

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***August 18, 2010***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:10 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.), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Board Members Absent:** Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

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

**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 June 16, 2010 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):**

**Events:**

**GEHWA's Annual Picnic and Campfire:** The campfire and cookout was held at Weymouth Furnace Park on July 27, 2010 from 5:30 P.M. until dusk. Charlie Phy provided his services as cook. Approximately 20 individuals attended. Campfire stories were told by Fred Akers and Mark Demitroff.

**Osprey Nests:** Showed pictures of Osprey's nests in natural settings (i.e. cliffs and trees).

**Upcoming Events:**

Hammonton's Green Day Festival: Saturday, September, 2010.

GEHWA Member Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2010, BYO Canoe/Kayak Event. The location will be announced.

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Discovery Festival, Sunday, October 10th, 2010 at Whitesbog Village.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** River Councilors were given a copy of the NPS Partnership Rivers News - Summer 2010. Paul states that the magazine was a source of information about the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program.

Paul stated that GEHWA will need to continue to maintain paper copies of financial records for the NPS once GEHWA begins to conduct business through the electronic banking services of its bank.

**Old Business:**

1. **River Council Grant Application:** River Councilors have been given a copy of the Grant Application that is given to organizations and/or individuals seeking funding assistance from GEHWA/GEHRC. The RCs were asked to review the application and to forward any changes they feel are necessary to Fred. Fred will make the changes to the grant application and have the revised document ready for review at the next RC meeting in October.

**Other Old Business:**

1. RCs were given a copy of the GEHRC Budget and Expenditure Projections for 2010.
2. Oil Spill: Fred was satisfied with Frank LoBiondo's response to concerns regarding the impact of oil spills on NJ water bodies.

**New Business:**

**1. NPS Fiscal Agent Letter Resolution (10 min)**

Resolution R:05-2010 - Designating Depository of Funds and Approval Fiscal Agent Letter

Following discussion the vote on approving the resolution was tabled until it could be determined what appropriate language needs to be inserted into the resolution.

**2. Renewed Waterfront Development Outreach Program:** Fred was contacted by a Mays Landing Dock and bulkhead builder for help regarding the rules and regulations for the development of coastal property. Fred and Paul will work together to provide a packet that would help guide individuals through the process.

Guide lines for building docks can be found within the NJ State regulations, though the information is difficult to find. It was suggested that a page be added to the website with the appropriate information. A letter needs to be sent to local municipalities stating that improvements are being made to docks (i.e. electric and plumbing) without appropriate local permits and inspections. The NPS will send letters to the DEP and the Army Corp. of Engineers about this issue.

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** The Hess School on Babcock Road would like to obtain a portion of the property adjacent to the school that has been preserved as open space for the purpose of building a preschool. The school was offered a piece of the property prior to its purchase with Green Acres money. Now it cannot be sold to the school without adequate compensation. The school would have to provide 4 or 5 acres of new open space for every acre diverted from the currently preserved property.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Somers Point installed rain gardens throughout the town. They are being monitored. The Good Ole Days Festival was held.

**Other New Business:** None

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

**1. Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project 2010 Results:** Preliminary report for 2010: 35 young were counted with 23 of the 35 banded (2009: 28 were counted and 10 were banded). The data will be given to NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program, which will then produce a final report for the entire state of NJ.

Fred has 4 platforms to install and is planning to do the work in about one month.

**2. Administrator Motorboat Cruises:** Fred is offering cruises on his new boat for up to 3 additional people.

**3. Lenape Farms Tracts for Sale:** Two properties comprising approximately 5,000 acres (2795 and 2139 acres) are for sale.

**4. River Access Complaint from Flooding 5/23/2010:** Fred received a call from Eileen Dicks about the conditions of the river. Fred was told that it is the responsibility of GEHWA to maintain the river and that access to the river should be prohibited if that is not possible.

**5. Eastern Tiger Salamander Breeding Site Discovery:** Update from previous report. A photographic composite of the Eastern Tiger Salamanders sampled from the breeding site was presented to the RCs. Fred is compiling a Threatened and Endangered Species report that will be submitted to the NJDEP. Poaching and habitat destruction are a serious threat to amphibian populations.

**6. ORV Park Site Proposals/Class I Vehicle Enforcement:** Fred is working on a letter encouraging the state to find one location for an ORV Park so that it can begin to get registrations for ORVs.

**7. South River Diversion:** Fred set up a stream gage to monitor flow.

**8. Pinelands Commission:** John Stokes is retiring from the Pinelands Commission, effective January 1, 2011.

**9. Other Items of Interest:** The Bridge over Babcock Creek in Mays Landing cost over \$350,000. Interest has been renewed in building a bridge over the GEHR in the Winslow Wildlife Management Area. Winslow and Monroe will host a meeting on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, to hold discussion about the possibility of building a bridge over the GEHR, similar to the one over Babcock Creek.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Julie Akers and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.