



**Barnegat Bay Partnership
DRAFT Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2013 at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Chelsea Simkins (MTA), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Patti Resto (Brick MUA), Karen Walzer (BBP)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle, Mary Judge

Guests: Ed Hale (IBSP), Lynette Lurig (DEP)

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

Barnegat Bay Boat Tour

The meeting was preceded by a pontoon boat tour of the bay narrated by Chris Claus. The boat left from the Ocean County Parks dock, site of one of the ReClam the Bay upwellers. Clint Lehmann and Wes Dalzell gave a short presentation about the upweller and raising clams and oysters. Thank you to Chris, Clint, and Wes for the informative talks. Kyra Hoffmann (DEP) and Jeanne DiPaola (OC Tourism) participated in the boat tour, but were unable to attend the meeting that followed at the BBP office.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dalzell made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Walzer, all in favor.

Citizen Representative Alternate

There was a discussion about accepting new nominations for the citizen representative alternate. The alternate would replace Brian Ruhmann, who had resigned shortly after being selected as the alternate because of his wife's health issues. The citizen representative, John Leonard, has been doing a great job of fulfilling his duties. However, now that his mother has health issues that require more of his time, finding an alternate is now a priority. The CEC decided that new nominations should be solicited. Mr. Claus said he had someone in mind to nominate and would email the name to Ms. Walzer.

Action: Ms. Walzer will contact Clint Lehmann, one of the original applicants, about possibly filling the alternate position.

DEP Education Update

Ms. Lurig thanked BBP partners for participating in the Barnegat Bay water festivals held at the two winning schools in the DEP's rain barrel contest. She announced that there will not be a

Barnegat Bay Blitz in the fall, but there will be one next spring. The DEP will be targeting state parks for debris removal and focusing on how to prevent illegal dumping there.

US Strong

Ms. Andersen informed the CEC about a group working to start an extreme weather relief and protection fund, called US Strong, that would support preventative planning measures.

Action: She will forward the email with further details to CEC members.

BBP Update

Shelves in the conference room at the BBP office are available for partner displays. Cattus Island County Park has one of its Discovery backpacks on one shelf, and ReClam the Bay has a display on another. The idea is to feature the wonderful work our partners are doing to educate, research, and restore the bay and its watershed.

Communication Plan Revisions

Ms. Walzer has been working on a draft of revisions for the CEC.

Action: She will complete first draft of revisions before the next CEC meeting.

Partner Updates

Mr. Dalzell announced that ReClam the Bay would be donating a new clam to the BBP as a stop on the clam trail. The clam is being funded through a generous donation by Bill Clark. The BBP can find its own artist to paint the clam, if desired.

Mr. Claus announced that a Friends of Cattus Island group is being formed, and the first meeting will be on August 8th at 7 p.m. at the Parks administration building, with election of board members. The group will also have a Facebook page.

Mr. Hale talked about the upcoming Harvest the Bay festivals at Island Beach State Park. The festivals, along with summer Harvest the Bay programs, are being funded through a 2013 CEC grant.

Ms. Simkins invited exhibitors to participate in the MTA's Jersey Shore Boat Expo in September. She also informed the CEC about a Boats and Boards event, sponsored by Stronger than the Storm, taking place the week of July 22nd at Shelter Cove. Organizations can have an exhibit there.

Next CEC meeting

September 11, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the BBP office