

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***October 20, 2010***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:00 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Steve Eisenhauer (alt. Upper Township)

**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 18, 2010 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

**Schools -**

**Oakcrest High School:** Met with Kristine Denmark to help establish a program at the high school.

**St. Vincent DePaul: Lake Lenape:** GEHWA is providing programs for an elective program on Animals

**Events:**

**GEHWA Canoe/Kayak Event:** The annual event scheduled for September 28, 2010 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Dallas Lore Sharp Nature Club:** A new program “Make Your Backyard a Safe and Friendly Wildlife Habitat” has been developed and was presented to the Dallas Lore Sharp Nature Club. The program can be presented to local environmental groups or other interested groups.

**Hammonton’s Green Day Festival:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Green Day Festival was held on Saturday, September 19, 2010.

**Discovery Festival:** GEHWA participated in this annual event on Sunday, October 10, 2010.

### **NPS Report (Paul Kenney):**

- The NPS 2011 funding for GEHWA to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River will likely remain at the same level as 2010.
- A letter (included in RC's packet) was sent to NJDEP CAFRA regarding the issues with Sikking Farm and Penny Pot Dam.

### **Old Business:**

- 1. River Council Grant Application Draft Revisions:** Several changes/minor revisions were presented to the River Council for review.
- 2. NPS Fiscal Agent Letter Resolution:** A letter was sent to NPS regarding this issue.
- 3. Other Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

- 1. Avian Survey and Research Budget for 2011:** Fred reported that a total of 107 bird species were observed during the 2009/2011 survey year, of those, 12 T & E species were identified. Fred suggested that the GEHRC continue to support the "Bird Survey" but with revisions. He suggested a return to 2003-2004 survey style at a cost of \$5,700.00.

Plans are being made to digitize the data from the previous study years.

Bill Christman made a motion to approve \$5,700.00 to fund the 2010-2011 Bird Survey of the Great Egg River. The Mullica River will not be included in this survey. Dick Colby seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Julie Akers, YES; Rick Foster, YES; Dave Brown, YES; Jim Owen, YES; Dick Colby, YES; Bill Christman, YES; Greg Gregory, YES; Bill Handley, YES; Bill Egan, YES; Joel Spiegle, YES. Motion passed.

- 2. Consider Joining the Herring Alliance:** The RC's were encouraged to sign on and support the Herring Alliance. Positive comments were heard in support of the Alliance.

Jim Owen made motion that the Great Egg Harbor River Council sign on in support of the Herring Alliance. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Gregory Gregory wants the sign on listed as - GEHR National Scenic and Recreational River Council. Motion Passed

- 3. Ryan Coe Eagle Scout Ceremony:** Ryan's Eagle Scout ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Fred will attend.

- 4. Clean Up:** Rick was not present at the meeting. Fred made a request on behalf of Rick. The request was for \$500.00 to fund a Clean Up. The issue was tabled until the next meeting because additional information is needed about the project.

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

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick reported that a letter was sent to residents on the Mullica River for bulk head violations. It is his understanding that the same action will take place next, on the Great Egg Harbor River.

Dick had positive comments on the new brochure "Audubon Birding in Atlantic County"

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Gregory presented GEHRC Watershed Minutes at Egg Harbor Township's 300 year anniversary.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill is glad that Steve Eisenhaurer is a member of the RC and he reported that they are working on a project.

**Other New Business:**

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

- 1. EHT Student Cruise:** The Fern Avenue River Ecology Cruise, sponsored by the RC had channel 40 news coverage. It was a good day. Jim Thoms is a great teacher. He is very interactive with his students.
- 2. LoBiondo Cruise:** Fred went on a political cruise on the Schooner A.J. Meerwald with Frank LoBiondo. Local environmentalists were invited to participate and were given an opportunity to speak.
- 3. Administrator Motorboat Cruises:** Fred took the Atlantic County Park managers out on a cruise of GEHR. He also took out the individuals from the Nature Conservancy.
- 4. MACURISA Conference Presentations:** Fred presented at MACURISA conference in Atlantic City.
- 5. South River Diversion Update:** The DEP's response to Fred concern regarding the unauthorized withdraws of water from the river was that the DEP does not regulate wetlands and farm ponds.
- 6. Penny Pot Lake Dam:** Fred received a call that someone was digging in river near the Penny Pot Lake Dam with a backhoe. Fred investigated and reported the incident to the DEP. The DEP did not have the dam listed on their list of dams.
- 7. Gravelly Run Diversion:** The Tooney parcels that were purchased as county open space by the Green Acres Program, and that border the Hess School are being considered as part of a land swap. The forested area could become sport fields for the school. The property borders the GEHR federal boundary.
- 8. Monroe Bridge:** It is no longer viable to install a foot bridge over the GEHR in the Winslow Wildlife Management Area. The current proposed project will have a negative impact on the environment.
- 9. Other items of Interest:** Great Egg Harbor/Tuckahoe Greenway – Green Acres Program – The lands surrounding the Great Egg Harbor River are one of the project areas on New Jersey's list of properties for acquisition.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Joel Spiegel and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.