

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
April 16, 2008

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:12 P.M. by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Ed Curry, Alternate for Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp)

Board Members Absent: Dick Colby (GEHWA), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Tom Walker Alt. (Corbin City)

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator)

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 February 20, 2008 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

- **GEHWA Newsletter:** February 2008 newsletter has been published. The newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August, and November. Reminder to RC to submit items for inclusion in newsletter.
- **Events that GEHWA had/will have a booth:**
 - Past –**
On April 12th at Boscovs “Go Green Event”
 - Upcoming –**
April 27th - ACUA Earth Day
May 3rd – Eco Fair at the Wheaton Arts Center in Cumberland County
- **Activities the GEHWA will be involved in:**
 - May 3rd – Frog walk at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge
 - May 27th – Hiking for Frogs at Sahara Sands

- **Pinelands Short Course:** The short course is an annual event hosted by the Pinelands Commission. It was held on March 1st. There were a variety of interesting topics (many new) to choose from at this year's event.
- **Rain Water Monitoring Project - CoCoRaHS:** GEHWA has joined this program. It is being introduced at the events we are attending. Members of GEHWA and the RC are encouraged to participate.
- **Williamstown Middle School (3rd Year):** GEHWA will give in class presentations on April 16 & 17th to Paul Vanhouten's 6th grade class. There will be 3 – 80 minute pods each day. The EnviroScape and groundwater models, as well as video clips of a watershed, groundwater and stormwater runoff will be used.
- **St. Vincent De Paul School Event:** On April 18th students will hike to an outdoor classroom located on Babcock Creek. They will be shown some of the animals found in the creek.
- **EHT Jamboree Event:** EHT's Catawba Project is on May 20th. GEHWA will setup a table and answer the student's questions. Last year approximately 1000 students attended.
- **Oakcrest High School:** The school is having a three day event (May 21st – 23rd), which will focus on conservation and preservation. On May 22nd GEHWA will give a presentation and will have a booth at their carnival.
- **Dawes Avenue School:** The date for Dawes Avenue School's "Day at the Bluffs" has not yet been set. The plan is to set up a variety of stations for the students to circulate through. GEHWA will be active at this event.
- **National Trails Day Blue Hole Hike:** GEHWA will participate in the National Trails Day on June 7th by hosting a hike to the famous Blue Hole at 10:00 A.M. It will start at the gun range parking lot. We will also collect trash along the way.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- **Watershed Radio Update:** The watershed radio segments are currently being broadcasted. Councilors listened to the first broadcasted announcement "What is a Watershed".
- **RC Newsletter:** The revised newsletter has been printed and distributed.
- **Outreach Presentations:** Fred has kept a record of the number of meetings, presentations and projects he has been active in. This data is used in reporting his activities to the NPS.
- **River Sign Project Completion:** The second phase of the project has been completed.
- **Osprey Project Update:** Conservation Resources, Inc. is promoting the "River Council's Osprey Platform Project" on its website. The wood has been bought for the project.
- **ORV Legislation Update:** Assembly bill No. 823 is on hold at the moment. It is not currently a priority.

- **Upper Watershed Project Report:** A location has been identified on the Great Egg Harbor River, in the upper watershed, for the location of a new stream gauge. There is a considerable amount of urban development above this location and a gauge at this location would help to monitor river conditions upstream that could have an impact downstream.
- **AC Expressway Expansion Report:** The expansion project for the expressway will add access lanes on Route 50 and will have an impact on the Babcock Creek Subwatershed. High Specific Conductance has been documented in the subwatershed.
- **New Open Space Acquisitions:** Atlantic County's continues to add additional acquisitions to its open space inventory.
- **New Brooklyn Lake Assessment:** A report of the "Watershed Management Plan for New Brooklyn Lake" was completed in April of 2004. The table of "Implementation Cost" was of special interest.
- **PWSR GIS Project:** The NPS has contracted with GEHWA to provide GIS mapping of the 5 Wild and Scenic Rivers that are located in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
- **PWSR National Meeting in Delaware:** There was a meeting in Delaware this March of the PWSR. The next meeting is planned for October in South Jersey. The PWSR work at the local, state and national levels.

Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Update:

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The Park Service in Washington DC wants to be more involved in the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

There is an outstanding permit for a 475 foot dock in Egg Harbor Township. Paul has opposed the permit for this project.

New Business:

- **June Meeting Agenda:** Fred will be in Washington on June 18th for the American Rivers Lobby Day and 40th anniversary celebration of the Wild and Scenic Rivers, and will not be available for the June River Council meeting. The consensus was to move the June meeting to July 17th.
- **Other New Business:** A resident in Somers Point called Fred and reported a trash problem in the meadows near Patcong Creek.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Buena Vista Twp. (Julie Akers): Julie asked Greg Gregory if he had any more audio clips of the Watershed Radio segments. Julie also informed the members that the second annual Belinda Irizarry Award would be awarded on April 22nd.

Hamilton Twp. (Bill Christman): Hamilton Township's Environmental Commission will sponsor and ANJEC Road Show on May 14th. The topic will be "Sustainable Communities".

Somers Point (Greg Gregory): Somers point will be hosting a “Boat Show and Environmental Forum” on May 18th.

Upper Twp. (Bill Handley): Bill plans on contacting the Boys Scout leaders in Upper Township to find out if there is any interest in helping out with the Osprey Platform project.

Weymouth Twp. (Bill Egan): Bill reported that the recent fish kill in Lake Lenape resulted from the draw down of the lake; it caused a temperature change within the lake which resulted in a large number of dead fish.

Winslow (Clark Sprigman): Clark will give a copy of the New Brooklyn Lake report to the mayor.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Egan, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.