

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2010

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 PM by Dick Colby, Acting Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Bill Egan (Weymouth), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro),

Board Members Absent: Rick Foster (Corbin City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City)

Quorum Present: Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Mike Massey (Alt. EHT), Steve Eisenhauer

Open Meetings Act: Dick Colby 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: Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Watershed Coordinator's Report: Lynn Maun reported

- The Atlantic County Parks sponsored clean up of Gravelly Run was well attended on Saturday, March 6, 2010. Thirteen participants from GEHWA & the RC took part. Four of those participants were from the RC.
- Fred and Lynn have attended several continuing education conferences.

Schools and Concerns: Egg Harbor Township Schools:

- Ellen Gregory from Egg Harbor Township Schools provided a contact (John Jones) within the Alder Avenue School. A new program was developed for and presented to some of the sixth grade (50-60) students at the school. Planning is underway for GEHWA to participate in 2 additional events before the end of the school year.
- The annual EHT Jamboree was cancelled due to the lack of funds.
- Have not had any contact with teachers from either Williamstown Middle School or the Dawes Avenue School regarding spring programs.

Upcoming Events:

- On May 11 Fred will give a presentation to the Hammonton Lake Committee.

- Sunday April 25 – GEWHA will participate in the ACUA Earth Day
- Sunday May 16 – GEWHA will participate in Winslow Township’s Environmental Awareness Day

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Busy this time of the year working on cooperative agreements. The Taunton River was added to the Partnership Rivers Program without any substantial funding being allocated to its programs.

Old Business:

1. **River Council Newsletter for 2010:** A copy of the RC Newsletter was included in the councilor’s packets.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Gary Theno Resolution:** Fred Akers brought resolution R04-2010 “Recognition of Gary Theno” before the council for vote.

A motion was made by Keith Kendrex, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution R04-2010. Motion passed.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Reported flooding issues within the municipality

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Also reported flooding within the municipality. Jim reported that someone installed a dock across the stream near 11th avenue and Rte. 50. The dock blocks passage to an area where there are ponds.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): A clean up of 8th street is scheduled as part of an Earth Day event.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): The Belinda Irizarry Award will be given out next week. The \$500.00 award is given to a group or an individual that Belinda would have supported. Egg Harbor City is doing an Earth Day clean up. The ACUA provides supplies and picks up the trash. Dick suggested that a comparison of the drainage patterns of the tributaries within the watershed be considered as a future project.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Reported flooding issues. He also reported drainage basin problems in two newer developments east of Gravelly Run off of Somers Point Road. One of the biggest basins (the size of 3 football fields) within the municipality was 10 ft over its capacity. A second basin overflowed and flooded adjacent property owners in another development. Bill inquired if the fish ladder is being monitored?

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that Steve Eisenhower was nominated as the alternate for the Upper Township River Council position. The Merchants Association is receptive to working with GEHRC on the Tuckahoe Kayak Race.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Pleased GEHWA is participating in Winslow's Environmental Awareness Day.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project: Two platforms have been installed for the Nature Preservation Council. Four platforms are built and ready to be installed. Volunteer monitoring has already begun and will proceed throughout the breeding season. Two new platforms will be within viewing distant of: the floating dock and a boardwalk, in Estell Manor Park.

2. South River Shoreline Stabilization Update: Visited the site and assessed changes and took measurements.

3. South River Farm Pumping Diversion: The South River property owner cancelled his application for a water withdraw permit. He has since decided he would withdraw water from the South River.

4. Congressional Support for PWSRs: Fred, Lynn and Jane Galetto went to Washington DC to enlist Congressional support for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. Eighteen members of Congress signed the "Dear Colleague Letter". Eight senators signed on.

5. Green Acres Cedar Swamp Creek Land Grant: Green Acres is looking to acquire 700 acres of land in Upper Township for \$4,000,000. The part of the acquisition includes land within the Great Egg estuary.

6. River Flooding in February: Fred has been archiving rain event data from the USGS gauging station at Folsom. A comparison of data from the USGS gauging stations on Great Egg, Tuckahoe, Maurice, and Mullica rivers reflected the differences in peak flow following a rain event. A video was shown of the recent flooding from the GEHR.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Clark Sprigman, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.