



Barnegat Bay Partnership
DRAFT Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2013 at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Chelsea Simkins (MTA), Kyra Hoffmann (DEP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Helen Henderson (ALS), Karen Walzer (BBP; via phone: Barbara Spinweber (EPA) and Angela Andersen (LBIF)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: Jeanne DiPaola (Ocean County Department of Tourism), Patti Resto (Brick MUA), Dayton Bjorkman (IBSP), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP); via phone: John Leonard

Members Absent: Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Peter Brandt (EPA)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dalzell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting, seconded by Mr. Bruinooge, all in favor.

CEC Membership

The CEC approved Pattie Resto, Brick MUA, as a new member. John Leonard will remain on the CEC *ex officio* but not as a member, to avoid potential conflicts when voting on CEC matters as a member of the Policy Committee. With the addition of Ms. Resto, the total number of CEC members stands at thirteen. There was a discussion about other organizations in the watershed to contact about representation on the CEC. The CEC Chair and Co-Chair are concluding their two-year terms. According to the CEC charter, the Co-Chair becomes the Chair, and a new Co-Chair is chosen.

Action: CEC members will submit nominations for the next Co-Chair to Ms. Walzer, and there will be a vote at the next meeting.

DEP Education Update

Ms. Lurig gave an update on the Barnegat Bay Blitz, scheduled for Friday, May 10th. All towns will be participating, except Bay Head and Mantoloking. The main kick-off event will be held in Surf City and a smaller one at Shelter Cove in Toms River. The two schools that received the most votes in the DEP's rain barrel contest will each get a water festival. The dates of the festivals are June 6th at Pinelands Regional Junior High School and June 17th at Donahue Elementary in Barnegat. The DEP is looking for educators to participate with water-related activities at the festivals. New information about the ecologically sensitive areas should be on

the DEP website by Memorial Day weekend. An EPA grant is funding a reassessment of these areas post-Sandy, and the maps will be updated.

Festival Update

Ms. Hyle gave a report on the festival planning. Postcards, posters, and placemats will be distributed to advertise the festival. Electronic advertising will be through Asbury Park Press online and Facebook. Nominations for the Guardian of Barnegat Bay Awards were discussed. In response to the email to the Advisory Committee, the only nomination received for the Lifetime Achievement award was Roger Locandro. No nominations were received for the new award category, the Pete McLain Young Environmental Steward. Ms. Raabe and others offered to send the request for nominations for the new category to their educator list serves.

Action: Ms. Walzer will forward the request for Guardian of Barnegat Bay award nominations to CEC members for sharing with others to expand the search.

Communication Plan Revisions

The CEC discussed the updating of the current plan and an idea to divide the task by emailing sections of the plan to different CEC members for review and suggestions about revisions. After that process, the CEC can meet to discuss and finalize the revisions.

Partner Updates

ReClam the Bay is holding an Open House on May 7, and the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration training course starts the following Tuesday.

Marine Trades Association NJ has launched a new website, GoBoatingNJ.org. The objective of the website is to provide boaters throughout the Region with accurate, current information on the condition of New Jersey's waterways. Since Hurricane Sandy came ashore in late October, reports of unprecedented destruction to marine facilities, navigation aids and channels left boaters wondering if there would be a boating season in 2013. This initiative was launched to address concerns by providing coverage of the restoration efforts taking place each day. More importantly, the Go Boating NJ campaign will highlight, through on the water videos and photos, some of NJ's most popular boating areas to give boaters firsthand knowledge and visuals that these waterways are open and ready for them this season.

Long Beach Township has had clean-ups, dune plantings, and other recovery projects, and more are planned. An upcoming dune planting and lifeguard stand painting event is being sponsored by Surf rider and Bare Foot Wine.

Ms. Raabe reported that Rob Tunstead, USDA NRCS, is looking for a slip in the central part of the bay for the boat being used for the bay bottom soil mapping project. The NRCS maps and data from the project are available on the OCSCD website under Projects and Partners.

About 60 formal and informal educators attended the Environmental Educators Roundtable on April 24th at the Lighthouse Center. The sessions on post-Sandy activities were popular. The next Roundtable will be on the last Wednesday in April, 2014.

Ocean County Parks and Recreation will be holding the Cattus Island Nature Festival this year, even though the building will still be closed for repairs at that time. Exhibitors will be able to set up on the deck as usual.

The second Barnegat Bay Environmental Commission Consortium, held on May 1, was attended by over 40 people with 7 towns represented. Martha Maxwell Doyle was one of the speakers at the event.

Next CEC meeting

June 19 at 9:30 a.m. – BBP Office