

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting***  
***June 17, 2009***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:00 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City), Mike Massey (Alt. EHT), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Handley (Upper Twp),

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ryan Coe

**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:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Greg Gregory made motion to approve the minutes with the following correction; [www.njwildlifetrials.org](http://www.njwildlifetrials.org) needs to be changed to [www.njwildlifetrails.org](http://www.njwildlifetrails.org). Motion carried.

**Public Portion:**

Rick Coe introduced his son Ryan Coe, who plans to work towards obtaining his Eagle Scout rank. Ryan plans to focus his efforts within the watershed. He will be working on the details of his project with Fred Akers.

Greg Gregory made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting with the option to open it again later if needed. Bill Christmas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

**Coordinator's Activity Report:** Reported activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009, and also provided a separate report on the number of students educated since the beginning of the year.

**Slide Show:** Presented a photographic slide show of recent activities with schools, and events.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):**

No Report

## **Old Business:**

1. **Mizpah Tire Cleanup Report:** Prior to the clean up Fred estimated that there were 15 tons of tires to be removed at a cost of \$3600.00. The RC approved \$3,600.00 to fund the clean up.

Actual weight of tires removed: 4 – 30 yd dumpsters = 17.14 tons, with a bill of \$4,113.60.

Project exceeded approved funding but according to Fred, Hamilton Township will contribute towards the tipping costs.

Bill Christman believes that the tires with rims were picked up by the township. The tires had been stacked along the side of the road.

Dick Colby suggested that all RCs investigate if there are any existing tire dumps within their municipalities that could be the target of future clean ups.

1. **South River Shoreline Stabilization:**

Fred reported that the County is interested in the project. He needs to get permits from state.

2. **Watershed Radio Update:**

GEHRC reached end of its contract with the radio station in May. A total of 50 “Watershed Minutes” were produced. Harry Hurley would like GEHRC to continue providing the minutes. The radio station has offered to produce and air them, for free, over the summer with the possibility of renewing the contract in the Fall. Fred would need to write the additional minutes. Greg Gregory has become known as the voice behind the “Minutes”. He gave a presentation at the recent Egg Harbor Historical Society meeting.

## **Other Old Business:**

None

## **New Business:**

1. **Resolution R 4-2009 - Support for Atlantic County Grant:**

The resolution is to support Atlantic County’s request for a grant from the NJ Historic Preservation Trust for interpretive wayside signs and materials for the Bethlehem Loading Company ruins located in Estell Manor Park, Atlantic County.

Rick Coe made a motion to accept resolution R 4-2009. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion. Greg Gregory made a motion to send a copy of the resolution to our representatives. Motion passed.

2. **River Councilor Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project:**

Kathy Clark did a fly over to identify active nests. More birds were observed nesting this year than last year. Ben Wurst will lead the first banding expedition. The data collected while banding will be available for the next RC meeting.

## **River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Egg Harbor Twp.:** (Mike Massey): Mike has not seen any Osprey in the nests.

**GEHWA:** (Dick Colby): Dick reported that the swimming beach at Lake Lenape will not be opened this year. The county does not want to pay for lifeguards. Dick inquired about the number of

swimmers that use the river and mentioned that a reduction in the number of swimmers will also result in a reduction of pollutants in the river

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Pleased with tire clean up.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** The June 17, 2009 edition of “Hometown”, an insert found in the Atlantic City, included the story “Somers Point kids trained to save bluff”. GEHWA partners with the Dawes Avenue School for the annual Bluff Days event.

Greg also mentioned that flounder fishing has been strong in the bay this year

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):**

Clark report that Camden County is working on the New Brooklyn Lake dam. The dam was built in the 1930s. Clark recently attended a Pinelands Commission seminar for Environmental Commissioners. He is a new member of his township’s Environmental Commission.

**Other New Business:**

None

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

**1. PWSR/NPS Funding Update FY2009 & FY 2010:** The RC has spent \$13,640 to date. Currently there is \$32,732.00 obligated, but not spent.

**2. Off Road Vehicle Bill Progress:** ORV bill S2055 will be heard in the NJ Senate Committee on Monday, June 22, 2009.

**3. Garden State Preservation Trust:** In the past the RC supported Resolution R 06-2007 which endorsed the “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation bond act of 2007”.

Once again, the Garden State Preservation Trust is up for renewal. It is currently up vote in state committee to see if it should be put on November ballot. If it passes, the RC will need to decide if it will endorse a resolution supporting renewal of the GSPT.

**4. Smith Property Press Release:** The RC received a copy of the press release from NJCF about the recent land acquisition along Squankum Branch in Monroe Township.

**5. Monroe Swamp Pink:** Recently surveyed the Monroe Preserve for Swamp Pink. Seven plants were found.

**6. Adams Branch Restoration:** Fred recently wrote Amy Greene, Environmental Consultants, requesting a proposal for a restoration plan to mitigate the environmental damage done to Adams Branch

Fred has since led two site visits with representative from Amy Greene.

**7. 2009 NJ Fisheries Information:** The River Council received a condensed version of the 2009 NJ Fisheries information. Fred also mentioned that he provides the same information to the students attending the Bluff Days.

**8. Winter Bird Summary:** Fred distributed a bound report to the River Council. It is a summary of the last five years of data collected during the Winter Bird Survey. Fred plans to take the report to the state. It can possibly be used to leverage federal funding.

**9. National River Rally 2009 held in Baltimore.** Fred attended the rally on Sunday, May 31. He was one of the presenters. He explained how to use the Nationwide Rivers Inventory to identify, protect and conserve relatively undeveloped, free-flowing rivers with outstandingly remarkable values.

**10. Went to the Hill:** Fred went to Washington on June 1 & 2 to meet with congresspersons.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.