

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and
Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
July 16, 2008**

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:07 P.M. 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), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp)

Board Members Absent: Dick Colby (GEHWA), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp), Tom Walker (Alt. for Corbin City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Bill Donath (Alt. for Estell Manor City)

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 April 16, 2008 meeting, Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

EHT Middle School: GEHWA participated in a mini science fair at the school. Fred & Lynn used the Groundwater and EnviroScape models respectively. Groups of students rotated through the different stations.

Blue Hole National Trails Day Hike: GEHWA participated in the National Trails Day on June 7th by hosting a hike to the Blue Hole. The hike started at the gun range parking lot. We also picked up trash.

Dawes Bluff Project: Dawes fourth and sixth grade students participated in a field day at the Bluffs. They rotated through different stations. This is the second year for this event. The River Council provided the funding for the sixth grade students to ride on the Duke of Fluke. The sixth grade also cut down some of the Japanese Knotweed, which is an invasive species, growing on the bluffs.

Events Update:

GEHWA's Member Meeting picnic and campfire at Weymouth Furnace will be held on July 22nd. River Councilors were invited to attend.

Friends of the Park, Pinelands Folk Arts Festival will be held August 23rd at Estell Manor Park.

GEHWA's September member meeting will involve canoeing, kayaking and bird watching at Lake Lenape.

GEHWA is Promoting CoCoRaHS – Total NJ participants signed up to date, 148. Four stations reporting on a regular basis within the watershed.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

Activity Summary: Fred reported his 2008 outreach activities.

Wildlife Action Plan Presentation: Fred and Julie attended a meeting in Cape May.

Osprey Project Update: Fred assisted in the banding of juvenile osprey. Fred asked for volunteers to help erect nine additional osprey platforms.

ORV Legislation Update: Assembly bill No. 823 was reintroduced and passed through committee. A companion bill needs to go through the senate, and then to the floor for a possible vote in the fall.

AC Expressway Expansion Report Update: The expansion project for the expressway will add access lanes on Route 50 and will have an impact on the Babcock Creek Subwatershed. High Specific Conductance has been documented in the subwatershed. Fred recently published and distributed, "Special Report: Environmental resources at Risk in the Babcock Creek Subwatershed from the Atlantic City Expressway Expansion".

New Open Space Acquisitions Update: Atlantic County's continues to add additional land acquisitions to its open space inventory. The 700 acre parcel on Cologne Avenue in Hamilton Township is pending approval. Unexpected Wildlife Refuge recently received \$93,333 from the Pinelands Commission for land acquisition. The RC helped with the costs for this acquisition.

RTCA Grant Request for the Blue Hole Bridge: Fred recently completed and submitted an application to the NPS's Recreational Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) for help with the Blue Hole Bridge project.

PWSR National Meeting in DC: In June, 111 river advocates from 36 states attended the national meeting in DC. Two hundred five congressional offices were visited. Eleven river advocates from 6 local PWSR participated.

PWSR/NPS Funding Update for FY2009 & FY2010: Past funding for PWSR was: 2007 - \$858,000 for 8 rivers, 2008 – 1.5 million for 10 rivers. The request for 2009 for full funding was 2.746 million for 12 rivers. Congress has proposed allocating 2 million for 11 rivers for FY2009. The request for 2010 funding has not yet been determined.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): No report (not present).

Old Business: None

New Business:

Extend Watershed Minute Radio Show: Greg Gregory requested that the RC support the continuation of the “Watershed Minute Radio Show”, from August 1 2008 thru December 31, 2008.

Rick Coe made a motion to extend the contract for the “Watershed Minute Radio Show” from August 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008, at a cost of \$2,500.00. Fred Akers will write the scripts, and Greg Gregory will read the scripts then produced by WIBG 1020AM. Bill Handley seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the motion: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Rick Coe YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Bill Handley YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Gary Theno YES. Motion carried.

Multi Media Presentation: Greg Gregory made a motion for Bill Handley to prepare a multi media program. Rick Coe seconded the motion. Motion passed.

\$500-\$1,000 Grant to the “Friends of the Parks” for the 8/23 Pinelands Folk Arts Festival: Julie Akers made a request that municipal assistance funds be used to support the “Friends of the Parks” work to promote Atlantic County Parks.

Rick Coe made a motion to give a \$1,000.00 grant to the Friends of the Parks to help publish their 2008 Pinelands Folk Arts Festival Information Guide. Bill Christman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the motion: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Rick Coe YES; Bill Christman YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Bill Handley YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Gary Theno YES. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Egg Harbor Twp.: (Gary Theno): Gary has observed less boat and wave runner traffic on the river.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill expressed concern regarding the traffic report for the “Magic Sports & Health Complex and Resort” in Hamilton Township’s business park.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg observed an osprey nest with young, and witnessed a Bald Eagle foraging along the river. Greg also stated that there is less traffic on the river this summer.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Tuckahoe River Canoe and Kayak Race will be held August 3rd.

Other New Business: None

Adjournment:

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