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Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Becky Laboy (OCSCD); by phone: Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA Alternate), Angela Andersen (LBIF)

BBP Staff: Stan Hales, Betsy Hyle

Guests: Mary Ann Bageac (BBF), John Zingis (Citizen Representative Alternate), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Angela made a motion to approve the April 15, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

Barnegat Bay Foundation

Mary Ann shared posters and other information about the Foundation's 2015 Gala, which will be held the Friday before the Barnegat Bay Festival under the festival tents. This is the second year the Foundation is co-sponsoring the festival with the BBP.

Communication and Education Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

The CEC funding recommendations were approved by the Advisory Committee. However there will be a delay in completing the subaward agreements due to an ongoing audit of the BBP's accounting procedures. Once the audit is completed, any necessary changes in the wording of the subaward agreements will be made before sending them to the grant recipients for signatures.

DEP Education Update

The Blitz is on June 3rd, and the kick-off will be at Barnegat Light. Students from West Windsor will be participating in the kick-off event. A diving clean-up under the Mantoloking Bridge is scheduled for the Sunday before the Blitz (May 26); 39 divers have volunteered in addition to the Brick Dive Team. John Zingis, who is helping to coordinate this effort, is still looking for land and kayak volunteers to help the divers. The Switlick Elementary School in Jackson is the winner of the DEP's Rain Barrel Challenge and will receive a Water Festival on either June 10, 11, or 12. Any educators who can participate in the festival should contact Tanya Oznowich.

The DEP will not be scheduling any boating enforcement sweeps this summer. Interns at Sedge will be surveying boating use, and there will be more patrols by NJ Marine Police in the area of Tice's Shoal.

The DEP is working on an app for reporting illegal dumping in New Jersey. The app will be ready by the Barnegat Bay Festival. Citizens using the app can take a photo and GPS point with their smartphone, and the information will go to the WARNDP hotline.

BBP Education Update

The Advisory Committee members voted to award the Guardian of Barnegat Bay awards to Bob Nicholson in the category of Lifetime Achievement and to the Project Terrapin MATES students in the category of Pete McLain Young Environmental Stewards. The awards will be presented at the Barnegat Bay Festival.

The BBP has a table for partner sharing at the Mumford & Sons event in Seaside Heights on June 5th and 6th. Betsy suggests bringing displays rather than hand-outs; the exhibit area will be secured. We have 15 volunteers so far but more are needed. The set-up will be on Thursday morning and break-down on Sunday morning. Betsy will be setting up signs to the Barnegat Bay Festival on Route 37 to advertise to people leaving the Mumford & Sons event on Sunday.

Starting in 2015, the BBP will review its CCMP and conduct a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Outreach will be an important component of the CCMP review and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment process. EPA has offered its assistance with the outreach – other NEPs can provide advice about the outreach they have done during their CCMP reviews.

Partner Updates

Brick Township MUA (Shari): Shari updated the CEC on the MUA's ongoing stormwater projects and outreach efforts. The BTMUA's contest, open to elementary school students, for a mascot and slogan is now closed; entries will be judged and a winner announced during the Blitz. No entries were received in the logo designing contest, which was open to high school students.

ReClam the Bay (Wes): There are 24 people enrolled in this spring's Shellfish Gardener classes. Eight schools participated in the Shellfish in the Classroom program during this past school year. RCTB is starting up its clam and oyster production operations.

OCSCD (Becky): Becky will be presenting 17 programs about "Worms – Heroes of the Earth" at branches of the Ocean County Library System and is looking for volunteers to assist with the programs. The International Year of Soil programs will be continuing at Jakes Branch County Park with a rain garden program on May 30th and a tour of the SHIP native plant gardens in June. OCSCD staffed the wildlife station at this year's Envirothon and also participated in judging research projects by MATES students at their Science Expo.

Save Barnegat Bay (Kim Belfer): Kim has started presentations of SBB's new K-8 program, "This Way to Barnegat Bay!"; she has visited 8 schools and presented 20 lessons to 600 students. SBB is developing a new program called Barnegat Bay Defenders to teach 4th to 8th graders

about the bay and how to advocate for it. Three water quality and 3 independent research projects are being funded this year by SBB's Student Grant Program.