

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:05 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), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp)

Quorum Present – Yes

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

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 17, 2011 meeting. Ralph Bernard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Clay Emerson lives in Hamilton Twp. and is a Civil Engineer for Princeton Hydro. He is interested in learning about the RC.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Community Outreach – Lynn reported that GEHWA and the RC continues to work with the following schools to enhance their environmental programs

Egg Harbor Township: Alder Avenue Middle School and Fernwood Avenue Middle School

Hamilton Township: Mays Landing, St. Vincent DePaul

Events and Meetings – GEHWA and the RC held and/or participated in the following events.

Green Day Festival: Hammonton's Green Day Festival was held on the grounds of St. Joseph's High School on Sunday September 18th.

GEHWA Canoe/Kayak Event: The South River canoe/kayak event was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. The launch site was in Estell Manor Park near the artesian well.

Pinelands Folk Arts Festival: This year's festival was held at Lenape Park East. The original date, Saturday, August 27, 2011, was cancelled because of Hurricane Irene and the event was reschedule for Saturday, October 15, 2011. GEHWA was not able to participate this year due to a scheduling conflict with the new date.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): On October 15th and 16th NPS personnel from PA and Washington D.C., and other individuals spent two days camping at Camp Acagisca in Atlantic County and canoeing and kayaking on the Great Egg Harbor River. It was a great event.

Old Business:

1. 2011 Projects and Budget Update: Fernwood Avenue School received a \$62,000.00 grant from State Farm. A handout was included in RC packet. A summary of the 2012 budget is also included in RC packet. Somers Point will erect a sign in Kennedy Park Somers Point and bill the RC. They will also clean up an area to create a nature park. The money that funds the Dawes Avenue River Cruise is almost depleted.

2. Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. 2011-2012 Bird Survey and Other Proposals: The eighth field study has been completed. The RC needs to consider whether or not to funding the 9th field study. Twenty-four listed species of birds (Special Concern, Endangered, and Threatened) have been documented by the survey. The cost of the bird survey, \$5700.00, has been included in the 2012 budget and needs approval.

Gregory Gregory made a motion to fund the proposal for the 2011-2012 Bird Survey in the amount of \$5,700.00. Bill Christman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken: Julie Akers, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Ralph Bernard, Yes; Rick Foster, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Clark Sprigman Yes; Dave Brown, Yes; Steve Eisenhauer, Yes; Rick Coe, Yes. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie reported that Pancoast Road where it crosses over Deep Run is out because of the recent flooding. She also stated that the bridge crossing over Weymouth Road is closed.

Corbin City: (Rick Foster): Rick reported that construction is supposed to start on the Route 50 Bridge that crosses over the Tuckahoe. The existing drawbridge will be replaced with a stationary bridge.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported sighting eagles and 4 otters on the river. He also reported that there are plans to replace the bridge that crossed over English Creek.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that the Sierra Club is suing the USFW Service for air pollution at Forsythe NWR.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that Fred Akers has been invited to the EC meeting to discuss the model for a fertilizer ordinance and/or suggestions for best management practices.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick reported that the scouts took an impromptu canoe/kayak trip on the Great Egg Harbor River on Sunday, October 16th from Winding River to Lake Lenape. He said it was a beautiful day on the river.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory stated he spotted bald eagles on the river two times. He also thinks that he saw an otter.

Upper Twp.: (Alt. Steve Eisenhower): Steve reporting for Bill Handley stated that Bill would like to do a repeat of the event held in the spring (kayaking and investing the animals in the bay) at Kennedy Park, Somers Point and Beesleys Point, Upper Township with his students next year.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph reported that Channel 40 incorrectly stated that the dam at Lake Lenape had been breached during Hurricane Irene. This was not true. The lake overflowed, but the dam was not damaged. Ralph also reported that he has spotted otter on the river near Weymouth during the winter.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that it is the highest he has ever seen the water at New Brooklyn Lake, during the recent storms, without it overflowing the road. It lasted about 24 hours.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. PWSRs Funding Update: New rivers have been added to the PWSRs program while at the same time funding for all of the rivers has not increased, resulting in a reduction in funding to individual rivers. An increase is needed for FY2012 to adequately fund all of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers.

2. 2011 River Management Society Northeast Chapter Fall Outing: The RC was asked to host the 2011 Fall Outing of the River Management Society. It was held on October 15 and 16, and included overnight camping at Camp Acagisca. Two canoe/kayaking events were held on the river.

3. Hurricane Flooding Report: Fred showed a series of slides relating to the recent storm events which included Hurricane Irene. He also showed rain gauge data, and height and velocity of flow on the Great Egg Harbor River and other associated rivers.

4. Atlantic County Open Space Changes: Atlantic County is making two changes to its Open Space. The first is the Veterans Cemetery which will be expanding in Estell Manor Park. There will be 11 stormwater basins along the new road that will run from Route 50 to the new cemetery. The second change relates to the Hess School on Babcock Road. A "Notice of Public Hearing" regarding this issue was included in the RC packet.

5. Herring Rescue Update: Fred reported that not only are the River Herring being overfished, the same is true of the Atlantic Menhaden which are "a critical link in the ocean food chain". A handout was included in RC packet.

6. Other Items of Interest: Fred showed a slide of the proposed locations of wind turbines off of the NJ coast. He also reported that NJ Bald Eagle numbers have soared in 2011. One hundred and eleven pairs were monitored and 118 chicks were produced.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Ralph Bernard and second by Julie Akers, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.