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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Kyra Hoffmann (NJDEP), GraceAnne Taylor (OC Parks); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Peter Brandt (EPA), Melanie Reding (JCNERR)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

Guests: Mike and Debbie Bennett (BEAR), Lindsey Sigmund (WMA 13 Watershed Ambassador)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari made a motion to approve the December 2, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Becky, all in favor.

BBP Program Evaluation

The letter from the EPA summarizing the results of the BBP's Program Evaluation in 2015 was shared with the CEC. The evaluation is done every five years, and progress is assessed since the last evaluation in 2010. The PE team recognized the work of the CEC in expanding and improving Barnegat Bay educational efforts, saying the CEC has made "very good strides" and that public outreach is a program strength. The letter also pointed out the challenges ahead for engaging and motivating new audiences, especially those who are unaware how their activities affect the bay.

STAC Grant Funding Opportunities

The STAC's recommendation to fund the project "Restoration Planning for Hard Clams in Barnegat Bay" has been approved by the Advisory Committee. For the education and outreach component, the PIs will partner with the Mason Gross School of the Arts to produce a documentary about the importance of shellfish and how research can help improve restoration efforts. An airplane banner ad targeting summer visitors to the shore is another part of the outreach plan.

BBP State of the Bay (SOTB) Conference

The conference subcommittee members updated CEC on the plan. The conference will begin with an introduction, a welcome by someone from the EPA, and a SOTB report overview by Stan, followed by four panel discussions on these topics: Water, Habitat and Living Resources, Land Use, and What's Next. The CEC discussed whether or not to charge a small fee to attend the conference to help defray OCC's costs. The fee could be waived for students. There was also a discussion about having a "road show" version after the conference. It was suggested that the BBP produce a short video about the report findings, which could be shown at municipal meetings and before educational programs.

Action: The SOTB conference subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 10th at the BBP office to continue the planning.

CCMP Revision Public Outreach

The CEC discussed the use of surveys to reach out to the public for input both during the CCMP revision process and after a plan is drafted. The starting point for the questions will be a survey used by Long

Island Sound (LIS). A suggestion was made to use questions similar to the LIS ones but add questions about what citizens are willing to do, including some similar to the willingness-to-pay questions in the West Windsor student-led survey. Offering a chance to win a prize for participating in the survey and contacting survey experts for advice about the questions were also suggested. The importance of getting input from other BBP committees when drafting survey questions and EPA approval of questions was discussed.

Action: The BBP program office will work on the survey questions.

BBP Education Report

Barnegat Bay Festival

The CEC selected the poster panel to use on this year's festival poster and postcard, and Betsy will send an email to the CEC list asking for tagline ideas. The application for 2016 exhibitors and vendors is available on the BBP website. Suggestions for new vendors are welcome.

ISGP Climate Change Conference Update

Stan informed the CEC that the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP) is putting together a report and developing podcasts on the outcomes from the conference. There was a discussion about developing outreach pieces based on the report and possibly using the podcasts at the Education and Outreach Retreat. The ISGP is planning another conference in Toms River as a follow-up to the first one to develop specific action items and will be looking for greater attendance (aiming for 400-500).

Teacher Resources

Becky suggested that BBP take a greater role as an umbrella organization for multiple resources for teachers and students. We discussed the existing Educators Resource Guide available on the BBP website. She suggested relating BBP resources to the Next Generation Science Standards and offering programs that target the standards. One idea was to create a Teacher Resource page on the BBP website similar to the Speakers Bureau page.

Partner Updates

NJDEP (Kyra): There was a formal opening of the completed Moses Milch basin retrofit, which was funded by a 319 grant. A date has not been set yet for the 2016 Barnegat Bay Blitz, but it will be before the week of the Barnegat Bay Festival.

BEAR (Debbie and Mike Bennett): The Bennetts have started the new Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) 4-H program in Lakewood and have registered 49 children so far. They will be meeting on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, sometimes at Ocean County Park and sometimes at the local elementary school. The participants will be required to do community service projects, such as clean-ups. Trips will be part of the program, with transportation provided by Lakewood and funded by the NJDEP HOFNOD program.

OCSCD (Becky): Becky and Karen will be presenting a joint program at the ANJEE conference about how to plan a coastal native school garden and use the resource of the Jersey-Friendly Yards website. The Environmental Educators Roundtable is scheduled for April 20, 2016; this year's theme is "We all need trees." Becky will be attending the Rutgers Organic Land Care course in February.

BTMUA (Shari): The BTMUA is working on model stormwater ordinances. Rutgers Cooperative Extension will be administering stormwater improvement projects in Jackson.

NJ Watershed Ambassador (Lindsey): Lindsey is planning several events in the watershed. There will be two BBP-sponsored Great Backyard Bird Count events, an evening program at the Toms River library on February 4th from 7 to 8 p.m. and a bird walk and count on February 13th at Brown's Woods. A dune grass planting is scheduled at Island Beach State Park on March 26th using bare root plants from the NRCS Cape May Plant Center. Lindsey is also seeking approvals for a mural project at Mantoloking County Park.

Ocean County Parks (GraceAnne): Planning is underway for the first BioBlitz at Ocean County Park in Lakewood. It will be held over a 24-hour period from 5 p.m. on May 27th to 5 p.m. on May 28th. Volunteers are needed for general support and also as experts to help identify species. There will be overnight camping in the park. GraceAnne is starting a dog waste composting pilot program at the park. A “Poop to Pile” program will be presented on January 31st, and a project partner is working to construct a dog waste composting station at the dog park.

JCNERR (Melnanie): The Rutgers Marine Field Station is hosting an open house on April 30th.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 17, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.