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**Barnegat Bay Partnership**  
**Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

**Present:**

**Members:** Angela Andersen (LBIF), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR)

**BBP Staff:** Betsy Hyle, Stan Hales

**Guests:** George Murnyak (Citizen Rep), Dave Friedman (IBSP)

**Members Absent:** Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Shari made a motion to approve the May minutes, seconded by Wes, all in favor.

**CEC Membership & Chair Positions**

Wes made a motion to approve GraceAnne as a new member of the CEC, seconded by Becky, all in favor. Wes agreed to move up from Co-Chair to Chair, succeeding Angela, who completed her second two-year term as Chair. Shari and Becky were both nominated to be the new Co-Chair. Becky declined; Shari asked for time to talk to both Wes and Angela before accepting the nomination. Selection of a new Co-Chair was tabled until the next meeting.

**CCMP Outreach**

The CEC discussed options for reaching out to people in the watershed for feedback when the draft CCMP is ready, which is expected to be approximately June of 2018. Ideas discussed for outreach venues included the following: series of meetings at regional colleges and universities (Ocean County College, Georgian Court University, Monmouth University, and/or Stockton University); Barnegat Bay festival; NJ Legislature Environmental Committee meeting; mayors' meetings; meetings at watershed municipalities; and events hosted by local partners, such as Save Barnegat Bay. Also discussed was having a CCMP "launch" press event with coverage by local media and a media campaign prior to holding the public meetings. The BBP will respond to the comments recorded during the outreach events.

**Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative Grant**

Becky provided details about a grant the OCSCD received from the National Association of Conservation Districts for a project to provide technical urban conservation assistance to groups in Lakewood, an underserved community and food "desert." Partners in the grant include Georgian Court University, BTMUA, Lakewood High School, Lakewood Public Works, BBP, NJ Farm Bureau, and Fulfill (new name for the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties).

## **BBP Education Report**

Betsy thanked everyone for making this year's festival a success. She estimated attendance to be over 3,000. A suggestion was made to include tours of the community garden at next year's festival – June 3, 2018.

The CEC discussed National Estuaries Week (September 16-23). The NEPs and NERRs are coordinating a social media blitz. Stan said a bus tour of the mid-Atlantic estuaries for the Congressional estuary caucus is being planned and may be scheduled that week. The Rutgers Marine Research Station will hold an open house on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Another idea was having a screening of "The Oysters Farmers" documentary film during the week. Any events should be added to the National Estuaries Week event calendar on the RAE website.

## **Partner Updates**

Long Beach Township (Angela): The shellfish recycling program started this year by the Township has been a success. There are six restaurants participating and Jetty Rock picks up the collected shells three times a week.

LBIF (Angela): "The Oyster Farmers" film premiered on July 21, 2017 at the Stafford Art Center and will be shown July 26<sup>th</sup> at LBIF. It will also be available for viewing on Delta Airlines international flights. The documentary will be shown on other dates during the summer on LBI and at other locations. The LBIF Discovery Days programs expanded this year with marsh activities on Wednesdays and pollinator activities on Fridays. The new beekeeper at LBIF has been doing outreach during Discovery Days.

RCTB: The new marine extension agent is expected to start at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County around September 1<sup>st</sup>. RCTB volunteers are assisting with the project to re-establish the shoreline on Mordecai Island. It is being stabilized with concrete blocks ("castles"), which are habitat for oysters which should provide further stabilization.

OCSCD (Becky): OCSCD has started work on the BBP CEC grant-funded project, "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards." Planting has started at Cattus Island Park, and planning is underway for the native gardens at the Island Heights Library and Admiral Point in Pine Beach. Pinelands Nursery donates plants every year to each soil district in the state. 200 plugs went to the OCSCD for a project in the county, and they were planted at the Whiting Elementary School. The OCSCD is hosting the Soil Water Conservation Society conference at Cattus Island Park in October.

IBSP (David Friedman): Friends of Island Beach State Park are holding a Healthy Living – Healthy Earth event on Thursdays in August from 10 to 2 and are looking for exhibitors. During the 2017 dune plantings at the park, Ocean Gro was applied to some sections; these areas showed better growth, with an average of 51 culms vs. 24 for the untreated areas. David suggested this would be good research project for a student, such as through the SBB student grant program. A scout is building an outdoor classroom at the Nature Center as his Eagle Scout project. David offered to reach out to park staff about joining the CEC.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari created an interactive rain barrel display for the annual Bnos Yaakov Child Health and Safety Fair in Lakewood. She has scheduled two rain barrel workshops in August and one in September as part of the BTMUA's project being funded by a BBP CEC grant. NJDEP arranged for the donation of the rain barrels from Ocean Spray in Allentown, PA.

SBB (GraceAnne): SBB has started a summer seining program every Thursday on the riverfront beach at Brown's Woods. SBB held a volunteer open house and plans to start an education advisory committee. Toms River Moving Forward will be holding a clean-up at Brown's Woods on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Almost 100 people attended the SBB annual meeting this year; Paul Jivoff spoke about his crab research. SBB is looking for someone to repair an 8mm film projector, which is needed to view the Pete McLain films.

Citizen Representative (George): George commented that the recent meeting to develop CCMP objectives and actions was a good process. He also discussed developing an educational program about the importance of not feeding geese, a source of non-point pollution.

JCNERR (Kaitlin): JCNERR has been holding marine debris workshops for teachers and workshops for recreational crabbers with funding from the We Crab grant. She is currently planning programs for fall and winter.

**Next Meeting:** September 13, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.