



Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2018 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Karen Walzer (BBP), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Lynette Lurig (DEP); by phone: Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Peter Brandt (EPA)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: Dr. John Wnek (OCVTS), Mike Gerrity (BBVMN), Kelly Scott (NJDEP)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Angela Andersen (LBIF)

Introductions and Membership

Mike Gerrity introduced himself as a Barnegat Bay Volunteer Master Naturalist (BBVMN). He is interested in connecting the BBVMNs with Barnegat Bay education and outreach and the CEC. There are currently twelve CEC members, and the charter allows for up to fifteen. John expressed interest in joining as a member, and he will submit his resume to CEC for consideration. Mike wishes to attend as a guest for now.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari made a motion to approve the January 2018 minutes, seconded by Lynette, all in favor.

EPA Environmental Education Local Grant Application by OCC

Dr. Henry Jackson, Director of the OCC Center for Academic Success, will be submitting an application to this EPA grant program for a project to educate local K-12 students about agriculture, environmental sustainability, and nutrition. The schools that would be part of the project are Hugh Boyd Elementary in Seaside Heights, Clifton Avenue Elementary and Lakewood High School (both in Lakewood), Lacey High School, and Pinelands High School. The BBP is a partner on the project proposal and would provide environmental programs to the students if the project is funded. Becky discussed how this proposal could connect with the OCSCD's Urban Agriculture Initiative in Lakewood.

CCMP Outreach

The CEC reviewed the education and outreach objectives and actions in the draft CCMP tables and provided the following comments.

Water Quality

4-1 SBB is doing outreach about non-point source pollution to municipalities through a grant from the Watershed Institute and should be added as a partner on this action.

4-2 There was a discussion about additional audiences for outreach about best landscaping practices. Suggestions included business associations, chambers of commerce, apartment complex managers, and schools.

Water Supply

5-1 Reuse of water used to wash municipal vehicles and water from roof run-off were discussed as possible water reuse projects.

5-2 Private water purveyors can help with education about water reuse.

Living Resources

There was a comment about making sure the objectives and actions in this priority address the entire watershed. For example, the management plan in 2-1 should be watershed-wide and not just bay-wide.

5-4 This action should be revised to “produce educational materials about the impacts of climate change on the living resources of the watershed” – not just of the bay.

Land Use

6-1 This action is broad and needs to be divided into several more specific actions.

BBP Education Update

2018 Education and Outreach Retreat

April 13th is the date of the retreat, which will be held at MATES. Vinny Turner of USFWS will give a tour of the restoration project and new educational nature trails at Cedar Bonnet Island in the afternoon. MATES has generously offered use of one of their school buses to transport everyone to the site. MATES students will talk about the research they are doing during the retreat. Registration will be opening soon.

The Anthropologist: Looking at Climate Change through a Global Lens

This documentary about the impacts of climate change on societies around the world will be screened at OCC on April 19th. There will be a Q and A with the director after each of the three screenings. Betsy asked CEC members to help publicize the screening event by sharing the announcement.

Guardian of the Bay Awards

There was a discussion about possible venues for the award ceremony this year, since the Barnegat Bay festival is on hiatus. Suggestions included at the SBB annual meeting, at the screening of “The Oyster Farmers” at OCC in September, at a new festival celebrating the bay being planned for October 13th at IBSP, at Chowderfest, or at FOIBSP’s Beach Plum festival.

Paddle for the Edge 2018

This BBP citizen science project for assessing the condition of the bay’s shorelines will return in 2018. The data collection period will be from June 30 – July 22, which is longer than in previous years. BBP will offer training sessions in June to paddlers interested in volunteering. Peter suggested holding a press event.

The Oyster Farmers

This documentary about the resurgence of oyster aquaculture in the bay will be screened at the Grunin Center on September 23rd as part of National Estuary Week. Angela was the producer and environmental consultant on the documentary.

Partner Updates

IBSP (Kelly): Programs for school groups will be starting in early April, and the park is already booked for these programs through June. IBSP is bringing back the Junior Naturalist program in 2018. Other programs planned for this year are sunset kayak tours, kayak fishing, and field experience week. The park is having its second annual May Day event on May 5th. This year the event will include a pet expo along with environmental and wellness exhibits. The ospreys are back!

RCTB (Wes): NJ Fish and Wildlife will be increasing its oversight of the operations of RCTB with more inspections. Volunteers must lock the upwellers when they are not present. RCTB will be raising less oysters in 2018 because they do not have enough places to put them. The spring Shellfish Gardener classes will start in May, and the open house about the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program will be on April 24th at 7 pm at RCE in Toms River. Pineland Brewery is having RCTB day on April 7th.

JCNERR (Kaitlin): Professional development programs offered this year at JCNERR include a WOW workshop in April and a multi-day teacher workshop in August. JCNERR continues to add improvements to the new trail. These include an observation deck with a viewfinder and interpretive panels, critter cams, an acoustic box, and a “picture post” (by putting a camera on the post, the photo shows the same view and photos can be downloaded to a database to track changes over time). Several of these additions will involve citizen science.

OCVTS (John): Project Terrapin is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. There will be a “Walk for Terrapins” event on April 14th. MATES students have designed a crab measuring device as part of the blue crab project. The students plan to install the device, which is UV protected and glows in the dark, at popular crabbing spots around the bay. Jenkinson’s Aquarium provided funding for this project. Removal of derelict crab pots continues this year, with 330 removed from the bay so far. They found about 60 to 80 of these in areas where pots were previously removed. A new project will track crab pot movement in the bay.

OCSCD (Becky): OCSCD has completed the intensive workshops with homeowners, which is phase 2 of its BBP-funded grant project, “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards.” Through an application process, OCSCD selected ten homeowners from 15 applicants. Each homeowner will be installing a Jersey-Friendly garden in his or her yard. Phase 3 of the project will be a series of community programs to share information about the JFY website.

BTMUA (Shari): BTMUA has become an official EPA Water Sense partner. The Lake Carasaljo project is slated to begin mid-late April.

Ocean County Parks and Recreation (Chris): Ocean County Parks is holding its annual fishing contest on May 5th. They have added measuring stations this year at Lake Carasaljo and Forge Pond. An event to showcase the ALS project at Ocean County Park in Lakewood is tentatively scheduled for April 29th.

SBB (GraceAnne): SBB will be presenting non-point source programs for municipal employees (NEMO) this spring and summer with grant funding from the Watershed Institute. SBB is looking for service groups to help with a project to create an outdoor learning area in the yard at the EcoCenter. SBB posts program information on its Facebook page and website, which is being revamped.

Other news from GraceAnne: The Berkeley Dive Team is holding an underwater clean-up event.

NJDEP (Lynette): Voting for the rain barrel challenge will be on Facebook this year. NJDEP has not yet selected the date for the Blitz. The second annual “Conservation Celebration” will be on June 16th at IBSP and based at the Nature Center. The day will include clamming, tours to Sedge, kayak tours, and CWF osprey programs. IBSP is merging the “Harvest the Bay” event held in past years with this one. NJDEP and BBP are jointly planning a new festival with a Barnegat Bay focus at IBSP on October 13th.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.