

**Barnegat Bay Partnership  
Communication and Education Committee Meeting**

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ocean County College, Russell Building, Conference Room

**Attending Communication and Education Committee Members:** Wes Dalzell (Chair, RCTB), Shari Kondrup (Co-Chair; BTMUA), Chris Claus (Ocean County Parks & Recreation), Kaitlin Gannon (JC NERR), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Amber Mallm (MCPB), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Kelly Scott (IBSP), Karen Walzer (Staff Liason), Dr. John Wnek (MATES)

**On the phone:** Barbara Spinweber (US EPA, R2)

**Attending Guests:** Bruce Beveridge (Barnegat Shellfish), Heidi Thompson (Jersey Shore Style)

**Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff in Attendance:** Tina Barreiro, Betsy Hyle (*ex officio*)

***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 March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and May 22, 2019***

There were no changes proposed for the Draft Agenda. Ms. Kondrup requested a change in tense in the March minutes regarding the Partnership's Barnegat Bay Art Contest winner awards. A motion to approve the corrected March minutes and the May minutes was called by Mr. Mott, seconded by Ms. Walzer and approved by consensus.

***Review of CEC Charter and Nominations for next CEC Co-Chair***

Members discussed revising and updating the CEC Charter. Ms. Walzer will start the process by preparing a first draft of changes and email it to members to review and send back any suggestions for revisions

**Action:** Members will email suggested revisions to Karen Walzer within two weeks of receiving her draft.

***CEC Alternate Citizen Representative Nominations and Vote for New Member Chelsea Simkins***

A motion to publicly advertise for Alternate Citizen Representatives was called by Ms. Kondrup, seconded by Mr. Claus and passed by consensus.

**Action:** Ms. Walzer will announce the call for nominations for Alternate Citizen Representatives.

The CEC reviewed the resume submitted by Ms. Simkins for membership consideration. A

motion to approve Ms. Simkins as a new CEC member was called by Ms. Lurig, seconded by Mr. Mott and approved by consensus.

### ***Draft CCMP Public Comment Period***

The Draft CCMP public comment period ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Targeted programs were presented at several meetings, including at the Monmouth County Planning Board, RCTB monthly meeting, and Borough of Seaside Park. Future public comment events will be held at the JCNERR on July 25<sup>th</sup> and at Mancini Hall in the Toms River Library on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Walzer is working to schedule one at LBIF in August. The BBP is recording the comments made at these events.

**Action:** BBP will compile and respond to the comments.

### ***BBP Communication/Marketing Plan Development***

The subcommittee will review the latest draft of the RFP and revise as needed, then email it to the CEC for a one-week comment period. After any final revisions, the BBP will submit the RFP to OCC for their review and bidding process.

**Action:** Ms. Kondrup will email the latest draft RFP to the subcommittee for review.

### ***Water Festival at Brick Reservoir***

Ms. Kondrup announced the Water Festival at Brick Reservoir will be held Sunday, August 9, 2020 from 8 a.m-12 p.m. This event will feature only education-based exhibitors; no sales of merchandise will be allowed. The festival is free of charge for exhibitors. The BTMUA will provide a 30x30 foot tent which can fit 7 to 8 tables. Ms. Kondrup suggested bringing pop-up tents and tables. She will check if donations are allowed for non-profits at the event. If anyone has suggestions for the title of the festival, feel free to reach out to Ms. Kondrup. Marketing materials for this event will start about 7-8 months before the event date. A suggestion was made to present the 2020 Guardian of the Barnegat Bay awards at this event.

### ***BBP Outreach Report***

Nominations for Guardian of Barnegat Bay awards. Ms. Walzer will email nomination information along with a nomination deadline. Please email nominations to Ms. Walzer with a short summary of the nominee's qualifications. Once nominations are received, the AC will vote and select who receives each award.

Members discussed changing the title of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" and/or adding a new award category. There was a discussion about presenting the award at the same event each year, or at a different location each year. Members expressed a preference for moving it to different locations around the watershed.

