

**Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Technology Building (Rm 107), Ocean County College
June 12, 2019; 9 am–12:00 pm**

Attending STAC Members: Robert Karl (Chair, BTMUA), Dr. Steven Yergeau (Vice-Chair, RCE-Ocean), Dr. Jim Vasslides (BBP), Alena Baldwin-Brown (NJDEP), Charles Caruso (PPA), Amber Mallm (MCDP), Swarna Muthukrishnan (COA), Victoria Pecchioli (OCDP), Gregg Sakowicz (JCNERR), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA-R2), David Steinmann (USDA-NRCS), Mark Villinger (OCDP), Christine Wieben (USGS)

Attending Guests: Dave Fanz (NJDEP), Stephanie Specht (OCDP), Kimberly Springer (NJDEP), Sheri Shifren (NJDEP)

On Phone: Martha Maxwell Doyle (BBP), Karen Argenti (SBB)

Staff Members in Attendance: Dr. Stan Hales (*ex officio*), Tina Barreiro

Welcome and Introductions. R. Karl

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

Review of April 10th Meeting Minutes and draft agenda. R. Karl

Suggested revisions for the April 10th Meeting Minutes were as follows:

- A revision to correct a misspelling was submitted to and amended by Dr. Vasslides before the meeting.
- Ms. Baldwin-Brown suggested modifications to the CCMP signing ceremony. She would like to add that the date has been provided to the EPA Regional Administrator and NJDEP Commissioner.

No revisions were proposed for the draft agenda.

A motion to approve the draft agenda and amended April 10th Meeting Minutes was called by Dr. Yergeau, seconded by Ms. Spinweber and approved by consensus.

CCMP Update. S. Hales

The latest draft CCMP document was distributed to partners last week. A CCMP specific email address has been created to receive comments – ccmp@ocean.edu. Dr. Hales mentioned that the final format of the CCMP will have links embedded in the document where appropriate and that the citations in the footnotes will be moved to the end of the document. Furthermore, success stories will be compiled into one chapter with accompanying photos. Dr. Hales welcomed partners to submit additional photos.

The current draft CCMP timeline is as follows:

- June 19th – partner comment period ends.
- June 19th – July 1st – Program Office revision period, and release of final draft CCMP document for public review.
- July 1st – September 1st – public review period.

- September 1st – September 15th – Program Office revision period as per public comments.
- September 15th – Final Draft CCMP document is submitted to EPA for final comment.
- October 10th – Final CCMP signing ceremony event.

STAC Charter Revision. R. Karl

The Charter revisions were distributed previously to the meeting. Members discussed and modified these revisions at the meeting.

A motion to approve the Charter revisions and suggest these to the AC was called by Ms. Spinweber, seconded by Ms. Baldwin-Brown and approved by consensus.

STAC Vice-Chair Election. R. Karl

At this time we had a single nomination for Vice-Chair; Dr. Elizabeth Lacey. In accordance with the charter Mr. Karl opened up the floor for additional nominations for Vice-Chair. Seeing none, Mr. Karl closed the nomination period.

A motion to elect Dr. Elizabeth Lacey as STAC Vice-Chair was called by Ms. Wieben, seconded by Ms. Spinweber, and passed unanimously. Mr. Karl would like to congratulate Dr. Lacey on her new role as Vice-Chair.

NJDEP Sediment Management Group. D. Fanz

Mr. Fanz provided the STAC with a presentation on the current status of dredge material management within the Department. The NJDEP would like to develop a dredge material management plan for reuse in stabilizing and building wetlands and coastal communities. They hope to act as a liaison between regulatory partners and grant recipients, municipalities and NGOs for thin layer placement projects. Thin layer placement projects are designed to reuse dredge material to build wetland deposition and platform. Currently, they are developing strategic placement initiatives of dredge material.

A productive conversation regarding the role of dredge materials in wetland restoration, including success criteria and transparency, ensued. Dr. Hales asked that the NJDEP workgroup continue to coordinate with the STAC regarding their sediment management plan activities.

Mr. Fanz will be retiring on June 28th and Ms. Springer will then be the point of contact.

Working Groups' Updates. R. Karl

Pathogen Working Group

Ms. Shifren advised the STAC that the NJDEP beach water quality monitoring and notification program is constantly evaluating data associated with recreational bathing beaches. During peak season, a geo-mean trigger is used to identify bathing beaches of concern. The Barnegat Bay area had several beaches that met these criteria and underwent various stages of source tracking.

