

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 15, 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), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City),

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Ryan Coe (Monroe 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 Christmas made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting with corrections. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, Outdoor Classroom and events: Students educated between 4-1 and 6-15-2016

Stats: 2,296 students reached

Williamstown MS: Provided 23 programs at Williamstown MS for 450 5th grade students. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the NPS the students were taught about the importance of the Great Egg Harbor River and its status as a National Scenic and Recreation River.

Fernwood Avenue Middle School: Fernwood students participated in six trips on the Duke of Fluke sponsored by GEHRC.

SVDP: Electives and 5th Grade Puppet Show: The students in the “Birding” elective program received certificates for their participation in Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s “Urban Birds” program. The 5th grade students performed an environmental puppet show for the Pre-K to 4th grade students. It is the 9th year for this program

Dawes Avenue Grades 4-6: The Dawes students participated in programs held at Kennedy Park and Higbee Beach in Somers Point. This is the 11th year for this program.

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

GEHWA Member Meeting: There were 19 participants at GEHWA's frog walk on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA & GEHRC Picnic and Campfire: The annual GEHWA and GEHRC picnic and campfire will take place on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at Lake Lenape Park at 5:30 PM.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not present at meeting. No report.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Resolution 7-2016 to send a letter to the Blue Acres Program in support of a Buy Out on Babcock Creek:** A motion was made by Rick Coe to approve Resolution 7-2016 supporting the NJ Blue Acres program to purchase Block 809, Lot 6. A property located in a dangerous flood hazard area in Mays Landing, Atlantic County. The motion was seconded by Bill Christman. Vote: One no. Ten yes. Ten to one. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian organized a river cleanup on the Tuckahoe. Four pickup trucks of debris were collected.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): The issue of the dams at Collins Lakes has still not been resolved.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): An official audit of GEHWA's book has been completed.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John has enjoyed participating in the recent educational programs.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): In June, Ron Meischker will be hosting the largest crabbing tournament in the US. The fishermen at the Somers Point fishing pier are doing well.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update:** Funding for FY 2016 is \$132,000.00.
- 2. NPS C2A Grant Update:** Changes were made to the grant program due to finding herring upriver in 2016. Since there was no need to travel up river in a search for herring it was possible to arrange for

additional outdoor classroom trips on the Duke of Fluke. An adult trip on the Duke of Fluke may be arranged this fall.

3. Assault on Patcong Creek Update: A donation of \$500 from the Assault on Patcong Creek to GEHRC will go to support educational opportunities for Somers Point students.

4. Marine Debris Removal Project Update: Fred participated in the Nacote Creek crab pot salvage operation on 4/23/2016.

5. River Herring and Forage Fisheries Update: The River Councilor's received an email copy of the assessment report of blueback herring and alewife 2015 survey.

6. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.