



**Barnegat Bay Partnership**  
**DRAFT Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting of May 17, 2012 (10:00 a.m.) – Island Beach State Park Interpretive Center**

**Present:**

**Members:** Angela Andersen (LBIF), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Karen Walzer (BBP), Kyra Hoffmann (NJDEP), John Leonard (BBP Citizen Representative), Helen Henderson (ALS), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Tanya Oznowich (NJDEP)

**BBP Staff** (non-voting members): Stan Hales, Betsy Hyle

**Guests:** Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Becky Laboy (IBSP), Nola Leone (Betsy’s Festival intern)

**Members Absent:** Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Mike Hunninghake (PPA), Christine Raabe (OCSCD)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Hoffmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting, seconded by Ms. Auermuller, all in favor.

**Introductions/New CEC Members**

Becky Laboy introduced herself and gave an overview of IBSP and the plans for the summer visitor season. She provided copies of the IBSP 2012 Summer Schedule of Programs and asked if CEC members could link to the schedule from their organizations’ websites. CEC members provided other suggestions about how to publicize the schedule.

With recent additions, the CEC is up to 11 members, one less than the total of 12 maximum specified in the charter. Following discussion of possible future additions to the CEC, Mr. Leonard suggested amending the charter to increase the maximum membership to 15. All CEC members present voted in favor.

**Actions:** The CEC will seek approval of the Advisory Committee at the next AC meeting to amend the CEC charter to permit a maximum of 15 members.

**STAC Projects**

The CEC discussed including language about education and outreach in all future STAC RFPs. Ms. Auermuller offered to research language used in past RFPs and put together proposed language for consideration by the STAC. The CEC voted to present the proposed language to the STAC at its next meeting and request approval for adding it to all future RFPs.

Ms. Auermuller and Ms. Andersen reported on meetings with two of the three Principal Investigators (PIs) for the latest STAC projects approved by the Advisory Committee. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss how the CEC can be a resource for education and outreach about the projects. They met in person with Dr. Jessie Jarvis about the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) project, “Modeling *Zostera marina* Restoration Potential.” Education and outreach suggestions discussed were a Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts and

Sciences talk, a Tuckerton Seaport Lunch & Learn talk, an eelgrass fact sheet and signage at marinas, an in-service day for teachers, and professional development for interpretive staff of IBSP and Ocean County Parks. Both Mr. Claus and Ms. Laboy offered to reach out to Dr. Jarvis about training for their respective interpretive staff. Other ideas discussed at the CEC meeting were publication of a Barnegat Bay research journal, a Barnegat Bay research symposium, and a research bulletin for the general public.

Ms. Auermuller, Ms. Andersen, and Ms. Walzer participated in a conference call with Dr. Jennifer Krumins about education and outreach ideas for the STAC-funded project, "Role of Plant and Soil Community Structure in Riparian Soil Nutrient Retention." Ideas that resulted from the call were a webinar through JCNERR, a poster for BBP partners to exhibit at events, and an activity for the EnviroScape model to illustrate the functions of riparian buffers.

**Actions:** Mr. Claus and Ms. Laboy will contact Dr. Jarvis about setting up a professional development presentation for their interpretive staff.

### **Festival**

Ms. Hyle reported that the Festival webpage is up, that three workshops (native plants, invasive insects, yard wildlife habitat) will be held during the Festival, and that several new exhibitors and vendors will be there.

### **NJDEP Education and Outreach Report**

Ms. Oznowich reported on the DEP's outreach plan for boaters and personal watercraft operators about ecologically sensitive areas in the Barnegat Bay. DEP is planning three enforcement sweeps during the summer. The focus of the sweeps will be education about the ecologically sensitive areas. During the sweeps, the enforcement agencies will be giving out the Boaters Manual and the DEP's new boating flyer. The flyer will be a waterproof tri-fold and include tips about clean and green boating and a map of the sensitive areas. The DEP is also planning to print 500 18" x 24" posters (with the map of the sensitive areas and some of the tips) on waterproof paper for use at marinas and public kiosks. Ms. Oznowich reported the DEP is seeking funding (\$1900) to print the posters. The CEC discussed the funding request and asked for more information about the poster. CEC members recommended that any funding should be contingent on CEC input about the messages and design of the poster.

### **Upcoming Events and Meetings**

Soil Conference (5/30)

Barnegat Bay Festival (6/3)

STAC meeting (6/12)

### **Next CEC meeting**

June 21 at 10 a.m. (location to be determined)