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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Kimberly Belfer (SBB), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

Members Absent: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Scott Bruinooge (OCC)

Introductions

The CEC welcomed Kaitlin Gannon to the committee. She is the new Education Coordinator at JCNERR, replacing Melanie Reding.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chris made a motion to approve the September 21, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

New CEC Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

The CEC discussed the priority topics and audiences for the 2017 GFO. A recommendation was made to use the wording in the Communication Plan to bring more focus to the water conservation topic. Karen reported that the STAC will not be releasing its next GFO until later in 2017 and has not yet decided on its topic(s). The CEC discussed the timing of the GFO and decided it should be announced by mid-November with proposals due by the end of January.

Action: Karen will make the final revisions to the GFO and announce it by mid-November.

CCMP Outreach

BBP staff continues to reach out to stakeholder groups about the CCMP. A feedback form on Survey Monkey is also being used to gather public input. The link to the form has been shared via the BBP newsletter, email lists, and social media.

BBP Education Report

The content management system (CMS) and server for the BBP website are obsolete, and the website needs to be migrated to a new CMS and server. Ocean County College/BBP has released a RFP for the migration project, and BBP and OCC staff will be reviewing and ranking the proposals. Any input from partners with website experience is welcome.

There was a discussion about the poster panel to use for next year's festival. Betsy suggested using the farm panel and adjacent fish panel together to highlight both agriculture and aquaculture with a farm to table theme.

We also discussed possible sites for installation of water refilling stations. Chris suggested several locations at Ocean County Park (beach complex, picnic area, and tennis courts).

Peter mentioned a Peconic Estuary Program project to install fishing line collectors and said he would share the information with us.

BBP Office Relocation

The BBP program office is being moved from Brown's Woods back to the OCC campus. The new location is in a portion of the former book store. The STAC has decided to send a letter to Ocean County College expressing its concerns about space issues and the impact of the move on the program. Lynette commented that BBP committees should be working together to reach out to the college about the relocation plans.

Partner Updates

NJDEP (Lynette): The Governor's Environmental Excellence awards will be announced next month. As part of a BBP project funded by a 106 grant from NJDEP, a new native plant demonstration garden has been installed at Holiday City Berkeley and no-mow areas established along the banks of the streams flowing through the development. The goal is to reduce stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution of the streams, which are tributaries of the Toms River.

OCSCD (Becky): The OCSCD continues to offer its monthly programs on soil health and other conservation topics. Becky asked that we save the date for the 2017 Environmental Educators Roundtable (April 19th). She will be doing a Jersey-Friendly Yards presentation along with Karen at a Monmouth Conservation Foundation event.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari reported that more than 40 rain barrels have been distributed to residents of the Metedeconk watersheds through workshops with 196 adults reached.

SBB (Kimberly): SBB is wrapping up its fall programs. High school students participated in an ecology walk/clean-up at the deCamp trail in Brick. On September 28th there will be an educational program for Monmouth Regional High School students at Island Beach State Park.

Ocean County Parks (Chris Claus): Chris and GraceAnne are working again this school year with the Lakewood Middle School students and are training teachers at the Oak Street School in Lakewood.

Next Meeting

The next meeting has been rescheduled to November 30, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.