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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Chris Claus (OC Parks); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Peter Brandt (EPA), Tanya Oznowich (NJDEP), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: John Zingis (Citizen Representative), George Murnyak (Alternate Citizen Representative), MaryAnn Bageac (Barnegat Bay Foundation), Mike and Debbie Bennett (BEAR)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari made a motion to approve the October 20, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Wes, all in favor.

Membership

The nomination of Kimberly Belfer of Save Barnegat Bay as a new member of the CEC was considered and unanimously approved by all members present.

CCMP Revision Public Outreach

There was a discussion about ways to reach out to the public for CCMP revision input. The following ideas were suggested: meetings with Chambers of Commerce and business associations, a survey conducted at Ocean County mall, a survey for realtors to send with rental contracts, a survey to include with mass mailings such as utility bills, a bilingual survey, and the delivery of a survey statewide (such as through a watershed association email list). The importance of getting input from other BBP committees when drafting survey questions and EPA approval of questions was also discussed.

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

STAC Grant Funding Opportunities

CEC members discussed the education and outreach components of the two STAC Grant Funding Opportunity proposals submitted to the BBP in order to provide comments to the STAC. Wes, Shari, and Karen recused themselves from the discussion because of connections to proposals.

Action: Angela will summarize the CEC's comments and email them to Jim Vasslides for consideration by STAC members when they make their funding decision at the next STAC meeting.

BBP State of the Bay (SOTB) Conference

The CEC talked about using panel discussions as the format. Submitting questions for the panels via Twitter and having MATES students as reporting scientists at the conference were suggested. If the conference is held at Ocean County College, then the target date would be mid-June to avoid conflicts with OCC graduation and the Barnegat Bay Festival. Other ideas for reaching out about the SOTB besides the conference included having a webinar and/or podcast, MATES-produced webinar for high school science students in the fall, and mini-film festival.

Suggestions for venues other than OCC were Georgian Court University, Pine Belt Arena, and a high school in the watershed.

Action: The SOTB conference subcommittee will meet on December 16th at the BBP office to continue the planning.

Partner Updates

BEAR (Debbie and Mike Bennett): The Bennetts are starting a HOFNOD program in Lakewood. The participating children will meet twice a month and will be required to do community service. Their families will also be involved in the program. Mike and Debbie are reaching out to the Hispanic community through Lakewood Recreation Soccer.

OCSCD (Becky): The soil district is accepting proposals from presenters and exhibitor applications for the Environmental Educators Roundtable scheduled for April 20, 2016. The theme is “We all need trees,” which is also the theme of the 2016 poster contest sponsored by the National Association of Soil Districts. The last OCSCD monthly program for the International Year of Soil will be on December 12th at Jakes Branch County Park.

Save Barnegat Bay (Kim): SBB has launched its new program, the “Barnegat Bay Defenders,” at Beach Haven Elementary School. There is a contest for students at the school to design a badge for the program, with the winner to be selected by SBB. Kim will be targeting fourth to eighth grade teachers interested in using the program as a basis for an after-school club. SBB also received a grant from the Watershed Institute to provide free workshops where teachers will receive lesson plans and starter kits for their Barnegat Bay curriculum.

BTMUA (Shari): The BTMUA is nearing completion of the Moses Milch stormwater basin retrofit.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): On December 18th the Pinelands Commission is offering a science lecture about a new species of Leopard frog found in the Pinelands. The Pinelands Short Course will be on March 12, 2016.

Ocean County Parks (Chris): Ocean County Park in Lakewood will have an “open house” event on June 12th celebrating the recreational opportunities at the park. There will be fishing, archery, kayaking, golfing, basketball, and other active and passive recreational activities at the event. Chris and GraceAnne have also started a middle school program that includes a nature walk and soil and water testing.

ReClam the Bay (Wes): Shellfish in the Classroom programs are underway.

JCNERR (Lisa): JCNERR is looking for photos of families exploring the outdoors.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on January 20, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.