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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2014 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Karen Walzer (BBP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Chelsea Simkins (MTA), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR); by phone: Barbara Spinweber (EPA), Peter Brandt

BBP Staff: Stan Hales, Betsy Hyle, Michelle Gluck

Guests: John Leonard, John Zingis, George Murnyak, Kim Belfer (SBB)

Members Absent: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Helen Henderson (ALS), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chris made a motion to approve the June 18, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

Alternate Citizen Representative to Policy Committee

The two new Citizen Representative Alternates selections, George Murnyak and John Zingis, were introduced to the CEC members at the meeting. The revisions to the CEC charter allowing for multiple citizen representative alternates were discussed and approved by the CEC.

Action: The two selections for Alternate and the revisions to the CEC Charter will be presented to the Advisory Committee for approval at the next AC meeting.

Communication and Education Grant RFP

The next round of Communication and Education grants will combine two years of funding (FY14 and FY15) for a total of \$30,000 in available funds. There was a discussion about the topics and audiences for the RFP. Based on Communication Plan priorities, the CEC suggested stormwater and soil health as a combined topic and wetlands/riparian zones/living shorelines as another. Focusing on urban zones and under-targeted audiences was discussed. Angela recommended adding language to the RFP to encourage innovative approaches. Requiring partnerships and letters from all partners named in the proposal was also discussed. The CEC repeated previous recommendations for changes in the RFP to monitor the progress of projects – requiring two to three interim reports instead of one mid-term report, requiring reports to be made in-person to the CEC, and requiring definitive goals to be met prior to payments.

Action: Karen will draft the next RFP with these recommended changes.

DEP Education Update

Lynette announced that Kelly Becca is the new Island Beach State Park naturalist. The Harvest the Bay programs and festival, developed through a CEC grant, are continuing this summer. The festival will be held on August 9th. All the rain barrel hosts have received their barrels to display this summer. The DEP's illegal dumping webpage will be completed soon, and DEP is planning a Public Lands Day clean-up in September. The DEP is also planning three boating compliance sweeps again this summer.

STAC Update

Program Scientist Jim Vasslides gave an update on three BBP research projects. Long-term seining is continuing this summer at seven locations. Data is collected about the fishes, crabs, and jellyfishes captured during the biweekly seining. Another project involves assessment of stream crossings for impediments to fish and wildlife passage. There are over 2000 stream crossings in the watershed. During the first year of this project, BBP staff and volunteers are gathering data to work through the methodology of the study. The BBP is planning to train volunteers in the future to continue this study. A third project is an assessment of river herring passage through the Lake Shenandoah Dam fish ladder. More fish than last year have passed over the dam – a total of 18 tagged herring in 2014.

Partner Sharing

SBB (Kim Belfer): Kim introduced herself as the new Education Coordinator for Save Barnegat Bay. She has worked or volunteered with many Barnegat Bay environmental organizations prior to her new position at SBB.

MTA (Chelsea): The Jersey Shore Boat Expo will be September 19th to the 22nd at the Lakewood Blue Claws. Free space is available to environmental exhibitors on Saturday and Sunday. MTA has applied for a NJ Tourism grant to develop a GoBoatingNJ app.

OC Parks (Chris): John Zingis helped organize a Bunker Challenge Crabbing Contest, to be held on August 17th at Mantoloking Bridge County Park. The event will educate the participants about crabbing regulations and about using bunker rather than chicken as bait.

BTMUA (Shari): The BTMUA submitted a course proposal to Georgian Court University for a water conservation course in the spring of 2015. It is also proceeding with stormwater retrofit plans for a location on Hope Chapel Road in Lakewood and another at Brick Plaza.

Next CEC meeting

The next meeting will be on September 17, 2014.