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**Barnegat Bay Partnership  
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes  
November 30, 2016 (9:00 a.m.) at BBP Office**

**Present:**

**Members:** Angela Andersen (LBIF), 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), Barbara Spinweber (EPA)

**BBP Staff:** Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

**Guests:** Mike and Debbie Bennett (BEAR); by phone: George Murnyak

**Members Absent:** Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Scott Bruinooge (OCC)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chris made a motion to approve the October 19, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

**2017 Meeting Schedule**

In 2016 CEC and STAC meetings fell on the same day and time on four occasions. CEC discussed next year's meeting schedule and the possibility of moving the CEC meeting to a different Wednesday in the month. Barbara indicated she would not be available on the last Wednesday of the month, and Kaitlin will not be available on second Wednesdays.

**Action:** Karen will email the members the final schedule for 2017.

**New CEC Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)**

The CEC GFO was announced in November. Pre-proposals are due by December 2<sup>nd</sup> and full proposals by January 13<sup>th</sup>. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee composed of CEC members who not affiliated with any of the proposals and also external reviewers not affiliated with proposals. The anticipated announcement date for the grants is April 1, 2017.

**Action:** Karen will invite external reviewers to join the committee for reviewing the grant proposals.

**Barnegat Bay Foundation (BBF)**

CEC members are invited to attend a BBF meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at Mary Ann Bageac's house. The BBF is looking for more partner participation. Ways to increase the level of engagement in the Foundation and BBF plans for 2017 will be discussed at the meeting.

**BBP Education Report**

BBP Website

Ocean County College/BBP has reviewed and ranked the vendor proposals for migrating BBP website content to WordPress and making improvements to the site. The vendor recommendation will go before the OCC Board of Trustees for final approval during the board's December meeting. Photos will be a key part of the new site, and the BBP is requesting that its partners share their photos showing research, education, and restoration in the bay and watershed.

## Festival

The 2017 festival (June 4<sup>th</sup>) will be our 20<sup>th</sup>. Betsy is making contacts to get representatives of both agriculture and aquaculture to participate in the festival, which will have a farm-to-table theme. We suggested getting Rutgers Cooperative Extension and 4-H involved. The BBF Gala, which will be the Friday before the festival, can also feature locally grown and harvested food. The tentative NJDEP's Blitz date is June 2<sup>nd</sup> and the CEC discussed joint media messaging for a Barnegat Bay week leading up to both events as was done in 2016.

## **Partner Updates**

Long Beach Township (Angela): The township has been recertified by Sustainable Jersey (SJ) and is using this to encourage other Long Beach Island (LBI) towns to participate in SJ. SJ is introducing new action items, including one about soil. A creative place-making workshop will be held in Toms River on December 8<sup>th</sup>; the workshop will be using LBI's creative place-making plan as an example. There is a new bayside trail in Beach Haven Gardens called the Hideaway Bay nature trail; black pine trees are dying on the property and the cause is uncertain.

JCNERR (Kaitlin): The "Life on the Edge" exhibit at Tuckerton Seaport is being reinstalled (after water damage from fire sprinklers) and should be reopened in about 3 to 4 weeks; there will be new additions to the exhibit. JCNERR is planning to add signage to a half mile nature trail on its property. Winter education program dates are being finalized and will be announced soon.

NJDEP (Lynette): A shellfish forum organized by ReClam the Bay will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at MATES; there will be interactive information about on-the-ground projects. An expansion of the Sedge Marine Conservation Zone is under consideration. NJDEP will need to meet with various user groups, *e.g.* wind surfers. Natural Resource Damages funding may become available soon for on-the-ground Barnegat Bay projects.

OCSCD (Becky): "Rediscovering Barnegat Bay" is the theme for the 2017 Environmental Educators Roundtable on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Several Jersey-Friendly Yards presentations are coming up, including at the ANJEE conference, PDE Science Summit, and NJCF Land Rally. The theme for this year's soil districts' poster contest is "Healthy soils are full of life." Becky floated the idea of developing a "soil trail."

RCTB (Wes): This past year was successful for shellfish production. About 200,000 baby clams were added to the leased site, and 65,000 clams from last year's stock were raked up and distributed in the bay. RCTB is looking for a new location for the upweller which was formerly at Sedge. Shellfish in the Classroom reached about 400 students this year. RCTB has been helping with the Mordecai Island living shorelines project. Gef Flimlin is retiring as of January 1, 2017, and RCE will be replacing him with a new Marine Agent by April, 2017. In conjunction with this change, RCTB is re-examining its priorities and determining its plan for the next five years.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari discussed the drought warning in NJ and how water utilities have to balance drinking water needs with flows to the bay. The Brick Reservoir helps by storing water. Peter offered that WaterSense is a good resource about water conservation. The model stormwater ordinance developed under the Metedeconk Watershed Management Plan is still under review by NJDEP. Shari is working with Dr. Steve Yergeau on outreach to small farmers about protecting water quality.

SBB (Kimberly): The Visitation Relief Center, which was the location of the SBB office, has been closed, and SBB is looking for a new office. The Barnegat Bay Stewards in Barnegat Light are planning future activities, including a possible dune planting or native garden.

Ocean County Parks (Chris Claus): The park system is developing a new trail at Patriots Park in Jackson. The trail will be on property preserved through the Ocean County Natural Lands Trust.

BEAR (Mike and Debbie Bennett): BEAR has been involved in Clean Communities events throughout the state and have been spreading the word about Jersey-Friendly Yards. BEAR organized a well-attended Project WET workshop at Ocean County Park. The HOFNOD groups will be invited to the Environmental Olympics on June 24 and 25 at Ocean County Park. A new archery range will be added to the park for use by scheduled groups only. The garden area at the park's beach complex has a new pergola thanks to a Boy Scout project.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting date in January to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.