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Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Chris Claus (OC Parks), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission); by phone: Barbara Spinweber (EPA)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: John Wnek (OCVTS), Katie Ribsam (NJDEP), Justin Linton (NJ Watershed Ambassador)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Angela Andersen (LBIF), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joel made a motion to approve the September minutes, seconded by Chris, all in favor. Meetings in 2018 will be every other month starting in January.

Action: Karen will email the 2018 meeting dates to CEC members.

CCMP Outreach

The BBP has scheduled dates in January and February at the following branches of the Ocean County Library for CCMP public input events: Stafford, Lacey, Brick, and Toms River. A date at the Lakewood branch will also be added. BBP staff is working on scheduling dates at other venues, such as JCNERR, LBIF, and Ocean County College. The CEC discussed ideas for planning and publicizing these events. One suggestion was to include an interactive display or program by a partner, such as RCTB or Ocean County Parks.

Actions: Karen and Betsy will continue to schedule dates and will contact partners to participate in the events.

Phase 2 NJDEP Barnegat Bay Plan

Lynette gave an overview of the Phase 2 plan, which is available on the NJDEP website. Based on the data, modeling results, and research of the Ten-Point Plan, Phase 2 provides four major components that specify short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions and objectives for the estuary. The four major components are restoration, enhancement, protection, and assessment. NJDEP Water Monitoring and Standards is drafting a Request for Proposals for funding projects that help to meet these objectives. Once released, there should be 90 days to submit proposals, and NJDEP will be offering information sessions for prospective applicants.

Action: Lynette will notify the BBP and CEC when the RFP is released.

Engaging Urban Communities

The CEC discussed ideas for outreach to urban communities within the watershed. Shari offered the idea of organizing a summer outreach event at the Lake Carasaljo amphitheater in Lakewood. She also showed a video about a storm drain art project done in Springfield, Oregon, which was followed by a discussion about doing a similar project in Lakewood or other watershed downtowns (such as Point

Pleasant, Toms River, Tuckerton). The Grunin Foundation was mentioned as a possible supporter of this type of project. Katie said the NJDEP rain barrel challenge would be a great fit as the student component of a storm drain art project. She said the number of schools participating in the challenge has been declining in the last couple of years, and NJDEP is looking for new schools to participate in it. A suggestion was made to get it recognized as a NJ Department of Education “Student Growth Objective” project by the local Board of Education.

BBP Education Update

There was a brief discussion about federal grant opportunities for outreach projects, including the Urban Waters and NOAA Marine Debris grants.

2018 Education and Outreach Retreat: Touring the USFWS’s Cedar Bonnet Island wetlands restoration project and new educational nature trails was suggested as a “field trip” during the retreat. MATES students are doing research on Cedar Bonnet, and John offered the MATES school as the location for the retreat with busing from the school to the island for the tour. A date in late March or early April was discussed.

Barnegat Bay Festival: Betsy announced that she will be stepping away from coordinating the festival in 2018. The CEC discussed taking a break in 2018 to examine how the festival fits in with education and outreach objectives being developed during the CCMP revision process. Chris moved to skip the festival in 2018, seconded by Joel and approved, with abstentions by Becky and Barbara. A suggestion was made to set up a new subcommittee to examine the future of the festival and/or potential alternative outreach plans to replace it, possibly meeting in the alternate months when there is no regular CEC meeting. The Guardians of Barnegat Bay awards will continue in 2018, with a different venue for presenting the awards to be determined.

Actions: Karen and Betsy will make the arrangements for the retreat and set-up the festival future subcommittee.

Partner Updates

OCVTS (John): MATES is holding an open house on Saturday, November 18th.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): The Pinelands Short Course will be on March 10, 2018 at Stockton University. The new summer “field day” course, held in 2017 for the first time, was attended by 80 people and will be repeated in 2018.

RCTB (Wes): RCTB put 260,000 clams back into the bay in 2017. The new shellfish lease area off of IBSP just south of the marina was one of the areas planted. Shellfish in the Classroom is beginning for the school year, with about 500 students expected. Eight new “shellfish gardeners” have completed “Clam College.”

OCSCD (Becky): The three “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” gardens have been installed, and Becky is starting the educational phase of this CEC-funded project. She is scheduling community workshops and also soliciting applications for the 10 home gardeners who will be selected to participate in a workshop series and receive \$150 of plant materials. Becky asked for volunteers to participate in a subcommittee to review the applications and help make the selections. Joel, Chris, Lynette, and Karen volunteered for the subcommittee.

BTMUA (Shari): BTMUA has converted nine traffic islands to rain gardens at Brick Plaza and installed educational signs. Through the CEC grant-funded project, Weekends at the Reservoir, and BTMUA day, a total of 118 rain barrels were distributed at 2017 workshops.

Ocean County Park (Chris): With the exception of the educational signage, the American Littoral Society's stormwater management project, which is being funded by a 319 grant, has been completed at Ocean County Park. A spring press event is being planned.

Next Meeting: January 17, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.