



**Advisory Committee Meeting
Ocean County College, Technology Building
Conference Room 107,
Call in Number - 732-255-0428
March 8, 2016, 9:00 am**

APPROVED MINUTES

Attending Advisory Committee Members: Dr. Stan Hales (BBP Co-Chair), Tim Dillingham (ALS Co-Chair), Charles Caruso (PPA), Karen Greene (NOAA), Britta Wenzel (SBB), Willie deCamp (SSB), Rob Tunstead (USDA-NRCS), Dr. Ron Baker (USGS), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Ed Wengrowski (Pinelands Commission), Clint Lehman (RCTB), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Rob Karl (BTMUA), Virginia Rettig (E. B. Forsythe NWR), David McKeon (OCPD).

On the Phone: Steve Yergeau (RCE-OC), Barbara Spinweber (EPA R2), Nesmarie Negrón, Stephanie Egger (Conserve Wildlife Foundation), Kerry Kirk Pflugh (NJDEP), Tony MacDonald (Monmouth Univ.).

Guests: Lee Gashlin (Berkeley Waterways Advisory Commission), Dr. George Atkinson, Dr. Sweta Chakraborty (ISGP).

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff: Martha Maxwell-Doyle, Jim Vasslides, Betsy Hyle, Karen Walzer, Mary Judge.

Welcome and introductions: S. Hales and T. Dillingham

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. and introductions were made.

Review of draft AC agenda and AC minutes of January 19, 2016: S. Hales
Staff from the Dept. of Transportation is not able to attend.

A meeting with the Institute for Science on Global Policy (ISGP) and Mayor Kelaher was cancelled due to the Mayor's health problems. Dr. George Atkinson and Dr. Sweta Chakraborty will join the meeting at 10:00.

The draft agenda and minutes of January 19, 2016 were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Auermuller to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Greene and was passed unanimously with Mr. Dillingham abstaining.

Director's Update: S. Hales

Desktop Audit Update

OCC-BBP is still working with EPA R2 to complete the 2015 desk audit. OCC has decided that the BBP part-time accountant position will become a full-time position whose time will be split with the College and BBP. As previously discussed with the AC, BBP will be responsible for the costs associated with the BBP's work. The new job description will be submitted to the Board of Trustees this month.

2016 BBP Annual Report

The 2016 Annual Report was distributed and contributors were thanked.

ANEP – EPA Spring Meeting – Washington, DC

Dr. Hales attended the Spring EPA-ANEP meeting in February that was held in Washington DC. ANEP submitted comments to EPA regarding the CCMP revision guidance and a discussion was held. EPA Headquarters will have a discussion with regional EPA staff and respond back to the NEPs.

Dr. Hales reviewed highlighted a few other meeting topics with the AC: A 5-star Urban Waters grant program was announced devoting \$2.4 M for trash-free waters and cleanup efforts. An announcement was made that the NEPs leveraged \$1.34B in 2014. Nitrogen is a consistent issue for every NEP. Another commonality was the struggle to communicate these issues. Creative methods of communicating with the public were presented. The Peconic NEP discussed the opportunity to benefit from a small portion (2%) of land acquisition funds and the BBP discussed instituting a similar program in Ocean County. The Peconic NEP has also been working with the Pinelands Commission to share information about de-nitrification projects. Ms. Auermuller has also been contacted and Save Barnegat Bay is currently scheduling a “road trip” to share information.

Dr. Hales attended the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA) meeting. It was recognized that Ms. Auermuller and Mr. DeLuca have taken active leadership roles in NERRA. A primary point of discussion between ANEP and NERRA is continuing to strengthen our partnership (a model exists in Florida called the “Florida Estuary Coalition”) to outreach to state and local officials on common issues. With 3 NEPS in NJ and 3 NERRs in the NJ, DE, and NY following the Florida model would be advantageous. Ms. Pflugh recommended that BBP should follow-up with the NJDEP to further this. The sooner a compatible agenda is established, the better. The ANEP board has tentatively agreed to meeting jointly with RAE and others in New Orleans.

