

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 PM by Rick Coe, Acting 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth). All gave notice.

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ryan Coe

Open Meetings Act: Rick Coe 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: Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Upper Township Elementary School: Lynn gave groundwater presentations to the fourth grade class and stormwater runoff presentations to the fifth grade class on November 16 & 17. Two hundred and eighty-four students and teachers were educated.

GIS Day at ACCC: On Wednesday, November 18 Fred and Lynn tabled at Atlantic Cape Community College's GIS Day. They explained how using GIS helps to protect and preserve the river and watershed.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The program for the November 24 GEHWA Member meeting was about using macroinvertebrates to assess water quality. The purpose of the program was to educate and also find out who might be interested in participating in streamside biosurveys.

GIS Education: Fred and Lynn attended the MAC URISA Fall meeting on December 2 at the Eco-Complex in Bordentown and the ESRI Mid-Atlantic Meeting at the Valley Forge Conference Center on December 9.

Upcoming Events:

CoCoRaHS Training Event: GEHWA and the State Climatologist from Rutgers will partner in a CoCoRaHS training event for Southern NJ on January 30, 2010. The event is to be held in the Fox Nature Center.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The Weymouth Furnace bridge issue is still not resolved. Paul is not sure of the status of permit approval.

Paul recently submitted an application to the Secretary of the Department of Interior, nominating GEHWA for an award. The awards will be announced in February.

Old Business:

1. **South River Shoreline Stabilization Update:** To date there is \$4,500 in funding dedicated for the project. Waiting for CAFRA permit. Fred met with NJ American Littoral Society and NOAA. Both groups have expressed interest in the project. Fred removed the \$1500.00 the RC obligated towards the project after having received the \$4,500.00 from outside sources.
2. **Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project:** Fred purchased the materials and has started building 6 new Osprey platforms. A work crew recently straightened and stabilized one leaning platform. The Preservation Council wants to work with GEHRC to install 2 platforms.
3. **New Brooklyn Eagle Scout Project:** Work on Ryan Coe's Eagle Scout project took place the first weekend in November. Ryan and his group of volunteers successfully notched an opening in the beaver dam, trimmed overhanging branches, opened a channel to the lake and removed a propane tank, tires and trash.
4. **2009/2010 Budget Update:** The RC spent a total of \$20,796.00 in 2009. The budget for 2010 is \$37,489.00, of which \$24,440.00 is already obligated and \$13,049.00 is available for projects.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **River Council Newsletter for 2010:** Fred asked for suggestions from the River Councilors for the 2010 RC Newsletter

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick inquired about any known problems with basins and dams following an extremely wet year.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported on the plans for the Woods Edge development. Anywhere from 400 to 600 homes and stores could be built on the approximately 137 acres located near Route 40 and Cologne Avenue. Bill felt that GEHWA should be aware of the issues surrounding the planned development.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill was not present at the meeting. Fred read an email from Bill. Troop 55 is interested in working with the RC in doing a program during the spring. The troop is interested in three projects: 1. Renovations at the Tuckahoe WMA; 2. A river clean up; or 3. Creating a partnership with their troop and the Tuckahoe River Scenic Campground to create a public canoe/kayak launch and to clear a navigable path to paddle from the campground to the Rte 49 bridge.

Bill is working with his students to put the Watershed Minutes to video. He stated that 10 minutes of video will be ready by January and he will inquire of local cable feeds to see if there is interest in airing the videos.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. **New Boat:** Fred bought a new boat to help with work on the river.
2. **Question #1 Passage:** Passed statewide, 54% of New Jersey voters supported the yes vote.
3. **South River Farm Pumping Diversion:** An enforcement action was taken within the Wild and Scenic boundary by the State of NJ DEP. The State inspected the site and found an unapproved water diversion. The property owner received a "Notice of Violation".
4. **Adams Branch Restoration:** NOAA and the NJ American Littoral Society are also interested in the Adams Branch project. A \$3,500.00 grant was received from Conservation Resources, Inc. Conservation Resources has listed the project on their website. Anyone interested in supporting the project can find information at the website.
5. **ORV Legislation:** The Enforcement and ORV Parks bills have been combined. One ORV Park must be created within three years in order for the registration and enforcement to take effect. Foreseen problems: development of an ORV park at Sahara Sands, and no registration and enforcement if a park is not created.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.