

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 17, 2003

Meeting Called to Order at 7:17pm by Rick Coe, Chairperson

Roll Call by Belinda Irizarry, Secretary

Board Members in Attendance: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Egan (Weymouth), Greg Gregory (Somers Point), Joel Spiegel (Folsom), Dick Colby (Alternate GEHWA representative; recorder)

Board Members Absent: John Brudon (Estell Manor), Andrew Mair (Winslow), Gene Betz (Corbin City); Keith Kendrix (Hammonton); Creed Pogue (GEHWA), Bill McDermott (Upper Twp), Marc Thyrring (Egg Harbor Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator)

Open Meetings Act

Rick Coe 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 and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing.

Approval of Minutes

Gregory Gregory made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2003 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion

Although no members of the public were present, the meeting was opened (and closed) to the public by motions made and second by Akers and Gregory, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Old Business

Proposed Letter Concerning Indemnification (attached)

Rick Coe announced that the form letter is available for Council members to send to their municipal administrators.

Proposed Statement before Public Portion (attached)

We made a further change and approved it (MSP, Gregory, Colby).

Resolution 04-2003 Approving Project Proposals and Authorizing Expenditure of Funds

Previously approved projects: \$2000 for baseline fish data; \$7986 for grants to municipalities (MSP, Gregory, Egan, unanimous roll call vote). Colby noted that there should be a deadline for applications and expenditures and Coe said they would be on the cover letter.

Personnel Evaluation Committee Report

The Committee (Pogue, Egan, Gregory, Martella and Colby) has not met since the August meeting. Colby had strong words for Chairman Creed Pogue, and urged that the Council apologize to Fred Akers for keeping his evaluation "on hold," and award him a positive evaluation for the year by default. Egan reminded us that

future evaluations be referenced to a set of goals to be supplied by Fred, and that it would be reasonable for such goals to remain unset in Fred's first year. Coe noted that written evaluations of Fred, by Mary Vavra and himself, have been sent to Pogue. Pogue was deposed as Chairman, and replaced by Bill Egan. Bill recommended that Fred prepare his goals and objectives for the next year and submit them to the Evaluation Committee.

Amended Form for Grant Proposals (Mair)

Examined and approved for use by applicants responding to Resolution 04-2003 (above).

River Administrator's Report

Signs on Highways that Cross River Segments

Fred circulated a table titled "Great Egg Harbor River/Tributary Road Intersects" (attached). He welcomes suggestions for deletions and additions, following which site visits will be made, and meetings with highway officials. Colby suggested that site visits be inquisitive about possible automobile pullouts where more lengthy and informative signs could be mounted.

Computer Formats for Communications with River Council Members

Fred ascertained that not everyone can read documents in Microsoft Word, so attachments should also be embedded, and some members will be unable to read tables of data.

Properties

Atlantic County is likely to purchase the PAL property, threatened at one time with use by ATVs.

WMA 15

The DEP is continuing some components of the watershed management study, with good cooperation between GEHWA, Atlantic County's Planning staff, and some Stockton ecologists.

Groundwater Advisory Council for Atlantic County

Fred has been appointed along with about 20 others, some more professional and some less. Follows on the Gibson Study, which is being administered by the Pinelands Commission, using a variety of consultants. Sub-basins identified as project areas, including Babcock Creek and Gravelly Run. Surface water-groundwater exchanges are being studied. Hamilton Twp wants a doubling of water-allocation so that it can grow. Wastewater reuse is being given some thought.

Review of Stormwater Management Rules

Phase 1 was for businesses. Phase 2 is (now) for municipalities and institutions. Stockton is applying for a grant for study of Adams Branch. The River has no wetlands mitigation parcels and could probably use some. (Although the Pinelands Commission thinks we are expendable as part of its designated Growth Zone.)

River Patrol Project

Fred received a (single) report from the Hamilton Township River Patrol, contrary to what had been contracted. Tubing use has been low this year, perhaps because of the restrictions placed on some of Cokenakes's properties; canoe use has been heavier. There was willingness to pay up, but with the cautionary statement that we feel the contract hasn't been fully observed (MSP, Egan, Spiegel)

Colby advised:

that an important long-standing concern of the Watershed Association has been for possible future water withdrawals from the river. The construction of the fish ladder gives additional cause to maintain minimum base flow (to assure spawning and survival of anadromous fish).

New Business

Finances

A bill from the Courier Post for \$86.90 for posting our meetings was approved for payment (MSP Colby, Egan, unanimous roll call vote).

Adjournment

At 9:01pm (MSP, Colby, Christman)