

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes and Annual GEHWA Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2015

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:30 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

River Council 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Chris Jage (Hammonton City),

Quorum Present – Yes

GEHWA Trustee Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Jamie Cromartie, Elmer Ripley

Trustees Absent: Ed Curry, Steve Eisenhauer, Clay Emerson, Clark Sprigman

RC Quorum Present – Yes

Trustee Quorum Present - No

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Walt Vreeland (Alt. EHT), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Ralph Cooper (Upper Twp. Green Team), Ira Grindlinger (Alt, Folsom Boro)

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: Rick Coe made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach: Starting to book dates for spring 2016

Programs for 2016: Recently purchased 10 pair of binoculars that will be used to enhance programs.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul working with the staff from the Lower Delaware to develop Bylaws that are modeled after the RC's Bylaws.

Old Business: Fred is waiting to hear regarding the "Call to Action" grant from the NPS. The RC would need to designate \$1,750.00 as an in kind match if the grant is awarded. The grant would fund 8 Fernwood School trawl trips in 2016.

Gregory asked if there is a need for additional RC signs along roadways. Fred will provide information at the next meeting. He stated that there is a need to replace old and damaged signs. He is also looking for a new company to make the signs. The old sign company is no longer in business.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

Trustees to vote for Paul Ludgate to fill Sarah Summerville's unexpired term as acting GEHWA Trustee: Trustees do not have a quorum and could not hold a vote to appoint Paul Ludgate as a GEHWA Trustee to replace Sarah Summerville.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie stated that it may be possible to get the Pinelands Commission to study Deep Run. The head waters of Deep Run are severely degraded.

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported seeing a seal behind his house.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that the river has been quite. It was a quite summer, not as much boat traffic on the river.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported that a 7 residential unit subdivision may be developed near Penny Pot.

Folsom (Alt. Ira Grindlinger): Ira reported that a new judge for the Collins Lakes mediation hearing recommended that the issue be resolved.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick stated that aqua culture for endangered species is possible.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Ron M. stated there was an issue with the Parkway bridge construction crew. They have swept debris from the ongoing bridge work into the river. He also would like to add signage at the boat ramps advising winter boaters that there will be a cleanup of derelict crab traps.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill is working with his church's youth group to create a brochure that will promote the protection of the watershed.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph reported seeing three river otter near his dock.

Winslow: (Alt. Jennifer Jennings): Jennifer shared information regarding possible grant money for the "Headwaters of the GEHR" sign project.

GEHWA Trustee Reports:

Julie Akers: GEHWA will have its annual meeting in March.

Elmer Ripley: Elmer reported that a recent Zoning Board meeting regarding a new home construction project was cancelled.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers)

1. Regional Directors Call to Action Grants Application (2016): This was covered under old business.

2. Henry D. Kahrs Trust (Wells Fargo) \$4,375.00 Grant Application: Received a letter denying grant application.

3. Water Trail Sign Eagle Scout Project Update: The signs placed along the river were not located where there are access points. The scout provided GPS coordinates for the sign locations.

4. Derelict Crab Pot Removal Grant Update: Recovery of derelict crab traps will be a two year project. A commercial crabber will remove the traps. Stockton will start surveys for lost gear in January 2016. Recovery will begin in February and end in April. There will be a public relations event in April.

5. State Protection of Forests and Wetlands from Motorized Recreation: Wharton developed a plan to close some trails within the forest to motorized traffic to protect fragile ecosystems. Due to an outcry from the public the state has since backed down and will not close any trails.

6. Sea Level Rise Predictions in the Tidal Great Egg Harbor River: Fred had been researching how sea level rise may impact the Great Egg Harbor River. Three basic causes in our area. Thermal expansion (as the ocean warms), loss of land-based ice, and coastal land subsidence.

7. River Herring and Ocean Protection Update: Fred recently gave an affidavit in support of plaintiffs' motion for summary judgement. Fred also reported that deep sea corals in a zone the size of Virginia, 38,000 sq. miles, has been protected

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment: Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.