



Science and Technical Advisory Committee
Ocean County College, Technology Building, Room #107
June 10, 2014, 9:00 AM

STAC Members: Louise Wootton (GCU Chair), Jim Vasslides (BBP), Barbara Spinweber (USEPA-R2 – on the phone), Cara Muscio (COA), Bob Nicholson (USGS – by phone), Matthew Poach (NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service), Victoria Pecchioli (OC Dept. of Planning), Jeff Reading (NJDEP), Dr. Matt Csik (OC Health Dept.), Thomas Belton (NJDEP), Rob Karl (Brick MUA), Sheri Shifren (NJDEP/RMWM), Clint Lehman (ReClam the Bay), Jason Kelsey (Save Barnegat Bay), Mark Rohmeyer (OC Engineering Dept.)

Barnegat Bay Partnership Staff: Stan Hales (by phone), Mary Judge, Erin Reilly, Karen Walzer

Guests: Charles Caruso (BBP Master Naturalist), Dr. Alyce Hreha (Sovereign Consulting)

Welcome and introductions – J. Vasslides

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Vasslides and introductions were made.

Review of draft agenda and minutes of April 8th Conference Call – J. Vasslides

List of attendees at the April 8th meeting should be amended to include Jason Kelsey and John Wnek (on the phone) and Rob Karl. Minutes have been misplaced so Mr. Vasslides will contact members for their updates. Completed minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

STAC Membership and Leadership Review – L. Wootton, J. Vasslides

The three candidates were approved unanimously for membership by the STAC. Matt Gregg, owner and operator of 40 North Oyster Farms, will be at the October meeting. Alice Hreha and Mark Rohmeyer gave brief bios. Their terms will begin at the end of today's meeting subject to approval of the Advisory Committee, at which time they will be able to vote. Other membership issues were subsequently reviewed.

STAC Vice-Chair Nominations and Election – L. Wootton

The current vice-chair, Dr. Saffert, has resigned from the committee. Dr. Wootton will remain as chair for a term not to exceed one year, in order to train the new vice-chair. Mr. Vasslides opened the floor for nominations, having received none previously. Rob Karl nominated Matt Poach. Cara Muscio self-nominated after speaking with Dr. Wootton. Nominations were closed. Brief statements from the nominees were given regarding their interest in serving. The nominees left the room, discussion was held, an anonymous vote was taken by paper ballot, and the vice-chair will be Dr. Matt Poach.

FY15 STAC RFP – L. Wootton/J. Vasslides

Combined funds from FY14, FY15, and additional funds from the prior 3-year grant leaves \$30,000-\$35,000 to fund a project. The STAC will make recommendations to the Advisory Committee for the type of project to fund. The EPA requested a focus on implementation projects. A suggestion was made for members to forward project recommendations related to water supply and shellfish restoration. There will be a meeting post-NFWF to discuss the funded projects. A suggestion was made to direct this funding to further support one of the funded projects.

Partner funding request – L. Wootton/Jason Kelsey

Mr. Kelsey gave an overview of the Save Barnegat Bay student summer research program. SBB is requesting the STAC fund one of the projects for the upcoming year. A discussion was held as to whether this should be a STAC or CEC-funded project, as well as the need to design a project in line with BBP/USEPA needs, with the required QAPP to be developed by staff members (not the student), which could easily be amended year-to-year for a pre-set program.

Action: Dr. Hales to speak with Mr. Kelsey to work out the details.

Pathogen Working Group Update – H. Saffert/S. Shifren

The group met May 7, 2014 and the status of projects and areas of interest were reviewed. Projects included Cedar Cove Marina at Beachwood Beach. NRDC's testing showed Beachwood Beach as one of the worst in the nation for bacteria. There are a variety of poorly-mapped outfalls in Beachwood (state, municipal, county). The county will replace one area of sewer pipe which may be leaking. On October 8th, work will begin to relocate two outfall pipes to one which will empty further outside the cove (\$700,000). Illicit connections and a human signature have been found in Pine Beach.

Pine Lake has a huge geese problem with one side still on a septic system and they are beginning to look at that area. Beachwood should serve as a model for addressing issues like this in the future.

Action: Dr. Hales would like to reach out to the Township and others to create public education pieces regarding concerns about swimming in the Brown's Woods Beach and Money Island areas.

Shellfish restoration working group – J. Vasslides

Mr. Vasslides gave an update on the shellfish restoration group, which met last week and has broad representation on the committee. This initial meeting was to discuss goals and set-up of the working group. The group will review the white paper's conclusions and make short- and long-term recommendations for the shellfish community at large. The group will also work on recommendations for next steps for research, recommendations for rehabilitation, and policy recommendations. The next meeting will be held the week of July 28th.

Partner Updates

Mr. Vasslides introduced Erin Reilly, the new BBP field and lab coordinator, who will be working on the long-term seining program, July MACWA work, and additional projects. Ms.

Reilly provided a brief bio. Mr. Vasslides also reported that the Barnegat Bay Festival went very well and thanks were given to participants.

Mr. Reading reported on the NJDEP's long-term ambient monitoring program. The monitoring schedule has been established through next July. The QAPP is being modified and partners will get recertification for field parameters by month-end, followed by MOA distribution to continue their work through next July.

Mr. Poach reported that Jennifer Sampson has taken a position in Hawaii, so the chemistry work in the bay is on hold.

Ms. Muscio reported on the soft launch of the Municipal Blue Star program -- a Clean Ocean Action collaboration with Sustainable Jersey to focus on water quality and stormwater improvements. They are available to speak at a variety of meetings.

Ms. Pecchioli is working with partners on a pilot project at the County nursery of planting tall pots for stormwater basins. The longer root system will allow them to be planted past the compacted layer for a higher chance of survival. A new pumpout boat has been purchased to be operated by Brick Township (which historically has accounted for 30% of all the pumpout effluent out of the five boats). They're already at 1.5 M gallons of effluent to date for this season.

Bob Nicholson gave the USGS update on its comprehensive report on nutrient loading to the Barnegat Bay 1989-2011, as part of the NEIWPC work with the NJDEP. This has been officially released and is available on their website USGS.gov/New Jersey. The report shows the effects of different land-use patterns during that period of time, which will feed into the modeling work they're doing on the bay.

Tom Belton reported on Item #9 of the Governor's 10-point plan ("Produce More Comprehensive Research" – a handout was distributed). Research includes pre-Sandy, immediately post-Sandy, and one year post-Sandy. Specific research efforts were discussed. Ken Able is seeing a global warming signature (warm-water species are abundant). Each project stands alone, but after the third year, a comprehensive assessment will be done to address management issues. Reports will be on the website soon and a briefing for STAC will follow.

Rob Karl gave a Metedeconk watershed plan update. Implementation is in full swing and four separate projects were discussed. A model stormwater ordinance is being developed. See metedeconkriver.org.

Jason Kelsey invited partners to attend the June 29th Rally for the Bay Celebration of SBB's anniversary at Trader's Cove in Brick.

The next STAC meeting is scheduled for October 7th, but an additional conference call may be held prior to that.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.