

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***June 16, 2010***

**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), Tom Walker (Alt. Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Rick Foster (Corbin City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Mike Massey (Alt. 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:** Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2010 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):**

**School Events:**

**Alder Avenue School Water Festival:** Funded by a grant from the DEP and organized as an alternative to the cancelled Catawba Jamboree.

**Buena Vista Middle School:** Sixth, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes examined macroinvertebrate samples collected from the Great Egg Harbor River at 8<sup>th</sup> Street that were brought into the classroom.

**St. Vincent DePaul Puppet Show:** Fifth grade puppet show presented to the PreK through 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Dawes Avenue School:** The annual Dawes Bluff Days were scheduled to be held at Kennedy Park. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade walked the +1 miles to the park and cut down Japanese Knotweed; participated in a variety of different activities and ended the day with a ride on the Duke of Fluke (Funding for the boat ride was provided from Memorial Fund monies). The venue was changed for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade because of the threat of thunderstorms. They spent the morning at a local beach and the afternoon back at the school. There were a variety of activities for the students at both the morning and afternoon sessions.

### **Outreach Events:**

**Belinda Award:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award was presented to David Sauder for his dedication and work with the Animal Rights Activists of New Jersey, Inc.

**Frog Walk:** The annual Sahara Sands Frog Walk was well attended. Water levels were high in the vernal ponds.

**ACUA Earth Day:** It was a very busy day even though it rained.

**Winslow Township Environmental Awareness Day:** This was a new event. It did not have much public support, but had a good mixture of exhibitors.

**Environmental Stewards:** GEHWA brought macroinvertebrates into the classroom because the water level was high in the streams and poor roads made it difficult to do a streamside bioassessment.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**GEHWA's Annual Picnic and Campfire:** Campfire and cookout will be held at Weymouth Furnace Park on July 27, 2010 from 5:30 P.M. until dusk.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Permit review for a marina that includes dredging along Somers Point Road. Property owner is Norman Houde. It is a complex project involving 2400 cu.yds. of dredge material.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Atlantic County Restoration Project Cancellation:** Fred reported that the South River bank restoration has become too complex and costly, and as a result the project will likely be cancelled. The Adams Branch project will also likely be canceled.

### **New Business:**

1. **EHT Student River Cruise Program Grant:** Jim Thoms, teacher at the Fern Avenue School in EHT, is seeking funding assistance so he can continue to offer special programs to his students. Due to statewide funding cuts, funding is needed for a series of educational "Science Cruises" on the Duke of Fluke along with bus transportation. The approximate amount needed is \$3,075.00 for 3 class trips during the fall of 2010 and 1 class trip already funded this June. It was suggested that additional sources of funding be investigated. (ie. Heinz or Pew foundations. Foundations that will provide matching funds)

Rick Coe made a motion to fund \$3,075.00 for the Science Cruise project with the understanding that alternate sources of funding should be sought so that GEHWA is not the only entity funding the project. Both Jim Thoms and the GEHRC need to pursue the alternate funding sources. Bill Christman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the motion: Julie Akers, YES; Tom Walker, YES; David Brown, YES; Jim Owen, YES; Bill Christman, YES; Rick Coe, YES; Greg Gregory, YES; Steve Eisenhauer, YES; Bill Egan, YES. Motion carried.

### **River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Corbin City: (Tom Walker):** Tom drew attention to a recent article on Corbin City that appeared in the Press of Atlantic City. Tom mentioned that in a recent visit to Savannah Georgia he toured an environmental education center that is run by the Savannah School District.

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave likes what is happening within the organization.

**Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen):** Jim is concerned about the issues in the Gulf and any problems that will result.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill mentioned the June 26<sup>th</sup> Hometown Celebration in Hamilton Twp. and would like GEHWA to participate. Neither Fred nor Lynn is available on that date to work the event.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Greg will speak to city workers about picking up the debris in Kennedy Park that was gathered by the Dawes Avenue students. There is a stockpile of dredge material in the front yard of Trocki's Marina. Greg suggested that GEHRC should think about earmarking emergency response money if there is ever an emergency situation on the Great Egg (ie. oil spill).

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

In response to Jim Owen's comments, Fred suggested that Congressmen LoBiondo should be contacted to see if we are prepared for an emergency event.

Fred also commended the Dawes Avenue School for their efforts to involve their students in environmental activities. He especially wanted to commend Amy Horton-Smith for her efforts to coordinate both the students and teachers. Without her efforts the "Bluff Days" might not occur.

**1. Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project:** Fred is hoping to make a trip tomorrow with Clayton Ingersoll to photograph some trees that are either dying or have died as a result of rising sea level, and to also band some Osprey chicks.

**2. ORV Park Site Proposals:** Fred is working to find locations for ORV parks that would not have a negative impact on the natural resource within those areas.

**3. River Access Complaint from Great Egg Flooding 5/23:** Received an email regarding the deteriorating condition of the river corridor. A kayaker got lost on the river. Research into the stream gage at Folsom showed the river was close to flood stage at 4.5 ft. (flood stage is 6 ft) when the person(s) were kayaking the river.

**4. Eastern Tiger Salamander Breeding Site Discovery:** Fred showed aeriols of 2002 (dry) and 2007(wet) and 2009 (somewhat dry) of the location where the Tiger Salamanders were found. The site is frequently used by ATVs. The State did not feel the site supported T & E species. The State will partner with GEHWA to further investigate the presence of T & E species at the site.

**5. 2007 Land Use Data Release:** Talked about new release of data sets.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.