

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***June 17, 2015***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:45 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Mischker (Alt. Somers Point), Paul Ludgate (Somers Point), Dave Roesch, Jim Owen Jr. and Stan Giercyk

**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 April 15, 2015 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion.

**Public Portion:** Dave Roesch is concerned about the lack of white perch in the river. There are not any historic records regarding the number of fish in the river. Dave and fellow fishermen; Jim Owens, Jr., and Stan Giercyk, feel that eel net fishing and fyke nets used to catch white perch are having an impact on the number of white perch currently found in the river. They would like there to be limits placed on the number of white perch being taken and a reduction in the duration of time that nets can be used in the river. White Perch is not a regulated species in fresh water. The fishermen feel that there should be a 25 bag limit. NJ Fish and Wildlife is not interested in this species. There has been an increase in the use of fyke nets on the river.

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

**Schools:** Lynn reported that from April 1 to June 17, 2015 she educated 2,165 students through community outreach to schools, the Warren Fox Nature Center, Scout groups and other events. Lynn presented a slide show of the activities of the various groups.

**Events and Meetings:** The ACUA Earth Day event held on 4-26-2015 was heavily attended by the public. It was a very busy day.

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The annual “Frog Walk” at Sahara Sands on 5-26-2015 was well attended.

**Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** GEHWA’s 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic will be held on 7-28-2015 at 5:30 pm at Lake Lenape Park. All RC members and their families are invited.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Mike Caldwell, the Northeast Regional Director of NPS will attend the next meeting in August. The NPS has studied dragonfly larvae for the past 5 years in national parks to determine if there is an impact from mercury on this insect population. To date there has not been any test data collected for rivers in northeast. The Maurice and the Mustconetcong rivers are two of the northeastern rivers that have been chosen for study this year.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

1. **Stringari and Stringari CPAs:** The CPA firm of Stringari and Stringari has audited GEHWA books. The audit report stated no problems were found.
2. **Award of \$300.00 Grant from the Somers Point crabbing tournament:** Ron Meischker, Somers Point Harbor Master, presented a \$300.00 check to the RC from the Somers Point Crab Tournament, to be used for student education. Ron also stated that he is working on building a kayak rack for Kennedy Park. Only one rack is needed for Kennedy Park. It will be made of materials that suit the surrounding natural setting of the park.
3. **Consideration of Municipal Stewardship Grant to Corbin City:** Erosion is occurring at site of the Corbin City Municipal Park because it is located on a bend in the river. Moving forward with a project to stabilize the bank is not feasible at this time. The site will be surveyed and studied and a report will be made to the RC.
4. **Consideration of Grant to Scullville Fire Department for safety equipment:**  
**Resolution RC: 07-2015:** A resolution authorizing the River Council to grant up to \$3,500.00 for the purchase of river related emergency management equipment for the Scullville Volunteer Fire Department fire and rescue boat.

Gregory Gregory made a motion to approve up to \$3,500.00 to fund the purchase of river related emergency management equipment for the Scullville Fire Department. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All Yea. Motion approved.

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Corbin City: (Brian Camp):** Brian caught a couple crabs off dock. He also reported seeing a seal on the river and saw also a Bald Eagle.

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave gave an update regarding the Scullville Fire Boat.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick reported that GEHWA had a net income of \$117,000.00, of which approximately \$2,300 was received from memberships.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill first heard the River Herring splashing on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, and also over the next 3 days.

**Somers Point: (Ron Meischker Alt.):** Ron reported on clean-up of Patcong Creek.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard):** Bald Eagles are doing well on the river.

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):** Clark talked to the mayors of Berlin and the Boro of Berlin regarding the sign project identifying the head waters of the GEHR. He stated that the mayors support the project. The Camden County Park Commission would have to approve the project before it can move forward.

**Other New Business:** None

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):** Due to time constraints Fred deferred his report until the August meeting. He gave brief comments on the following:

1. **National Park Foundation Subaru Grant Update:** Completed
2. **Water Trail Sign Eagle Scout Project:** Scout needs to find someone to make signs.
3. **NOAA Crab Pot Removal Grant Update:** To date has not heard anything.
4. **SpillSpotter Project Update:** Baseline data collected.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Ralph Bernard, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.