



**Barnegat Bay Partnership  
Communication and Education Committee Meeting**

February 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Ocean County College, Russell Building Room #248

Call-in number: 732-255-0428

**Attending CEC Members:** Shari Kondrup (Chair, BTMUA), Kaitlin Gannon (Co-Chair, JCNERR), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Joel Mott (NJ Pinelands Commission), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA), Karen Walzer (BBP Staff Liaison)

**On the Phone:** Peter Brandt (USEPA), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB, Amber Mallm (Monmouth Co. Planning)

**Attending Guests:** Rose Higgins (NJ Sea Grant Consortium), Jenny Tomko (NJDEP Bureau of Marine Fisheries), George Murnyak (BBP Citizen Representative to the Policy Committee)

**Barnegat Bay Staff in Attendance:** Dr. Stan Hales (*ex officio*)

**Absent CEC Members:** Chris Claus (Ocean Co. Parks and Recreation), Kelly Scott (IBSP), Angela Andersen (Long Beach Township), Chelsea Kulp (NJ American Water), Dr. John Wnek (OCVTS), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Wes Dalzell (RCTB)

***Welcome and Introductions.***

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., and introductions were made.

***Review of Draft Agenda, CEC Minutes of November 13, 2019, Change in April Meeting Date.***

A motion to approve the draft agenda and November 2019 meeting minutes was made by Joel, seconded by Lynette, and approved by consensus. The CEC approved a change in date for the April meeting, originally scheduled for April 22, which is Earth Day. The meeting is rescheduled for the following Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

***BBP Update. S. Hales***

The BBP received editing feedback on the draft CCMP from EPA and is now working on the final version. The BBP will be scheduling a Policy Committee meeting for early May; approval of the BBP's work plan for the next fiscal year (beginning July 1) will be on the agenda. Stan was joined by BBP committee chairs and George Murnyak (Citizen Representative) in a meeting with Dr. Larson, Ocean County College President, to discuss facility needs and options for the BBP program office.

***Education and Outreach Retreat. K. Walzer***

The 2020 Education and Outreach Retreat will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Ocean County College; the theme this year is "Communicating Climate Change." There will be workshops about the science and language of climate change, climate change impacts on the fisheries of Barnegat Bay, and role-playing activities simulating sea level rise planning. During the lunch break, there will be a presentation by NJDEP about the outreach applications of the recently updated and enhanced Barnegat Bay Boaters App.

***Water Festival at Brick Reservoir. S. Kondrup***

Brick Township MUA is hosting the first Water Festival at Brick Reservoir on August 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon. There will be designated parking areas, and BTMUA staff will help exhibitors move to their spaces. An exhibitor form will be distributed by the end of March. The focus is educational, and only non-profit organizations and government agencies can exhibit. Selling merchandise or food is prohibited, although donation jars are acceptable.

***Barnegat Bay Blitz and Rain Barrel Challenge. K. Walzer***

The Blitz will be during the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup> (May 3 to May 9). Having a weeklong event will give participants more flexibility in scheduling their clean-ups and volunteering. Information about how to report a trash hot spot, register a group

clean-up, or volunteer is on the BBP Blitz webpage: [www.barnegatbaypartnership.org/protect/blitz/](http://www.barnegatbaypartnership.org/protect/blitz/) . We encourage all partners to participate in the Blitz.

Eight schools and/or youth groups are participating in this year's Rain Barrel Challenge. The BBP delivered a barrel and gave a presentation to each one. The deadline for entries (entry form and photos of the barrel artwork) is April 20<sup>th</sup>. At the April CEC meeting, CEC members will view the photos and vote on the winning entry.

#### ***Call for Nominations for Alternate Citizen Representatives. K. Walzer***

The BBP has released a call for nominations for Alternate Citizen Representatives. The deadline for submitting nominations is April 15<sup>th</sup>. At the April CEC meeting, the CEC will review the applications for the position and select the Alternate Citizen Representative(s) for the Advisory Committee's approval.

**Action:** After the deadline, Karen will send the applications to the CEC for their review prior to the April meeting.

#### ***2020 Communication and Education GFO. K. Walzer***

After the last CEC meeting, six CEC members emailed their suggestions for the 2020 GFO's priority topics and audiences to Karen. A CEC subcommittee (consisting of Joel, Barbara, Lynette, and Karen) will schedule a date to meet to work on the language in the GFO. A suggestion was made to hold a question and answer session and/or webinar to answer the questions of potential applicants after the GFO is released. The CEC also recommended raising the minimum grant amount in the GFO from \$1,000 to \$2,500. May is now the target month for the release of the GFO.

