

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:37 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), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Ashley Aversa (WMA 15 Watershed Ambassador), Walt Vreeland (Atl. Egg Harbor Twp.)

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 October 19, 2016 meeting. Brian Camp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Ashley Aversa Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15 introduced herself and the programs she will be working on throughout the year.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach: Starting to book dates for spring and summer of 2017. Lynn and Fred educated 3,234 students during the 2016 calendar year. A total of 60 days were spent in education. A total of 998 Williamstown 5th graders were educated about stormwater runoff, groundwater and the W & S designation of the GEHR and its location in Monroe Twp. Out of the 998 students, 448 students were educated about the current drought conditions in Gloucester County.

Programs for 2017: Plans for 2017 include enhancing old and creating new programs.

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

GEHWA Member Meeting: A GEHWA member meeting was held on Tuesday, November 22nd.

GEHWA Trustee Meeting: Update on GEHWA Trustee meeting held on December 15th.

Paul Ludgate is now a new GEHWA trustee, he replaces Sarah Summerville.
Fred and Lynn will receive 6% raises.
Three resolutions were approved.
Fred and Lynn will represent GEHWA on the New Jersey Council of Watershed Associations (NJCWA)

Other: River Councilor's told about a new NJ DEP Warn App for cell phones.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul's current manger is retiring in one week. He had a meeting with his new boss, Jamie Fosburgh, where he shared what we are doing. Next year, 2017, will be the 25th anniversary of the GEHR Wild and Scenic designation.

Old Business

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Resolution RC:10-2016 in support of public acquisition of Block 809, Lot 6 from the Willing Seller Fred Bohren to be owned by the Township of Hamilton and added to the Township's Open Space and Recreation Inventory (ROSI):** : A motion was made by Bill Christman to approve Resolution RC:10-2016 supporting the public acquisition of Block 809, Lot 6. The motion was seconded by Ralph Bernard with a proposed amendment to remove the word "joint" from the resolution. The amended motion was discussed, and there was general agreement to limit the River Council's participation in the acquisition. A roll call vote for the amended motion was taken. All yeas. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian is uncertain of his reappointment to the RC

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): The local McDonalds was demolished and a larger one took its place.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John thanked Julie and Fred for the documents. He will make sure when Township's Master Plan is updated that it will be in compliance with the GEHR Comprehensive Management Plan.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Caught many stripers.

Somers Point: (Ron Meischker): The Patcong Creek group participated in a clean-up of the Corbin City Game Preserve.

Winslow: (Alt. Jennifer Jennings): They are still working on getting approval for signage at the headwaters of river. Jen has been appointed chair Winslow's Environmental Commission for 2017.

Watershed Ambassador: (Ashley Aversa): Ashley will be organizing several clean-ups in the near future.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. PWSRs FY 2017 Appropriations Update: Reviewed current 2016 funding allocation to the river.

2. River Council Appointments: On 12/12/2016 Fred sent letters to the mayors of the municipalities along the river recommending the reappointment of the existing river councilors. To date he has only received one response and that was from Somers Point.

3. Pinelands Pipeline/NJDEP ORV Issues Update: The gas pipeline issue is back in the court. The Pinelands Commission may pass a resolution to protect the Pinelands and Wharton State Forrest from OVR damage.

4. Interpretive and Road Sign Project Update: Fred has a mock-up of the sign. He is having difficulty contacting someone from Camden County Parks to get approval to installing the interpretive signs. Fred would like formal approval from Camden County before moving forward with the project.

Fred has a proposal for the road signs, but to date, has not placed an order. The RC's suggested ordering extra signs for individuals to purchase.

5. PWSR's 25th Anniversary Celebration: On October 27, 1992 the GEHR was designated a Wild and Scenic river. Next year, 2017 marks the 25th anniversary. Plans are being considered to celebrate this momentous occasion.

6. River Herring and Forage Fisheries Update: Fred's made comments regarding the "Interstate Fishery Management plan for Atlantic Menhaden", the comments are in RC packets. Rules will be set in 2017.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Julie Akers, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.