



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

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

WebEx Meeting

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), Peter Brandt (USEPA), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Wes Dalzell (RCTB), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Amber Mallm (Monmouth Co. Planning)

Attending Guests: Toni Heater (NJDEP) Jenny Tomko (NJDEP Bureau of Marine Fisheries), George Murnyak (BBP Citizen Representative to the Policy Committee), Heidi Thompson (Jersey Shore Style)

Barnegat Bay Staff in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales (*ex officio*), Martha Maxwell-Doyle (*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)

Welcome and Introductions.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Shari, who informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded, and introductions were made.

Review of Draft Agenda and CEC Draft Minutes of February 26, 2020.

The draft agenda and February meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Interviews of Alternate Citizen Representative Nominees

The CEC is responsible for soliciting and reviewing nominations for the Alternate Citizen Representatives, then submitting its recommendation for appointment to the Advisory Committee for its approval. The CEC released a call for nominations in March for Alternates to assist George Murnyak, the current Citizen Representative, who has been volunteering in the position since 2016.

The CEC received three nominations (Matthew Garamone, Murray Rosenberg, and Susan Slim) and conducted interviews during its WebEx meeting on April 29, 2020. The three nominees were each interviewed separately at scheduled times during the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the CEC received their nomination information and an evaluation form to use during the interviews. Shari was the moderator, using a list of questions to guide the interviews. CEC members had an opportunity to ask additional questions at the end of each interview.

Following the interviews, George spoke to the three candidates by phone, as did Dr. Stan Hales during separate phone calls, to discuss the duties of the position and answer their questions about it. A vote of CEC members by email resulted in a consensus to recommend that all three candidates be approved as Alternates. George is willing to coordinate the group and is looking forward to working with all of them. After completing his current term, he would like to see an Alternate advance to the positions of Citizen Representative.

The next step is to send the CEC recommendation to the Advisory Committee for their review and approval.

Partner Updates and New Business.

Note: In their updates, CEC members shared how their organizations have adapted outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic.

OCSCD: Becky reported the Roundtable event was virtual this year. Lessons, PowerPoints, and videos were shared with participants and uploaded to the OCSCD website. The virtual keynote address by Kelly Gill of Xerces had 47 participants.

SBB: GraceAnne reported SBB has been doing virtual programs, and recently launched a new Barnegat Bay Book Club with two “Meet the Author” events coming up: Kent Mountford, author of “Closed Sea” in April and Doug Tallamy, author of “Nature’s Best Hope” in May.

NJ Pinelands Commission: Joel cancelled in-person programs, including the Short Course in March. The summer course is still up in the air, and they are considering a fall Pinelands Short Course. Joel is planning virtual programs.

MCDP: Amber reported the Environmental Council’s April roundtable event about invasive species has been postponed.

JCNERR: Kaitlin reported JCNERR is rescheduling programs and switching to virtual. They are moving forward with summer internships, which will also be virtual. The NJMEA is developing an online teacher forum for sharing educational resources; teachers will be able to enter resources by topic.

NJDEP: Lynette reported that events are on hold for the DEP’s 50th anniversary events. They are considering holding them in 2021 instead. The DEP is hosting a virtual meeting for Barnegat Bay grant recipients on May 6th at 1 p.m. After this meeting, smaller group meetings with grant recipients will be held.

RCTB: Wes reported that clam and oyster seed were ordered; however, upweller plans are now on hold. The contingency plan is to shift their order to aquaculture growers instead. Spring school programs have been cancelled; RCTB is putting together educational videos with narration to replace the in-classroom programs.

BTMUA Shari co-facilitated an online Project Wet Workshop with Toni Heater from NJDEP for Dr. Claire Gallagher’s Teaching Methods Class at Georgian Court University. BTMUA cancelled the Weekend at the Reservoir Program for the time being, including the Water Festival planned in August. Brick Reservoir was closed the week of March 9th and will remain closed until further notice. Shari is looking into virtual platforms to continue the program. She also rescheduled a Rain Barrel workshop to May 31st. BTMUA is continuing with the Brick Schools Metedeconk Watershed Competition for now. Shari has been sending links to organization websites that provide useful online educational resources to her email contact list.

Citizen Representative: George reported he will attend the Policy Committee in May. He will report on the great workshops he has been attending. He mentioned the microplastics workshop hosted by SBB and instructed by Haley Kardek, the current Barnegat Bay watershed ambassador, as being particularly well run.

NJDEP Bureau of Marine Fisheries: Jenny reported the development of a new outreach plan for Marine Fisheries is underway and their website is being updated.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting: June 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.