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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2014 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Karen Walzer (BBP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Kyra Hoffmann (DEP) Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Chelsea Simkins (MTA) by phone

Guests: Cara Muscio (COA) by phone

Members Absent: Lisa Auermuller (JCNER), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Peter Brandt (EPA), Helen Henderson (ALS)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joel made a motion to approve the April 23, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Chris, all in favor.

Communication Plan

The CEC started to work as a group to assess partner actions and plans that relate to the Communication Plan priorities in the matrices. There was a discussion about actions relating to the General Education and Outreach Objectives and Water Quality matrices of the plan. Cara suggested creating a Google doc of the plan's matrices for CEC members to share and update with partner actions.

Action: Karen will create the Google doc.

Communication and Education Grant RFP

The CEC decided to combine two years of funding (FY 14 and FY 15) for a total of \$30,000 for the next round of Communication and Education grants. The CEC also decided the next RFP should go out by the beginning of September. Stewardship, citizen science, and living shorelines were discussed as focus issues for the next RFP.

Alternate Citizen Representative to Policy Committee

Members of the CEC who volunteered to participate in the Alternate Citizen Representative selection process (Chelsea, Christine, Lynette, Joel, and Karen) will be conducting the interviews of two candidates, George Murynak and John Zingis, on May 28, 2014. The candidates will be ranked using a point system developed for the first citizen representative interviews in 2012.

Action: CEC members on the selection committee will make their recommendation at the next CEC meeting.

Guardian of the Bay Awards

The Advisory Committee voted via email for the 2014 Guardian of the Bay awards. Dr. Jim Merritt will be honored for Lifetime Achievement, and the West Windsor Plainsboro North High School students (who conducted the willingness to pay for bay restoration survey) will be awarded the Pete McLain Young Environmental Stewards award. The award ceremony will be held at the Barnegat Bay Festival on June 1, 2014.

DEP Education Update

Over 3,000 volunteers participated in the DEP's Barnegat Bay Blitz on April 25th. The water festival for the rain barrel contest winner, North Dover Elementary School, will take place on June 17th. The DEP is still looking for businesses to host rain barrels.

Partner Sharing

OC Parks (Chris): Ocean County Parks is hosting a bunker challenge fishing contest at Mantoloking Bridge County Park on August 17th. A wetlands restoration project is underway at the same park. Volunteers are working to remove compacted soil from the site to be replanted with wetlands species.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): A demonstration bog garden will be constructed at the Pinelands Commission office. The water source for the bog will be a rain barrel.

BTMUA (Shari): The BTMUA will be reaching out the Hasidic community at the Bnos Yaakov Health and Safety Fair on June 22nd in Lakewood. The BBP will also be exhibiting at the event.

LBIF (Angela): LBIF will be adding beehives to the property and offering educational programs about pollinators and beekeeping.

Long Beach Township (Angela): A new rain barrel has been installed at the municipal office.

COA (Cara): Cara discussed COA's advocacy efforts for stopping Rutgers proposed seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean near Barnegat inlet, and mentioned upcoming meetings about this issue. COA and other organizations are concerned about the potential impact of testing on marine life.

Next CEC meeting

The next meeting will be on June 18, 2014.