



-

**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Chris Claus (OC Parks), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA), Becky Laboy (OCSCD Alternate)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

Guests: John Zingis (Citizen Representative Alternate), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay), GraceAnne Taylor (Watershed Ambassador WMA13)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chris made a motion to approve the January 28, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

2015 Education and Outreach Retreat

Presenters on three research topics have been lined up for the March 25th retreat: Steve Evert and Melanie Reding on the ghost crab pot retrieval project; Dr. Jennifer Krumins and Becky Laboy on SHIP (Soil Health Improvement Project); and Dr. John Wnek and MATES students on diamondback terrapin research.

Communication and Education Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

The CEC received 9 full proposals for the 2015 GFO. The grant proposal review committee will meet on March 16th at the BBP office to discuss the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

DEP Education Update

The DEP has sanctioned the formation of a Sedge Marine Conservation Zone Management Committee. Members of the new committee include Lynette, Ray Bukowski, Jim Merritt, Karen Byrne, and representatives of NJ Marine Police. At the first meeting they discussed enforcement strategies, creation of a laminated map with rules on the other side, addition of labeled buoys, and signage at boat launch areas. The committee is looking for grant opportunities for funding these initiatives.

BBP Education Update

The CEC vote results for the festival tagline are in – the tagline for 2015 is “Citizens and Scientists: Partners in Protection.” Festival exhibitor and vendor applications have been emailed and are also available on the BBP website. The Liberty Science Center’s fee for bringing the Flood Model to the festival would be \$500. The CEC supported purchasing the model (retail price ~ \$1500) for use at all future festivals and other partner events. The Barnegat Bay Foundation is providing funding support for the festival and is holding a fundraising event at Blackbeard’s Cave in April.

The BBP is holding a Science Symposium on May 27th at Ocean County College. A symposium planning committee is working on a final agenda and list of presenters. Neil Ganju (USGS) has agreed to be the keynote speaker. In the afternoon there will be presentations by researchers about water quality and habitat research.

The EPA is coordinating a Trash Fee Waters initiative for Region II. The TFW initiative focuses on taking action on the 5 Bs: bottles, bags, butts, boxes, and beads. The BBP is a member of the TFW committee and is looking for potential school sites for installing water bottle refilling stations.

Partner Updates

OCSCD (Becky): The Barnegat Bay Educators Roundtable will be held on April 22 from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lighthouse Center. OCSCD is looking for presenters on topics related to soil, since 2015 is the International Year of Soils.

Save Barnegat Bay (Kim Belfer): SBB is offering a series of workshops and field trips throughout Ocean County from April to August. They will include rain barrel and rain garden workshops, kayak trips on the bay, osprey nest building, and terrapin workshops.

Brick MUA (Shari): The MUA continues working on a draft stormwater management ordinance for the Metedeconk watershed, a demonstration project at Brick Plaza, and designs for Lake Carasaljo improvements. Shari will be teaching a stormwater workshop at Georgian Court University in April.

NJ Watershed Ambassador for Barnegat Bay (GraceAnne): GraceAnne is looking for volunteers for several upcoming events: March 14th clean-up of an Ocean County Natural Lands Trust property in Manchester, March 21st dune grass planting at Island Beach State Park, and June 3rd Barnegat Bay Blitz clean-up in Lakewood.

Next CEC meeting

The next meeting will be April 15, 2015.