

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***August 21, 2013***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:15 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** by Fred Akers, Administrator.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Richard Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Board Members Absent:** Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Lou Harvey (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City),

**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 19, 2013 meeting with the following correction; change strippers to stripers. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)**

**Schools:**

**Fox Nature Center:** Lynn will be meeting with a home school group at the Nature Center in October.

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

**GEHWA's Annual Picnic and Campfire:** The annual picnic and campfire was held at Lake Lenape on July 23, 2013.

**Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**Hammonton's Green Day Festival:** Will be held on Sunday, September 15, 2013 from noon until 4 pm.

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The RC members were given a handout regarding a paddling and camping event on September 28 and 29 that is being hosted by GEHWA.

**Fall Meeting of New Jersey Chapter of the Wildlife Society:** The RC members were given a handout regarding the fall meeting of the NJTWS that will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at the Lenape Farms Unit, Tuckahoe WMA, in Estell Manor.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** In March, Paul submitted budget paperwork for funding of the PWSRs that he manages. To date he has not heard how much the rivers will receive. Recently, the 3 NJ Rivers that he manages received an additional \$4,000.00 each.

**Old Business:**

**1. Egg Harbor Township Schools:** The GEHRC received a thank you letter from EHT school district regarding the \$2,680.00 donation to fund the Eco River Cruises. A copy of the letter was included in the RC's packet. Gregory suggested that a copy of the letter be sent to our state representatives and EHT officials.

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**1. Draft Resolution 5-2013 BL England Power Plant:** The Pinelands Commission (PC) is receiving pressure to approve a twenty-four inch pipeline to transport natural gas to the BL England power plant. The resolution recommends that the PC not permit the gas line through the Forest Area of the Pinelands. A copy of resolution was included in RC's packet. Also, a letter was included in the RC's packet from Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director of Pinelands Preservation Alliance stating why the PC should not approve the proposed pipeline. No action was taken on the resolution at this time.

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Lou Harvey, Alt.):** Lou has been enjoying crabbing and fishing on the river.

**Corbin City: (Brian Camp):** A report was received regarding oil on the river near Corbin City. Brian said he would check for oil on river.

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** David stated that the number of boaters using the river has decreased. It is very empty.

**Folsom: (Joel Spiegel):** Joel gave an update on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge repair project. Permit requests have been issued to do repair work on bridge. The job will now go out for bid. The repair work should be done Plan by Memorial Day 2014. Atlantic County created a new job position "Director of Security," Glen Houseman was hired for the position.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill stated that complaints have been received regarding the derelict barge on river.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Gregory mentioned the new concrete bluffs at Kennedy Park. The result of the repairs to the bluffs following the damage from Sandy. He also mentioned that he caught 4 Black Drum at Jeffers Landing.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** A neighbor reported an oil slick on the Tuckahoe River. He has also reported seeing nutria near his home. He has also seen beached dolphins.

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):** Clark reported that two days after the recent heavy rains that the New Brooklyn Lake dam was the second highest he had ever seen.

**Other New Business:** None

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers)**

**1. NPS Funding Cut Partial Restoration:** NPS increased our FY2013 funding by \$4,000.00.

**2. Congressional Support for PWSRs:** Recently, Fred had meeting with Rep. LoBiondo in Washington DC. Fred uses his own time and money to meet with government representatives.

**3. Open Space Funding Update:** A dedicated source for Open Space Funding will not be on the November ballot. It is hoped that it will be on the 2014 ballot.

**4. B.L. England Station and South Jersey Gas:** Reported earlier under new business.

**5. Broadway 550 Acre Preservation Update:** Fred reported that it is hard to explore the area on foot.

**6. Old Barge Update:** Bill Christman spoke about this issue earlier.

**7. River Trails Grant/Project Update:** The grant received in the amount of \$5,700.00 to do a project with Atlantic County Parks is progressing.

**8. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** The EPA did not approve listing the River Herring or Menhaden as threatened or endangered.

**9. Osprey Colony Update:** In 2013 the River Council monitored 41 platforms. There were 21 active nests. A total of 51 chicks were counted, 37 banded, resulting in 2.40 chicks produced per nest.

**10. Atlantic county Wetland Mitigation Bank:** Fred showed slides of the development of the Lakes Creek wetlands mitigation site.

**11. Other Items of Interest:** None

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Handley and second by Brian Camp, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.