

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2008

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:10 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), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp)

Board Members Absent: Rick Foster (Corbin City), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

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

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 August 20, 2008 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

- ***Pinelands Folk Art Festival – 8/23:*** It was a beautiful day. The event was well attended; many people visited our exhibit, including a couple of River Councilors.
- ***Stockton Water Watch – 9/18:*** Met with new student volunteers and interns for the 2008/2009 school year. Inquired about the student's interests and what roll they would take in monitoring water quality in the streams around the school. Additional meeting dates were arranged.
- ***St. Vincent De Paul 9/19:*** Continued the program that was started in the spring by offering a "Stream Side Classroom" to the students choosing "Animals" as an elective. Introduced the students to the macroinvertebrate animals found in streams and discussed how these animals are used to help determine water quality. Also discussed how chemical analysis (pH and Specific Conductance) can also be used as a measure of water quality.

- **Hammonton's Green Day Festival - 9/21:** First time event was held. Attendance was good for a 1st time event. Had approximately 75 people visit our exhibit. We had a prime location next to the moon-walk. Greg Gregory suggested that the River Council help with advertising next year. Bill Handley suggested that if a kayak race is held, it should be promoted at the Kayak NJ website.
- **Osprey Platform River Work – 9/22 & 10/12:** Fred reported that work has begun on staging and erecting the osprey platforms. A total of 6 were staged prior to the installation on Sunday, October 12. Three, possibly four additional platforms need to be staged and erected. Looking to finish the project by the end of the month. Fred will build a 4th platform if time allows. A total of 9-10 new platforms will be in place for the 2009 breeding season.
- **Bring Your Own Canoe/Kayak – Lake Lenape Event – 9/23:** Eight folks participated in the event. The evening was breezy and cool, but once we were on the water the air temperature was comfortable. We saw birds and bats. Nice evening paddle around the lake.
- **Stockton Stream Monitoring - 9/25:** Fred met with Stockton's Water Watch volunteers to instruct them where and how to monitor the streams.
- **Stockton Vernal Pond Program – 9/30:** Fred met with Brandon, a Stockton student, to show him the vernal ponds on campus.
- **Pinelands Discovery Festival – 10/5:** Second year GEHWA attended the Pinelands Preservation Alliance sponsored event. Attendance was high. Folks continually stopped by our exhibit even after the event ended.
- **Stockton Mall Basin Tour – 10/14:** Once again Fred met with Jamie Cromartie's Environmental Issues class to show them the failed basins at the Hamilton Mall

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- **Administrator Activity Summary:** Very busy the last two months.
- **Osprey Project Update:** Six Osprey platforms were erected on Sunday, October 12th. Eight persons helped; three river councilors participated. Received a \$2,000.00 donation from B.L. England for the project. River Councilors received the "2008 Osprey Project in New Jersey" nest production report. Production is up on the Great Egg. The number of nesting platforms has also increased. Prior to the 2008 nesting season there were 13 platforms. There will be 27 platforms for the 2009 nesting season. Keith Kendrix inquired where Osprey had historically nested.
- **Watershed Radio Update:** Twenty-nine "Watershed Radio Minutes" have been written. Congressman LoBiondo commented on the minutes to Greg Gregory.
- **Mare Run Assessment:** The Mare Run parcel, owned by Hamilton Township, is being used as a dumpsite. This could be a potential site for a clean up project. Fred met with Brandon, the Stockton student interested in vernal ponds, to do a site assessment. They found Marbled Salamanders.

- **New Open Space Acquisitions Update:** New Jersey Conservation Foundation contacted GEHWA regarding a \$6,500.00 donation to help with the purchase of the Smith parcel in Monroe Township. The parcel is located within the federal boundary on Squankum Branch. River Councilors received a copy of the request. Atlantic County acquired the Cologne Associates parcel. A letter, copy handed out to River Councilors, was sent to Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive thanking him and Atlantic County for their efforts to preserve “Open Space”.
- **Pinelands Ecological Integrity Assessment:** Maps detailing proposed landuse changes, as a result of the “Pinelands Ecological Integrity Assessment”, were passed around to River Councilors. Fred explained that the Pinelands Commission may implement landuse changes based on the assessment. These changes could be both positive and negative for the river and watershed.
- **Atlantic County Restoration Projects:** A letter, copy handed out to River Councilors, was sent to Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive thanking him and Atlantic County for their efforts to preserve “Open Space”. It also detailed possible projects to be undertaken within the county.
- **Sahara Sands ORV Update:** The Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee sent a letter to Commissioner Jackson on 9/9/08 stating that it would be inappropriate to use Sahara Sands as an OVR park.
- **River Council Budget for Calendar 2009:** The River Council budgeted to spend \$18,354.00 for 2008. YTD spending is \$10,362.00. Fred will propose at the next GEHWA Trustee meeting that some GEHWA funds be obligated to the River Council for 2009.
- **RWSR/NPS Funding Update FY 2009 & FS2010:** The NPS increased GEHWA’s funding for FY 2008.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Fred will meet with Joe DiBello and Chuck Barszcz at the NPS office in Philadelphia on October 16, 2008. Fred will explain why it is important for the Partnership Rivers to have annual budgets.

Old Business:

- **Smart Container Act, A121:** This agenda item was tabled at the last meeting. There are still questions, for example: the logistics of collection. The agenda item was tabled again, until the next meeting.
- **Other Old Business: None**

New Business:

- **Avian Studies and Research Budget for 2009:** A copy of the proposal/contract, from Clay Sutton, for a 2008-2009 Raptor and Waterbird Survey of the Great Egg Harbor River was distributed to the River Councilors for their review. The proposal will be presented to the GEHWA Trustees at the next meeting. The River Councilors supported this action by a show of hands.

Dick Colby inquired about annual reports on the fish ladder at Lake Lenape.

Keith Kendrix asked if there is an analysis of the previous 5 year study period and he also asked why bird surveys and not other animals.

Bill Handley suggested using student interns for the bird survey.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Election concerns

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Reminder to send him digital photos.

NPS: (Paul Kenney): Reviewing plans regarding the sluice gate on Lake Lenape. Paul stated that the fish ladder will be resurfaced.

- **Other New Business:** None

Adjournment:

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