



**Communication and Education Committee Meeting
OCC, Gateway Building – Conference Room 401
Call in #: 732-255-0428
July 18, 2018
9:30 am – 12:00 pm**

Attending CEC Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay, Chair), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA, Co-Chair), Becky Laboy (OC Soil Conservation District), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Karen Walzer (BBP Staff Liaison)

On phone: Peter Brandt (US EPA, R2), Barbara Spinweber (US EPA, R2), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Dr. John Wnek (MATES)

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales (ex officio), Betsy Hyle (ex officio), Tina Barreiro

Guests: George Murnyak (Citizen Representative to BBP Policy Committee)

CEC Members Absent: Angela Andersen (Long Beach Township & LBIF), Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Martha Maxwell-Doyle (BBP, ex officio), Joel Mott (NJ Pinelands Commission)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM and introductions were made.

Review of draft agenda and CEC minutes of May 16th, 2018:

There were no revisions suggested for the draft agenda nor for the CEC minutes of May 16th, 2018. A motion to approve both was made by Ms. Kondrup and seconded by Ms. Gannon. Ms. Hyle and Mr. Dalzell abstained.

CCMP Update and Public Comments: S. Hales, K. Walzer

Dr. Hales updated that the draft of the CCMP has been distributed to partner organizations for review and comment. The feedback received was primarily technical based or in request for further clarification on some sections. While the partner review and comment period has ended, the comments from the DEP are still being compiled and the BBP is giving the DEP additional time to submit them.

Once the CCMP document is publicly released, the public will have a 60 day review and comment period. Ms. Walzer asked for the CEC's advice on organizing public events to collect feedback on the final draft CCMP. During prior outreach to the public about the CCMP revision, the events that had an interactive component to them tended to have higher attendance. Members agreed festivals are prime events for public feedback, as well as creating invitation only, focus group events. Ways to diversify the public audience were also discussed, such as reaching out to environmental committees, chambers of commerce/council organizations, friends/foundation groups and green team communities throughout the watershed. Any partners who have an idea for a public CCMP event or meeting should email details to Ms. Walzer. The final draft of the CCMP will also be made available electronically on the Barnegat Bay Partnership website for public comment.

As part of the CCMP process, the Barnegat Bay Partnership program office will use a subcontractor to complete a needs assessment in regards to staffing and resource needs. A series of open-ended questions will be distributed to partner organizations, and the subcontractor will organize a one-day meeting with partners to review and discuss the answers received.

Revision of the Communication Plan: K. Walzer

Ms. Walzer distributed a draft of the revised Communication Plan. Members went through each section at the meeting and edits were made. The draft Communication Plan was also emailed to CEC members. Members are encouraged to review this draft further and email Ms. Walzer any comments.

BBP education updates: B. Hyle, K. Walzer

Nominations for this year's Guardian of the Bay award will be open to the public. A formalized nomination form is being created.

The BBP is hosting a screening of "The Oyster Farmers" documentary at the Grunin Center for the Arts on September 23rd in celebration of National Estuaries Week. There will be a pre-screening oyster tasting and a panel discussion with oyster farmers and members of the film production crew after the screening. Tickets will be available on the Grunin Center website.

Partner Updates

Ocean County Soil District: Ms. Laboy updated that the final phase of the Jersey Friendly Yards public education program is underway. Grants are being actively implemented.

BTMUA: The Metedeconk Restoration Plan is progressing on schedule. Four of six rain gardens around Lake Carasaljo have been completed and educational signage is in the review process with Lakewood Township. At the Brick Plaza site, demo work is underway with the installation of additional stormwater BMPS to follow, including bioretention and pervious pavers/pavement. A Self Watering Bucket Planter Workshop is taking place July 22nd at the Brick Reservoir. The National Association of Conservation Districts has provided partial funding for this workshop, which will be led by Rich Mohr of Georgian Court University's Mercy Garden. BTMUA construction and watershed committees have finalized design plans for the rain garden to be installed at BTMUA as part of the CEC grant.

JCNERR: Educational signs have been installed along the trails. Equipment has also been installed on the trail for a citizen science project, including soundscape equipment, critter cams and a post for marsh monitoring photos. Updates to the "Life on the Edge Exhibit" at Tuckerton Seaport are almost finished. The new addition will feature a short video showing the JCNERR monitoring sites located along the Tuckerton peninsula.

Citizen Representative to BBP Policy Committee: Mr. Murnyak has been volunteering at Island Beach State Park and shared what he is hearing from the public about their concerns for the bay. The top concerns were: public access to water in certain areas, especially the limited kayak launches; geese populations as a source of pollution; the rise of the jellyfish population; and the enforcement of the marine conservation zone.

NJDEP: Ms. Lurig informed that the new administration may want to expand the Barnegat Bay Blitz concept into other estuaries and watersheds.

MATES: Dr. Wnek will share information with partners about the precautions being taken by MATES researchers to protect themselves from clinging jellyfish stings.

SBB: Ms. Taylor announced Save Barnegat Bay's annual meeting will be held at the Toms River Library this evening. SBB held rain barrel workshops that were very successful, and there will be more rain barrel workshops in the future.

ReClam the Bay: Mr. Dalzell reported that each of ReClam's upweller has about 50,000 clams in them this year. Because the oyster hatcheries are having problems this year, ReClam did not get any. They are hopeful to receive some in August. The schedule for the upwellers is on ReClam's website.

Next CEC Meeting: September 12, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in OCC Gateway Building - Conference Room 401.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Lurig. Ms. Kondrup seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.