

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:10 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Richard Foster (Corbin City), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp); both gave notice.

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Mike Massey and David Brown (alternates for Egg Harbor 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 December 17, 2008 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion:

No comment from the public at this time. The Chair reserves the right to open the floor to the public at a later time.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2009 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair – Greg Gregory

Vice Chair – Rick Coe

Treasurer – Dick Colby

Secretary – Fred Akers

Dick Colby made a motion to accept the nomination of Greg Gregory as Chair. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Christman made a motion to accept the nomination of Rick Coe as Vice-Chair. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Christman made a motion to accept the nomination of Dick Colby as Treasurer. Richard Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Christman made a motion to accept the nomination of Fred Akers as Secretary. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Recess called by Chair Greg Gregory at the request of Gary Theno: Gary Theno then presented his resignation from the River Council effective immediately. Greg Gregory noted that he accepted the resignation with regrets and thanked Gary for his service. Written verification is needed from Egg Harbor Township to authorize Alternates Mike Massey and David Brown, but both are welcome to participate in the meeting.

Reorganization Resolutions: Fred Akers brought the following resolutions forward for votes:

Resolution 1-2009: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts (Note: Correction made to update name of bank to “Bank of America”)

Resolution 2-2009: Designating Official Publications

Resolution 3-2009: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Keith Kendrix and seconded by Clark Sprigman to approve Resolution 1-2009. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Richard Foster and seconded by Keith Kendrix to approve Resolution 2-2009. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Richard Foster to approve Resolution 3-2009. Motion carried.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul reported that the Musconetcong River group was pursuing a NRCS grant for water quality monitoring and he could get more information if our Council was also interested. A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Clark Sprigman to request Paul to explore further. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- **2009 River Council Budget:** The River Administrator reviewed the 2009 River Council budget with the council
- **Watershed Radio Update:** Continuation of the WIBG Watershed Radio Program from January 5th to May 31, 2009 at a cost \$2,500.00 was approved at the last meeting. Bill Handley showed a draft visual accompaniment to the Watershed Minute audio files posted on the website. This focus Minute was on Osprey, and added a great perspective to the narration (Thanks, Bill!). Bill needs many more photos for all the topics and all councilors are encouraged to submit material. In addition, the purchase of photos could also be considered.

New Business:

- **Grant Funding for Estell Manor South River Restoration Project:** Fred presented a letter to “potentially interested parties” detailing needs for this project. Currently the \$4000 project has a commitment of \$2500 from Conservation Resources, Inc, with an estimated balance of \$1500 needed. A motion was made by Jim Owen and seconded by Greg Gregory for the Council to expend up to \$1500 to complete this project. A roll call vote was taken. Yes-Julie Akers, Yes-Richard Foster, Yes-Mike Massey, Yes-Jim Owen, Yes-Dick Colby, Yes-Bill Christman, Yes-Keith Kendrix, Yes-Greg Gregory, Yes-Bill Handley, Yes-Bill Egan, Yes-Clark Sprigman. Motion approved. Jim Owen also advised that he can arrange for manual workers through a prisoners work program to help with this project.

- **Grant Funding for Hamilton Twp Tire Cleanup:** A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Julie Akers for the Council to expend up to \$3600 to complete this project. A roll call vote was taken. Yes-Julie Akers, Yes-Richard Foster, Yes-Mike Massey, Yes-Jim Owen, Yes-Dick Colby, Yes-Bill Christman, Yes-Keith Kendrix, Yes-Greg Gregory, Yes-Bill Handley, Yes-Bill Egan, Yes-Clark Sprigman. Motion approved.

- **River Councilor Reports:**

Bill Handley (Upper) reported that an Honors Shop teacher in EHT would like to have his students construct osprey platforms or build other wildlife habitat enhancement boxes.

Dick Colby (GEHWA) reported on the Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail project.

Jim Owen (Estell Manor) reported on issues with the dam on Stephen's Creek.

Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp) reported that Chuck Horner of the Pinelands Commission has issued a letter to the Hamilton Mall to repair their basins.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- **River Council Newsletter:** The 2009 River Council newsletter is completed and will be distributed to municipalities and other recipients.
- **PWSR/NPS Funding Update FY 2009 & FY 2010:** The River Administrator provided an update on the Dear Colleague Letter process and other activities to promote adequate appropriations to the PWSRs line item in the federal budget.
- **Atkins Wildlife Habitat Development Plan:** The River Administrator handed out a write up on this conservation project and provided some GIS mapping to illustrate the spatial relationships between this project and the Wild and Scenic River boundary.
- **Cape May National Wildlife Refuge:** The River Administrator illustrated the overlapping relationship between the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge and the federal Wild and Scenic boundary of Cedar Swamp Creek.
- **ASMFC River Herring Amendment:** The River Administrator gave a presentation on the historic extent of anadromous fish use on the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries, and identified the national concern by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council on decreasing River Herring stocks from over fishing and habitat loss. A movie about the over fishing issues highlighting the efficiency of the midwater trawling industry to vacuum large quantities of both Sea and River Herring from the ocean was also presented.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Jim Owen and second by Bill Egan, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.