

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 PM by Rick Coe, Vice 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), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City -- arrived 7:10), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro) -- PB meeting, Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.) -- sick.

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Steve Eisenhauer (alternate Upper Twp), Carol Foster, Mayor Corbin City

Open Meetings Act: Rick Coe 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 February 16, 2011 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Mayor Carol Foster introduced herself.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Fred Akers for Lynn Maun, who was sick):

Community Outreach

Egg Harbor Township: Fernwood Ave & Alder Ave Middle Schools

Hamilton Township: Mays Landing, St. Vincent DePaul.

Environmental Stewards: Presentation made on 4-6-11

Stockton: Vernal pond surveys were done in March and April

Events and Meetings:

GEHWA Member Meeting: On March 22, Fred made a presentation on River herring. A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26 to honor the Oasis Animal Sanctuary with the annual Belinda Irizarry Award. Everyone is invited to attend.

River Bend Cleanup – April 30: In cooperation with the ACUA, Natural Lands Trust and the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association, Atlantic County Park Manager Clayton Ingersoll has planned a coordinated effort to restore this beautiful area to a more natural state on Saturday April 30th between 8:30 & noon. (Raindate-Saturday May 7th). Volunteers should dress for the weather, bring gloves and water, and meet at the Atlantic County Firearms Training Facility 175 Betsy Scull Road E.H.T. A barbecue lunch will be provided at 12:15pm.

ACUA Earth Day: Sunday 5/1/11 10Am - 4PM at the ACUA Haneman Environmental Park in EHT.

Eco Fair: 5/7/11 at Wheaton Village in Millville.

Hike for Frogs: Annual survey of frogs and toads will be held at Sahara Sands in Monroe Twp.

Info:

GEHWA Summer/Fall 2010 Newsletter: River Councilors were reminded to forward any community news for inclusion in the next newsletter.

GEHWA Membership: GEHWA Membership Forms were distributed to the River Councilors.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul Kenney referenced the copy of DEP email notice in the meeting packet. He expressed concerns that NPS is now unable to review SGP-14 bulkhead permit and more complicated SGP-19 applications through enactment of the new DEP e-permitting program. He will be following up with DEP to make provisions for NPS to be able to review and comment before permits are acted on solely by DEP, as per MOA between NPS and DEP. A letter from the River Council may be needed, but not yet. In reference to Congressional budget cuts, Paul noted that "NPS fared pretty well" in this fiscal year.

Old Business:

1. **2011 River Council Reappointment Update:** Bill Egan has officially been appointed as the alternate for Weymouth, making it the first time that Weymouth has had 2 current appointments to the River Council. Fred acknowledged Bill's history of service to the River Council over the years.
2. **2011 River Council Budget Update:** Fred reviewed the current budget, noting what has been spent so far this year, what was earmarked, and what was still available.
3. **2011 EHT Student River Cruise Program Grant:** Fred reported that we were unsuccessful in winning a SJ Industries grant, and requested additional funding for the Fall continuation of this successful EHT Middle School program. After discussion, Keith Kendrex made a motion to approve \$2375 for the 3 student class cruises in Fall 2011. Rick Coe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made to approve the expenditure: Julie Akers, Yes; Rick Foster, Yes; Dave Brown, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Keith Kendrex, Yes; Rick Coe, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Steve Eisenhauer, Yes; Ralph Bernard, Yes. Motion carried. It was noted that fuel costs will be high this year, and the River Council could recognize the Duke O' Fluke for working to keep cruise cost increases minimal. Suggested was a small plaque for the boat.
4. **Delaware River Dredging Issue:** Fred presented a draft letter regarding this ongoing issue, citing our connection through the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Comments and corrections were made to the letter. Fred will also communicate with the Delaware Riverkeeper and will revisit at the next meeting.
5. **Other Old Business:**

New Business:

Unexpected Wildlife Refuge Grant Request: This grant request of \$8,500 for re-planting of warm-season grasses was brought up for consideration. After discussion, it was determined that this was not a priority funding goal for the River Council.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Rick Foster): Mayor Carol Foster noted that she is a member-at-large for the Pinelands Municipal Council.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that a student at Stockton is working on a macroinvertebrate survey, which could be of use to us in our work too.

Hammonton: (Keith Kendrex): Keith commented on tree-cutting issues in Hammonton.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick reported that the Boy Scout clean-up will likely be scheduled on one of the first two week-ends in June.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg reported seeing a pair of eagles on the Tuckahoe River trestle, an osprey carrying branches and had caught catfish at Jeffers Landing. He expressed concern that repair to the old bridge would disrupt mussels on the pilings.

Upper Twp.: (Steve Eisenhauer): Steve noted that he will be working on a project with Bill Handley and his Middle Township school.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph noted that he has lived on the GEHR since 1957.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. RC Osprey Project Update: Fred reported that the 15th platform has been installed on South River by the Estell Manor Park. Another platform is scheduled to be installed on Steven's Creek.

2. Atlantic County Utilities Authority Board Appointment: Fred advised the Council that he has been appointed to the Board, and distributed the latest ACUA newsletter.

3. Upper Township Master Plan Update: Fred reported on proposed bridge replacements for Route 50 and Co Route 631.

4. Sewer Service Area Expansion and Deep Run Discharge: NJDEP is proposing additional sewer service areas and the Pinelands Commission is proposing additional sewer discharge into Deep Run.

5. Herring Rescue Update: Fred updated the River Council on the River herring issue. Questions about permits for commercial takes were brought up.

6. 2011 River Management Society Fall Outing: Fred has been asked to run an outing for this Fall, which will include camping and canoeing on the Great Egg.

7. Other Items of Interest: Fred presented copies of the 2010 Raptor and Waterfowl Report for distribution.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Ralph Bernard, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