**Action:** CEC members can submit nominations for the awards to Ms. Walzer.

Barnegat Bay Tent at NJ WILD Expo. Matt Hencheck has offered a 20x20 tent with a Discover Barnegat Bay banner for the two-day event. Tables and chairs will be provided. The BBP, Brick

MUA, SBB, OCSCD and Mosquito Commission have all signed up to attend under this tent. There is room within the Discover Barnegat Bay tent for more partners. Interested partners do not have to commit to both days if that presents a problem, and have the option of coming for just part of a day. Additionally, Mr. Hencheck is looking for any partners who are willing to present a one-hour program or special activity on either day.

**Action:** Partners should reach out to Ms. Hyle as soon as possible about exhibiting or if interested in presenting or offering an activity program.

“Don’t Harass the Seagrass”. EPA funded a Barnegat Bay specific project which utilizes a USGS hydrodynamic model to predict climate change impacts on seagrass populations in the bay. This climate change scenario and distributional model will help inform seagrass restoration projects in the bay. The education and outreach component of the research project has three phases.

Phase I – The BBP contracted Squidtoons to create a comic style graphic called “Don't Harass the Seagrass!”, specifically composed for the Barnegat Bay: <https://squidtoons.com/portfolio-item/dont-harass-the-seagrass/>

Phase II – Squidtoons will create an interactive web-application using the climate change models and habitat suitability maps.

Phase III – The BBP will hold a one- or two-day seagrass workshop at OCC, tentatively scheduled for November 2019.

### ***Partner Updates***

MATES. Dr. Wnek shared a flyer and explained the C.R.A.B.B. (Crabbing Responsibly At Barnegat Bay) survey. MATES is conducting a research project about trends in recreational crabbing in the Barnegat Bay, as well as the future of crabbing. The survey will allow MATES to assess public awareness of regulations and design more educational resources to support crabbing regulations.

USEPA: Ms. Spinweber updated that the draft CCMP is under review by EPA Region 2 and EPA Headquarters staff.

Pinelands Commission: Mr. Mott announced the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Pinelands Short Course will be held March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The theme will focus on climate change effects on the NJ Pinelands.

NJDEP: Ms. Lurig is meeting with the Ocean County Sheriff Department this afternoon about enforcement of boating regulations in the bay. DEP is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and is planning a week-long series of events sometime in April or May of 2020. Currently, the concept is to have 50 happenings in the County parks and wildlife management areas within that week.

JC NERR: Ms. Gannon continues planning for the upcoming Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) workshop. This is a three-day professional development event focused on climate change impacts. An open house at the Rutgers Marine Field Station is scheduled for September 14, 2019. The JC NERR research team is monitoring the change in marsh elevation by installing SET tables. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help install SET tables, please reach out to Ms. Gannon.

RCTB: Mr. Dalzell informed nine upwellers are up and running with both oysters and clams. RCTB is planning Shellfish in the Classroom for the upcoming school year.

MCDP: The next Monmouth County roundtable event will focus on plastics and recycling. This event will be more interactive and workshop-based than previous roundtables, and will focus on what can be recycled and what cannot.

IBSP: Ms. Scott updated that the IBSP interpretive programs are in full-swing. The Conservation Celebration was successful with over 200 people in attendance. She is seeking volunteers to help with the park's August/September interpretive programs, especially with the kayaking programs. The Beach Plum Festival will be on September 8<sup>th</sup>. A "History of Island Beach Tour" will be created for this coming fall. FOIBSP will continue their conservation talks and presentations at the park. Ms. Scott is going to try to get the park designated as an international dark sky area.

BTMUA: Two more Weekend at the Reservoir programs have been completed, a 5-gallon Self Watering Planter workshop on June 9<sup>th</sup> and a Fix a Leak Day event on July 14<sup>th</sup>. BTMUA will be doing presentations at local Ocean County libraries in conjunction with the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit, Water/Ways, which will be at the Toms River Branch from 8/19/19 through 9/28/19. Brick Plaza held the opening of the Boardwalk (formerly the MEWS) on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This area shows demonstration planting of NJ Native and non-native eco-friendly vegetation. Future plans include educational signage about the Barnegat Bay Watershed and green infrastructure in improving water quality and quantity within it.

OC Parks: The crabbing contest at Mantoloking County Park was held this past Saturday. The hot weather may have contributed to lower attendance numbers. OCP is in the process of ordering a new pontoon boat, which will have a larger seating capacity than the old one. OCP has been renting the Tuckerton Seaport's pontoon boat to do some programs this summer.

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next CEC meeting will be September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.