



Educational Excellence With An Environmental Emphasis

May 26, 2017

To: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)

If the proposal submitted by Dr. Jennifer Frisch entitled "**Watershed Stories: Learners Exploring their Place in the Ecosystem**" is selected for funding by the NOAA B-WET program, it is the intent of Stowe Staff to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description. Additionally I would like you to know a bit about Stowe.

Stowe Elementary would be the perfect site for this collaboration:

- Stowe has many Environmental Education resources and everyone can meet in the building during summer and monthly meetings.
- There is a strong commitment by the Staff to Environmental Education.
- Stowe has had a nice connection with UMD in the past
- Stowe Elementary has the Infrastructure to support a focus on EE:
 - A 19 acre Trail system
 - Other outdoor spaces including a butterfly garden, an atrium, several large fish tanks
 - Equipment such as microscopes and many other Science focused materials, also a worm farm, a classroom set of cross country skis, ice skates and muck boots.
 - An Environmental lab
 - Commitment by the Duluth district to Outdoor Education
 - A food/waste reduction center at lunch and a plan for the building to reduce, recycle and reuse.

Stowe has a long history of Environmental Education, but over the last several years EE has been shelved. The staff would like to get back to its strong commitment to EE. Stowe is also committed to involving the community and the community is committed to Stowe. This grant would help us to revive the EE program, which in turn would revive the neighborhood school.

Sincerely, Cynthia Maldonado