

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Ocean County College
Technology Building, Room #107
9:00 am
February 19th 2020**

Attending STAC Members: Dr. Steven Yergeau (Vice-Chair, RCE- Ocean), Alena Baldwin-Brown (NJDEP), Charles Caruso (PPA), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNEER), Dr. Elizabeth Lacey (Stockton), Joe Smith (Forsythe NWR), John Protonentis (OCHD), Matt Csik (NJAW), Alena Baldwin-Brown (NJDEP), Karen Greene (NOAA), Robert Shertenlieb (OCUA), Amber Mallm (MCDP), Lou Fellner (RCTB), Robert Karl (BTMUA), Steve Mars (USFWS/NJFO), Vicki Pecchioli (OC Planning)

Attending Guests: Lee Gashlin (BTWAC), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP/WMS), Bob Reiser (USGS), Sheri Shifren (NJDEP/WMS), Scott Douglas (NJDOT/OMR), Aiden Rogers (NJDOT/OMR), Jeff Gebert (USACE), Monica Chasten (USACE), George Murnyak (BBP), Bill Henderson (NJDOT/OMR), Jessica Cobb (NJDEP/Land Use), Kim Springer (NJDEP/Land Use), Danielle McCulloch (USFWS)

On Phone: Barbara Spinweber (USEPA-R2), Dr. Safra Altman (USACE), Swarna Muthukrishnan (COA)

Staff Members in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales, Dr. Jim Vasslides, Nicole Petersen, Ceili Pestalozzi, Shannon Vasquez

Welcome and introductions –S. Yergeau

The meeting was called to order at 9:07am and introductions were made.

Review of December 11th Meeting Minutes and draft agenda – S. Yergeau

No revisions were proposed for the December 11th Meeting Minutes.

Suggested revisions for the draft agenda:

- Dr. Hales update on the CCMP will include more information than originally expected.

A motion to approve the amended draft agenda and meeting minutes for December 11th was called by Mr. Reiser, seconded by Mr. Karl and approved. Ms. Greene and Mr. Protonentis abstained.

CCMP Update – S. Hales

CCMP: Comments/edits on the CCMP were returned by EPA (Region 2 and Headquarters). The majority of the edits were minor. BBP is currently working on edits with no known timeframe.

Program Evaluation: A draft was put together and is in revision. It is on schedule to be turned in to EPA in March. Ms. Spinweber asked if there are tentative dates for the program evaluation. Dr. Hales and Ms. Spinweber will discuss dates at a different time and inform all partners as soon as possible.

BBP facilities: Dr. Hales would like to thank Ms. Greene, Dr. Yergeau, Ms. Kondrup, and Mr. Murnyak. In a meeting a month ago, Dr. Larson reiterated his support for BBP to stay on campus. Dr.

Larson agreed that the move back to the bookstore building is a temporary measure and agreed that finding off-campus facilities was not a good option. Dr. Larson spoke of adding on to science center and that BBP will be included. Information on the meeting with Dr. Larson will be shared with Advisory and Policy committees soon. BBP provided a letter of support with Rutgers to participate in their planning process for new building spaces. Dr. Hales and Dr. Larson went to DC last week to speak with Congressman Smith and Congressman Kim to discuss potential funding options for BBP facilities.

BBP has offered to assist the state with coordinating upcoming projects. Everyone is still waiting for documents from DEP to get work started. Ms. Lurig said they're going through the process and hopefully all of the documents will be complete in a month.

USACE Barnegat Bay 1122 Project – Ms. Monica Chasten, USACE

Ms. Chasten presented information regarding USACOE's upcoming 1122 project in Barnegat Bay. The USACE is looking for feedback on potential projects.

- The USACE is paying to move dredge material to beneficial use sites (rather than the Federal standard of going to the most cost-effective area)
- Strategically using natural processes
- “Dredge less and use sediment best”

Working Groups' Updates

Shellfish Working Group- Dr. Vasslides

- The group completed the recommendations document and it was presented to the Atlantic Coast Shellfish council last month. The working group members met to talk about future projects and ideas. They talked extensively about shell recycling. Long Beach township collects shell for Tuckerton reef. DEP is collecting shell in Atlantic City from Hard Rock hotel + 3 restaurants to be used to enhance Mullica River reefs. There was early discussion to expand shell recycling throughout our watershed and other watersheds. The working group is planning to put more information on the Shellfish page on BBP's website so it can be used as more of a resource. The next meeting will probably be scheduled next fall.

Pathogen Working Group- Ms. Shifren

- The group is working on getting their contract finalized with COA for source tracking in Toms River. They are in the early planning stages of adding additional water monitoring sites that aren't bathing beaches for the sampling program this year.

Stormwater- Mr. Caruso

- The Stormwater Rules were adopted by DEP on December 3rd but have not been published yet.

BBP Water Quality Monitoring – N. Petersen

Ms. Petersen gave an update on the BBP WQ Monitoring Network, including an overview of the water quality monitoring sites and 2019 conditions.

State of the Bay Report and Monitoring Plan – J. Vasslides

In 2016, 17 indicators were used in the State of the Bay report. Dr. Vasslides proposed the question: Does it make sense to continue with 17 indicators or should we be thinking more holistically and reduce the number of indicators and align with the ecosystem targets in the CCMP? Discussion ensued.

Multiple members expressed interest in aligning the State of the Bay Report with the CCMP ecosystem targets while encompassing the most important of the 17 indicators.

Partner Updates

BBP:

- Ask a Barnegat Bay Scientist Lecture Series
 - February 25th @ 6:30pm in the OCC Technology Lecture Hall:
Paul Jivoff- “Secrets of the Blue Crab Revealed”
 - April 28th @ 6:30pm in the OCC Technology Lecture Hall:
Dr. Elizabeth Lacey- “Don’t Harass the Seagrass”
- BBP will host Joel Mott for a talk titled “Sights and Sounds of the Pines” on March 5th in the Toms River Library Mancini Room
- Eel survey- field team had juvenile eels at their first sampling event. Dr. Vasslides is suspecting that the eel peak will be earlier this year due to warm weather.
- Dr. Hales gave an update on the MEG. The group met last week and had a 3-day discussion and will put together a report.

OCUA:

- Working on renewing 10-year shared service agreement with the Health Department
- Agreed with OC Freeholders to fund the Pump-out Boat Program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:07am.

Attachments

Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 26th - CEC meeting

March 10th – Advisory Committee meeting

March 25th BBP Education and Outreach Retreat

March 26th-29th – Atlantic Estuarine Research Society meeting at Monmouth University

April 8th – STAC meeting