NEP re-authorization bills

Dr. Hales had a conversation with Congressman Lobiondo in Washington, who was not overly enthusiastic about the passage of the reauthorization bills. The representatives preventing the bills from moving forward were identified.

Action: Follow-up with Ms. Pflugh regarding “Esturine Coalition” concept. Dr. Hales will email Mr. MacDonald with a requisition request to share on his upcoming trip to Washington, DC. Mr. Dillingham was also in Washington last week and has a listing of appropriations requests, which he will share.

Relocation of the BBP Office

Relocation has been postponed to August 2018. BBP previously submitted a grant for ADA improvements at the Brown’s Woods and work will begin this summer.

Set up the process for electing an Adv. Comm. co-chair: S. Hales

Mr. Dillingham was elected to a three-year term, which recently ended. An announcement of an open nomination period will be posted and elections will be held at the next Advisory Committee meeting. All organizations represented on the Advisory Committee get a vote.

CCMP Update Strategy and Climate Vulnerability Assessment: S. Hales

Objective: Discussion of CCMP Workgroup activities, and CCMP Tasks & Timeline, and

discuss next steps

As discussed under the Director's report the NEPs and EPA HQ is discussing revising CCMP guidance. Additionally, EPA HQ is making funding available to support the revision process. Mr. Craghan said there is funding to support the vulnerability assessment and the BBP submitted a request. Ms. Spinweber announced that the BBP has been approved for \$25,000 for this proposal. Other programs which have been through the process reported "meeting fatigue" and advised us not to exhaust our partners; therefore, we would like to bring in some people, resources, and expertise from the Rutgers Climate Institute for the vulnerability assessment. Additional BBP contractor support will be used to assist in the collation, formatting, and develop of a short report and other outreach materials. Fall is the tentative timeframe for completion.

Ms. Wenzel suggested that "flooding" be stressed in trying to get this point across in the public piece – this is what people can identify with, not sea-level rise, climate change, etc. Ms. Auermuller discussed a Hampton Roads, VA flooding app. which is being piloted in New York and New Jersey as a gateway to talking to community leaders.

Action: Dr. Hales will revisit the timeline and redistribute a draft once the guidance is released. He will bring in outside expert/contractor assistance with the CCMP revision. Ms. Auermuller will distribute the link to the flooding app. and write-up and Ms. Pflugh will share this with Assistant Commissioner Rosenblatt's staff.

ISGP Conference

Dr. George Atkinson and Dr. Chakraborty attended the meeting and announced that the report from the Toms River conference has been completed. Agalley proof was distributed and a final copy will be distributed in 10 days or so. They are in town to meet with Toms River Council to discuss follow-up to the conference and Dr. Atkinson provided an update. ISGP's relationship with the Sloan Foundation was discussed. Surveys are being prepared for forwarding to the Sloan Foundation.

Dr. Atkinson also discussed the next steps – he has been invited back to town to discuss the implementable issues via additional caucuses with larger numbers and a broader demographic (4 caucuses with 400-500 people).

The scope of another fall conference was discussed, as well as the funding mechanism for this kind of sustained engagement in the community. A discussion followed on the ISGP model, which is not that different from the consensus building the NEP practices. Dr. Hales agrees this is a conversation that needs to happen. Participation by the BBP and the timing of the event was discussed. As to time commitment, the separate ISGP groups will need to read BBP materials and have an hour phone call continuously throughout the next few months. Some BBP members might be interested in participating in some of these calls regarding engineering solutions, etc., which would help inform the conversation.

Monmouth University has approached ISGP with a request for a conference. Dr. Atkinson will report back to Dr. Hales on his success getting the endorsement of the Toms River Council today. The effort would probably not move forward without Township approval and it's doubtful the county would step in, given the time frame.

