

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2014

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), 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: Chris Jage (Hammonton City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Walter Vreeland (GEHWA Member), Alan Aronovitz, (Visitor from Ventnor)

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 16, 2014 RC meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Ralph Cooper, who is a member of Upper Township's Green Team, is looking for organizations interested in partnering with Upper Township's Green Team.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

St. Vincent DePaul School: Lynn facilitated the "Annual 5th Grade Puppet Show" on June 2 & 6th.

Dawes Avenue School: GEHWA provided programs on June 16, 17 & 18, for the 4th, 5th and 6th grades from Dawes Avenue School at Kennedy Park, Higbee Beach and on the Duke of Fluke.

Alder Avenue School: On May 13 Fred and Lynn provided live macroinvertebrates for the students to sort and identify. The Project Wet Water Festival scheduled for May 28 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The event was rescheduled for May 29th but neither Fred nor Lynn could work the event due to prior commitments.

Fox Nature Center: GEHWA has acquired contacts with 9 new schools by working in partnership with Atlantic County Parks and has or will be providing programs for the following schools: March 20 & 24, 2014, Absecon School; April 14, 2014, Westminster Christian Academy; May 12, 2014, AC Headstart; May 14, 2014, EHT Elementary School 1st grade Autistic Class; May 21, 2014, Cumberland County Christian School 3 to 5 yr. olds; May 29, 2014, Texas Avenue School 4th Grade; May 30, 2014,

Richmond Avenue School 3rd grade (event sponsored by the National Park Trust); and the week of July 7th, the Children's Academy of Galloway Twp.

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

GEHWA Member Meeting: GEHWA sponsored The "Annual Frog Walk" held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 7:30PM at Sahara Sands.

GEHWA supported the following events: FAA Earth Day Event at the FAA Center held on April 24, 2014 from 10 to 1; ACUA Earth Day Event being held on Sunday April 27, 2014 from 10 to 4.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA Member Meeting: The annual GEHWA "Picnic and Campfire" will be held on Tuesday July 22, 2014 at 5:30 PM at Lake Lenape Park. RC members are invited.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Fred's efforts to protect the PWSR program seem to be having an impact within the NPS.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Construction on 8th street Bridge continues.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick gave an accounting of the auditor's report and he also reported about the work being done on a statewide trails program.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): The Bridge over Babcock Creek has been finished. The Miry Run Bridge is to be repaired in the future. Bill mentioned that he has sighted a bobcat and that he also found two dead animal remains.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): A car went over the bluff at Kennedy Park. The Egg Harbor Twp. Municipal Council will recognize the RC for its work with EHT schools.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): There are a lot of boats on river.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported seeing many small animals.

Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City): Chuck has observed Osprey nests and young on the Tuckahoe River downriver from route 50. He also sees otters during the winter.

Other New Business: A discussion was held regarding a change in the time that the RC meets. It was suggested that the meetings begin at 6:30 pm. Ralph Bernard made a motion to change the RC meeting time to 6:30 pm. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. National Wild and Scenic Rivers Report: The NPS Washington office has been appropriating funds totaling \$368,000.00, as a line item, from PWSR monies since 2008. Fred is pushing to have this line item removed. The good news is that \$117,000.00 has been allocated for the GEHR from NPS for FY2014. This is an increase over last years funding amount.

2. River Trails Grant/Project Update: The new signs have been delivered and will be installed soon.

3. Fernwood Saltwater Cruise Grant/Project Update: There is a surplus, as of 6/18/2014, in the Fernwood Science Cruise Project in the amount of \$1,070.00.

4. Disney Nature Impact Grant: The Disney Nature Impact Grant program awarded GEHWA/GEHRC a grant in the amount of \$22,600.00 for a total of 8 scientific trawl cruises.

5. Sahara Sands Motorized Closure Project: Working to gate off property. Damage to Lynn's car during annual frog walk at Sahara Sands.

6. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update: Fred and Clay Emerson have been appointed to the River Herring and Shad Advisory Panel by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Joel Spiegel, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.