

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
December 19, 2007

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:11 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), John Olansen (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

Board Members Absent: Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Sherry Peck (NPS – RTCA Program)

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 October 17, 2007 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

- **Stockton Water Watch Partnership:** On December 7th four student interns, from Stockton College, presented their stream monitoring data that they had gathered during the fall semester. This data will be used by future Water Watch interns.
- **Stockton Issues Class Presentation:** On Wednesday, December 12th, Fred Akers presented a power point program, at Stockton College that focused on NJ geography, to Professor Jamie Cromatie's Environmental Issues class.
- **Washington DC Christmas Tree decoration:** First Lady Laura Bush asked the Great Egg Harbor River to decorate a Christmas ball to be used as a decoration on the official White House Christmas Tree. All 391 Units of the National Park System, from across the nation, were asked to decorate a ball. Jennifer (Akers) Docimo designed and painted the artwork that decorated the ornament. On November 28th Jennifer and Julie Akers, her mother, visited the White House in Washington DC and saw the tree.

- **Holiday Gift Membership:** Letters and emails were sent to GEHWA members, River Councilors and Trustees, suggesting that they give a Holiday Gift Membership. A Membership Certificate would be sent to acknowledge the gift giver and gift recipient. There were not any responses.
- **Pinelands Preservation Alliance Newsletter:** Fred Akers wrote an article that was published in the Pinelands Preservation Alliance Dec. 2007 – Jan. 2008 newsletter entitled “Transferring Pollution to Protect the Pinelands”.
- **GEHWA Newsletter:** The River Councilors were encouraged to communicate news stories or events, pertaining to their municipalities, to Lynn so these items can be included in the GEHWA newsletter.

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers):

- **Eagle Scout Tuckahoe Osprey Project Report:** On November 4th, Adam Day, from Boy Scout Troop 79, erected five osprey platforms on the Tuckahoe River for his Eagle Scout project. Future planning includes erecting 9 additional platforms in October 2008 with the assistance of the Duke of Fluke.
- **Winslow WMA Bridge Project Meeting with NPS:** On November 20th Fred Akers, Lynn Maun, Rick Coe, and Pat and Clark Sprigman met with the NPS to discuss the Blue Hole Bridge Project. Fred also shared with the RC information about a bridge that was to be removed from the Ponder Lodge in Villas, NJ, which could possibly be used for the project.
- **Ballot Question #3:** Fred distributed a handout of the election results for the 2007 “Public Question #3 - \$200 Million bond issue”. The results were broken down by county.
- **ORV Legislation Update:** Fred reported that ORV legislation has passed thru committee and now has a Senate companion bill. He doubts that it will be approved before the end of the Lame Duck session. The bill will have to be reintroduced when the State Legislature reconvenes.
- **Road Crossing Sign Update:** Additional road signs have been ordered.
- **EHT stream Encroachment Investigation:** On November 14th Fred investigated a report of a fill project on a private residential lot on the Patcong River. Fred filed a report with the DEP, but they are not responsible for enforcement. Paul will speak with the Army Corp of Engineers.
- **Leveraging Report to NPS:** Fred filed a report with the NPS documenting 2775 volunteer hours during the 2007 fiscal year. The hours include volunteer time contributed by the River Council, GEHWA Trustees, Students and GEHWA staff.
- **River Council Year in Review:** All River Councilors are up for reappointment in January 2008 except Julie Akers and Jim Owens. Fred will send letters to the Municipal Clerks about the need for reappointment. The River Council had \$4,100.00 in expenditures during 2007. They also passed 6 resolutions.

Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Update

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The congress may pass a budget for 2008 and not a continuing resolution like they did in 2007. This could result in a possible increase for the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. The Musconetcong Watershed Association is using the GEHR Bylaws as a guideline for setting up a River Council similar to GEHRC. The Blue Hole Bridge design will need to be longer that bank to bank.

NPS Report (Sherry Peck): Thought that it was possible for GEHWA to make an application for assistance to the NPS RTCA program. The program could assist with finding possible sources of funding and in determining the needs of the project.

Old Business:

Resolution in Support of Isard Property Mitigation/Acquisition Project:

Fred Akers brought the following resolution before the council for vote:

Resolution 07-2007: Support the Acquisition of the Isard Property

A motion was made by Tom Walker to accept the resolution but to change acquisition to planning and use. The motion was seconded by Joel Spiegel to approve Resolution 07-2007 with corrections. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolution: Julie Akers YES; Rick Coe YES; Bill Christman YES; Greg Gregory YES; John Olansen YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Gary Theno YES; Tom Walker YES. Motion carried.

Fred is to draft a letter requesting information on bridges.

New Business:

2008 Schedule and February Reorganization: Julie will request meeting dates and times from Atlantic County Parks.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Egg Harbor Twp.: (Gary Theno): Has made a grant proposal to install a Pump Out station at the Mays Landing bulkhead.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Glad about interest in Blue Hole.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Joel Spiegel, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.