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Barnegat Bay Partnership
Communication and Education Committee (CEC) Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2016 (9:30 a.m.) at BBP Office

Present:

Members: Angela Andersen (LBIF), Becky Laboy (OCSCD), Shari Kondrup (BTMUA), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Kimberly Belfer (SBB), Chris Claus (OC Parks), Joel Mott (Pinelands Commission), Karen Walzer (BBP); by phone: Peter Brandt (EPA), Barbara Spinweber (EPA)

BBP Staff: Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Betsy Hyle

Guests: Mike and Debbie Bennett (BEAR), Danielle Fadeski (Watershed Ambassador)

Members Absent: Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Wes Dalzell (ReClam the Bay), Scott Bruinooge (OCC),

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Shari made a motion to approve the June 22, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Joel, all in favor.

Becky made a motion to approve the July 20, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Shari, all in favor.

2015 CEC Grant Updates

Terry O’Leary and Bob Birdsall submitted their final outreach products and final report for “Streaming the Rivers and Creeks in the Barnegat Bay Watershed.” The project resulted in two large laminated maps with two coordinating PowerPoint presentations, one each for the northern and southern portions of the watershed. Points of interest (labeled with GPS coordinates) from the headwaters to the outlets of 20 streams are shown on the maps and corresponding PowerPoint slides. Other project outcomes were nine presentations of the virtual watershed “tour,” one bus tour and two eco-van tours to watershed points of interest, and a Story Map produced by MATES students and staff.

The start of the Visitation Relief Center’s “Beneficial Indigenous Project” was delayed while the VRC worked on securing funding to keep the center open. The VRC held their first educational workshop for the grant project on September 1, 2016. Stan Hales and Karen Walzer met with Christie Winters to discuss whether or not the VRC would be able to complete the project by the February 2017 deadline; we offered BBP’s assistance and encouraged the VRC to get partners involved. VCR has scheduled workshops for residents from September into early November and is working on ordering plants and scheduling plant distribution.

Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ has completed installation of two turtle gardens for its “Barnegat Bay Turtle Gardens: Supporting Living Shorelines to Safeguard Terrapins for Sea-Level Rise” project and identified two more sites. CWF also began extensive education and outreach efforts for this project including school visits, programs for the public, and a social media campaign.

Mike and Debbie Bennett provided their update on “Everything Eventually Ends Up in the Water.” They have given more than 100 presentations about non-point source pollution. They also reached out to the Lakewood community through “learn to fish” events and programs, and started the “Reel Fun Fishing” to provide Lakewood youth with environmental education and recreational opportunities. The popular club, which is part of the “Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs” Program, has about 45 members and meets every other week at Ocean County Park. The kids and their families have been learning about nature and

environmental stewardship through a variety of outdoor activities both at the park and on the bay, including fishing, crabbing, seining, camping, archery, and nature walks. They also give back to the community and the park by regularly participating in clean-ups.

Becky Laboy gave the update on the Ocean County Soil Conservation District's "From Lawn to Garden: Going Green, Saving Green" project. The project has delivered monthly educational programs to watershed residents about low-maintenance landscaping and implemented demonstration gardens at three Ocean First Bank branches (at Leesville Road in Jackson, Adamston Road in Brick, and Hooper Avenue in Toms River) using the resources of the *Jersey-Friendly Yards* website. Based on site assessments and soil test results, appropriate native and *Jersey-Friendly* plants were selected for each of the 3 gardens. Case studies will be developed for each of the bank garden sites for inclusion on the website.

New CEC Grant Funding Opportunity

The CEC reviewed and discussed a draft of the next GFO. One recommendation was to add water conservation as one of the target topics. Another recommendation was to check with the STAC about when the next STAC GFO will be released and about possible coordination of topics.

Action: Karen will make the revisions to the draft GFO.

Education and Outreach Retreat 2017

There was a discussion about the date, location, and theme for the 2017 E & O Retreat. The CEC recommended holding the retreat at the end of March, possibly on the 22nd or the 29th. LBIF was suggested as a possible new venue, and an art/science theme was also discussed.

Action: Karen will explore date and venue options.

BBP Education Report

The CEC viewed several of the BBP's "Because We Love Barnegat Bay" videos, which are being shared on social media during National Estuaries Week. Twelve of the 30-second videos are already on the BBP's YouTube channel and five more will be added soon. The CEC suggested issuing a media release about the new video series.

Partner Updates

EPA (Barbara and Peter): National Estuary Program directors met with the EPA Regional Administrator, Judith Enck; topics discussed included CCMP public outreach, Trash Free Waters, and Environmental Justice. The former director of the San Juan NEP, Javier Laureano, is now the new water director at Region 2.

LBIF (Angela): The LBIF's annual Pollinator Potluck event was well-attended. An upcoming event at LBIF is the Shellfish Soiree. Both combine social events with education. LBI beach replenishment is ongoing as well as revegetation efforts, such as by the Holgate Taxpayers Association.

Pinelands Commission (Joel): The annual Pinelands Short Course is scheduled for March 11, 2017 at Stockton University. The new Pinelands exhibit at the Commission's office is under construction and should be finished sometime in early 2017. Dan Duran gave a recent talk in the science lecture series about the ecosystem services of insects. The World Water Monitoring Day event will be at Batsto on October 21, 2016. Groups of 20 students will move from station to station from 9 to 2 during this annual event. Joel is looking for a partner to do an activity at the one station still open.

NJDEP (Lynette): Trish Ingelido presented on water quality to the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Program's "Clam College." The next rain barrel challenge theme will be "Because We Love Barnegat Bay." The NJDEP has received several complaints about litter becoming a problem on Cedar Creek.

BTMUA (Shari): Shari has created a new youth activity booklet for the Metedeconk watershed. She has also started outreach to farmers, especially small operators, within the Metedeconk watershed. The model stormwater ordinance is now under review by NJDEP. Shari will be speaking to Clam College about stormwater management in October. Work continues on the Brick Plaza and Lake Carasaljo projects.

SBB (Kimberly): SBB continues to expand the Barnegat Bay Stewards program. A grant from the Watershed Institute is funding a project by the Holgate Homeowners Association to replant the dunes at access points to the beach. The Toms River Rotary is working on a community garden, and the Southern Ocean Rotary is planning an eco-friendly guide for their area.

BEAR (Mike and Debbie Bennett): Registration is open for a free Project WET workshop to be held at Ocean County Park on either October 12th or 17th.

Ocean County Parks (Chris Claus): Ocean County Park staff is ready to add another garden near the picnic area using the Jersey-Friendly Yards website. Chris and GraceAnne will be working again this school year with the Lakewood Middle School students.

Watershed Ambassador Program (Danielle): Danielle Fadeski, the 2016-2017 Barnegat Bay Watershed Ambassador, introduced herself at the meeting. She is available for watershed presentations and projects. Her email is ambassadorwma13@gmail.com.

OCSCD (Becky): Becky reported that due to low enrollment in the September soil district educational program, it has been combined with the October program.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 19, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.