



**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

November 14, 2018 9:30 – 11:30 am
Ocean County College, Gateway Building - Conference Room 401
Call-in # 732-255-0428

Attending CEC Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay, Chair), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA, Co-Chair), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Karen Walzer (BBP Staff Liaison).

On Phone: Becky Laboy (OC Soil Conservation District), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA, R2).

Attending Guests: Ray LeChemin (Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassador), Kelly Scott (IBSP)*

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales (ex officio), Betsy Hyle (ex officio), Tina Barreiro

CEC Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Joel Mott (NJ Pinelands Commission), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Dr. John Wnek (MATES).

Welcome and Introductions.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am and introductions were made.

Review of draft agenda and September 12, 2018 meeting minutes.

Mr. Dalzell suggested updates to Ms. Walzer to incorporate into the September 12, 2018 CEC meeting minutes. There were no comments on the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda with Mr. Dalzell's comments was made by Ms. Lurig. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kondrup, and passed unanimously.

Membership

The committee voted to approve Ms. Kelly Scott* as a CEC member representing IBSP and as an alternate for NJDEP. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Lurig, seconded by Ms. Kondrup and passed unanimously. Members of the CEC discussed expanding their potential partners. They are hopeful to have more involvement from Ocean County's Business Development and Tourism Department. Other potential new partners included the Lakehurst AFB, Suez, and more MUAs (like Toms River and Lakewood). During the meeting, Ms. Lurig reached out to Suez with Jane Kunka expressing interest in participating in the CEC. Dr. Hales mentioned Karen Hershey from the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce is interested in attending these meetings starting next year.

CCMP update. S. Hales

The DEP and EPA have submitted their comments for the latest CCMP draft. This feedback is being addressed by the Program Office and Karen Forst. Once these remaining edits are updated, it will be sent to the EPA for their internal review. Dr. Hales is hopeful to have this finished for comment by December 1st. BBP is conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment of the CCMP; the STAC and climate change experts will assess the CCMP for potential climate change impacts. BBP staff is compiling a list of maps to request from Ocean County for the CCMP document. The EPA would also like the document to include the executive summary before it is released for public review. Graphics may be included in this next version on the cover page and for chapter breaks. The public comment period must be at least 60 days.

BBP Needs Assessment Update. S. Hales

The BBP Needs Assessment Draft is under review by partners, with comments to be submitted by November 27th. Dr. Hales encouraged the members of the CEC to review closely the education and outreach sections of the Needs Assessment Draft. Please send questions and concerns to Ms. Walzer.

BBP Education Report. Karen Walzer and Betsy Hyle.

Over 90 people attended the October screening of “The Oyster Farmers” at OCC. The pre-screening oyster tasting and post-screening panel discussion were highlights; the panel discussion by oyster farmers and members of the documentary team was moderated by Angela Andersen, its producer, The October Jersey-Friendly Yards conference featuring a series of workshops about JFY resources and tools was also well-attended, with 140 participants. Many of last year’s JFY conference attendees returned this year.

For the 2019 Education and Outreach Retreat, Ms. Walzer is hopeful to have an interpreter from the National Association of Interpretation be the guest speaker, with interpretation being the retreat’s theme. She is looking into the FREC or IBSP’s Interpretive Center as potential locations for the retreat. While there is no exact date set yet, the target month for the retreat is in March 2019.

Action: Ms. Walzer will reach out about locations and presenters for the retreat.

Meet Ray LeChien, 2018-2019 Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassador.

Mr. LeChien expressed his excitement for his new role as Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassador, and detailed his work with stream bioassessments and outreach presentations. He will be helping with a dune grass planting at IBSP on December 1st.

BBP STAC Report

The STAC selected Dr. Christine Thompson’s “Barnegat Bay Oyster Restoration: Providing Water Quality and Habitat Improvements in Barnegat Bay” proposal to receive grant funding. Dr. Thompson and her colleagues will be in touch with the CEC to make the project’s education component more robust.

