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Barnegat Bay Partnership

Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes from the Joint Advisory Committee/CEC Meeting on September 16, 2014 Held at Ocean County College, Gateway Building Rm 500

Present:

CEC Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Karen Walzer (BBP), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (Brick MUA), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA)

BBP Staff: Stan Hales, Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Betsy Hyle, Jim Vasslides, Mary Judge

CEC Guests: John Zingis, George Murnyak

CEC Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Helen Henderson (ALS), Chelsea Simkins (MTA)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of the July 16, 2014 meeting minutes were tabled for the October meeting.

CEC Charter

Revisions to the CEC charter allowing for multiple Citizen Representative Alternates were discussed and approved by the Advisory Committee.

Alternate Citizen Representative to Policy Committee

George Murnyak and John Zingis, the two new Citizen Representative Alternates selected by the CEC, were introduced to the Advisory Committee members, who voted to approve them as official Citizen Representative Alternates to the Policy Committee.

Communication and Education Grant RFP

Angela gave an overview of successful BBP grant-funded outreach projects that have been continued and expanded, such as LBIF's *Got Milkweed* project. The upcoming Communication and Education Grant RFP was discussed, including the priority topics (soil health/stormwater management and wetlands/riparian zones/living shorelines) and priority audiences recommended by the CEC. The Advisory Committee was advised that a total of \$45,000 is available for the grant program, consisting of \$30,000 budgeted for the grants (\$15,000 in FY14 and \$15,000 in FY15) and an additional \$15,000 from repurposed BBP funds, e.g. unused fringe benefits. The Advisory Committee voted and approved \$45,000 in funding for the 2015 Communication and Education Grant RFP.

BBP Education Update

BBP and partners updated the Advisory Committee about Communication Plan activities. Betsy Hyle discussed the success of the 2014 Barnegat Bay Festival and the upcoming *Aqua Kids* TV episodes about Barnegat Bay topics. She thanked all the partners that made the festival and the *Aqua Kids* filming possible. Christine Raabe discussed the SHIP project and the SHIP workshop, *Digging Deeper – Practical Demonstrations to Improve Soil Health*, to be held on October 31st at Jakes Branch County Park. Lynette Lurig discussed the DEP's rain barrel challenge and soon to-be-released video tour of the rain barrel displays. Joel Mott announced the 2015 Pinelands Short Course will take place on March 14 at Richard Stockton College – he is looking for speakers with relevant topics for the event.

STAC RFP

Program Scientist Jim Vasslides discussed possible topics for the next STAC RFP. The AC considered two possibilities, Water Supply and Shellfish, and voted to approve Shellfish as the focus of the next STAC RFP. Lisa Auermuller suggested the STAC and CEC coordinate and focus on the same topic(s) in future RFPs.

Partner Sharing

SBB: Britta Wenzel announced that SBB submitted a proposal to the Garden Club of America for its Founders Fund Award. The proposal, which is for a project to restore soils and plant native plants at Mantoloking County Park, is one of four finalists. Garden Club members from around the United States will be voting to select the winning project. Britta also discussed a SBB idea to install signs at stream crossings throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed as an educational tool and requested the support of the BBP.

Clean Ocean Action: Cara Muscio announced the official launch of Sustainable Jersey's Blue Star program on September 18th at Stockton College. The Blue Star program is a certification within SJ for actions relating to water quality.

ReClam the Bay: Rick Bushnell announced the showing of *Shellshocked*, a movie about the shellfish industry, at LBIF on October 3rd at 7 p.m. A panel discussion will follow the movie.

OC Parks: Chris Claus said the Bay Point Harbor Condo Association, located on the canal in Point Pleasant, is looking for assistance with language about native plants to add to a new landscaping contract being drafted.

Next CEC meeting

The next meeting will be on October 15, 2014.