

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2010

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), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.),

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Steve Eisenhauer (GEHWA Trustee), Mike Massey (Alt. for EHT)

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: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2009 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: No Comments

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2010 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 the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Resolution 1-2010: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2010: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2010: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2010. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 2-2010. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 3-2010. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: Julie Akers, Yes; Rick Foster, Yes; David Brown, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Clark Sprigman, Yes, Rick Coe, Yes. Motion carried.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

A. Watershed Coordinator's Report: Lynn Maun reported:

- She continues to do in school presentations. GEHWA recently acquired the use of 4 stereomicroscopes. They were used recently in a new program. She will continue to develop additional programs and work to establish new school contacts
- Attendance was good at the last GEHWA Member Meeting for the viewing of the movie "HOME".
- GEHWA and the Rutgers State Climatologists co-hosted a CoCoRaHS Training event on January 30, 2010.

B. Upcoming Events:

- Atlantic County Parks is sponsoring a clean up of Gravelly Run on Saturday, March 6, 2010.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul was not present at the meeting. Fred reported in his absence. Fred continues to chair the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers group, which consists of 12 rivers. The group works together to lobby Congress for funding and is currently working on a request to Congress asking for an increase in funding for FY2011.

Old Business:

1. **River Council Budget:** A copy of the budget was included in the packet given to the River Councilors. A total of \$37,489 is budgeted and of that amount \$24,440 is obligated. Since 2001, grants totaling \$75,438 have been awarded by the RC.
2. **River Council Newsletter for 2010:** A draft copy of the RC Newsletter was included in the councilor's packets. It was recommended that a copy be sent to Municipal Councils and Freeholders.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): The GEHWA Trustees met by conference call last week.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): There has been some improvement with the retention basins. There is a big commercial development coming to Gravelly Run

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Ellen Gregory, EHT School's Director of Development is interested in working with GEHWA/GEHRC. Contact information will be sent to Fred and Lynn.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Boy Scout Troop 55 has some ideas for projects and they would like to partner with the RC. Bill would like GEHWA/GEHRC to table at the annual Tuckahoe Kayak Race which takes place the first Sunday in August. Three movies have been completed using the Watershed Minutes: Urbanization, Stop Littering, and Osprey.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project: There is a project status report in RC newsletter. The Preservation Council would like GEHRC to provide two platforms for installation on their property between Steelman Bay and Scull Bay.

2. South River Shoreline Stabilization Update: Fred continues to work on the South River restoration project. Some funding has been received for the project.

3. South River Farm Pumping Diversion: Discovery of the unauthorized removal of water from the South River prompted an enforcement action by the NJDEP. This is the first time an enforcement action has been taken within the Wild and Scenic boundary of the river. The State inspected the site and found an unapproved water diversion. The property owner received a "Notice of Violation". Subsequently, the property owner has applied for a state water withdrawal permit. GEHWA is working with PPA to address this issue and has asked for a public hearing.

4. ORV Legislation: The bill passed. Registration and enforcement will not take effect until one ORV Park has been built.

5. Weymouth Bridge: Atlantic County sent a letter to Paul Kenney NPS explaining the rehabilitation plan for the Weymouth Furnace Bridge. Atlantic County will restore the Weymouth Furnace Bridge and the rehabilitation work has been designed to maintain the historic integrity of the bridge.

6. River Flooding in December: The Great Egg Harbor River reached flood stage on December 28, 2009. The third largest yearly rainfall was recorded on December 28, 2009. Recorded rainfall totals equaled 61" making it the third rainiest year on record.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Handley and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8.50 PM.