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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Chris Claus (OC Parks), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Becky Laboy (OCSCD); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA), Angela Andersen (LBIF), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), GraceAnne Taylor (SBB)

BBP Staff: Betsy Hyle

Guests: George Murnyak (Citizen Rep), Kelly Scott (NJDEP)

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Kaitlin Gannon (JCNERR),

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari requested a correction to the July minutes to clarify that both Shari and Becky were nominated for the Co-Chair position. Shari made a motion to approve the July minutes with the correction, seconded by Wes, all in favor.

CEC Membership & Chair Positions

Shari accepted the Co-Chair nomination, which was made during the July meeting, and the CEC voted to approve her as the new Co-Chair.

CCMP Outreach

The CEC reviewed the CCMP draft goals and objectives developed by the CCMP steering committee and Barnegat Bay stakeholders group. There is an education and outreach objective for each of the four priority sections (water quality, water supply, land use, and living resources). The Communication and Education Plan will be an appendix to the CCMP, and the CEC will be tasked with revising the current Communication Plan to reflect the CCMP revisions. Angela will continue to represent the CEC on the steering committee, and both Chris and Shari offered to be alternates if needed. George stated that it would be helpful to those working on and reviewing the draft if CCMP terms were defined (*i.e.* goal, objective, action, and target) and examples of each provided.

BBP Education Update

The CEC viewed the recently launched new BBP website, www.barnegatbaypartnership.org. CEC members were asked to change our url to the new one on their own websites. There was a discussion about media lists and sharing contacts. Shari suggested sending media releases to the “Lakewood Scoop” to reach a large audience in the northern part of the watershed.

Becky Laboy and GraceAnne Taylor will be the instructors again for the BBP’s Barnegat Bay Volunteer Master Naturalist course in the spring of 2018. Registration will be via the Ocean County College Department of Continuing Education; the spring brochure will be released in November.

Partner Updates

RCTB: The new marine extension agent at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County is Dr. Doug Zemeckis. He has a Ph.D. in Marine Science and Technology from the University of Massachusetts. The fall classes for the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program will begin on September 19th at the RCE center in Toms River. RCTB volunteers are wrapping up the growing season in the fall, and Shellfish in the Classroom will start in October.

OCSCD (Becky): For the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative grant project, Lakewood High School and Georgian Court University will be centers for education and on-the-ground projects. OCSCD continues to work on the BBP CEC grant-funded project, "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards." Planting has been completed at Cattus Island Park, and the planting date for Admiral Point in Pine Beach is September 23rd. The OCSCD is hosting the Soil and Water Conservation Society conference at Cattus on October 6th; Becky and Karen will be presenting on Jersey-Friendly Yards. Becky will be presenting a program on soil at the ANJEE fall conference at Duke Farms on September 29th.

IBSP (Kelly Scott): Kayak and regular tours at the park have been extended into the fall. The park is creating an outdoor classroom at the Nature Center. A pergola and butterfly garden will be added through a Boy Scout project to be done this fall and next spring. A future plan is to also add an example of a dune as a feature of the outdoor classroom. The extension of the sewer line into the park is expected to start soon, and Kelly will request CEC help with getting the word out about the construction when it starts.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari has held two rain barrel workshops and distributed a total of 44 rain barrels as part of the BTMUA's CEC grant-funded project. Shari reached out to the Lakewood community about the workshops, and the one on a Sunday was well-attended by members of the Orthodox community. Thirty-one people have registered for the next workshop, which is on September 16th in Brick.

Ocean County Park (Chris): Chris gave an update on the American Littoral Society's stormwater management project being funded by a 319 grant. Filterra boxes have been installed in the parking lot by the beach and floating wetlands islands in the duck pond. In the next phase, part of a bulkhead will be removed at the duck pond and replaced with a living shoreline. Educational signage about the benefits of the project will be installed at the park. Georgian Court University students will be assisting Princeton Hydro, the subcontractor on the project, with pre- and post-evaluations and water quality testing. Chris is continuing the "Borrow a Naturalist" program for schools this academic year.

SBB (GraceAnne): SBB has started planning programs at Brown's Woods for targeted audiences, and is scheduling teacher workshops and This Way to Barnegat Bay and Barnegat Bay Defenders programs. SBB has started an education committee and GraceAnne asked the CEC to let her know of any citizens who might be interested in joining the committee.

Citizen Representative (George): George described an interactive exhibit about the Hudson River watershed that he saw at the Liberty Science Center. The exhibit used index cards for visitors to write how they connect to the river. He thought something similar would be a good idea for the Barnegat Bay watershed.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.