

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
February 20, 2008

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:07 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Tom Walker Alt. (Corbin City)

Board Members Absent: Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), William Donath, Alt. (Estell Manor)

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 19, 2007 meeting. Julie Akers 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 2008 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

Bill Christman made a motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Julie Akers made a motion to accept the nomination of **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Christman made a motion to accept the nomination of **Dick Colby** as Treasurer. Jim Owen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rick Coe made a motion to accept the nomination of **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Resolution 1-2008: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2008: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2008: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution 1-2008. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution 2-2008. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve Resolution 3-2008. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Rick Coe YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Keith Kendrix YES; William Handley YES; Clark Sprigman YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker Alt. YES.

Motion carried.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

River Council Newsletter: The first "River Council Newsletter" will be published. Fred asked for any suggestions or additions. Special "Thanks" will be given to those River Councilors who have resigned and for longevity.

Indian Branch Campground Land Offer: GEHWA may have the opportunity to purchase property. This issue will be discussed at the next GEHWA trustee meeting.

Gravelly Run Bank Restoration Plan: ATV use has damaged the stream banks in Gravelly Run. Atlantic County has purchased the property where the damage has occurred. Once the county erects barricades to keep out the ATVs, it will be possible to stabilize the approximately 200 feet of stream bank that has been damaged, using coir logs. The coir logs cost approximately \$10.00/linear foot.

Hess School Outdoor Classroom Project Proposal: The County owns property, which includes Gravelly Run, behind the Hess School. The close proximity of Gravelly Run, to the school, would make it an ideal site for an outdoor classroom.

St. Vincent De Paul Outdoor Classroom Project: A site has been found within ¼ mile of the school for an outdoor classroom. It will be hosted by GEHWA. There is also an interest in using the puppets for another activity.

ANJEC \$20,000 Smart Growth Matching Grant (3/30/2008): River Councilors were reminded of the annual ANJEC \$20,000 Smart Growth Grant.

River Council Watershed Sign Project: Phase two of the River Council road sign project is underway. Signs will be erected at 12 new locations. When finished, road signs will be found at 30 road crossings within the watershed.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): GEHR will receive an increase for 2008 from the NPS. The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers will have their annual meeting on March 13 & 14 in Delaware.

Old Business:

2008 River Council Budget and Chair's Challenge: In 2007 the River Council spent \$4,110.00. \$18,364 is the budget for 2008, and to date \$2,112 has been spent. Items being proposed in the 2008 budget: \$220.00 for ANJEC Road Show, \$2500.00 for "Watershed Radio", and \$2,000.00 for Osprey platforms.

Greg Gregory issued the "Chair's Challenge" to the River Councilors: Find a project within your municipality that the River Council can support.

New Business:

- Hamilton Environmental Commission Request for \$220.00 grant for ANJEC Road Show:

Bill Christman requested a \$220.00 grant from the River Council to support the second "ANJEC Road Show" for Hamilton Township. The topic is "Sustainability in your Township" and will be held on May 14th at 7:00 P.M. at the Hamilton Township Municipal Building. Area Environmental Commissions will be invited.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve a \$220.00 grant for Hamilton Township for an ANJEC Road Show. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the \$220.00 grant request from Hamilton Township for an ANJEC Road Show: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Rick Coe YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Keith Kendrix YES; William Handley YES; Clark Sprigman YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker Alt. YES.

Motion carried.

-Watershed Radio Project Proposal: Greg Gregory suggested that the River Council support a "Watershed Radio" project. It would involve one minute radio spots six times per week for twenty weeks. The cost is \$2,500.00. GEHWA will need to provide 40 written articles for Greg to read that pertain to the GEHR's history, protection status, recreational attributes and environmental concerns.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve \$2,500.00 for 6 one minute radio spots per week (to include 10 second trailers) for 20 weeks entitled "Watershed Radio". Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to approve \$2,500.00 for "Watershed Radio": Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Rick Coe YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Keith Kendrix YES; William Handley YES; Clark Sprigman YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker Alt. YES. Motion carried.

GEHWA 2008 Osprey Platform Project: With the help of the River Council, GEHWA would like to erect 9 additional osprey platforms on the river this year. Five platforms were erected in 2007. It will cost approximately \$200.00 to build one platform.

A motion was made by Tom Walker, and seconded by Joel Spiegel, to approve \$2,000.00 to build 9 Osprey platforms. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made approve the allocation of \$2,000.00 for the construction of 9 Osprey Platforms: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Keith Kendrix YES; William Handley YES; Clark Sprigman YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker Alt. YES. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports:

Corbin City (Tom Walker Atl.): Corbin City will be holding three public hearings about the Master Plan.

GEHWA (Dick Colby): Expressed concerns regarding GEHWA owning land and suggested ways that the River Councilors might approach the “Chair’s Challenge”.

Hammonton (Keith Kendrix): Hammonton Twp. has appointed an alternate for the River Council.

Somers Point (Greg Gregory): Greg is sponsoring a boat show in Somers Point on May 18.

Upper Twp. (Bill Handley): Glad to be a new member of the River Council

Weymouth Twp. (Bill Egan): Bill reported seeing eagles within the township.

Winslow Twp. (Clark Sprigman): In response to the “Chair’s Challenge, Clark will bring concerns regarding the condition of New Brooklyn Lake to the attention of the mayor.

Adjournment:

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