Action: Dr. Hales will circulate electronic copies of materials as soon as they are received.

2016-17 Workplan Development: S. Hales

Objective: Review current work plan; obtain AC input on 2016-17 activities.

SH distributed the workplan from the 2016 document and gave a quick review of the proposed work activities and expenditures.

The CCMP is a more central component of what we're doing. Ms. Vasslides contributed to the conversation on STAC activities, including replacing the sensors.

The NJDEP has seemingly no intention of releasing the State Water Supply Plan. The BBP has made a formal written request for this and will do so again. The coalition of PPA, ALO, ANJEC, SBB, etc. have also requested release of the Plan. If the BBP feels that this information is important to the Bay, we should add our names to this coalition and ask that it be released.

Action: Ms. Spinweber will look into EPA help in getting the State Water Supply Plan released. Dr. Hales will reach out to NJDEP for another request to release the Plan and will add it as a workplan item.

A draft of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Management plan has been circulated and is still under discussion.

Action: Charles Caruso will check on Kirkwood-Cohansey plan and get back to Dr. Hales re any revisions.

Recent acquisitions by the Natural Lands Trust Fund were discussed. There is a catalogue on the OCPD website of Natural Lands Trust Fund properties.

Reduce Boating Impacts – The pumpout guide has just been republished. The program is continuing as-is. Funds are available to improve marinas around the watershed. NJDEP is working on the marine conservation zone (Sedge Island) and a new map is being made which will include four kayak trails. More signage is needed in the water and on land regarding conservation zones.

Shellfish Eelgrass Restoration – eelgrass survey was completed this year. These data will be included in the State of the Bay meeting. This work will continue and will be split between different years to facilitate funding.

Climate Adaptation and Preparedness – Ms. Maxwell Doyle gave an update on this and the ongoing wetlands assessment and monitoring program in BB as part of the Mid Atlantic Coastal Wetlands Assessment. The BBP is working with NJDEP on a living shoreline project at Sedge Island. A new Blue Carbon project is beginning and will involve assessment of the extent to which the marshes are carbon sinks/sources and generators of methane. That data will be collected this summer for presentation at the Delaware Bay Science Conference and to the STAC.

The BBP's "Paddle for the Edge" citizen science program will take place for its second year at the end of June. There's discussion about taking it state-wide. Ms. Auermuller suggested the Army Corps add Barnegat Bay as a pilot site in the workplan under "Promote Living Shorelines."

Brown Property Use – A trails grant was submitted by the Township, but not approved. There is interest in re-submitting it. Lighting was installed along Cedar Drive to improve security.

Sustainability Initiative – Green enhancements have been made to the new Student Center. OCC has an approved stormwater pollution plan and is pursuing other building initiatives as they move forward with development.

Hurricane Sustainability Initiative – will be cut from the work plan.

Program Administration and Implementation – The Finance Plan will be moved up in the schedule and will be a higher priority.

MOU Review –a date for the spring Policy Committee conference call will be determined by NJDEP and EPA.

The BBP website server will be changed/updated, the OCC IT people will assist with this, and the work should be finished as soon as possible.

Ms. Negrón requested that an addition be made to the work plan on Trash-Free Waters. If no specific project is identified, a placeholder should be added. Laura Johnson from EPA wants to work with the BBP on a project.

Stream-crossing project – no progress has been made on this, pending the installation of the new county engineer (John Ernst). This is contained in the Communication Plan section of the Workplan.

Partners were requested to be in touch if there are projects they'd like to work on collaboratively. We need to have this to the EPA by April 1. (With a draft going out to the Advisory Committee for review prior to that.)

Status and Trends –The CCMP process will incorporate a lot of the available new information. The Division of Science will be presenting to the STAC. Ms. Kirk-Pflugh provided an update. Status and trends are moving forward as part of the State of the Bay (SOB) report. The SOB contains data from 2011-2015, which was publicly available as of six months ago.