- Barnegat Light – 25th St. bayfront beach. Storm studies were completed last year and this year. Next step for this site will be dye testing in the storm and sanitary sewers. Additional sampling is also occurring here.

- Metedeconk – Windward Beach, Brick. Ebb tide and flood tide studies and two storm studies were conducted at this site. Ms. Shifren mentioned there are many marinas in the area. Source tracking will continue to take place here.
- Toms River – beaches in Beachwood and Pine Beach. Multiple ebb tide and flood tide studies and five storm studies were conducted here. The last storm study at this site was in May. The areas of concern addressed here were outfall discharge pipes as well as supplying marinas with proper pump-out procedures. A previous project combined and relocated several discharge pipes. This has helped for smaller storm events, though there are still issues during larger events.

The NJDEP Barnegat Bay non-source point pollution program awarded a grant to Clean Ocean Action to identify and eliminate pathogen sources in the Toms River watershed. Ms. Shifren will be overseeing this grant from the NJDEP side. The BTMUA was also awarded stormwater improvement program funds, and Mr. Will Ruocco will be leading this effort for BTMUA. Dr. Hales suggested that all of the groups funded by NJDEP to work on pathogen sources should meet early in the process to discuss their projects and share information.

Shellfish Working Group

Dr. Vasslides updated the revised first draft of the shellfish working group's recommendation document, and it has been circulated internally at the working group. The hope was to have a final draft prepared for this meeting, but he noted that it is currently shellfish season and most of the working group participants are unavailable. There will be a document ready by the next STAC meeting.

Potential New Stormwater Working Group

Mr. Caruso provided a workgroup proposal document for a stormwater working group as per the charter requirements. This was distributed with the draft agenda. Mr. Caruso reminded members there are stormwater and water quality improvement tasks outlined in the CCMP.

Ms. Argenti suggested mentioning green infrastructure throughout the workgroup proposal, and creating a Barnegat Bay specific guidance document for green infrastructure in regards to the NJ stormwater rules.

Dr. Hales suggested this workgroup coordinate with the state stormwater groups.

Dr. Yergeau and Mr. Karl recommended the workgroup also focus on stormwater quantity as well.

Several members volunteered to be on the working group including: Dr. Vasslides, Mr. Karl, Ms. Argenti, Ms. Mallm, and Ms. Shifren.

A motion to establish this standing technical workgroup with the aforementioned proposed revisions was called by Dr. Vasslides, seconded by Ms. Pecchioli, and passed by consensus.

Action(s): Dr. Vasslides will distribute Mr. Caruso's email address to the STAC

members to contact if they are interested in joining the working group.

Elevation of Vice-Chair. R. Karl and S. Yergeau

Mr. Karl expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be STAC Chair and work closely with the BBP. He whole-heartedly thanked everyone and further added his support of Dr. Yergeau as new STAC Chair.

Partner updates.

USEPA: On June 17th, 2019 the USEPA will hold its annual meeting with NEP directors. Some points of discussion will be stakeholder engagement, grant management, CCMP guidance, citizen science, and public outreach. USEPA's Regional Administrator will be present.

NJDEP: On May 3rd, 2019 the DEP announced the Barnegat Bay 319 RFP grant recipients. Eighteen projects were funded for a total of \$10 million, with many grant recipients present on the STAC. The write-ups of the projects selected are available on the NJDEP-Division of Water Monitoring and Standards website. Any questions regarding grant contracting should be directed to Jay Springer. The AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors will be graduating next month. Next year's recruitment will be opening soon. If anyone knows candidates interested in this role, the announcement will be released as soon as recruitment is open.

MCDP: Prospective study sites for the Raritan/Sandy Hook Bay Coastal Resilience Planning Study will be discussed at the next MCDP TAC meeting. These projects will focus on living shorelines.

JCNERR: Mr. Sakowicz updated NOAA will be creating a high-resolution habitat map of NJ. The target date for release will be in the fall of 2020. Dr. Hales would like Mr. Sakowicz to keep the STAC informed of this information.

BBP: Dr. Vasslides updated on MEG. Currently the BBP is in the process of contracting four reviewers. He thanked the STAC for their input with this.

The next meeting is tentatively set for October 16th, 2019.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.