

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***August 19, 2015***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:38 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** by Fred Akers, Administrator.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Jen Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Bill Egan (Atl. Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Gene Doebley (Somers Point Marine Unit), Paul Ludgate (Somers Point), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Ed Curry (GEHWA), Jim Rutala, (Linwood)

**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:** Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting. Brian Camp seconded the motion. Rick Coe abstained. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Below

**Presentations:**

- 1. Introduction of Somers Point Marine Unit:** Gene Doebley from the Somers Point Marine Unit stated that it is an old group that has been in existence since 1960s. They currently have 14 active members who monitor the waterway and help out in emergency situations. They also educate the public regarding no-wake zones. The group has offered to help with RC projects.
- 2. Introduction of Jim Rutala from Lindwood Environmental Commission Regarding River Council Participation in the Annual Patcong Creek Cleanup:** Jim Rutala from the Linwood Environmental Commission stated that Linwood has hosted the Patcong Creek clean-up for the past 10 years. Last year Somers Point and Patcong Creek hosted a joint clean-up. The clean-up is sponsored by approximately 15 local businesses. They would like to enlist the help of the GEHRC in future clean-ups along the creek. Next year's date has not be set. Insurance is covered by Linwood.

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

**Community Outreach:**

**Osprey Banding 2015:** Statistics and pictures from the 2015 banding season were shown to RC members.

**Atlantic County Parks:** Lynn provided programs at the Fox Nature Center for a variety of groups hosting Summer Camp Programs.

**Events and Meetings:** GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

**GEHWA's Annual Picnic and Campfire:** The annual picnic and campfire was held at Lake Lenape. Participants enjoyed the event even in the rain.

**Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA's Fall Adventure:** GEHWA's will host its Fall Adventure on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 & 27, 2015. Overnight camping at Camp Acagisca and canoeing and kayaking the Great Egg both days. Information give to RC members.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Fred shared Paul's email regarding the travel freeze and as a result not being able to attend the RC meeting.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** The dam(s) at Collins Lakes need repair. Buena Vista Twp. shares Collins Lakes with Folsom and Monroe Twps. Collins Lakes is a private community and as a result funding to repair the dam(s) is a problem.

**Egg Harbor Township: (Dave Brown):** Fred read a thank you letter from Scullville Fire Company for the donation from the RC to purchase supplies for the new marine fireboat.

**Corbin City: (Brian Camp, Chuck O'Donnell ):** Chuck spoke about the response of the Scullville Fire Company fire boat to a large sailboat offshore that burned and sank, and salvage efforts.

**Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger):** Several dams on Hospitality Branch form the lakes in the Collins Lakes area. Three years ago the Cushman Lake berms blew out during a storm. Funds are not available to repair the berms. The DEP has ordered that the water level lowered in Cushman Lake and as a result the lake bed is now exposed. There is now just a stream flowing through the lakebed.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** GEHWA has filed its tax forms. Advocates for the Durand Track, which is adjacent to the Menantico Ponds Wildlife Management area on the Maurice River, won an appeal so that the track does not revert back to city for future development. Dick suggested that the RC investigate where and how many gas and oil lines that cross the river. He also questions how old the pipelines are.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Developers in the Gravelly Run Watershed want to break ground at New York Avenue and Route 40. It is an 18 acre vacant lot with some wetlands. It is a two phase project that will include 100 apartments and 12 stores with apartments on top. The developer will need to fill the low areas of the site. There will be a large drainage basin that will flow into Gravelly Run.

**Somers Point: (Alt. Ron Meischker):** The Somers Point recreation department will wait until September to install kayak racks in Somers Point. Ron would like to place a sign on the rack.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill learned about Portuguese man-o-war this past summer as a result of these animals washing up on beaches where Bill is a lifeguard in Upper Twp.

**Winslow: (Jen Jennings):** Clark is still working on signage for the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update:** Funding from the NPS for fiscal year 2015 is \$119,400.00, a slight increase over last year.

**2. Regional Director's Call to Action Grants Award Update:** The 2015 "Call to Action Grant was used to fund spring river cruise trips for Fernwood students. The 2016 grant request has not yet been awarded. This grant will fund the fall 2015 and spring 2016 river cruise trips.

**3. Water Trail Sign Eagle Scout Project:** The Eagle Scout river sign project cost is \$567.80. Signs will be placed at locations identified by Atlantic County Office of Emergency Preparedness.

**4. SpillSpotter Project Update:** We are participating with the American Littoral SpillSpotter project. Reports were submitted from Kennedy Park and Mosquito landing.

**5. National Park Foundation Subaru Grant Update:** Fred submitted the final report to National Park Foundation. The report is troubling. The final conclusions state there is concern about the sustainability of fisheries resources in the Great Egg Harbor River.

**6. River Herring and Special Ocean Protection Update:** River herring is a species of special concern.

**7. Other Items of Interest:** The New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan is currently being updated. A new zone, the marine zone, has been added to the plan. There are 107 highest priority species in this new zone.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.