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Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Kimberly Belfer (SBB), Karen Walzer (BBP)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales, Martha Maxwell-Doyle

Guests: None

Members Absent: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Lisa Auermuller (JCNER), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Peter Brandt (EPA)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

This item was tabled for the next meeting due to lack of a quorum at the meeting.

BBP State of the Bay (SOTB) Conference

Moderators for the four panel discussions and most of the panelists are lined up for the conference. Betsy is working on the conference video introduction which will summarize the objectives and findings of the report. BBP staff has started drafting questions for the panel using topics suggested during previous CEC meetings.

CCMP Revision Public Outreach

Karen and Betsy will be talking to attendees of upcoming partner events for CCMP input and have started scheduling new programs and meetings for that purpose, and they welcome any CEC suggestions about opportunities for CCMP outreach.

Action: BBP staff will summarize the topics for key stakeholders developed at the Education and Outreach Retreat.

BBP Education Report

Barnegat Bay Festival

Betsy updated the CEC on festival planning. She is still looking for a kayak/paddleboard vendor. This year the native plant sale handled by “the little plant company” and will be set up next to the newly completed Island Heights community garden. There was a discussion about needing more nominations for the Guardian of Barnegat Bay awards, and several CEC members said they would submit nominations. The first two Citizen Representatives will also be recognized at the festival. The possibility of starting a new “Volunteer of the Year” award was discussed.

New Citizen Science Grant

The BBP was awarded a 106 grant by NJDEP for two citizen science projects in the watershed. One project aims to improve water quality in the branches of the Toms River flowing through Holiday City Berkeley by educating and involving homeowners in low-impact landscaping and stream buffer restoration. The second project is training a group of volunteer stream monitors to collect visual and biological assessment data for Long Swamp Creek.

Partner Updates

ReClam the Bay (Wes): RCTB continues to work on the Traders Cove project, which consists of a new upweller, information kiosk, giant clam sculpture, and native plant garden. Both Brick High Schools will do the art work on the clam sculpture (one side for each school). The target date to finish is July 4th and a dedication ceremony is being planned for July 5th.

NJDEP (Lynette): Sea nettle “Bulkhead Blitz” dates have been scheduled for May 19 in Brick and May 14, 21, and 22 in Berkeley, where the Berkeley Rescue Squad will assist. The NJDEP is finishing a video about how to clean sea nettle polyps from bulkheads. The Barnegat Bay Blitz kickoff ceremony will be held at Ocean County Park starting at 9:30 a.m. on June 3rd. Sometime in May NJDEP employees and Save Barnegat Bay members are hosting an informal get-together at a local restaurant to talk to local boaters who frequent Tices Shoals about the Marine Conservation Zone.

SBB (Kimberly): SBB is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the improvements to the Reedy Creek trail at the Forsythe Refuge in Brick. The Friends of Forsythe group funded a large kiosk and interpretive signs for the trail, which has been closed since Sandy.

BTMUA (Shari): The draft model stormwater ordinance for the Metedeconk watershed is being reviewed by NJDEP. Brick Township will likely be the first community to adopt the ordinance once it is completed. The stormwater projects at Brick Plaza and Lake Carasaljo are going forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 18, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.