

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2015

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:40 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Walt Vreeland (Atl. Egg Harbor Twp.), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Chris Jage (Hammonton City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom), Karen Zindell (Atlantic County Parks), Ron Mischker (Alt. Somers Point), Victoria Sterling-Scales (Americorp Watershed Ambassador)

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: Rick Coe made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2015 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. Walt Vreeland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Resolution 1-2015: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2015: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2015: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Handley, to approve Resolution 1-2015. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Ralph Bernard, to approve Resolution 2-2015. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 3-2015. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools: Schools are starting to schedule programs at the Nature Center.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Winslow Township's Birthday Celebration: Fred and Lynn will be tabling at Winslow Township's Birthday Celebration on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 1 to 4 PM.

Pinelands Short Course: The Pinelands Short Course will be held at Stockton College on Saturday, March 14, 2015.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:30 PM. The program is entitled "Fish Tales".

Sponsorship of River Crossing Signs: The Cohansey Area Watershed Association's River Crossing Sign sponsorship program has been very successful. It is a program that could be implemented for the GEHR.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): This past fall the NPS Northeast Regional Director, Michael Caldwell, met with members from the Northeast Region's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Director introduced a competitive grant program with \$50,000.00 available to the PWSRs for FY 2015. Three river in NJ received grants from the program totaling \$8,300.00. There are some issues with FY 2016 funding for PWSRs. Two new rivers, the Missisquoi & Trout in Vermont, were added to the PWSRs program in 2014. A line item, in the amount of \$125,000, was added to fund these rivers. There are now a total of thirteen PWSRs in 8 states.

Old Business:

1. Berlin Headwaters Interpretive Sign Project (Establish Subcommittee?): Fred took the RCs on a virtual tour of the headwaters of the GEHR with thoughts on where to place an interpretive sign. Clark Sprigman will look into the history of the stone wall in the Berlin Park. Look into groups that may be interested in this project. Clark will chair the "Berlin Headwaters Interpretive Sign Project" subcommittee. He will ask to be a part of the subcommittee Jennifer Jennings. Fred Akers and Rick Coe will help. Victoria Sterling-Scale will also help.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel is concerned that the newly opened bridge at 8th Street does not have any weight limits posted on the bridge.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick is concerned about RR crossings over the GEH and Tuckahoe rivers and the impact an accident and resulting spill could have on the rivers and surrounding area. Paul Kenny mentioned that the Coast Guard is trying to plan for this issue and is having difficulty getting information.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that the Great Egg is frozen near his house.

Somers Point: (Alt. Ron Mischker): Reported that Somers Point received a \$1.5 million dollar grant to dredge the Bayfront. The dredge spoils to go to Wildwood.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph reported the GEHR at is frozen at the S curve.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that the cutting of vegetation under the power lines continues near New Brooklyn Lake

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Staff Activity Reports:** A report on staff activity was included in the RCs packets.
- 2. River Trails Grant/Project Update:** A new brochure for the Great Egg's river trails was included in the RC's packets. The brochure is not yet finalized and is subject to revision.
- 3. Lake Lenape Dam Status:** Working is being done on Lake Lenape Dam. One of the problem areas on the dam is under the fish ladder.
- 4. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update:** PWSR FY 2016 funding had been published by NPS. Funding for GEHR will remain flat. Funding for the new Missisquoi & Trout Rivers in Vermont has been added in the amount of \$125,000.
- 5. Regional Directors Call to Action Update:** Fred has invited the Northeast Regional Director, Michael Caldwell and his assistant, to come to a RC meeting in 2015. They accepted and plan on attending the August 2015 meeting. Fred plans on taking them on a boat tour of the river. Fred applied for a small grant from the NPS for FY 2015 in the amount of \$2,400.00 with a cash match of \$300.00 for 3 additional trawl trip in June. A resolution will be needed for the \$300.00. He has also applied for a grant in the amount of \$7,350.00 with a cash match of \$1,750.00 for 8 student trawl trips in 2016.
- 6. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** On February 10, 2015 our legal action was taken to court to protect Blueback Herring from extinction. GEHRC and GEHWA

partnered with Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) in filing this lawsuit. Fred issued a press release regarding this issue.

7. **National Park Foundation Subaru Grant:** There are three trawl trips left in the grant. Fred showed slides of fish caught in trawl net during the fall trips. Fred would like to focus on the following three areas during the May 2015 trawl trips in search of River Herring: South River at 11th Street, in Mays Landing at the trestle bridge and below the dam, and Gravely Run.

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

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Ralph Bernard, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.