



**Advisory Committee Meeting
Ocean County College
Technology Building Lecture Hall
March 28, 2017, 9:00-12:00 pm**

Attending Advisory Committee Members: Dr. Stan Hales (BBP Co-Chair), Will Ruocco (Brick MUA), Dr. Steven Yergeau (Rutgers Cooperative Ext.), George Murnyak (BBP Policy Comm.), Britta Wenzel (SBB), Lynette Lurig (NJDEP), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA, R2), Matt Csik (OCHD), Robert Karl (BTMUA), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Rob Tunstead (USDA/NRCS), Ed Wengrowski (Pinelands Commission).

On the Phone: Mark Tedesco (Director, Long Island Sound Study), Lisa Auermuller (JCNERR), Nesmarie Negron (USEPA, R2).

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff: Karen Walzer, Mary Judge, Dr. Jim Vasslides.

Welcome and Introductions: S. Hales & K. Greene

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM and introductions were made.

Review of draft AC agenda and minutes of November 8, 2016: S. Hales and K. Greene

Ms. Spinweber will send Ms. Negron's comments to Ms. Judge for incorporation into the minutes. There were no comments on the agenda. A motion to approve the minutes with the stated modification was made by Ms. Lurig. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tunstead and was passed unanimously, with Mr. Csik abstaining.

Director's Update: S. Hales

- Status of desktop audit: The USEPA approved a drawdown; the BBP sent in its final audit response package and is waiting for it to be approved.
- Personnel: The BBP has hired Jessie Buckner as the BBP Field and Lab Coordinator. Dr. Hales thanked the Search Committee members (Mr. Karl, Dr. John McElroy, Ms. Maxwell Doyle, and Dr. Vasslides) and OCC's HR Dept. their support of the process. Ms. Buckner previously worked at the BBP and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and has a Master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.
- CCMP Revision Program Update: The steering committee has been revising goals and actions in the original CCMP and incorporating priorities of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan. When the document is distributed, partners are asked to look at it with a view toward simplification of priorities. The CCMP and Strategic Plan(s) were discussed to clarify the differences and similarities. There are (or will be) additional stand-alone documents (e.g., communications and habitat plans).
- Spring Policy Committee Meeting and Open House: The Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 4, 10:00 AM. The agenda was discussed and partners were invited to attend an open house afterwards at the BBP office. The latest iteration of the state's Barnegat Bay and/or State Water Supply Plans may be released at the Barnegat Bay Blitz.
- NEP/EPA funding: The current federal budget proposes a massive cut to the USEPA. The deadline for the Senate appropriations process is May 4. Ms. Auermuller reminded

partners that the JCNERR is also fully federally funded and their federal budget is also zeroed out completely. She encourages partners to include the JCNERR when speaking to elected officials, making it clear that federally funded coastal programs (*i.e.*, NEPs, NERRs, Sea Grant) are unique, work collaboratively in a complementary fashion, are national in scope, locally relevant, and continually assessing and responding to community needs. Dr. Hales announced that the new Congressional Estuary Caucus had several upcoming events on May 3rd and 4th. BBP (Dr. Hales) and NERR (Mr. Deluca) would be speaking at different Caucus events.

Actions: Dr. Hales will distribute the revised CCMP document and contact Mr. Dan Kennedy for information regarding release of the state's Water Supply Master Plan and the NJDEP's revised Barnegat Bay Plan.

Incorporating EBM into the LISS CCMP: J. Vasslides

Presenter: Mark Tedesco, Long Island Sound Study Director

Objective: Make AC aware of potential EBM mechanisms

This is the second in a guest lecture series on ecosystem-based management. Mark Tedesco, Director of the Long Island Sound Study was introduced. This NEP also went through a CCMP revision process over the last few years.

Mr. Tedesco presented on "Ecosystem-Based Management: Personal Thoughts and Long Island Sound Study Applications." EBM is a framework for both science and management that accounts for the complex interrelations of human society and the environment. EBM is (for) now a federal foundational principle for coastal ecosystems. The elements of EBM were reviewed: 1. Plan on an ecosystem level; 2. Involve multiple stakeholders and integrate the full spectrum of ecosystem services supporting human wants and needs. See <https://collectiveimpactforum.org/>; 3. Develop cross-jurisdictional goals; 4. Implement programs through coordinated accountable strategies across levels of government; 5. Incorporate adaptive management that acknowledges uncertainty in our understanding; and 6. Establish long-term observation, modeling, and research programs.

A TMDL is the total maximum daily load of a pollutant that can be assimilated within a waterbody without affecting the water quality standards and uses (*e.g.*, contact recreation, support for aquatic life) of the water body. The reality is that it may not be possible to establish a TMDL; nonetheless, we will need to reduce nutrient loads to mitigate the pollutant's adverse impacts to the waterbody.

A basic tenet of EBM is to understand the ecosystem. The LISS CCMP serves as the first synthesis of Long Island Sound science in 35 years. The LISS CCMP established baselines of historical condition, magnitudes of change, and restoration targets. Their CCMP set 20 ecosystem targets and did NOT include issues which were adequately covered by other organizations. They focused on jurisdictional targets that required an integrated EBM approach.

The CCMP revision focused on nitrogen reduction, habitat protection, and habitat restoration; they added climate change resiliency and integrated sustainability and green infrastructure to stress what resonated with the local populace.

PDF's of Mr. Tedesco's LISS presentation are available on the BBP Reports page of the website; Additional information is available on the LISS website (www.longislandsoundstudy.net); see the [CCMP](#) itself for details and related discussion of each ecosystem target.

