

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***December 21, 2011***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:02 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Clay Emerson (Alt. GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Township), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Steve Eisenhauer (Alternate Upper Township)

**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:** Ralph Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

**Community Outreach:**

**Egg Harbor Township:** Fred and Lynn are continuing to work with both the Fernwood Avenue Middle School and Alder Avenue Middle School.

**ACCC:** Fred and Lynn attended and participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual GIS Day held at ACCC. Contacts were made with area school teachers who showed an interest in having us present a GIS program.

**Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The movie “The End of the Line” was shown at the November Member Meeting. Sustainable Seafood Guides were handed out to the RC members.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul does not feel there will be any significant cuts to PWSR programs.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Corbin City: (Rick Foster):** Corbin City has leased an 84 acre parcel on Carl Road to Atlantic County Canine Police. There is a geocache site located on the parcel that needs to be removed so that it does not conflict with the Canine Police.

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave stated that boats fishing for perch with trawl nets in the river have a large percentage of striped bass by-catch. Many of the striped bass are dead when thrown back into the river.

**Folsom: (Joel Spiegel):** Joel stated that the dam at Penny Pot is still intact. He is working on an application that he will send to the state to qualify the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge as a historic bridge. If approved it is hoped it will protect the bridge from being replaced with a larger bridge that will enable heavy truck traffic. The bridge is approximately 100 years old.

**GEHWA: (alt. Clay Emmerson):** The GEHWA Trustees held a meeting last week and a vote was taken where he was approved as a new Trustee. He was also approved as one of the two GEHWA alternates to the River Council

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Hamilton Township is supporting the enlargement of the Hamilton Mall. Before any new construction can begin the Township is insisting that the mall basins be repaired.

**Hammonton: (Keith Kendrex):** Hammonton's Smart Zoning has been passed.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Stone has been dumped on the bluffs at Kennedy Park.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill has videos of the watershed minutes that were made by his students. He will give copies to Fred. He is also planning to have an outing for his students at Kennedy Park in Somers Point during the spring of 2012. This event will be similar to the one he arranged last spring. Bill will contact Somers Point to get approval to use the park as an outdoor classroom. Bill would like to have Lynn and Fred do GIS programs at Middle Township Middle School.

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):** Clark reported that the Malaga Road Bridge that crosses over 4 Mile Branch is still undergoing repairs.

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. New GEHWA Trustee:** Clay Emerson is a new GEHWA Trustee and an Alternate to the River Council. His resume was included in the RC's packets.

**2. Tuckahoe River Development Update:** Fred represented the RC at a recent Upper Township Zoning Board hearing regarding a development application in the Upper Township Riverfront Zone. He expressed his concerns to the Zoning Board that the proposed development was not suited to the parcel in question. Fred plans to attend the next Zoning Board hearing on this issue.

#### **3. Regional Development Update:**

- A recent study by PricewaterhouseCoopers consulting firm shows that Atlantic City casino revenue will continue to decline through 2015.

- “The Kirkwood-Cohansey Project Work Plan” was contracted by the Pinelands Commission 8/11/2003. The study was implemented to investigate whether the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer systems would support the water needs of the area. Preliminary results suggest that the aquifer system will not support the needs of the public. A 1990 study showed that the uppermost aquifer would not support the HTMUA water supply allocation.

**4. Atlantic County Wetlands Mitigation Bank:** The Burman property near Lakes Creek, which Atlantic County owns, will be used for wetlands mitigation. This 37 acre parcel includes fallow farmland, and wetlands. Areas of the parcel will be converted to both tidal and non-tidal wetlands to satisfy wetland mitigation requirements.

**5. Herring/Menhaden Rescue Update:** Fred and Lynn are available to offer a program showing “The End of the Line” movie to interested audiences. Based on current fishing technology, which enables overfishing, current fish stocks are depleted and are in jeopardy. A recent vote supported the reduction in the annual catch of menhaden. NOAH is studying whether or not to list River Herring as an endangered species. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is studying whether or not to list American Eel as an endangered species.

**6. Other Items of Interest:** Fred did a program for “Just Sailing” about migratory fish. Fred will also present at the Hamilton Township Historical Society. A flyer regarding that event was included in the RC’s packet.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.