

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Annual Reorganization Meeting***  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***February 20, 2013***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:36 PM by Rick Coe, Vice Chair. Twenty minutes into the meeting Greg Gregory, Chair took over.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.)

**Board Members Absent:** David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (Atl. GEHWA), Lou Harvey (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.)

**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.

**Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council:** Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2013 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

Bill Christman made the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Resolutions:** Fred Akers brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2013: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2013: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2013: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2013. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Clark Sprigman, to approve Resolution 2-2013. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution 3-2013. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: : Julie Akers, Yes; Rick Foster, Yes; David Brown, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Joel Spiegel, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Yes; Rick Coe, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Bill Handley, Yes; Clark Sprigman, Yes; Ralph Bernard, Yes; Chris Jage, Yes. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2012 meeting with the following corrections. To correct the spelling of Chris Jage's last name from Gage to Jage. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

##### **Schools:**

**St. Vincent DePaul School:** In December the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students made bird feeders out of pine cones, peanut butter and bird seed. The students hung these special winter treats in their backyards. When I met with them in February they told me about the wildlife they had seen at the feeders.

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

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** Lynn presented a photo documentary program centered on events on the river and throughout the watershed.

##### **Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The GEHWA Member Meeting program on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 will be on vernal ponds and the amphibians found in them.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** The Miry Run Bridge will be replaced. The design has been approved. The bridge should be completed in one year.

The NPS has organized Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers workshops. One of the workshops will be held on April 10, 2013, from 2 – 6 PM, in Wilmington Delaware. The address is 820 North French Street. Contact info: julie\_bell.nps.org.

##### **Old Business:**

1. **Pinelands Commission Municipal Letter:** There is in existence an original MOA from 1990 that includes both the local towns and the Pinelands commission (PC) concerning the Great Egg Harbor Local River Management Plans.

It is now suggested that the RC request that the NPS create a new MOA with the PC recognizing the Federal Wild and Scenic designation of specific segments of the GEHW and Maurice River in the Pinelands under Public Law 102-536 (Great Egg Harbor River) and 103-162 (Maurice River)

Joseph DiBello from the NPS was been sworn in on December 14, 2012 as the new federal representative on the PC.

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie is concerned that the PC is not protecting the GEHW. She stated that clustering does not protect the environment and that other towns are also experiencing problems with the PC.

**Corbin City: (Brian Camp):** Brian is the new RC member from Corbin City. He has lived on river for 28 years.

**Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen):** Jim reported that Estell Manor has acquired new open space.

**Folsom: (Joel Spiegel):** Joel reported that Folsom is facing the same clustering issues as Julie mentioned. He also reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> street Bridge which is approximately 100 years old and is a state historic structure, is a one lane pony truss, which has been repaired numerous times. Plans have been sent to State Historic offices for approval of a two lane bridge. The bridge is closed due to structural issues. There are plans for a quick fix prior to summer.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick gave background of GEHWA and some background of the Sierra Club both locally and nationally.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill reported that Hamilton Township's government has undergone some changes. He also reported that the pier at old nudist colony is gone. A result of Hurricane Sandy. Bill is concerned about launching his boat on the river because of submerged storm debris. The tires on Gravelly Run, exposed during the storm, had been used to shore-up the bank.

**Hammonton: (Chris Jage):** Chris reported that there will be a clean-up at Hammonton Lake Park on March 2 from 9 – 12. The ACUA is partnering in the clean-up. He also presented Hammonton Township's GEHR Management Plan at the last Environmental Commission meeting.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill has heard about issues with a resident on Mill Creek.

**Other New Business:** None

Greg stated that Joy Nichols, sister of Fred Nichols, has completed her thesis which is entitled "Wanderings on the GEHR".

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

**1 Staff Activity Reports:** A summary of staff activities has been included in the RC's packets.

**2. PWSRs FY2014 Appropriations Update:** Fred reported that the fiscal year 2014 full funding appropriation request for PWSRs, which involves 12 rivers in 7 states, is \$2.822 million. He also reported that the potential impacts from the 3/1/2013 Sequestration will result in 5% reductions across the board, which will result in funding cuts of approximately \$7,000 per river.

**3. Lenape Farms Purchase (KIG):** Fred reported that the 5079 acre Lenape Farms was acquired. This important acquisition is within the GEHW.

New resolution supporting sustainable state funding for preservation and stewardship of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in NJ. Letter is included in RC's packet.

RC's will take this issue under advisement and it will be put on agenda for next meeting. All previously approved monies have been allocated.

**4. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** Fred showed a short video clip regarding Menhaden. For the first time the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved a catch limit for Menhaden. The motion for a 20% reduction of harvest was passed.

**5. Pinelands Villages Sewer Service Area:** Fred showed a map of proposed sewer service areas in the Pinelands Villages. Several municipalities within the watershed have adopted resolutions against these proposed areas.

**6. Hurricane Report:** Fred showed pictures of Hurricane Sandy damage.

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

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.