

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2008

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:13 P.M. by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City)

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp)

Quorum Present: Yes

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

Greg Gregory, Chairperson of the River Council, stated that he appreciates the “high attendance rate” of the River Councilors at the River Council meetings.

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 July 16, 2008 meeting, Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Upcoming Events Update:

Saturday, August 23rd, the Friends of the Park will host its third annual Pinelands Folk Arts Festival at Estell Manor Park from 10:00am till 5:00 pm. The River Council provided funding to help with costs in producing the festival’s program booklet. GEHWA has an informational add in the booklet.

Tuesday September 23rd at 6:00 PM, get your feet wet launching your canoe or kayak for an evening paddle on Lake Lenape. If you don’t want to launch a boat, bring your binoculars for an evening of bird watching. Remember to BYO Canoe/Kayak.

Hammonton’s Environmental Commission will host its 1st Green Day Festival on September 21 from 12:00 pm until 5:00 pm at the Hammonton Lake Park. There will be approximately 39 Booths/Vendors.

The 13th Annual Pinelands Discovery Festival will be held on October 5 from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM at Whitesbog Village.

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance will host the 5th Annual “Pine Barrens Hall of Fame” on Saturday, November 8th from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM at Braddocks Tavern in Medford. Cost is \$45.00 per person. Julie Akers will be honored at the event.

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers): Fred also thanked the river councilors for their attendance at the meetings.

Activity Summary: Fred reported the following YTD activity: 57 presentations (1147 people), 44 meetings and 21 projects. He has received honorariums totaling \$800.00.

Osprey Project Update: Predator guards have been placed on the five osprey platforms that were erected on the Tuckahoe last fall. NJFWS has provided the location of 10 sites for new platforms. Four of the sites are on Middle River. Fred has built nine new platforms and he needs help installing them.

Watershed Radio Update: Fred has written 21 River Council Watershed Radio Minutes and they are posted on GEHWA’s website as .pdf and .mp3 files. To date 16 have been recorded for broadcasting.

Tuckahoe River Tour 7/25/2008: Fred led a kayak trip on the Tuckahoe from the Head of River to Corbin City Park on July 25. Representatives from the NPS participated. Greg Gregory reported the possible sighting of a Snakehead fish (Frankenfish).

New Open Space Acquisitions Update: Atlantic County added 32 acres in EHT to its open space inventory on June 30th.

Pinelands Ecological Integrity Assessment: The Pinelands Commission published an “Ecological-Integrity Assessment of the NJ Pinelands” on April 2008. CMP policy considerations will be made based on the assessment.

South River Tour 8/15, 2008: Fred led a kayak trip on the South River from the boat launch site near the artesian well in Estell Manor Park. NPS representatives were present.

River Enforcement Issues: The wake caused by speeding motor boats and PWC have raised concerns. Fred contacted the NJ Marine Police regarding enforcement on the river. He was told that the marine police did not have enough personnel to patrol the river and that concerned citizens would have to observe, document and file complaints against offenders.

River Council Year to Date Spending: Proposed spending for the 2008 RC budget for projects is \$18,354.00. To date, \$10,362.00 has been spent.

PWSR/NPS Funding Update for FY2009 & FY2010: Congress has proposed to increase PWSR funding to 2.0 million dollars for fiscal year 2009. The NPS in Washington would like to appropriate 20% of the funding received by the PWSR program for its use in implementing new programs for the national Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not present to make a report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie urged the members to bring the “Bottle Bill Resolution” before their municipal committees. She will also report at the next meeting how the Friend’s of the Park used the grant they received from the RC.

Corbin City (Rick Foster): Rick participated in the spring beach clean up of the Tuckahoe, working in conjunction with Clean Ocean Action. He passed around a reported he received on the breakdown of the trash collected.

GEHWA (Dick Colby): Dick asked the RC’s to support a resolution on Assembly Bill - A121, “Bottle Bill” which would require a deposit on bottles and cans. The bill is currently in committee. Action on the resolution was tabled until the next meeting. Fred will draft a resolution appropriate to the RC and send it to the river councilors for their review.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): The municipality is working to integrate the state mandated Leads and Green initiative into its programs.

Somers Point (Greg Gregory): The Clydesdale horses are coming to Somers Point on Monday September 8th. They will arrive at 2:30 PM.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill will continue to work on multimedia project.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.