



BBP Science Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Tech Building Lecture Hall
February 13th, 2019

Attending STAC Members: Robert Karl (Chair, BTMUA), Dr. Steven Yergeau (Vice-Chair, RCE-Ocean), Dr. Jim Vasslides (BBP), Alena Baldwin-Brown (NJDEP), Linda Brennen (MCDP), Patrick Burritt (NJPC), Charles Caruso (PPA), Dr. Elizabeth Lacey (Stockton University), Dr. Swarna Muthukrishnan (COA), Jim Nickels (Urban Coast Institute Monmouth University), Victoria Pecchioli (OCDP), John Protonentis (OCHD), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNERR), Robert Shertenlieb (OCUA), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA Region 2), Mark Villinger (OCDP), Christine Wieben (USGS)

On the phone: Rob Tunstead (USDA-NRCS)

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales, Tina Barreiro, Martha Maxwell-Doyle,

Attending Guests: Sheri Shifren (NJDEP)

Welcome and Introductions. R. Karl

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 AM and introductions were made.

Review of Draft Agenda and STAC minutes of December 12, 2018.

There were no changes to the agenda. Dr. Ursula Howson was left off of the meeting minutes and will be added. A motion to approve was called by Mr. Caruso, seconded by Ms. Baldwin-Brown, and approved by consensus.

CCMP Update. S. Hales

- Update on Draft Final CCMP Draft Progress: Karen Forst is currently reviewing the executive summary.
- CCMP Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment: In December, issue experts and members of the STAC assembled to generate short reports with feedback pertaining to their areas of expertise. These drafts are still in review. The formatting for this will be similar to PDE's. Through this exercise, several high risk factors were identified including: future of wetlands (sea level rise), water supply (rethink minimum ecological flow determination), and climate change risk factors (weather and storms impact sources into the Bay and TMDL development). Karen Forst will edit this into a chapter for the CCMP.
- Needs Assessment Working Group (R. Karl): The working group recognized the Needs Assessment document needed more focus and clarity as to what the exact needs are. The plan is to place each action into succinct categories. The draft will be distributed in March.

Using R and RShiny for Water Quality Data Analysis, Visualization and Sharing. R. Guha, Joe Aiello, and Dave Rosenman (NJDEP)

Mr. Guha and his colleagues presented on their use of R and RShiny software to ease and improve the accuracy and transparency of combining several large datasets. This software is available as open source. A copy of their presentation will be incorporated into the meeting minutes.

STAC Composition. R. Karl

- Review Standing Member Attendance Requirements: Members discussed the current Charter requirements. These currently state that members should be active and participate in as many meetings as possible with a minimum attendance rate of 25% or more of the meetings per year.

Member attendance is important to achieve quorum for each meeting. Notifications will be sent to members who have not participated regularly. Several organizations have no representation or have vacated their seat on a regular basis. As per the current Charter, there is no formal way to vacate a seat. It was suggested the Charter be updated to address this as well as ways for past members to reactive their vacated seat. Dr. Hales suggested including a proposal as part of the upcoming MOU revisit to help grow engagement and partner commitment. Dr. Lacey would like to see a list of active, standing voting members inclusive of their expertise. Mr. Karl will reach out to those organizations who have vacated their seat.

Action(s): Mr. Karl will send out the most updated list of members with an accompanying expertise documentation.

- Open STAC Nominations: The deadline for STAC membership nominations is May 10th, 2019.
- Vice Chair: Mr. Karl's term as STAC Chair will end in June, then Dr. Yergeau will be assuming role as Chair. If interested in becoming STAC Vice-Chair, please contact Dr. Vasslides. There is a two-year commitment with this position, after which Vice-Chair is elevated to the Chair position. Meetings are held five times per year. In this role, the Vice-Chair has the task of reviewing comment letters and the opportunity to provide direction within the STAC.

Working Groups. R. Karl

Several working groups exist including pathogens, shellfish, wetlands/living shorelines, and fisheries. Per charter, there are two types of working groups – standing and items specific working groups. In order to disband a standing working group, a vote must be taken. A recommendation to disband the fisheries working group, which has not been active for over nine years, was made. Disbanding this group opens the opportunity to form another working group. Per charter guidelines, a member of the STAC must be willing to Chair or Co-Chair working groups. A suggestion was made to revitalize the State of the Bay working group. The State has a sediment management group in place. Ms. Maxwell-Doyle would like to invite this group come to the next STAC meeting to present on their work. She also mentioned considering reinstating the wetlands/living shorelines working group. Mr. Karl would like to leave the pathogens group intact and further discuss the fate of the wetlands/living shorelines group until next meeting. A motion to disband the Fisheries Working Group group was made by Dr. Yergeau, seconded by Ms. Baldwin-Brown, and approved by consensus.

Stormwater Utilities Legislation. C. Caruso

Mr. Caruso provided STAC members with an overview of the Stormwater Utilities Legislation set to be signed into law by Governor Murphy. There was a discussion regarding the usefulness and desirability of a Stormwater Utility within the watershed. The Ocean County Planning Department indicated that it does not intent to create a Stormwater Utility plan in response to the recently passed legislation. Dr. Hales noted the CCMP does incorporate a collective commitment to address nutrient loads into the bay.

Partner Updates.

- BTMUA: Mr. Karl informed the members that an asphalt plant located nearby BTMUA drinking water intake has plans to expand. This would mean a substantial increase in industrial activity taking place a half mile above the drinking water intake. He indicated that the application will need to be heard at the zoning board of adjustment, and if any member would like additional information regarding the application or upcoming meetings please contact him. Also, the stormwater infrastructure improvements funded by the BBP at Brick Plaza are still underway. Pervious pavement has been installed by the LA Fitness center. Construction of the new raingardens and other green infrastructure will take place in the spring.
- JCNERR: Mr. Sakowicz provided an update on the diamond back terrapin poaching along the Tuckerton peninsula that was the subject of a recent newspaper article.

- EPA: Ms. Spinweber notified the members that Kathleen Drake of the EPA Wetland Program has retired as of the beginning of the calendar year.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.