

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2012

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:06 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (Alt. GEHWA), Barry Keefe (Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge), Lloyd Lomelino (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: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2012 meeting with corrections. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Barry Keefe from Upper Township and President of the Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge has a special interest in the Great Cedar Swamp. Barry is interested in organizing a canoe and/or kayaking event in the swamp. Lloyd Lomelino who is the 2012/2013 Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15, shared his background and what he hopes to accomplish during the year.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

Fernwood Avenue Middle School: GEHWA continues to participate with the Duke of Fluke River Cruises that Jim Thoms organizes for his 7th grade students.

St. Vincent DePaul School: Lynn will be working with Leslie Lombardo's 5th grade class throughout the school year.

Mainland Regional High School: GEHWA will assist with Mainland Regional HS's special needs class during an eco-cruise on the Duke of Fluke on Wednesday, October 24, 2012. The Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15, Lloyd Lomelino, will also participate.

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

Richard Hoch Show: On Thursday, August 16th at 4:00PM Lynn spoke about “Saving Water Indoors and Outdoors – Beautiful Landscapes and Delightful Water Bills on the Richard Hoch show out of Millville, NJ. The radio show has a listening audience of between 3 and 5 thousand.

Atlantic County Parks: GEHWA’s “Birding with Binoculars Program” was held on Saturday, September 8th. Nine participants were signed up to attend the event, but due to a rainy morning two showed up. Those present had a great time and identified some birds. The participants felt the event was beneficial and there are plans to schedule this event next year.

GEHWA Canoe/Kayak Event: The canoe/kayak event was held on Saturday, September 29. Though the event was sparsely attended, it was well received. Everyone had a great time. The weather was beautiful and the river calm.

GIS 10.1: Fred and Lynn attended this event to learn about upcoming changes to the GIS platform that they use.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

ANJEC 39 Annual Environmental Congress: Fred, Julie and Lynn will attend the 39th Annual Environmental Congress to be held in Edison, NJ on Saturday, October 20, 2012.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): In March or April the NPS will hold an orientation session to see how the NPS operates behind the scenes regarding the permitting process and review. Paul used the Miry Run bridge replacement permitting process as an example.

Old Business:

1. **River Signs:** Put on hold until next meeting
2. **NPS Pinelands Letter:** A letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Pinelands Commissions repeated violations of the CMP by: Pushing to expand Sewer Service in the Pinelands; Failure to protect the water quality in the GEHW; and The Pineland Commission repeated use of “Memorandum of Agreement” to circumvent the CMP rules was brought before the RC for comment. The RC requested that Fred prepare a draft letter before the next RC meeting, and the text of the letter would be considered at the December 19 meeting.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Rick Foster): Rick reported seeing homeless individuals living along the river.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported sighting five eagles on the river.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim reported that Atlantic County has withdrawn from the purchase of the 5000 acre Lenape Farms tract. The State is now involved in the possible purchase of Lenape Farms along with the TNC.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported that the application for historic preservation of the bridge at 8th Street has been approved.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that he is working on a long distance trail. He also stated that he recently visited the Natural Lands Trust Petty's Island Preserve on the Delaware and recommends going there.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported the ongoing clean up from the storm. He also reported that the owners of the Hamilton Mall are moving ahead with the Mall expansion project, but that questions still remain regarding the stormwater basins at the mall.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick reported that he and friends recently enjoyed a kayaking trip on the Great Egg Harbor River. They traveled down river, launching from a point along Route 559, which was about 1 hour upriver from Weymouth Furnace and traveling downriver to Winding River.

Other New Business:

None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Keith Kendrex Resolution:** Resolution R: 05-2012 in recognition of Keith Kendrex was sent to Keith along with a pair of binoculars.
- 2. Open Space PILOT Resolution Update:** Resolution R: 04-2012 to fully restore the PILOT program funding, was sent to the Senate, Assembly and municipal governments. Positive replies were received from municipal governments. There was mixed support from state government.
Assembly Bill No. 3159: Clark Sprigman made a motion to support Assembly Bill No. 3159 by resolution. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Pinelands Villages Sewer Service Area Issue:** Fred is working on this issue.
- 4. Camden County Headwaters Presentation:** Fred spoke at the Winslow Historical Society about the History of the Great Egg Harbor River.
- 5. River Herring and Menhaden Update:** Fred is keeping informed and staying involved with the issues regarding River Herring and Menhaden. Fred sent a letter to Governor Christie in October regarding the need for the state to make a larger investment in Marine Fisheries. The Herring Alliance and the GEHRC hosted an event on October 16th to learn about protecting Menhaden.
- 6. Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.