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Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2018 (9:30 a.m.) at OCC Gateway Building (Room 401)

Present:

Members: Chris Claus (OC Parks), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB); by phone: Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Angela Andersen (LBIF), Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

Guests: John Wnek (OCVTS), George Murnyak (Citizen Rep), Sam Tomkowich (SBB intern)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chris made a motion to approve the November 2017 minutes, seconded by Lynette, all in favor.

Ideas for 2018

The CEC discussed ideas for education and outreach in 2018. George suggested the BBP decorate a tree as part of the Tuckerton Seaport's annual tree festival; trees are decorated by local organizations. He also mentioned the idea of exhibiting at flea markets to reach a different audience. Becky talked about how the words "biodiversity" and "ecosystem services" are important to include in the CCMP and can be explained in public-friendly ways. Implementing Jersey-Friendly Yards landscaping at every municipality and at county properties was discussed as a CEC goal for the next few years. Angela said it is important to support new policies at the state level and to act as a resource at the local level, *e.g.* by providing model ordinances to municipalities. Shari suggested making the storm drain art project discussed at the last CEC meeting a goal in 2018.

Barnegat Bay Curricula

CEC discussed how we can better share the existing Barnegat Bay curricula with teachers. It was pointed out that the "Barnegat Bay Watershed Resource Guide" already exists, but has not been updated since 2013. GraceAnne suggested making the information more accessible and searchable on the BBP website. John said that for teachers to use the curricula, they must fit into the NJ content standards. He suggested targeting the elementary school level, especially Alpha and Omni classes. Lynette suggested contacting Tanya Oznovich (NJDEP) for input about the NJ content standards.

CCMP Outreach

Karen and Betsy updated the CEC on CCMP public input events scheduled in February and March at branches of the Ocean County Library (Brick, Toms River, Lacey, and Stafford). A partner activity or program will be part of the events, which will be publicized through news releases and social media outlets.

BBP Education Update

2018 Education and Outreach Retreat

The CEC discussed the following possible dates for the retreat: April 10, 12, or 13. The retreat will be held at MATES and include a tour of the restoration project and new educational nature trails at USFWS's Cedar Bonnet Island. There will also be a break-out session to brainstorm about actions for the communication objectives in the revised CCMP.

Action: Karen will contact John to coordinate the best date for the event at the school, and she will prepare the agenda and Constant Contact registration form.

Festival and Foundation

The Barnegat Bay Foundation (BBF) will not be holding its annual lawn party and has no plans for other fundraising this year. The funds from the BBF's 2017 lawn party remain unexpended. Barbara advised that this information should be shared with the Advisory and Policy Committees. Betsy said that Shari, Wes, Lynette, Toni Heater (NJDEP), and Katie Ribsam (NJDEP) have volunteered for the subcommittee about the festival's future. The subcommittee will discuss education and outreach options and make recommendations regarding the future of the Barnegat Bay Festival. Anyone who would like to be on the subcommittee should contact Betsy.

Actions: Inform the AC and PC about the status of the BBF.

Partner Updates

OCVTS (John): The MATES Research Expo will be held on February 28th at the school. MATES students have been assisting with the NOAA-funded ghost pot recovery project. From 80 to 100 ghost crab pots were removed from the area of the bay between Forked River and Barnegat in 2017. The students helped with compilation of data from the retrieved pots and also looked at what types of pots are being sold at local bait shops.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): There will be 41 programs at the Pinelands Short Course on March 10, 2018 at Stockton University. The summer "field day" course will be held on July 20, 2018.

OCSCD (Becky): The theme for the 2018 Environmental Educators Roundtable is "Back to Our Roots." Presenters will share hands-on activities and lesson plans with the attendees. Becky reminded everyone that Roundtable exhibitor applications are available. She updated CEC on the progress of the OCSCD's BBP-funded grant project, "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards." The OCSCD received 15 applications for the 10 available spots in the intensive workshops, which are scheduled in March. Becky asked for CEC volunteers to help determine the selection criteria and to review the applications, and Lynette, Joel, Chris, and Karen offered to help.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari updated CEC on the BTMUA project at Brick Plaza. As part of its BBP grant-funded project, BTMUA is planning a rain garden workshop in September. The rain garden will be installed in a 5,000 square foot area at the BTMUA offices.

Ocean County Park (Chris): Chris received the Educator of the Year award at the ANJEE conference in January.

SBB (GraceAnne): GraceAnne has been doing "This Way to Barnegat Bay" programs in schools and scheduling teacher workshops.

NJDEP (Lynette): Friends of Island Beach State Park are planning the second annual “Conservation Celebration” for June 16th at the park. Lynette also shared information about a pilot Clean Communities (CC) visual litter survey conducted at Island Beach State Park and an upcoming workshop for CC coordinators to learn more about doing visual litter surveys.

Next Meeting: March 21, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.