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

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Karen Walzer (BBP), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Barbara Spinweber (EPA),

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

Guests: George Murnyak (Citizen Representative), Lee Gashlin (Berkeley Water Commission)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

2017 CEC Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

The GFO subcommittee met on February 7th to discuss the proposals and make funding recommendations. The committee made a tentative decision but requested additional information from three of the applicants. Once the information is received, the final recommendations will be sent to CEC members for their approval and then to Advisory Committee members for their approval.

BBP Education Report

The 2017 retreat is set for March 22nd at LBIF, and everyone was asked to help promote the event to Barnegat Bay watershed educators. Angela will welcome everyone to the LBIF and give a tour of the facility during the lunch break.

Betsy sent an email to the CEC for Barnegat Bay Festival tagline ideas using this year's farm-to-table theme. She will be sending out an email for a vote on the tagline ideas and will let everyone know which one is the winner. Betsy is reaching out to llama/alpaca farmers, shellfish farmers, and others about participating in the festival. She is also reaching out to Cuisine on the Green about catering the Barnegat Bay Foundation's (BBF's) Gala event with locally sourced food. The BBF did not apply for the Ocean County Tourism grant this year because the minimum amount was increased beyond what is needed for promotion of the festival.

The BBP is partnering with the BBF on a grant application to SUEZ for installation of water refilling stations (with signage about water conservation and reduction of plastic pollution) at several Toms River park properties. The proposed locations are Bey Lea Golf Course, Veterans Park, Oak Park, Castle Park, and Winding River Park. SUEZ employees would be actively involved in the project, *e.g.* volunteering for clean-ups at the parks.

Stan attended a meeting at the Joint Base with base commanders. There are opportunities for partners to get more involved with public outreach at the base. George Murnyak will be representing the BBP at the annual Earth Day event at the base on April 22nd.

Stan met with Ocean County engineering, Britta Wenzel, and NJDOT about installing Barnegat Bay watershed signs. They discussed “entering the watershed” signage on main roads, signs at bridge crossings over the bay, and smaller stream crossing signs identifying the stream/river name.

Partner Updates

NJDEP (Lynette): There will be a water festival for the winner of the Rain Barrel challenge, and NJDEP is looking for organizations to participate in the event. Regarding rain barrels, Lee Gashlin discussed the use of downspout planters as another way to capture roof runoff.

RCTB (Wes): Rutgers Cooperative Extension is advertising for the marine agent position, and Wes will be a member of the selection committee. RCTB’s open house will be on April 25th.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari and Becky Laboy met with the Georgian Court University student who will be doing a Spanish translation of the OCSCD’s “Low-Maintenance Landscaping for the Barnegat Bay Watershed” as a service learning project. The translation will be distributed online as a PDF. BTMUA is still looking for a presenter for October 15th in the series of Sunday environmental programs at the Brick Reservoir.

Ocean County Parks (Chris Claus): Ocean County Parks is considering a request by Chris to purchase a beach cleaner, the Barber Sandman, with funding from the Clean Communities program. Chris said that 20-25% of Clean Communities funds can be used to buy equipment. If purchased, the new machine could be used at several parks with beaches, including Ocean County Park. The park system is also considering converting the old clock tower building at the park to an interpretive center.

JCNERR (Kaitlin): JCNERR is getting ready for its spring/summer programs, including some about derelict crab pots. Kaitlin will be doing outreach as part of a NERR-funded study of how mosquito populations have been affected by sea-level rise.

Berkeley Water Commission (Lee Gashlin): Lee discussed the Berkeley Recreation Department’s Sounds of Summer concert series, which runs from late May to early September. He said there may be opportunities to set up education tables at the concert events. The contact at Berkeley Rec is Tim Yurycsyn.

Next Meeting

There will be no meeting in March since the Education and Outreach Retreat is on March 22. The next meeting will be on April 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.