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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Melanie Reding (JCNERR Alternate), Karen Walzer (BBP), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Becky Laboy (OCSCD Alternate); by phone: Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Barbara Spinweber (EPA Alternate)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: John Zingis (Citizen Representative Alternate), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Chris Claus (OC Parks)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari made a motion to approve the February 18, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Becky, all in favor.

2015 Education and Outreach Retreat

There was a discussion and evaluation of the retreat. Suggestions to improve it included acknowledging the CEC members attending and asking all attendees to complete evaluation forms. Both the Ignite talks and the break-out sessions to plan National Estuary Week social media worked well. Not many attendees stopped at the exhibits about CEC-grant funded projects, and it was suggested that CEC grant recipients be part of a panel discussion at the next retreat.

Communication and Education Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

The CEC grant proposal review committee met on March 16th at the BBP office to discuss the proposals and selected the following 6 projects to receive 2015 Communication and Education grants: 1) Terry O’Leary (Cedar Hollow Consulting) and Bob Birdsall (Birdsall Nature Photography), *Streaming the Rivers and Creeks in the Barnegat Bay Watershed* (\$4,798); 2) Boating Education and Rescue, *Everything Eventually Ends Up in the Water* (\$4,141.17); 3) Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, *Barnegat Bay Turtle Gardens: Supporting Living Shorelines to Safeguard Terrapins for Sea-Level Rise* (\$6,260.83); 4) Ocean County Soil Conservation District, *From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green* (\$9,800); 5) ReClam the Bay, Inc., *Traders Cove Marina and Park Environmental Education Site* (\$10,000); and 6) Visitation Relief Center, *The Beneficial Indigenous Plants Project* (\$10,000).

The CEC will submit the funding recommendations to the Advisory Committee for its consideration and approval at its next meeting.

DEP Education Update

The DEP received 32 painted rain barrels back for the 2015 Rain Barrel Challenge and is looking for locations to display them. The two-week voting period for the challenge starts on May 1. The Blitz is on June 3rd, and the kick-off will be at Barnegat Light. New this year is a diving clean-up under the Mantoloking Bridge; John Zingis is helping to coordinate this volunteer effort. It's the first time a clean-up is being attempted under the bridge since Sandy. Island Beach State Park announced that starting this year 1) lifeguards will be stationed on the ocean beach across from Tice's Shoal, and 2) boaters entering the park from Tice's Shoal will be charged a \$3 fee for park entry. This new fee collection will help defray the cost of stationing lifeguards on the beach used by boaters moored at Tice's Shoal. Lifeguards are being stationed there for safety reasons – there is a history of problems with swimmers needing rescue and several drownings at the previously unguarded beach.

BBP Citizen Representative

John Leonard's term as the BBP's Citizen Representative to the Policy Committee expired at the end of December of 2014. He sent a letter asking that he not be considered for another term due to personal reasons. John Zingis volunteered for the open Citizen Representative position. Karen spoke to George Murnyak before the meeting, and he expressed a desire to remain as the Alternate and supported John Zingis as the new Citizen Representative. Christine made a motion to recommend John Zingis as the new Citizen Representative with George remaining as the Alternate, seconded by Angela and approved by the CEC. The CEC's recommendation will be brought to the next Advisory Committee meeting for approval.

BBP Education Update

The results of the June 3rd Blitz will be highlighted before and during the festival. Betsy is still looking for potential new festival vendors and welcomes suggestions. The BBP has purchased the Stormwater-Floodplain model to be used at the festival. Because of the generosity of the Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation by supplying van shuttle transportation, the NJ Natural Gas donation will be used to fund festival programs instead. JCP&L is making a \$1,000 donation to the Barnegat Bay Foundation to support the festival. The parking lot at the Island Heights is no longer available, but street parking combined with more shuttle stops should be sufficient. The Mumford & Sons event at Seaside Heights is the Friday and Saturday before the festival and will include exhibitors on the boardwalk. Betsy and Lynette met with the Borough's Administrator to discuss having a Barnegat Bay exhibit. The Barnegat Bay Foundation would be the "umbrella" organization, and our partners would be able to display at the table during the event. Betsy is waiting to hear back from Seaside Heights.

Partner Updates

Brick Township MUA (Shari): Shari updated the CEC on the MUA's ongoing stormwater projects. BTMUA is holding a competition at local schools to choose a mascot for the

Metedeconk watershed and another competition for high school students to design a logo, and the results will be announced on June 3rd at a Blitz event. There will be a Lake Carasaljo clean-up with volunteers from Georgian Court University. Shari is presenting a water conservation program and a rain barrel program at GCU.

ReClam the Bay (Wes): RCTB's open house will be on April 28th at 7 p.m. at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension building in Toms River. RCTB is celebrating its 10th year anniversary with a party on June 28th at Viking Village. Shellfish in the Classroom is winding down for the school year.

JCNERR (Melanie): Registration is open for the NJ Marine Educators Association's "Teach at the Beach" to be held on May 29th at Tuckerton Seaport. NJMEA is planning more events and activities and is looking for Board members and new partners; teachers, scientists, and public members are all welcome to join.

OCSCD (Christine and Becky): An Asbury Park Press article by Todd Bates about the SHIP project should be published soon. Becky continues to provide monthly International Year of Soil programs at Jakes Branch County Park and is following the suggested IYS themes for each month. Rob Tunstead won a NRCS Earth Team national award for his Barnegat Bay soil mapping.

Save Barnegat Bay (Kim Belfer): SBB's Learn and Discover series of workshops and field trips throughout Ocean County are underway. SBB has launched a new K-8 program called "This Way to Barnegat Bay!" Forty-three teachers have expressed interest, and Kim is starting school programs this spring. Two SBB interns will be archiving and digitizing Pete McLain's film and slide collection, which when finished will be housed at Ocean County library.

Long Beach Township (Angela): Angela will be one of the honorees at the EPA's Environmental Champions award ceremony on April 24th in New York. The Township's beach replenishment project is starting soon and messaging about it is important. The Township received grant funding to continue the summer shuttles on LBI. The Township has purchased a 3 acre property that extends from the Boulevard to the bay, and Angela is working on a NJ Recreational trail grant application for the property. A local artist, Judith Johnson, has been painting rain barrels with Monarch butterflies, which makes a great connection with the LBIF "Got Milkweed" activities.

Next CEC meeting

The next meeting will be May 20, 2015.