



**Communication and Education Committee Meeting
OCC, Gateway Building – Conference Room 401
Call in #: 732-255-0428
May 16, 2018; 9:30 – 11:30 am**

Attending CEC Members: Shari Kondrup (BTMUA, Co-Chair), Becky Laboy (OC Soil Conservation District), Joel Mott (NJ Pinelands Commission), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Karen Walzer (BBP, Staff Liaison)

On phone: Angela Andersen (Long Beach Township & LBIF), Peter Brandt (US EPA, R2), Martha Maxwell-Doyle (BBP, ex officio), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNER), Barbara Spinweber (US EPA, R2), Dr. John Wnek (MATES)

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales (ex officio), Tina Barreiro

CEC Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay, Chair), Betsy Hyle (BBP, ex officio), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), George Murnyak (Citizen Representative to BBP Policy Committee, ex officio)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM and introductions were made.

Review of draft agenda and CEC minutes of March 28, 2018:

There were no revisions suggested for the draft agenda. A revision to the CEC minutes of March 28, 2018 was made to place Lynette Lurig's name on the attending members list as she was present for the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with the revision was made by Ms. Laboy and seconded by Mr. Mott.

CEC Membership: A vote to approve Dr. John Wnek's request to become a member of the CEC was called by Ms. Kondrup. Ms. Taylor approved the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mott and passed unanimously.

Currently, the CEC has 13 members, with a maximum membership allowance of 15 members. Individuals/citizens can apply to become a CEC member, even without having affiliation to an organization. The potential to allow local college students to become representatives was discussed.

STAC Grant Funding Opportunity: K. Walzer

Ms. Walzer updated on the STAC FY19 GFO status. This GFO is available for projects that lead to improvements in water quality, especially those that reduce nutrients and especially in areas that have been classified as impaired, or to develop and implement conservation/restoration plans for ecologically sensitive habitats. The letter of intent for this GFO is due Friday, May 18th, 2018. Proposals for selected projects will be due on August 10th, 2018. A request to provide the STAC FY19 GFO information on the BBP website was made.

There was a discussion about the CEC's next GFO and using similar priority topics as in the STAC GFO. The next CEC GFO will be tentatively open in early-to-mid 2019 following approval of the revised CCMP. The current review committee process for CEC GFO funding decisions was discussed. Mr. Mott commented that not all the proposals that met the GFO requirements were funded during the last grant round. Suggestions to improve the process included making the review matrix and point system more flexible and the application process simpler and more user-friendly.

Draft CCMP Revision and Communication Plans: K. Walzer

The CEC has the task of revising the Communication Plan to reflect the revisions to the CCMP. A subcommittee of CEC members will start the review process. Ms. Kondrup, Mr. Mott, and Ms. Taylor volunteered to be on the subcommittee. During the review of the Communication Plan, the subcommittee will determine which tasks have been completed, prioritize and revise as needed the remaining tasks, and add new actions from the draft CCMP. The timeframe for this review will be from May through July 2018. Ms. Taylor would like Save Barnegat Bay to be listed as a member on the Communication Plan. Ms. Walzer asked CEC members to send her their comments/suggestions about revisions to the Communication Plan by June 8th, 2018. There will be a meeting of the subcommittee the week after the deadline to discuss submitted comments and start revising the plan.

Social media outreach was discussed with CEC members emphasizing the need to support broader communication planning. Ms. Laboy would like to focus funds towards a marketing campaign. The BBP website's event calendar is available as a central calendar amongst partners. Any partners who would like to have an event or meeting added to the BBP calendar should email details about it to Ms. Walzer.

BBP Education Updates: K. Walzer

Ms. Walzer announced the Paddle for the Edge data collection period will be from June 30 – July 22, 2018. Training sessions for new volunteers are available in June.

Partner Updates

Save Barnegat Bay: Ms. Taylor informed that the SBB student grant roster is available. They also have new advocacy and education interns. Ms. Taylor stated she will soon publish a calendar of hands-on events for July and August 2018.

Pinelands Commission: Mr. Mott announced the Second Annual Pinelands Summer Short Course will take place on July 19, 2018 at Stockton University's Kramer Hall facility in Hammonton, NJ. The course will offer indoor and outdoor educational opportunities to explore the Pinelands. Outdoor courses will be available as full day and half day field trips. He also updated that the permits to create a Pinelands exhibit center in the Pinelands Commission office have been approved.

Ocean County Soil Conservation District: Ms. Laboy updated that the first phase of the Experience Jersey Friendly Yards project, installation of the public demonstration gardens, was completed. In the second phase, ten homeowners selected through an application process participated in intensive workshops to learn about JFY techniques and plan their garden, including selecting their plants using the website's plant database. Once the gardens are all set up, the recipients will take photographs to monitor their gardens' progress. The third phase will be dedicated to public education programs. At these programs, the attendees will learn about the JFY website and native plants. Native plants will be available to attendees as freebies. Ms. Laboy expressed that the homeowners have really engaged with the program.

In other news, Ms. Laboy is working on a draft curriculum for the Master Naturalist course offered through the BBP and Ocean County College.

Long Beach Township: Ms. Andersen informed that Long Beach Township will be opening a new marine education center in Holgate. There will be a small open house on Osbourne Avenue tentative for some time in June 2018. Currently, there is a temporary modular space installed until November 2018, then a permanent facility will be installed. She would like to invite partners to host events there. There will be a new event in the township this year, an oyster festival and celebration on October 6, 2018. The oyster shell recycling program has added five new restaurants for shell collection and other alternatives for sources of shell.

JCNERR: Ms. Gannon updated that JCNERR welcomed public comments on the draft of the JCNERR management plan, which is on their website. The public comments will be sent to NOAA for review. She announced an upcoming Emergency Preparedness workshop on June 12th, 2018. The workshop will focus on preparedness for storm or flood events. There will be a guest speaker. Attendees will get a free emergency preparedness kit.

EPA: Ms. Spinweber expressed that she felt Mr. Murnyak gave a good citizen representative statement on the last Policy Committee call. She asked if his statement could be shared electronically. She also added that the EPA is very pleased with the public input process on the CCMP revision.

BTMUA: Ms. Kondrup updated that the stormwater retrofits have begun at Lake Carasaljo Park in Lakewood as part of the Metedeconk Restoration Plan. The BTMUA has partnered with the USFWS "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" program. The BTMUA is now a member of the EPA WaterSense program. WaterSense launched a campaign in May with posters in both English and Spanish. Informational handouts are also available in English only. The new Metedeconk Watershed Mascot this year is "Eli the Egret" by Makenna Ellis from Herbertsville Elementary School. This year's slogan is "Metedeconk River is life; reduce pollution, save water, save wildlife!" by RJ Arasz from Lake Riviera Middle School. "Weekends at the Reservoir" programs will be available at the Brick Reservoir this year. Some of these programs will include rain barrel workshops, small scale water conservation buckets, and making planter containers. She would like to have partner involvement as well. Planning for a Lakewood Water Festival is underway, tentatively for August at Lake Carasaljo. As part of a CEC grant, the BTMUA will be working on a Rain Garden presentation and accompanying materials. On June 24, 2018, BTMUA will be participating in the Bnos Yakov Child Health and Safety fair in Lakewood. Ms. Kondrup also added that Invasives.org site is a great resource for photos of plants, insects, disease and wildlife.

Next CEC Meeting: July 18, 2018 at 9:30 am in OCC Gateway Building – Conference Room 401.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Taylor. Mr. Mott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.