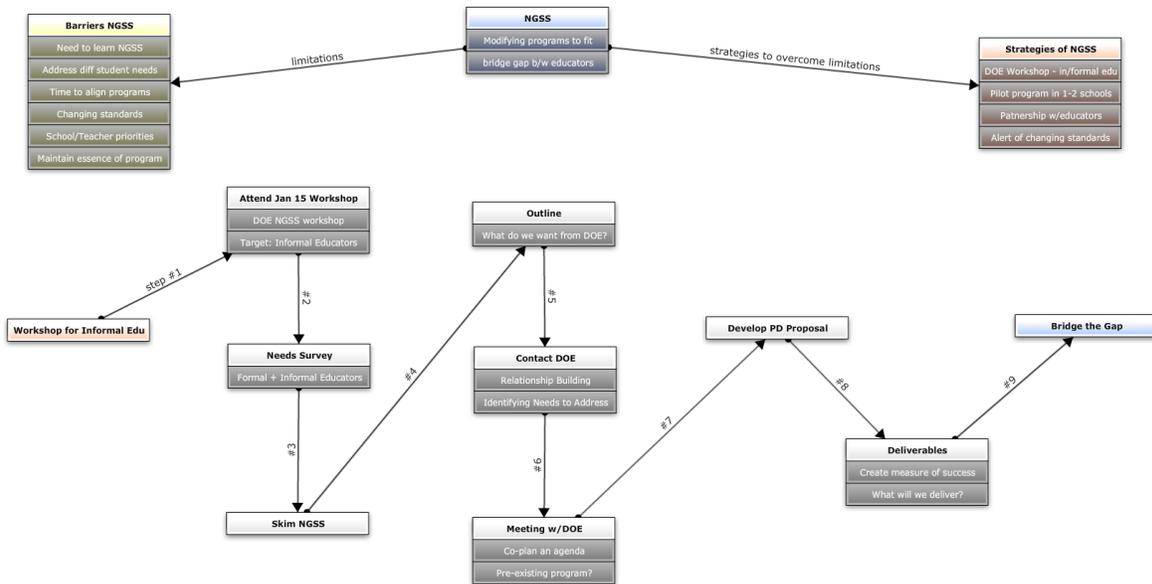
## 2. Sharing best educational practices and resources



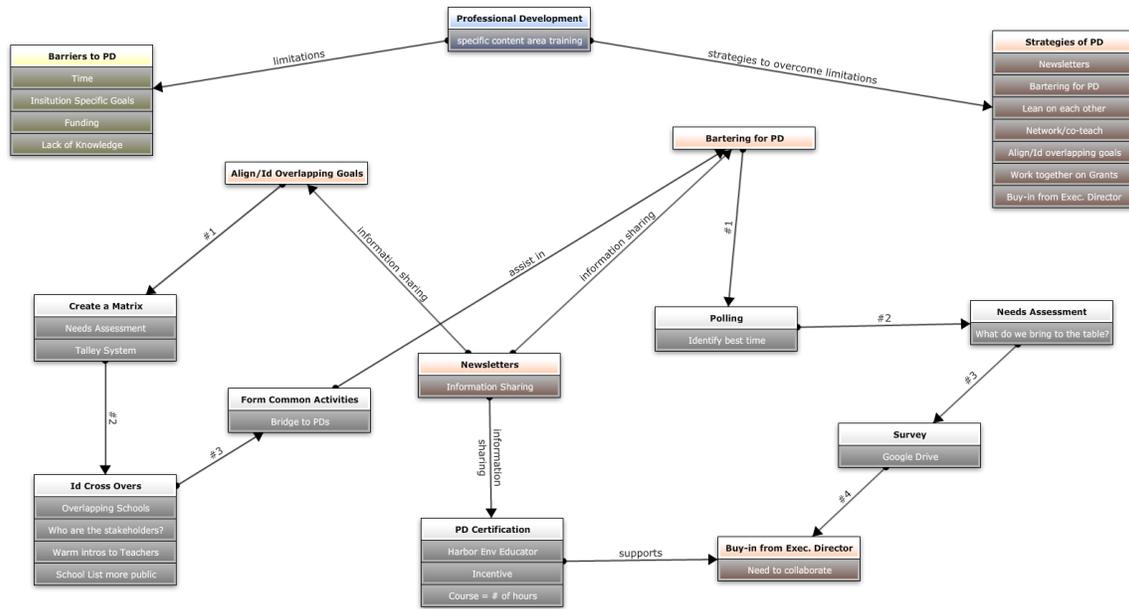
## 3. Field science and project-based programming



