

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:02 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Bill Egan (Weymouth), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp),

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), 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: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2009 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the following correction; remove Bill Egan’s yes vote to approve the funding for the Watershed Radio Minutes because he was absent from the last meeting. Motion carried.

Public Portion:

Ryan Coe thanked the River Council for the grant that will fund his Eagle Scout Project. Receiving approval from the Boy Scouts, for the project, has delayed setting up a date(s) to do the work. Dates to do the work will be announced following a meeting between Rick, Ryan and Winslow Twp. officials to discuss the details of the project.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

- **Pinelands Folk Art Festival – 8/29:** The event was well attended; many people visited our exhibit.
- **St. Vincent De Paul 9/18:** Presented a “Stream Side Classroom” to the students choosing “Animals” as an elective. Introduced the students to the macroinvertebrate animals found in streams and discussed how these animals are used to help determine water quality. Also discussed how chemical analysis (pH and Specific Conductance) can also be used as a measure of water quality.
- **Hammonton’s Green Day Festival - 9/19:** Event was held in downtown Hammonton. Attendance was OK.

- **Bring Your Own Canoe/Kayak – Maple Lake Event – 9/22:** Eight folks participated in the event. Beautiful location in the Maple Lake Wildlife Management Area. Nice evening paddle around the lake.
- **Family Fun Fest at Birch Grove Park – 10/3:** Event cancelled because of rain.
- **Pinelands Discovery Festival – 10/4:** GEHWA's last planned outdoor event for 2009.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul received an application for review from T & R Holdings Co., who wants to open a marina on the Tuckahoe. The state has denied the permit

Old Business:

1. **Mizpah Tire Cleanup Report Update:** Hamilton Township reimbursed the River Council \$513.60 which covered the cost of the extra tipping fees that were in excess of the amount budgeted for the project.
2. **South River Shoreline Stabilization Update:** Waiting for Atlantic County to approve project. Conservation Resources Inc., has extended the grant deadline. Atlantic County has approved a \$2,000.00 grant for the project.
3. **Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project:** Fred has started to assemble 6 additional Osprey platforms. He has the locations where five new platforms can be installed and the locations of platforms that need to be repaired and/or replaced.
4. **2009 Budget Update:** YTD expenditures by the River Council: \$21,753.00. Potential 2010 expenses: \$30,532.00. Greg Gregory announced that the Somers Point Business Assoc. would like to fund future costs of the Duke of Fluke trip for Dawes Ave. School.

New Business:

1. Avian Survey and Research Budget for 2010:

Six years of avian studies have been completed. The 2009-2010 survey year is scheduled to begin. Clay Sutton plans to continue doing the core winter season raptor and waterbird survey of both the Great Egg and Mullica Rivers, while also extending the survey into the spring migration and breeding season and fall migration.

The RC would like to see additional partners contributing towards the cost of the study, especially with regards to the Mullica River.

Keith Kendrix made a motion to approve the Avian Studies and Research Budget for 2009-2010 for 10,890.00 with the following stipulation; additional financial support should be secured from outside sources so that the Mullica River portion of the survey can continue. Dick Colby seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Julie Akers, YES; Rick Foster, YES; Dave Brown, YES; Jim Owen, YES; Dick Colby, YES; Bill Christman, YES; Keith Kendrix, YES; Rick Coe, YES; Greg Gregory, YES; Clark Sprigman, YES; Bill Egan, YES. Motion passed.

Greg Gregory applauded the vigorous discussion and the unanimous vote for the project.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): There is an illegal withdraw of water by a farmer in Richland, from the South River. Fred and Paul are working on the issue.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Lots of tidal water during the past weekend from the Northeaster.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): The historic pony truss bridge has been closed across the Great Egg at Weymouth Furnace on Weymouth Road. Atlantic County Parks welcomes comments regarding the upgrading or rebuilding of the bridge. Greg would like the discussion tabled until the next meeting so that additional information can be obtained.

Hammonton: (Keith Kendrix): The Mayor of Hammonton Twp. recently took his family for a canoe trip on the Great Egg and encountered areas where some dead fall over the river was obstructing passage between 8th Street and Weymouth Furnace.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Welcomes volunteers for Ryan's Eagle Scout project. Rick expects that the project will take two days to complete, and he will send out notification of the dates once they have been determined.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): The weekend Northeaster forced tidal water into the area where the new work is being done on the hospital. Somers Point received a grant from Walmart to install rain gardens in Kennedy Park.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Fred reported for Bill, A school in Upper Twp. has agreed to provide visuals for the Watershed Minutes.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Dock fees on the river have gone up. Some of the fees are higher than the owner's property taxes. Area residents are taking legal action. He will miss the next two meetings.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): The New Brooklyn dam project has been completed. It looks nice. The water level not as high as he had hoped.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. ANJEC Award:** The River Council received an award from ANJEC for the Mizpah tire clean up. A member of Hamilton Twp. EC nominated the River Council for the award.
- 2. Question #1 Press Event:** There is a press event scheduled at Kennedy Park tomorrow for ballet question #1. Fred encouraged the RC to vote YES on November 3. He also stated that there is not much political support for the question.
- 3. Pinelands Commission Planning Failure:** Fred does not believe that the PC would support any project of the RC. PC does not acknowledge the federal designation of the Great Egg River.
- 4. South River Farm Pumping Diversion:** Sicking farm diversion from the Upper South River Watershed. It is not a permitted withdraw from the river.
- 5. Adams Branch Restoration:** Received a \$24,000.00 proposal from Amy Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc., for the restoration design of Adams Branch.
- 6. ORV Legislation:** Fred is hoping that the bills will be taken up during the Lame Duck session in December.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Julie Akers and seconded by Clark Sprigman, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.