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**Barnegat Bay Partnership  
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

**Present:**

**Members:** Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR)

**BBP Staff:** Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

**Guests:** George Murnyak (Citizen Representative)

**Members Absent:** Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Angela Andersen (LBIF), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

We did not have a quorum at the meeting. Approval of the February minutes was tabled for the next meeting.

**2017 CEC Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)**

The CEC discussed the three projects recommended for funding by the review committee and approved by the Advisory Committee. Angela, who was unable to attend the CEC meeting, had emailed concerns about only three of the eleven proposals submitted being selected for funding and questions about the proposal review process; these concerns were discussed by the CEC. A suggestion was made that for the next GFO, the BBP should hold a pre-meeting for people interested in applying in order to answer questions and explain the application process.

**Policy Committee**

There will be Policy Committee meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Ocean County College. On the agenda is approval of the BBP's work plan and budget for fiscal year 2018. The Advisory Committee still needs to approve the work plan before the PC meeting. The BBP is planning for the same budget amount as in fiscal year 2017. Also on the agenda are reports from the CEC and STAC and an update on wetlands research by the BBP's Field and Lab Coordinator, Jessie Buckner. After the PC meeting there will be an Open House with refreshments at the BBP office.

**Action:** Karen will email the CEC with details about the PC meeting and the Open House afterwards.

**Education and Outreach Retreat**

The CEC reviewed the feedback from retreat attendees on the evaluation forms. Overall the feedback was positive about the speakers and the photo storytelling activity. There were several comments about the cold temperature and the problem with the door blowing open. Chris said he would like to see more focus on science at the next retreat. He also suggested contacting the National Association of Interpretation for a speaker.

**BBP Education Report**

Festival

Betsy is still reaching out to farmers about participating in the festival. So far one farmer will be bringing produce, and another is bringing an alpaca. The NJ Farm Bureau will have a table this year, and Ocean County 4-H will have an exhibit about the 4-H clubs and bring some animals. Ocean County Parks will be providing vans for transportation again this year. There will be two eco-tours, one at 8:30 and one at

10:00. New this year is a zipline (short distance to keep it safe) and photo booth (with props related to the festival theme). Like last year, the BBP will have an ad about the festival in the Asbury Park Press Summer Guide; included in the ad will be a list of some other partner events this summer.

#### Toms River Family Health Initiative

The BBP is participating in a collaborative effort to improve the health of Toms River residents. The initiative was spearheaded by the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation and partners, who submitted a grant application to New Jersey Health Initiatives (NJHI), a statewide grant program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Toms River was one of the communities selected to continue the process, and there are over 50 groups now working on an action plan to submit to the RWJ Foundation for final approval. The BBP is part of the “Wellness” group, which is focusing on the role of parks and open space in keeping communities healthy. The plan will include several action items about improving usage of Winding River Park in Toms River. Chris and George both expressed interest in advising and/or participating in the initiative.

#### Suez Grant Application

The BBP’s application to the Suez Foundation for installation of water refilling stations is on hold while the Suez Foundation undergoes a revision of its grant program. Testing of the water at the proposed locations for lead may be necessary before any application is submitted.

#### **Partner Updates**

BTMUA (Shari): The Georgian Court University student has completed the Spanish translation of the OCSCD’s “Low-Maintenance Landscaping for the Barnegat Bay Watershed.” She did it as a service learning project, and it took her over 200 hours! The translation will be distributed online as a PDF. BTMUA is holding a new Metedeconk River slogan contest with local schools; the contest ends on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The NJDEP is still reviewing the stormwater management ordinance.

Ocean County Parks (Chris Claus): There will be a fishing contest on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Lake Shenandoah. They will be encouraging “catch and release” this year and will not be measuring dead fish. The second annual Recreation Celebration will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> at OC Park. They have 10 vendors so far and are looking for more. Chris and GraceAnne have been clearing the new trail on Ocean County Natural Lands Trust property in Jackson.

JCNERR (Kaitlin): There was a “Talking Trash” teacher workshop on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at JCNERR. Kaitlin has been working on the “We Crab” educational component of the derelict crab pot project. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a crab pot processing day at the Rutgers Marine Field Station from 9:30 to 3. The NJ Marine Educators Association will hold its annual “Teach at the Beach” workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup>. JCNERR will be adding interpretive signs to the new trail on its property.

Citizen Representative (George): George will be exhibiting for BBP at the Joint Base Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He put together a box of shells for kids as an interactive “touch” activity for the event as well as a photo collage of people fishing, boating, and otherwise enjoying the bay.

**Next Meeting:** May 17, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.