

The Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Regular Monthly Meeting
December 15, 2004

Meeting Called to Order shortly after 7pm by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson. Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by Dick Colby, Acting as Secretary

Board Members in Attendance: John Brudon (Estell Manor Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), John Olansen (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp Alternate), Dick Colby (Alternate GEHWA representative)

Board Members Absent: (Winslow Twp), (Corbin City); Creed Pogue (GEHWA), Marc Thyrring (Egg Harbor Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (National Park Service)

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 and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing.

Approval of Minutes

Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2004 meeting. Greg Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion

Although no members of the public were present, the meeting was opened (and closed) to the public by motions made and second by [Christman and Gregory], and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

Fred announced the telephone resignation of Creed Pogue, who has been elected to Estell Manor Council.

- (1) A tall GEHR sign was on display. Fred explained how it would be mounted so as to yield in a collision. Local river name signs were also on display.
- (2) Power-point photos of the Tuckahoe River – between the two crossings of Rte 49 in Estell Manor and on the borders of Cape May and Cumberland Counties - were presented.
- (3) A support request to the Hammonton Environmental Commission for a state grant for a Natural Resource Inventory update was recently provided. Fred also reviewed the Hammonton Local River Management Plan (LRMP), and provided a GIS mapping report of new GIS information that should be incorporated into all municipal LRMP's now that this information is now readily available.
- (4) Fred said that the grant of \$2032 to Weymouth Twp. to initiate a grant application for an environmental inventory was greatly appreciated.
- (5) Fred described, and displayed photos of, erosion associated with paving of Pine Street near Babcock Creek, and an update on the Adams Branch project (Hamilton Twp).
- (6) Fred distributed materials produced by the Ten Towns Committee of the Great Swamp Watershed (Upper Passaic River; Morris County) as a model for what the River Council might produce to obtain funding to upgrade our Local River Management Plans (LRMP's). Included could be ordinances

regulating Septic, development on Slopes, Tree and Buffer plantings, Erosion, Stormwater controls, Wetland protection and Stream protection. In discussion, Colby suggested that early progress in GEHWA's River protection was enormously enhanced by the hiring of a professional land-use consultant (Lynn Froehlich), who was able to work with many municipalities by assisting with creation of LRMP's and the upgrading of local Master Plans. Egan suggested that Environmental Commissions have and should continue to play a key role too. It was also noted that several municipalities have and will likely rely on the services of their own engineers and planners. It was decided that river councilors will check with their respective municipalities to find out what they want to address or accomplish in their LRMP updates, considering the Ten Town conceptual approach to ordinances and potential funding to carry out plans.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney):

Paul reported that the FY2005 budget, just signed by President Bush, adds roughly \$250,000 to the existing budget of \$900,000 for managing the eight Partnership W&S Rivers. The total funding will be divided equally among the rivers, including the newly added eighth river. It is unclear exactly how this will affect the GEHR budget, although there should not be a reduction. Paul mentioned that seeing an increase instead of a reduction for the funding of the Wild & Scenic program was quite an accomplishment.

Old Business

River Council 2005 Workplan:

Fred briefly reviewed the status of Council projects; specific municipal appropriations are discussed under respective councilors' reports below.

It was generally agreed that an important goal for 2005 should be the elaboration of Local River Management Plans to include one or more of the provisions mentioned in the Administrator Report (6), above. Fred will write a grant request based on a regional need from the towns (e.g. septic ordinance).

New Business

River Councilor Reports

Hammonton: Keith Kendrex reported that Belinda's presentations in several schools and scout meetings have been well received.

Folsom: Joel Spiegel also praised Belinda's programs in the local school. Folsom has been carrying out the DEP grant to map out storm drains in Folsom.

Estell Manor: John Brundon reported on the ID-27 dump that has been approved to receive the recycled contaminated soils; material has not been graded. There is also a potential application for development of 300 homes.

Somers Point: Greg Gregory reported that he and Fred will erect the sign and canoe racks planned for Kennedy Park; the \$3,000 budget for this project will likely be much less.

Monroe Twp: Rick Coe addressed the status of the Bridge to cross the GEHR in Winslow Wildlife Management Area. The NJ Dept of Fish and Wildlife is supportive of the project, but has no funding to assist directly. Fred suggests application to Recreational Trails, and will be pursuing this.

Buena Vista Twp: Julie Akers reported on the Richland downtown attraction project that seeks to bring attention and tourism to the historic aspects of this area near South River.

Hamilton Twp: Bill Christman reported that the status of the Peaker electric generation plant slated for development in Hamilton (or possibly Egg Harbor Twp) has not changed since his last report. Bill Egan added that the large tank located at the Pine Ave site holds LNG (liquefied natural gas).

GEHWA: Dick Colby asked about the status of Corps of Engineers and DEP decisions and/or actions on violations. Paul Kenney indicated that the Corps will soon be issuing a decision regarding the Byrd property (EHT). Fred reported that the waterfall development in Folsom may have already been removed. Fred will compile an update and status report on violations.

Other New Business

Fred announced that Atlantic County will present a Stormwater Management Seminar on Feb. 10, 2005.

The next meeting, Feb 16, 2005, will include the annual election of officers, adoption of annual resolutions, goal setting, and financial planning. Other meetings in 2005 will occur on 20 Apr, 15 June, 17 Aug, 19 Oct and 21 Dec.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 9pm, upon a motion made by Spiegel and seconded by Coe.