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**Barnegat Bay Partnership**  
**Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes**  
**February 17, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

**Present:**

**Members:** Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Kimberly Belfer (SBB), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Peter Brandt (EPA), Melanie Reding (JCNERR), Becky Laboy (OCSCD)

**BBP Staff:** Betsy Hyle, Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Stan Hales

**Guests:** George Murnyak (Citizen Representative), Mike and Debbie Bennett (BEAR), Lindsey Sigmund (WMA 13 Watershed Ambassador)

**Members Absent:** Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Shari made a motion to approve the January 20, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Kimberly, all in favor.

**BBP State of the Bay (SOTB) Conference**

BBP staff has begun contacting potential panelists and moderators about their availability to participate in the conference. The CEC decided to start working on questions for the moderators at the March meeting.

**Action:** The CEC will draft moderator questions during the next CEC meeting.

**CCMP Revision Public Outreach**

The CEC reviewed and discussed a first draft of a survey based on one given by the Long Island Sound program during their CCMP revision. Suggestions were made to simplify the questions and shorten the survey. There was a discussion about using focus groups and community forums to gather public input in addition to or instead of surveys. Peter offered to reach out to some experts in the survey/polling industry for professional advice about effective ways to get public input

**Action:** The BBP will look into alternative ways to collect public input.

**Citizen Representative**

With the resignation of John Zingis as the Citizen Representative, Alternate George Murnyak agreed to fill the position. Chris made a motion to approve George as the new Citizen Representative, seconded by Shari, and approved by members in attendance.

**Action:** The CEC's selection of George as the next Citizen Representative will be brought to the Advisory Committee for a vote of approval at the next AC meeting.

**BBP Education Report**

Barnegat Bay Festival

Betsy reported the winning festival tagline (voted on by email by CEC members) is "From Pinelands to the Tidelands." A second canoe eco-tour (at 8:30 a.m.) will be added this year. The Barnegat Bay Blitz is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Friday before the festival, and ideas for promoting both were discussed.

Education and Outreach Retreat

The retreat is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Lighthouse Center. There was a discussion about getting CCMP input from attendees during the retreat, either through a survey or other method.

### Guardian of the Bay Award Nominations

The BBP is seeking nominations in the two award categories, Lifetime Achievement and Pete McLain Young Environmental Stewards.

### Ocean County Teen Arts Festival

The BBP is offering cash prizes for art with a Barnegat Bay sustainability theme through a new “Protect Our Bay, Protect Our Future” art contest, which will be part of the Ocean County Teen Arts Festival. The festival will be held at Ocean County College on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The BBP is offering the following prizes: \$700 First Place, \$200 Second Place, and \$100 Third Place.

### **Partner Updates**

NJDEP (Lynette): The NJDEP is still considering options for the location of the Blitz opening ceremony on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ocean County Park was suggested as a possible location. There will be a spring sea nettle “Bulkhead Blitz” sometime in May (dates to be determined). The first rain barrel workshop was held in Holiday City as part of the buffer planting project funded by a 106 grant.

SBB (Kimberly): Kimberly shared the winning design by a Beach Haven Elementary student for the Barnegat Bay Defenders badge. Beach Haven Elementary is the pilot school for this new SBB program to educate students about working through government to effect environmental change. Teachers will receive a manual to help them develop an after-school Barnegat Bay Defenders club; participating students will receive a badge and certificate. With a grant from the Watershed Institute, SBB will be offering “This Way to Barnegat Bay” workshops for fourth to eighth grade teachers.

BEAR (Debbie and Mike Bennett): The Bennetts met with Sandy Huber of the Clean Communities Program to discuss a possible project with the children in the 4-H HOFNOD program in Lakewood. The group will do a Blitz clean-up at the Ella Clarke Elementary school on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

NJ Watershed Ambassador (Lindsey): Lindsey is the Blitz captain for Lakewood. She is also organizing a dune grass planting on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Island Beach State Park using bare root plants from the NRCS Cape May Plant Center.

Citizen Representative (George): George has registered to exhibit for Barnegat Bay Partnership at the Joint Base Earth Day event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

OCSCD (Becky): Exhibitor registration for the Environmental Educators Roundtable on April 20, 2016 is now open.

BTMUA (Shari): The BTMUA received feedback from the NJDEP regarding the model stormwater ordinance. Brick will be a pilot community for the ordinance. Stormwater projects continue at Brick Plaza in Brick and Lake Carasaljo in Lakewood.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): Registration is open for the 2016 Pinelands Short Course on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Stockton University. On March 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Pinelands Research series program about new water quality standards for Pinelands streams.

Ocean County Parks (Chris): Chris and GraceAnne have been doing educational programs for elementary and middle school students in Lakewood. They have been asked to help science teachers write a new science curriculum. Exhibitors are welcome at the June 12<sup>th</sup> recreational event at the Ocean County park.

JCNERR (Melanie): There will be crab pot workshops for recreational crabbers this spring in conjunction with the Jacques Cousteau NERR/Stockton WeCrab Marine Debris project.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on March 16, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.