Action: Ms. Walzer will contact Dr. Thompson to discuss the outreach components of the project.

Partner Updates and New Business.

- **EPA:** Ms. Spinweber informed that Peter Brandt will be in contact after today’s meeting with CCMP and Education and Outreach comments.
- **DEP:** Ms. Lurig updated that the DEP is still reviewing grant proposal applications, and there may be some delay with announcements regarding those proposals.
- **IBSP:** Ms. Scott informed there will be a dune grass planting at the park December 1st. Currently, the Interpretive Center and Ocean Bathing Area #1 are being upgraded. If anyone has any questions or suggestions regarding these updates, contact Ms. Scott. Charlie Welch is now the superintendent for IBSP.
- **OC Parks:** Mr. Claus updated that fall programming at Ocean County Park is complete for this year. The American Littoral Society’s 319 project at the County Park is still underway. Mr. Claus and the park system are working with MATES on a blue crab project. This project may include surveys from recreational crabbers, though full details of the project are still being finalized.
- **BTMUA:** Ms. Kondrup updated that the six rain gardens at Lake Carasaljo have been completed, and the project underway at Brick Plaza will hopefully be completed by early next year. The CEC grant they received funded a Rain Garden workshop in October. Attendees learned how to build a rain garden and learned how to do simple soil testing. She was pleased to announce the Whale Pond brook Watershed Association contacted BTMUA to model a watershed activity book similar to one BTMUA had created. BTMUA will be partnering with the Brick Township School District by offering their facilities for class trips and by supporting their water conservation education initiatives. November’s WaterSense campaign, “Time for Holiday Water Savings”, encourages customers to detect and fix leaks, as well as educate them on water

conservation and the New Jersey Fertilizer Law's blackout dates. She also updated BTMUA has joined the EPA's Urban Waters Network.

- **OCSCD:** The OCSCD is wrapping up its CEC grant project, "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards." The overall joined efforts of the OCSCD, Jersey-Friendly Yards (JFY) and BBP have implemented 75 JFY educational programs, with 22 JFY gardens within the Barnegat Bay watershed. Ocean First Bank received the 2018 Garden of Distinction award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for the garden at the bank's main office demonstrating JFY practices. Through the Urban Agriculture Conservation initiative funded by National Association of Conservation Districts, OCSD has created a vegetable garden at Lakewood High School. The annual poster contest theme will be "Life in the Soil: Digging Deeper," with the deadline for schools to submit their posters by end of February 2019. The next JFY conference will be October 19th, 2019. The next Environmental Education Roundtable will be held April 17th 2019.
- **RCTB:** In early November, with help from volunteers, ReClam the Bay distributed thousands of clams in the southern reaches of Barnegat Bay. RCTB's annual potluck dinner saw 22 new volunteers that graduated the Rutgers Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration course. Two volunteers were awarded "Volunteer of the Year" with two new members receiving "Rookie of the Year" awards. Six schools are participating in the Shellfish in the Classroom program. A new project is underway at Central Regional High School that utilizes old hockey sticks to create a frame for oyster spat colonization. These hockey stick frames will be submerged at the Lighthouse Center. RCTB is helping to organize the second shellfish forum, which will be held December 14, 2018 at Ocean Acres Community Center in Manahawkin. Dr. Hales requested a copy of the recommendations from the first shellfish forum, held in 2016.

Action: Mr. Dalzell will forward recommendations received from the first shellfish forum to Dr. Hales.

New business: CEC members brainstormed on creating a cohesive, unifying outreach and educational component to tie all Barnegat Bay watershed programs for outreach events. Part of this is also to create a clearer message for the BBP. Ms. Walzer will email all CEC members to see who's interested in being more active in this discussion.

Action: Ms. Walzer will reach out to members of the CEC who are interested in creating a unifying education and outreach message for Barnegat Bay watershed programs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. CEC members were invited to tour BBP's new office location (Russell Building #7, second floor).

The next CEC meeting will be January 23, 2019 at 9:30am held at Pinelands Commission office (tour of new exhibit).