



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

Attending CEC Members: Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay, Chair), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA, Co-Chair), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Karen Walzer (BBP Staff Liaison), Joel Mott (NJ Pinelands Commission), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB)

On phone: Peter Brandt (US EPA, R2), Angela Andersen (Long Beach Township & LBIF)

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

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

CEC Members Absent: Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR), Becky Laboy (OC Soil Conservation District), Dr. John Wnek (MATES), Scott Bruinooge (OCC)

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 July 18, 2018:

There were no revisions suggested for the CEC minutes of July 18, 2018. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Mott.

CCMP Update and Needs Assessment: S. Hales

Dr. Hales reported the draft CCMP document is still undergoing review by partners. The BBP is having a needs assessment retreat on September 18th at Ocean County College. The purpose of the retreat is to get partner feedback about the facility, staff, and resource needs of the program office. The day-long retreat will be led by Holly Greening, an independent consultant.

STAC GFO Proposals: K. Walzer

Ms. Walzer distributed copies of the two proposals received for the STAC grant funding opportunity for review and comment by CEC members on the education and outreach components.

The following comments were made about the Stockton University Barnegat Bay oyster restoration proposal:

- How much time will be spent on education/outreach programs?
- Oyster restoration should be emphasized in the programs.
- When will the Long Beach Township marine field station open?
- How many events/programs will be held there?
- Which partner will provide the volunteer time?
- Will the volunteers providing year 2 match be working on outreach tasks?

The following comments were made about the Stockton University submerged aquatic vegetation ecosystem services assessment proposal:

- How many of the outreach events attended will be located in the Barnegat Bay watershed?
- How much of the volunteer time will be spent on outreach?
- The applicant should be informed that the BBP does not fund event give-aways, such as t-shirts.

Mr. Murnyak commented that the sea grass project outreach seemed broader while the oyster project outreach was centered on LBI. The comments provided by the CEC will be shared with the STAC when they review the two proposals at their meeting on October 10th.

BBP education updates: B. Hyle, K. Walzer

Nominations for this year's Guardian of the Bay award were sent to the Advisory Committee for a vote.

Betsy provided an update of the status of the Barnegat Bay festival. She explained why the festival was not held in 2018 – staffing issues, funding needs, and a shift in focus to more outreach to underserved audiences. There was a discussion about expanding outreach through participation in more events around the watershed. Comments made included creating a more professional display for the BBP and coordinating with partners to locate Barnegat Bay exhibits together at events.

Partner Updates

Pinelands Commission:

The Pinelands Commission's annual World Water Monitoring Day event will be held on October 26, 2018 at Batsto. The 2019 Pinelands Short Course is scheduled for March 8th. The Pinelands Visitor Center exhibit will be opening in about a month. The CEC decided to hold the November meeting there and tour the new exhibit.

NJDEP:

Ms. Lurig reported that the DEP received 43 proposals in response to its Barnegat Bay phase 2 RFP. The theme for this year's rain barrel challenge is "Bay-Friendly Yards." The Barnegat Bay Blitz may not be held in 2019 – it's still undecided at this point. The DEP will be doing a clean-up with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary on the Delaware called the "South Jersey Scrub."

Ocean County Parks and Recreation:

The 319 project at Ocean County Park is in its final phase. The park will be holding a "trunk or treat" event on October 27th from 7-8:30 p.m. Mr. Claus continues to offer outdoor nature programs at schools.

SBB:

Native plant gardens and an outdoor classroom are being added to Brown's Woods. SBB held an open house for the neighbors of Brown's Woods. SBB is offering a series of evening advocacy workshops presented by attorney Michelle Donato. Exhibitors are welcome at the Toms River Green Fair, which will be part of Maker Fest on October 20 at Toms River North High School. SBB helped 17 municipalities submit proposals for the DEP RFP and submitted four of their own.

RCTB:

The weather improved in the late summer and fall for raising oysters and clams. RCTB is getting ready to resume Shellfish in the Classroom in schools this fall.

Citizen Representative:

Mr. Murnyak was a water trail educator at Island Beach State Park from Memorial Day to Labor Day and enjoyed interacting with the visitors.

BTMUA:

The Lake Carasaljo project has been completed and educational signage installed. The Brick Plaza project should be finished by the end of this year with installation of large rain gardens, pervious pavement and educational signage. The BTMUA was hit by a computer virus and is still in the process of getting back online. As part of its CEC grant funded project, BTMUA will offer a rain garden workshop at its office on October 13th. A presentation about rain gardens will be given and then participants will move outside to see a demonstration garden in various stages of construction. Ms. Kondrup will also present a workshop about rain gardens at the Jersey-Friendly Yards conference on October 20th. BTMUA received approval from Ocean County Parks to install educational signage about hydrilla at OC Park and Lake Shenandoah.

Long Beach Township:

The “Pollinator Potluck” will be on September 21st at LBIF; free milkweed seeds will be provided at the event. “Oyster Shellabration” will be held at Bayview Park on October 6th. The LBT Marine Field Station trailer offered 12 programs this summer. Construction of the new permanent building will start in November and should be completed by next summer. Ms. Andersen is looking to book programs for 2019 – contact her for more information.

Next CEC Meeting: November 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.