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**Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communications and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2015 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office**

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Karen Walzer (BBP), Chris Claus (OC Parks); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR)

BBP Staff: Stan Hales, Betsy Hyle

Guests: John Zingis (Citizen Representative), George Murnyak (Citizen Representative Alternate), Kim Belfer (Save Barnegat Bay),

Members Absent: Scott Bruinooge (OCC), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission)

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Angela made a motion to approve the July 15, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

Communication and Education Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO)

Karen reported that subaward agreements have been signed and purchase orders issued for three of the 2015 grants (Conserve Wildlife Foundation, Boating Education and Rescue, and O’Leary/Birdsall), and these organizations have commenced work on their projects. ReClam the Bay has withdrawn its application; they cited the burden of financial documentation as the reason for the withdrawal. Visitation Relief Center and Ocean County Soil Conservation District grant paperwork should be finalized soon.

The BBP has \$15,000 available for a 2016 GFO. Due to the withdrawal of ReClam the Bay from the 2015 grant program, there is an additional \$10,000 available to add to this funding amount. The CEC needs to determine the priority topics and audiences for the 2016 GFO.

CCMP Revisions

A draft outline of tasks and a draft timeline for the CCMP revision process were provided to meeting attendees and emailed to the CEC list. Stan requested that comments about the two drafts and general revision process (as well as comments on issues/topics and potential partners to include in the revision) be emailed to him by the end of September. Lisa suggested a CEC work session to examine the CCMP, Strategic Plan, and Communication Plan and identify education and outreach revisions. The CEC will be planning public outreach for the CCMP revision process. The use of surveys for public feedback was discussed. Peter suggested inviting staff from Long Island Sound to attend a CEC meeting to share their public outreach strategies for their CCMP revision.

Actions: CEC members should send comments about the CCMP revision to Stan by September 30th. Karen will do an initial comparison of the CCMP, SP, and CP for the CEC.

BBP Education Report

Karen showed a poster prepared by Squidtoons, a company which educates the public about science, provides teaching aids to educators, and supports scientists with illustrations. The CEC discussed ideas for posters and comics on Barnegat Bay topics. One suggestion was a poster to illustrate Barnegat Bay shellfish; another was a bay-themed comic book.

Action: Karen will contact the company to discuss and get price quotes.

Betsy is planning BBP videos for next year and asked the CEC for ideas. Chris suggested a monthly short fun video posted on social media. Another idea was to contact senior communities about showing BBP videos on their community stations. A video in Spanish and more videos for teachers to use in the classroom were two more suggestions.

Jersey-Friendly Yards

Becky reported that soil samples have been collected at each of the six demonstration project sites and sent to the Rutgers soil lab for testing. The OCSCD has subcontracted with Eileen Miller, a soil scientist, to assist with soil assessments at the project sites using the NJ Soil Health Assessment Guide. During a meeting scheduled for October 1st, each of the project funding recipients will receive their soil results and present the planting plan they developed by using the Jersey-Friendly Yards website.

George suggested a location in Seaside Heights, which was a staging area for post-Sandy clean-up and construction, as a possible location for a JFY demonstration garden.

DEP Education Update

A DEP science symposium is being planned to provide information to the public about the ten DEP-funded Barnegat Bay research projects; it will be held on November 17th at Ocean County College. The symposium will focus on the project goals and the usefulness of the findings. Talks will be followed by break-out sessions. John suggested preparing a public-friendly abstract and getting educators involved in the symposium. Lisa suggested giving the presenters a PowerPoint template to follow.

The DEP is planning a sea nettle outreach effort in October. Volunteer divers will work in lagoons identified as sea nettle hot spots, taking photos and helping to powerwash and scrub docks and bulkheads. The plan is to film the work in order to show where the polyps are located and how to remove them.

Partner Updates

LBIF (Angela): Upcoming events at the LBIF are the Pollinator Potluck Dinner and Honey Harvest on September 16th and the Shellfish Soiree on October 2nd.

Save Barnegat Bay (Kim): SBB is looking for interns with photography experience to assist with the Pete McLain collection, consisting of more than 10,000 slides, 15 to 20 hours of reel videos, and magazine articles. There are multiple slides of the same subjects, and the interns will be tasked with deciding which ones are best and should be converted to a digital format. SBB has permission from the McLain family to donate the digital files to the Ocean County library. Chris mentioned that the park system has a slide scanner which SBB can borrow to scan all slides.

BTMUA (Shari): The bio-retention basin in Howell should be completed by the end of the year.

Ocean County Parks (Chris): The Jersey Shore chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey donated native plants for a new pollinator garden at Ocean County Park.

JCNERR (Lisa): There are still openings in a training workshop about planning and facilitating meetings; the NOAA training will be held at JCNERR on September 22nd and 23rd.

John Zingis: John is planning a “Biking the Bay” ride and has posted the details on Map My Ride. It will be a 22 mile ride starting in Freehold and ending at Windward Beach in Brick. The tentative date is October 3rd.

Next Meeting

The October meeting date will be rescheduled. A Doodle poll will be emailed to members to determine the best date.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.