**Action:** Karen will email the GFO subcommittee to schedule a meeting.

#### ***BBP Outreach Report. Ms. Walzer***

The BBP has started a new lecture series called "Ask a Barnegat Bay Scientist." Dr. Paul Jivoff gave the first talk, "Secrets of the Blue Crab," on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Ocean County College. The next one scheduled is "Don't Harass the Seagrass!" by Dr. Elizabeth Lacey on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the college. Registration for the spring Barnegat Bay Volunteer Master Naturalist course (through the OCC Continuing and Professional Education Department) is underway. The course dates are April 8<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>. JCNERR hosted a series of Jersey-Friendly Yards programs on four consecutive Monday evenings in February. Several BBP partners, including OCSCD, BTMUA, and Ocean County Solid Waste, presented information about how to landscape for a healthy environment. Topics included watersheds, water quality monitoring, overview of the JFY website, soil health, composting, and water conservation. The workshops were well-attended with over 30 attendees. Kaitlin is planning a native plant sale in the spring for the workshop participants.

#### ***Partner Updates and New Business.***

**NJ Pinelands Commission:** Joel updated on the Pinelands Short Course, which will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Stockton University. The focus this year is on climate change with several of the talks addressing that topic. The summer short course, scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> at Cranmer Hall in Hammonton, will consist of mostly field trips and a few classroom sessions. Joel is looking for speakers for the third Thursday talks at the Pinelands Commission office.

**MCDP:** Monmouth County is planning another roundtable event for April 29<sup>th</sup>. This one will be about invasive species – aquatics, terrestrial plants, and insects. Amber will send the flyer soon.

**JCNERR:** Kaitlin reported that JCNERR has recently submitted three grant applications. They applied for the following: 1) a NOAA marine debris prevention grant to fund Rig It Right workshops for recreational crabbers, 2) a NERR grant to expand their citizen science opportunities, and 3) another NERR grant to fund facility changes and expansion (part of the planning for a slow retreat from the Rutgers Marine Field Station). The NJ Marine Educators Association's Teach at the Beach conference will be on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Ocean County College; registration will open soon.

**NJDEP:** Lynette reported that the Barnegat Bay Boaters App is being updated. It will show the locations of Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs), public access points, boat launches, marinas, and pumpouts. Users will be able to see how close they are to an ESA, to shallow area where boat scarring can occur, and to sites where clinging jellyfish are present.

**BTMUA:** Shari updated on the Metedeconk Restoration Plan at Brick Plaza. The outreach signage at Brick Plaza has not been installed yet, but will be in the early spring. BTMUA formally closed out its last NJDEP grant and is waiting for receipt of the new grant contract with NJDEP. Planning has started on the Weekend at the Reservoir events for this year, which will begin in May and end in September. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Shari co-presented a Project Wet Certification Workshop for the West Windsor-Plainsboro School District with Toni Heater from NJDEP; Shari is working towards becoming a Project Wet facilitator. The BTMUA's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Metedeconk River Watershed Mascot, Slogan and Logo Competitions with Brick schools will begin on March 9<sup>th</sup>. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the BTMUA and NJDEP will be co-hosting a Rain Barrel workshop at the FREC in Jackson. On

March 29<sup>th</sup> BTMUA will be co-hosting the Annual Lake Carasaljo Clean-up with Georgian Court University.

Citizen Representative: George reported he has been attending NJDEP stakeholder meetings regarding public access. He remarked on a change in comments he has been hearing from the public when asked about threats to the bay. Two years ago when he was a water trails educator at Island Beach State Park, the most common response was stinging jellyfish. In 2019, the most common answer was non-point source pollution. George suggested looking into having Jersey-Friendly Yards information included in township mailings.

NJ Sea Grant Consortium: Rose Higgins attended the meeting as a guest and expressed an interest in becoming a CEC member. She reported that Claire Antonucci has retired as the Director of Education and that Diana Burich, the K-12 Trip Coordinator, is the acting Director. Rose is the College and Special Programs Coordinator; she manages the summer camps, helps with field trips, and organizes Ocean Fun Days. In February and March, she oversees the hiring of seasonal employees to help with the summer programs.

NJDEP Bureau of Marine Fisheries: Jenny Tomko also attended as a guest and expressed an interest in becoming a CEC member. She is leading a new education and outreach effort by the Bureau, and is currently working on an outreach plan to guide the efforts. The Bureau will be hiring 15 new employees to help with this new initiative, which will include additions to the website, educational programs, and information about living shorelines and aquaculture.

### ***Adjournment.***

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next meeting: April 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.