

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
February 21, 2007

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:15 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista 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: : John Brudon (Estell Manor City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp)

Quorum Present: Yes

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

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 Egan made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2006. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2007 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
Vice Chair - Rick Coe
Treasurer - Dick Colby
Secretary - Fred Akers

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

Julie Akers made a motion that the nominations be closed. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Resolution 1-2007: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2007: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2007: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 1-2007. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 2-2007. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 3-2007. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: Julie Akers YES; Tom Walker YES; Bill Egan YES; Dick Colby YES; John Olansen YES; Greg Gregory YES; Joel Spiegel YES. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

Update of River Council Nominations: All River Council positions are current except for the following: Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City) and John Brudon (Estell Manor City).

GEHWA Opposition to the New CAFRA Public Access Rules: Councilors received a copy of a letter sent to Gary J. Brower, Esq., Office of Legal Affairs, NJDEP that expressed concerns regarding the proposed amendments and new rules that would increase public access to New Jersey's natural resources. Also included was a "ParkScience" handout with an article about a survey used to collect data regarding the "attitudes and perceptions of river front landowners and river visitors along the Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River". The public survey was used to document the quality of the stakeholder's experience on the river.

Recent Wild & Scenic Open Space Acquisitions: Atlantic County recently purchased the 92 acre PAL property that fronts Mays Landing-Somers Point Road (Route 559) and contains a mix of uplands and wetlands, for \$460,000 and plans to purchase the 152 acre Tunney Property which is located between Babcock Road and Gravely Run, for \$1,568,540. The addition of these acres will aid in the protection of both the Great Egg Harbor Watershed and River.

Adams Branch/Hamilton Twp. Update: Councilors received a copy of a letter that was given to Pinelands Commission Chair, Betty Wilson. The letter details the final report of the Adams Branch project and requests that the Pinelands Commission partner with GEHWA to improve and protect the water quality of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed. Fred also presented the report to the Hamilton Twp. Planning Board. The Board will require remediation of the mall basins prior to the approval of any Hamilton Mall projects. Copies of the 119 page Adams Branch Report were sent to both state and federal agencies.

Communications to State and Federal Agencies Regarding Water Quality: The 1995 "Buffer Delineation Model", is used by the Pinelands Commission to determine how large/small a buffer must

be around a wetland. A bad score will result in a reduce buffer. Reducing the buffer around a wetland increases the impact of stressors on that wetland.

ANJEC \$20,000.00 Smart Growth Matching Grant: Councilors were given “Smart Growth Planning Assistance Grant Program Applications. The grants can be used for “Natural Resource Inventory” and “Open Space Planning”. Application deadline is 3/30/2007.

Visual Assessment of the Control Structures at the Tuckahoe WMA: Slides were shown of the water control structures at the Tuckahoe WMA. Particular attention was paid to those structures with major damage. Tom Walker shared his knowledge of the age and construction of those structures. The structures were built around 1930-1940. Repair of the structures now would prevent a more costly project in the future.

Resolution Supporting Renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust: Councilors were given a handout on the renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust. Fred suggested that the councilors encourage their municipalities to support the resolution.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul reported that Congress restored the \$247,000 cut to the PWSR line item. He also reported that the earmark for the Westfield was removed. Paul was asked to review a permit for a marina in Hamilton Twp. Fred provided GIS maps of the area in question. From the maps Paul was able to determine that the proposed project was not a good placement and the permit was refused. A retirement luncheon was held for Mary Vavra. Fred Akers and Gregory Gregory attended.

Old Business:

2007 River Council Budget: A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Tom Walker, to approve the 2007 Project Budget. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the 2007 Project Budget: Julie Akers YES; Tom Walker YES; Bill Egan YES; Dick Colby YES; John Olansen YES; Greg Gregory YES; Joel Spiegel YES. Motion carried.

River Council Sign Permit: Fred has finally received the permit to erect the signs. He will be contacting the person who will erect the signs.

New Business:

Weymouth Environmental Commission Request for \$100.00 Match for Municipal Support for South River Trail Brochure: Mike Hogan designed a brochure and is requesting \$100.00 for printing costs. GEHRC will get recognition for support on the brochure.

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Dick Colby, to approve \$100.00 to come from municipal support to produce the brochure. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the \$100.00 request for brochure printing: Julie Akers YES; Tom Walker YES; Bill Egan YES; Dick Colby YES; John Olansen YES; Greg Gregory YES; Joel Spiegel YES. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports:

GEHWA: Dick Colby reported that on a recent visit to Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, he and Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.) found that the refuge's brochures needed to be reprinted. They felt that the River Council might be able to help with this expense. Julie will speak with Sarah regarding the need for possible assistance.

Weymouth Twp. (Bill Egan): \$100.00 for South River Trail brochure.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Greg Gregory and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.