The water quality and monitoring program is developing a work plan to incorporate lessons learned from the research projects. The NJDEP now has the information to identify a model to help identify critical areas and watershed restoration plans. This is under construction with input from the various research projects, as well as past projects. As soon as the research is incorporated into the model, they'll be able to better prioritize, etc. The model needs quantitative information in order to work and Ms. Kirk Pflugh will provide Save Barnegat Bay more specific information regarding a TMDL. Transparency (or lack thereof) of the NJDEP process was discussed. A request was made to have NJDEP staff attend BBP meetings to help the NGO representatives understand the science.

The BBP 2016 State of the Bay report will be released in June, concurrent with the one day conference on June 15th. A discussion was held on policy responses to problems with the Bay, as

well as growing the Section 319 program in a consistent way. A suggestion was made to include science and management recommendations in BBP follow-up.

Action: Ms. Kirk Pflugh will write up a short update and Dr. Hales will distribute to the Committee. Dr. Hales agreed that water quality and other priority issues should be addressed in future meetings as part of the CCMP revision process.

Route 35 Update (Participants TBD)

Objective: Update on ongoing activities regarding pump stations

The NJ DOT was unable to attend the meeting.

STAC Update: J. Vasslides, M. Poach

State of the Bay Report

The report is currently under review by the STAC and comments received will be reviewed by authors. Any major revisions will go back to the STAC.

Action: Dr. Vasslides will send the pre-layout version to the Advisory Committee for confidential review.

Science Prospectus revision – In 2010, the STAC put this together and it is now being revised. STAC members will comment by April 4. No deadline exists for the finished prospectus but it will hopefully be complete by fall.

Vice-Chair election – Rob Karl was elected as vice-chair. He will serve in this capacity for the next year, after which he'll assume the chair position.

CEC Update: A. Andersen, W. Dalzell, K. Walzer, and B. Hyle

Objective: Update on Public Outreach and Education activities

Ms. Walzer provided an update. The CEC SOTB Conference Workgroup has met and reviewed the setup for the conference.

Citizen Representative – John Zingis has resigned due to personal and work reasons. George Murnyak has stepped up to fill the role. This has been approved by the CEC and the AC was asked for its approval. A motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Zingis and to approve the appointment of Mr. Murnyak was made by Ms. Wenzel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillingham and was passed unanimously. This will now go to the Policy Committee, which will need a short bio/CV for Mr. Murnyak.

BBP Art Contest at Ocean County Teen Arts Festival (March 22 and 23) – The theme will be “Sustainable Barnegat Bay” for 2D and 3D art. Judging will take place on March 21 and prizes will be awarded at the “Salute to Ocean County” event on April 7th.

CEC Education and Outreach Retreat – Scheduled for April 6th – please share with educators.

2016 BBP Festival and Barnegat Bay Foundation Gala are scheduled for June 5, and June 3, respectively. The Barnegat Bay Blitz is scheduled for June 3rd, which will try to extend the event to an entire week, involving the libraries.

Toms River Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Stand-Up Paddleboard Race fundraiser to support the Barnegat Bay Partnership, which is scheduled for September 17th.

Partner Updates

The Pinelands Commission is holding its 27th Annual Pinelands Short Course at Stockton. There are lots of openings, so walk-ins are welcome.

In addition to the Barnegat Bay Blitz, the NJDEP will be conducting bulkhead blitzes in May targeting lagoon communities recommended by Dr. Bologna; Berkeley Underwater Divers will be helping.

Save Barnegat Bay submitted a letter of inquiry to Ocean First Foundation which relies on BBP's native plant brochure and the OCSCD Low-Maintenance Landscape Guide. The program will be called Smart Yard, Healthy Bay. This will be another opportunity to build on the Jersey Friendly Yards website. They have also requested funds to hire the *Water Words that Work* consultants.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.