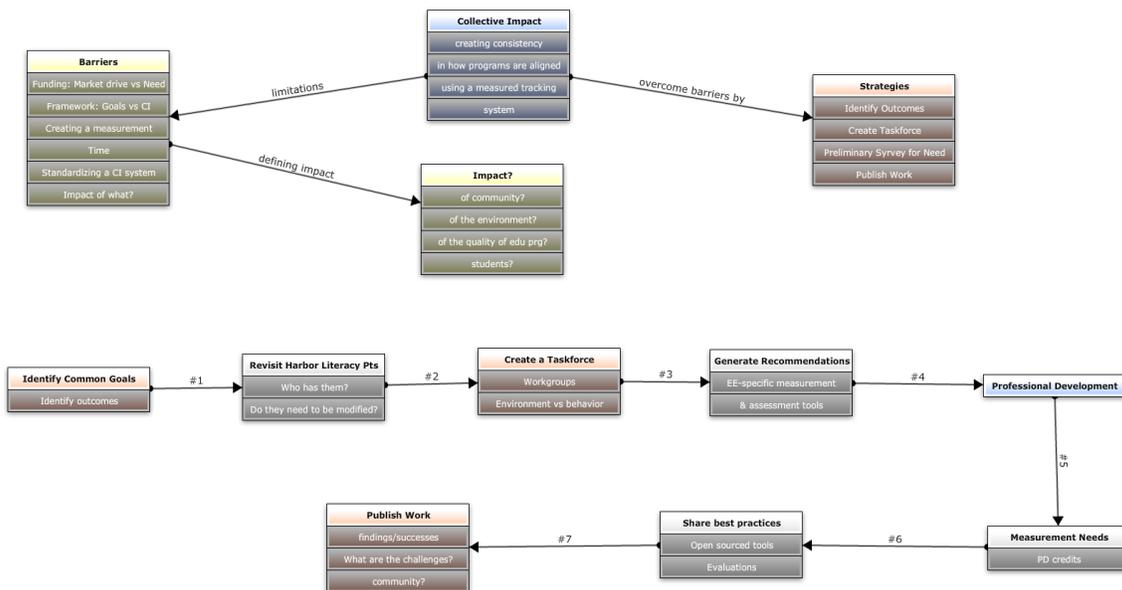
#### 4. Next Gen Science Standards and how to make existing programs fit



#### 5. Professional development and specific content area training



6. Collective impact and creating consistency in how programs are aligned via a measurement system



Reflections:

- Showcasing value for networking and partnership – is this a research proposal that can support networking? HEP’s Action Agenda identifies this need (see page 63 Action CE-C-2: Education)
- Next meeting could develop a map to simply input people’s programs to begin identifying overlaps and resource sharing of best practices
  - MyMaps by Google allows a collaborate link for network map and free
  - Beginning of matrix index (contacts, topics, program link, etc.)

- How can we engage New Jersey informal educators? Why are they not present?
- NYC Office of Sustainability has NYC school list, how can we be engaged?
- Environmental Education Advisory Council of NYC and DOE is hosting an NGSS training for Informal Educators, this can be an opportunity to continue dialogues under Professional Development goal. Harbor Educators could be a special audience for the DOE to engage.
- My Learning Plan and the Intrepid Museum have potential resources
- **Frequency of meetings:** Twice a year or quarterly; prefer smaller breakout groups to meet in between larger network meetings; 2 hours; weekday in the mornings are best; before and after field seasons – March, end of June, and November/December
- **Location of meetings:** Move the meetings around to reach other organizations we want to connect with and enable host to highlight a project or program. Recognize agenda alignment with site capability (Wi-Fi, transportation access)
- **Accessing the group:** Mailing lists; google group (generate an arbitrary Gmail); create a private Facebook group; Manhattan is great, but how to engage NJ?; newsletters; calendar; website or blog; webinars.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- December 18<sup>th</sup> Billion Oyster Project will be featured on the Discovery Channel
- January 11<sup>th</sup> Bezack to host Environmental Informal Educator Round Table
- January 15<sup>th</sup> DOE's NGSS Training for Informal Educators
- February Northeast Fishery Conference by the American Fishery Society