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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Kimberly Belfer (SBB), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Barbara Spinweber (EPA), Peter Brandt (EPA)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Martha Maxwell-Doyle

Guests: Dana Lancellotti

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Wes made a motion to approve the March and April 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

BBP State of the Bay (SOTB) Conference

The CEC offered feedback about the conference held on June 15th. Everyone agreed that the half-day panel format worked well and was more audience-friendly than a series of PowerPoint presentations. It was pointed out that the majority of attendees stayed for the entire conference. Just a few municipal officials and managers attended the conference, and a suggestion was made to make a better effort to target this audience next time. Evaluation questions will be emailed to attendees of the conference. The BBP will be adding a new ending to the SOTB video shown at the beginning of the conference and continue to use it for outreach about the SOTB report and CCMP public input. Dana offered to put the video on the Ocean County Tourism website. A suggestion was made to nominate the SOTB report for the Governor's Environmental Excellence award.

CCMP Revision Public Outreach

BBP outreach staff will be gathering public input at upcoming outreach events, such as Barnegat Bay Day at LBIF. The BBP's stormwater flood model, SOTB video, and other outreach tools will be used to engage the public at programs and events and start the conversation about the CCMP.

BBP Education Report

Barnegat Bay Festival

With the threat of rain early in the day, a few vendors cancelled, and others were moved under the tents. Fortunately the weather cleared up, and people arrived mid-day to enjoy the festival. Betsy estimates about 2,000 attended this year, less than usual but still a good turn-out considering the weather forecast. The CEC discussed planning for next year's festival, which will be the 20th. Ideas discussed were reissuing the "Passport to Barnegat Bay," having a "bay to table" theme, and adding an activity on the water, such as a boat race.

Citizen Science

The BBP's "Paddle for the Edge" shoreline survey runs from June 18th to July 5th this year. About 60 people attended the three trainings held around the watershed. A "paddle with the scientists" along the shoreline of the Gunning River was held on June 18th to kick-off the event and answer questions from participating citizen scientists.

Lindsey Sigmund, the current Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassador, will hold a stream monitoring training on June 25 for volunteers interested in participating in the Long Swamp Creek citizen monitoring group, which will be established through a grant received by the BBP from the NJDEP.

Climate Change Risk Communication Activity

Sarah Watson updated the CEC on the climate change/flood risk communication activity she is creating through a subcontract with NOAA. The activity will be used to train outreach professionals in effective communication of climate change impacts. She had presented a version to attendees of the Education and Outreach Retreat, and using their feedback she revised the activity. Based on comments from the retreat, she created profiles for the fictional people in the activity in order to give more information to the communicators. CEC comments on the new profiles included making them more diverse, adding savings/assets information to the profiles and lower incomes, adding an inland resident profile, adding a business owner profile, and adding other climate change impacts such as heat, fire, and drought. Sarah will continue to refine the activity and reach out to the CEC for comments and suggestions.

Partner Updates

ReClam the Bay (Wes): The RCTB native plant garden, information kiosk, and upweller have all been installed at Traders Cove. The giant clam sculpture will be installed soon and then unveiled during a ceremony on July 5th at the park. Another RCTB kiosk with similar signage will be installed soon at LBIF. The upwellers will be coming on line soon, and this year RCTB is experimenting with bay scallops in some of them. RCTB is also assisting with the ribbed mussel living shoreline pilot project on Mordecai Island.

NJDEP (Lynette): Lakewood Middle School students (winners of the rain barrel challenge) participated in the Barnegat Bay Blitz kickoff ceremony held at Ocean County Park on June 3rd. The Blitz captain totals will be displayed on a map on the NJDEP website this year, along with totals from previous years. Angela suggested including invasive species removal as one of the Blitz activities in the future. Nominations are being accepted for this year's Governor's Environmental Excellence awards. Four new water trails have been established in the Sedge Marine Conservation Zone with a recreational trails grant from NJDEP. They have been marked with barrels and buoys and signage advising that no personal watercrafts are allowed within the zone. A map of the trails, which was created by a SBB intern, is available from NJDEP. Two kiosks will be installed, one at A15 and one at A21, with information about the zone and water trails.

SBB (Kimberly): Over the past year Kimberly has reached out to 2660 students through SBB's "This Way to Barnegat Bay" program, and 46 teachers participated in the workshops. SBB is starting two new programs. Barnegat Bay Environmental Stewards will be a service-oriented program for community groups interested in undertaking bay stewardship projects. Barnegat Bay Champions will target groups interested in learning about and experiencing the bay with activities such as kayak ecotours, seining, walks, workshops, and presentations.

JCNERR (Lisa): Lisa announced that Melanie Reding will be leaving her position as Education Coordinator at JCNERR in August.

Long Beach Township (Angela): Angela is an environmental consultant on a film called "The Oyster Farmers." It is being planned as a three-part series about oyster farming, culinary connections, and importance to the community. The Oyster Farmers Facebook page has more information, including fundraising efforts for the film, or contact Angela. A new maritime forest nature trail is under

development on a LBT waterfront parcel. A Barnegat Bay Master Naturalist helped to identify a black pine on the property as a specimen tree.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 20, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.