



Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Conference Call
July 9, 2015, 10:00 am

STAC Members on the Call: Dr. Matthew Poach (Chair – NOAA), Jim Vasslides (BBP), Charles Caruso (PPA), Tom Belton (NJDEP-OS), Clint Lehman (ReClam the Bay), Rob Karl (BTMUA), Matt Csik (OC Health Dept.), Dr. Ron Baker (USGS), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Charles Caruso (PPA), Dr. Pete Rowe (NJ Sea Grant), Britta Wenzel (SBB), Scott Conklin (OCUA).

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff: Dr. Stan Hales, Mary Judge.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Poach at 10:06 AM.

The purpose of the conference call is to develop a consensus recommendation of how to expend the funding previously awarded to Dr. Monica Bricelj, who recused herself from the project she had submitted. Dr. Bricelj has accepted a Fulbright award and will be working outside of the country.

The three potential recommendations previously submitted to the STAC were reviewed and discussed.

Approximately \$50,000-\$55,000 will be available to fund a new project. A suggestion was made to reach out to groups who may have wanted to submit a proposal on shellfish restoration/implementation/research projects, but did not.

Dr. Baker and Mr. Karl reviewed a project they are working on regarding the vulnerability of the intake on the Metedeconk due to salinity from road salt, storm events, and sea-level rise. This project would address water quality more than water supply. BBP funding would help with the overall project, and they are seeking additional funds from a NOAA grant.

Mr. Lehman recommended staying within the kind of program Dr. Bricelj was proposing (shellfish restoration), perhaps by looking at locations of historic shellfish beds and determining what made them viable on a chemical level (to include Rob Tunstead's work).

The STAC will provide a recommendation to the Advisory Committee (AC) as to the best use of the funds. Matt Csik suggested a new GFO for water quality and/or shellfish. The AC will have

its own discussion, taking STAC recommendations into consideration. The details of crafting of a new GFO were discussed. Mr. Belton suggested the Haskins Lab personnel might apply now that they would not be competing with Dr. Bricelj. He recommends the RFP address both issues – shellfish and water quality/quantity.

The original GFO was going to use funds from FY13-15 combined (\$55K). FY16 funds were put into the STAC contract fund. The Stockton and ALS projects will come from FY13-15. The second project will come from FY16. We work on a three-year grant cycle. The AC wants to take some action at their meeting next week; therefore the BBP could be sending out a new GFO by the end of July.

There was a discussion about the timing of the GFO and it was decided that there was no reason to wait and waiting might interfere with the beginning of the field season.

A suggestion was made to go for both proposals (shellfish/water) in order to get more proposals in. A motion was made by Ms. Raabe to recommend that the AC issue a GFO for both shellfish restoration and water supply. The motion was seconded by Mr. Belton and was passed with one nay from Mr. Lehman.

Applicants will be given approximately one month to submit a letter of interest; it will take the BBP a week or two to review; full proposals will then be due in a month in a half, then it will take another month or so for review. If the AC agrees, Mr. Vasslides will draft a GFO to distribute to STAC for comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54.