

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Monthly Meeting
February 15, 2006

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:00 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: John Brudon (Estell Manor City), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), John Olansen (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

Board Members Absent: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Tom Quish (Public)

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 December 21, 2005 meeting. Bill Egan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Tom Quish a resident of Hamilton Twp was seeking information regarding the formation of a homeowners association. His goal is the protection and preservation of Cover Leaf Lake, and the wildlife habitat associated with the lake, which is located within his development. He was advised to speak with Nancy Rainbow at the Hamilton Town Hall.

End Public Portion: Dick Colby made a motion to end the public portion of the meeting. Rick Coe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2006 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair	(Greg Gregory current Chair)
Vice Chair	(Rick Coe current Vice Chair)
Treasurer	(Dick Colby current Treasurer)

Secretary (Fred Akers current Secretary)

Rick Coe made a motion to accept the nomination of Greg Gregory as Chair. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Dick Colby made a motion to accept the nomination of Rick Coe as Vice Chair. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rick Coe made a motion to accept the nomination of Dick Colby as Treasurer. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rick Coe made a motion to accept the nomination of Fred Akers as Secretary. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rick Coe made a motion that the nominations be closed. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Fred Akers brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2006: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2006: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2006: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution 1-2006. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Dick Colby, to approve Resolution 2-2006. Motion carried.

Greg Gregory made a motion to add item #6 to Resolution 3-2006: That the GEHRC will support ANJEC Road Shows at municipal Environmental Commissions, Planning Boards and for local officials. A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2006 as it stands and to discuss at a future meeting, the mechanics of adding #6 as an addendum to resolution 3-2006. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers): Fred presented the following agenda items for information and/or action:

1. A power point presentation was given on the key points of Roberts Rules of Order. A book on Roberts Rules of Order was also given to all River Councilors. Greg Gregory restated and affirmed Roberts Rules. Rick Coe stated he appreciated the book.

2. A selection of photos was shown documenting the progress being made on the construction of the new fish ladder at Lake Lenape. The purchase and installation of an underwater camera on the ladder and a television monitor within the visitor center has been made possible with funds provided by the GEHRC. It was suggested that a presentation be made by Eric Schrodinger from NJFWS to the river council about the fish ladder.

3. Using a power point presentation “Watershed Vulnerability Analysis”, from the Center for Watershed Protection, it was demonstrated that as the percentage of impervious cover increases within a watershed, water quality decreases within the watershed.

The recent report by the Pinelands Commission science staff on the Great Egg Harbor River stated that it could not find any streams within the Great Egg Harbor Watershed that have not been degraded. As a result of this report Fred stressed the need to examine smaller segments (HUC 14s), within the watershed, as a means of determining actual areas that are pristine vs. degraded.

It was also reported that specific conductance measurements were taken following the snowstorm of 2/15/06 with the purpose of monitoring salt runoff into area streams.

4. **Hidden Creek Water Allocation:** It was reported that Hidden Creek Golf Course was seeking to increase its water allocation. Due to the impact this increase may have on adjacent wetlands, resulting in a possible drawdown of approximately ½ foot, a public hearing was requested. The hearing is to be held on March 22, 2006.

5. **Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans:** Will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Green Acres Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities:** A breakdown of the payments received for preserved open space for fiscal year 2006, by each river council municipality, was presented. Total acres preserved = 77,541.29 and total monies received = \$649,909.97.

7. **Environmental Commission Enabling Legislation:** Handout of ANJEC information about starting Environmental Commissions, with a special note stating that no municipality is too small to have an Environmental Commission.

8. **ANJEC \$20,000 Smart Growth Matching Grant (due April 1):** A reminder that the grant application deadline is 3/31/2006.

9. **RC \$200 ANJEC Road Show grants to Municipalities:** A resolution was made to support any river council municipality that requests funding to pay ANJEC for a Road Show by providing the \$200.00 fee to the requesting municipality.

A motion was made to approve two road shows: Hamilton Twp. and Buena Vista Twp. this year and the necessary expenditures thereof, by Rick Coe, and seconded by Dick Colby. A roll call vote was made: John Brudon YES; Bill Christman YES; Rick Coe YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; John Olansen YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker YES. Motion carried.

10. **ANJEC Training Project:** Notice of a workshop on Saturday, March 18 from 9am – 1 pm, at the Atlantic County Utility Authority Building. This is a workshop featuring an overview of environmental commission responsibilities

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Reported that there was no change in the budget for fiscal year 2006 (\$100,000.00) from the 2005 budget. He reported that President Bush has cut \$250,000.00 from the budget for fiscal year 2007 for Wild, Scenic and Recreational rivers. He stated that it is possible that congress may add it back in. He also mentioned that the Land and Water Conservation Fund will be cut for 2007.

Old Business

1. **Monroe Bridge/Blue Hole – Winslow WMA:** The state has informally approved the concept of the bridge. Before construction, funding and logistics need to be worked out. The bridge should not be accessible to ATVs. It may be possible to receive a Trail Grant (\$25,000.00 max.) for a foot bridge as long as it meets the criteria of the grant. Rick Coe mentioned that the Monroe Historical Society is extremely interested in the project. The River Council will provide \$3,000.00 towards the project with the possibility for more funding. It was suggested that the two municipalities with an interest in the project (Monroe and Winslow), could also be a source of funds. The river councilors from Monroe and Winslow need to speak to their respective mayors about the project.
2. **Watershed Sign Update:** Fred reported that eight signs have been placed in Atlantic County. He will contact the sign installer regarding the installation of the balance of the non-state road signs, NJDOT still has not given permission to install the signs on state roads.
3. **Other Old Business:** none

New Business:

Estell Manor City: John Brudon reported that there is a new mayor for Estell Manor and also a new alternate to the river council, Jim Owens. John also requested maps west of Route 50 from Fred.

Corbin City: Tom Walker reported that 60 residents were present at the public meeting regarding the adult restricted development proposed for Corbin City. It was agreed that the city hire a professional planner to assess redevelopment and land suitability.

Upper Twp: John Olansen and **Estell Manor:** John Brudon, both shared concerns regarding the failed and deteriorating conditions of the water control structures of the impoundments in the Tuckahoe WMA. They questioned who is responsible for the WMA.

GEHWA: Dick Colby introduced the new Education Outreach Coordinator, Lynn Maun and announced the addition of two new trustees, Sarah Summerville and Jamie Cromartie.

Hamilton Twp: Bill Christman stated that the township will be enforcing an ordinance that prohibits the clear cutting of trees by fining those individuals in violation.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.