

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2012

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp.)

Open Meetings Act: Greg Gregory stated that the meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.* Notices were sent to official publications for the River Council – The Courier Post and The Press of Atlantic City. A copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing and the GEHWA website.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Events and Meetings: GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

Atlantic County Bike Trail Cleanup: GEHWA partnered with Atlantic County Parks to clean up storm debris from alongside the Atlantic County Bike Trail. AC personnel were unable to mow the area because of woody debris along the trail

GEHWA Annual Picnic: The annual picnic and campfire was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at Lake Lenape, Mays Landing. The location of the event was changed from Weymouth Furnace due to storm damage there from the derecho. There were a total of nine people for dinner. Almost everyone left following dinner due to threatening weather. The participants were warned by the Park Ranger of a thunderstorm in the area. There were 2 late arrivals that missed out on most of the food.

Upcoming Events:

Richard Hoch Show: Lynn will be on the Richard Hoch radio show on Thursday, August 16th at 4:00PM. The Topic: “Saving Water Indoors and Outdoors – Beautiful Landscapes and Delightful Water Bills.

Atlantic County Parks: The August “Birding with Binoculars Program” event to take place at Estell Manor Park was cancelled due to storm damage. September’s birding event is still scheduled for Saturday, September 8th.

GEHWA Overnight Camping and Canoe/Kayak Event: The canoe/kayaking event is scheduled for September 29 and 30, with overnight camping at Camp Acagisca.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The Villages of Folsom and Tuckahoe are in the Great Egg Harbor Comprehensive Management Plan. Paul suggested that the RC send a letter to the NPS Regional Director. One of the main points should state what impacts there would be to the water supply by approving new sewer service areas in the Pineland Villages which will enable large scale growth. Rick Coe made a motion to send a letter to the NPS Regional Director. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. It was also suggested that the local governments also send letters. Bill Christman made a motion to send a letter to local governments. Rick Foster seconded the motion. Fred will draft a letter and email it to the RCs. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- 1. River Signs:** The contractor who had previously made the river signs has gone out of business. Fred will find a new contractor. Fred displayed a map which indicated 25 potential new locations which would amount to a total of 50 signs that would be located at road crossings. It was suggested that the focus be on local roads initially. The River Councilors will look at the sign locations for their areas, which Fred provided, with the intent of determining the appropriateness of a sign for that road crossing.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Rick Foster): Corbin City had minor damage from the derecho. Plans are underway to replace the Route 50 Bridge. The current bridge needs constant repairs.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): The derecho had a big impact of flora and fauna within the watershed.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): The County Park sustained damage from the storm.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): On the 27th of August the Pinelands Commission will be holding a meeting regarding revisions to the Comprehensive Management Plan at the Hamilton Township Town Hall.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill sustained major damage to his property from the derecho. The basins at Hamilton Mall are once again being cleaned up.

Hammonton: (Chris Jage): No damage in Hammonton from the storm. September 16th is Hammonton’s Green Festival. An inventory is planned of the health trees in the city.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): No damage in Monroe.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Somers Point cleaned up quickly following the storm.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Upper Township sustained some damage from the storm, but nothing on the beach was damaged.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Houses along the river had damage from the storm.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1 Keith Kendrex Resignation: Keith Kendrex submitted a letter of resignation to the River Council on June 20, 2012. Fred suggested purchasing a pair of binoculars as a token of the River Council's esteem for Keith's 9 years of service. Rick Coe made a motion to approve the purchase the binoculars not to exceed \$75.00 and to include a resolution of appreciation. Greg Gregory seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers: Yes, Rick Foster: Yes, David Brown: Yes, Jim Owen; Yes, Dick Colby; Yes, Bill Christman; Yes, Chris Jage; Yes, Rick Coe; Yes, Greg Gregory; Yes, Bill Handley; Yes, Bill Egan; Yes. Motion carried.

2. Pinelands Villages Sewer Service Area Issue: The Pinelands Commission and Atlantic County are set on designating all of the Pinelands Villages as sewer service areas regardless of whether or not there is sewer capacity.

3. Hamilton Preserve Additions: New land acquisitions, totaling 126 acres within the watershed.

4. Annual Waterbird and Raptor Survey to be Cancelled: The survey has been conducted for nine years. Due to a lack of funds the survey will not be conducted in 2013.

5. River Herring and Menhaden Update: Fred has been appointed to an advisory panel for Blue Fish. He has been attending meeting regarding the River Herring and Menhaden issues.

6. 2012 Osprey Project Report: Fred showed newsletter pictures and data.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.