Q: How is LISS dealing with septic system problems?

A: In Suffolk County (Long Island), 70% of all residents are on individual septic systems. They are embarking on a project to identify local sewage endpoints in order to reduce problems, starting with sewerage where it makes sense economically. They are slowly building in regulatory requirements that would "un-grandfather" old cesspool systems or poorly functioning on-site systems and require replacements or upgrades. Connecticut is also expanding its focus, which was previously limited because of concerns about over-development as a result of installing sewer systems.

Q: To work effectively with the new Administration, is EBM going to continue or will that kind of phrasing need to be re-thought in order to make it valuable moving forward?

A: EBM is not a top-down process but an attempt to bring clarity to conflicting views, focusing on what the local populace wants. This should not be a federal standards based/driven concept, so you wouldn't think it would face immediate federal opposition.

BBP Draft FY18 320 Work Plan

Objective: Review, Provide Input and Approve DRAFT BBP FY18 320 Work Plan

Dr. Hales has started putting together a draft budget (not yet in the Work Plan).

Action: Dr. Hales will distribute the draft budget when it is completed.

Dr. Hales reviewed the actions in the work plan; most are simply the continuation of existing activities. He added the task of getting the state's clear priorities of the "revised" Barnegat Bay plan (e.g., targeted TMDL).

Strategic Plan priorities were also reviewed. Comments and/or changes should be sent to Dr. Hales within the week in order to get it to the Policy Committee by mid-April.

Updates on Various Projects and NJ Legislation: S. Hales

Objective: Updates on transportation and other projects (DOT invited)

The DOT was invited but could not attend. A meeting was held with the county and the DOT regarding the "Entering Barnegat Bay Watershed" road sign project. Each agency will develop signage consistent with its regulations, but agreed the Barnegat lighthouse image would be used. As a secondary objective, additional signs could be posted underneath with key messages ("critical fish spawning area," etc.).

Some Rte. 35 pump stations are still running fairly regularly. Steady plumes exist and there are areas with considerable sediment deposition. OCHD is unaware of any pathogen issues. Public access issues remain, but may require additional funding to address.

NJ Legislation: There's interest in revisiting the Barnegat Bay Protection bill, which remains in Committee. The conceptual idea, that the bill might be brought to bear on CCMP

implementation to provide a steady funding source for projects, was discussed. Ms. Wenzel met with Sheriff Mastrorady about enforcement on the Bay, especially Tice's Shoal and F Cove.

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

Objective: Update on Public Outreach and Education activities

A call for proposals for small grants was issued and three were recommended by the review committee for funding (Volunteer Master Naturalists were included on the review committee this year). Ms. Walzer listed the three for Advisory Committee approval: 1) OCSCD "Experience JF Yards"; 2) Brick Twp. "Greening your Landscape while Protecting the Watershed"; and 3) Borough of Beach Haven "Conserve Water and Reduce Pollution in a Park." Leftover funds are presently anticipated to be rolled into the next CEC grant-funding opportunity.

The Advisory Committee did not have quorum so the vote will be taken on line.

STAC Update: J. Vasslides, M. Poach

Objective: Update on STAC activities, including 2017 Research Prospectus

Mr. Poach reported on STAC activities. Revisions to the prospectus were distributed at the end of February, and later approved by the STAC. There were no comments on the prospectus. As there is no quorum for approval, this vote will be included in the CEC on-line vote. Basic information on the prospectus was shared and Dr. Vasslides and Mr. Karl were specifically thanked for their input in the process.

Dr. Vasslides reported on two open STAC projects: The hard clam modeling project results will be presented at the National Shellfish Association meeting this week. The film work is still ongoing and should be complete toward the end of summer. The Stockton oyster reef restoration pilot will include one more growing season of monitoring and then the project will wrap up this fall/winter. See the BBP Facebook page for a video by Rutgers/commercial shellfish aquaculturists.

The next STAC meeting will be in April and the STAC Vice-Chair will be nominated for an election in June. Please self-nominate or speak with Dr. Vasslides. Dr. Poach's term will be ending and Mr. Karl will be elevated to the chair position in June.

Partner Updates

Save Barnegat Bay signed its lease at the Brown's Woods for the block and lot of the building -- not the full acreage, but they can host events there. Their board is envisioning using the property as a Barnegat Bay eco-center. An Open House will be held in June.

Mr. Tunstead (USDA/NRCS) would be happy to demonstrate the smart phone app for the soil survey. Soil descriptions and profile pictures are available on google maps. Dr. Hales passed this on to USEPA headquarters for coastal program discussions and Mr. Tunstead volunteered to give a five-minute demonstration at the Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Csik reported that the OCHD beach monitoring will be up and running soon with no major changes, with the exception of Manchester (Harry Wright Lake struggles with bacteria counts). They requested that Pine Lake come back in the system this year. The county is submitting a septic management plan; the OCHD has never had a good inventory of septic systems throughout the county. Mr. Csik will have seasonal interns working on this database. The County can

generate a list of septic permits, but has no records of other areas that were subsequently sewerred, abandoned, etc. Mr. Csik also asked partners to share any opportunities for these interns. Dr. Hales suggested the BBP explore partnering on a summer research program using OCHD interns.

Ms. Lurig shared that the Barnegat Bay Blitz is scheduled for June 7. An RFP was issued yesterday from NJDEP for \$10.4 M (\$3M in Section 319 funds was targeted at Lower Raritan and Delaware). See the NJDEP website for the link to the proposal and the application. She said she would let us know when there's more funding available; she has no additional information about the BB funds that had previously discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.