

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:35 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.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.),

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Paul Ludgate (GEHWA)

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 February 17, 2017 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

Absecon Marsh School: In June Lynn will provide a program at the school.

Absegami HS: The Annual “Earth Day” program will be on Monday, April 24, 2017.

St. Vincent DePaul School: The 5th Grade annual puppet show will be performed in May. This is the 10th year (2008). Also provided a program on groundwater and stormwater runoff program.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: Programs are scheduled this spring with Pleasantville Schools, Dawes School, and Atlantic City - Pennsylvania Avenue School.

Fernwood River Cruise Program: The Fernwood Avenue School “River Cruise Program” begins on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. There will be a total of 4 spring trips on the Duke of Fluke.

Alder Avenue Water Festival: GEHWA will participate in the annual “Water Festival” on Wednesday, May 24, 2017

Dawes Avenue School: The annual Dawes Avenue School’s outdoor program for the 4th, 5th and 6th grade will begin on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. It is the 12th year (2006) for this program.

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

Winslow Township 172nd Birthday Celebration: Fred tabled at Winslow Township’s “Birthday Celebration on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The program, “Newly Protected Deep Sea Corals”, presented by Fred Akers, was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Fox Nature Center.

Continuing Education:

- Fred and Lynn – Attended the 21st Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, March 17, 2017 in New Brunswick.
- Fred and Lynn – Attended the Sustaining Marshes for Coastal Resilience on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the Cumberland County College Conference Center.
- Lynn – Attended the Spring Meeting of the Native Plant Society on Saturday, March 18, 2017

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn will present a program on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 for the 2017 Environmental Stewards Class on “Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates”. This program was rescheduled from April 5, 2017.

ACUA Earth Day Event: Fred and Lynn will table at the ACUA’s annual Earth Day event on Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 10-4. It is the 27th year for this event

Clean-Up: The GEHRC, GEHWA, Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, ACUA and AC Parks and Environmental Advisory Board will partner in a clean-up on Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 8:30 – Noon.

Patcong Creek Clean-up: The annual Patcong Creek Clean-up will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2017 from 10 to noon.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The May meeting will be an outdoor event. Our annual Frog Walk will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 7:30 PM at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not able to attend due to job constraints.

Old Business:

PWSRs 25th Anniversary Celebration: The date set for the PWSRs Anniversary Celebration is Saturday, October 7th with Sunday October 8th, 2017 as a rain date.

Other Old Business: None

New Business: None

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported that the Route 50 Bridge has been closed recently.

Corbin City: (Alt. Chuck O’Donnell): Chuck reported that there is a lot of debris on the Tuckahoe River. He periodically cleans up the trash.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that Fish and Game has caught river herring in their gill nets.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim reported seeing river herring on Stevens Creek.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger): Ira reported that there has not been any progress on repairing the dam at Collings Lake.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick encouraged the RCs to attend the May 23 Frog Walk. He also reported that Julie has been helping Hamilton Twp. residents with issues on the river.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that there are fish in the river. His Grandchildren have been catching perch, stripper and catfish.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg helped to install an osprey platform that was then occupied the following day by an osprey. Later that same day he went fishing and caught stripper.

Somers Point: (Alt. Ron Meischker): Ron reported that the female blue claw crabs are heading upriver loaded with eggs; in unusually large numbers.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Bill reported that Belcoville will be having a 100 year celebration on September 23, 2017.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that the number of individuals fishing has increased at New Brooklyn Lake Park. It is a county park and there is more room for parking since improvements have been made. He also reported that the tick population is high this year.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. PWSRs FY 2018 Appropriations Update: Thirty-seven members of the House signed on to the FY2018 Dear Colleague letter. At this time, funding for FY2018 has not been determined.

2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association does not qualify as an application for the Green Acres Program. Hamilton Twp. submitted a grant application to Green Acres but has not been approved to date.

3. Sign Projects Update: Fred has placed an order for the replacement signs needed at some of the road crossings. The sign project for the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River is stalled due to Camden County's lack of response to Fred' outreach.

4. Hidden Creek Golf Course Sporting Clays: The golf course wants to create a Sporting Clays shooting range with 15 stations spread out over 30 acres.

5. Osprey Colony 2017 Project Status Update: The RC has added 18 new Osprey platforms since 2008. In 2016 the RC monitored and maintained 41 platforms. A total of 7 platforms have been replaced and 6 platforms have been repaired since 2016.

6. River Herring and Forage Fisheries Update: River herring have been spotted on the river. Fred also went to a hearing in Washington DC regarding river herring.

7. Swamp Pink Found on Gravelly Run: Ashley Aversa, the Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15 found a new population of the federally threatened swamp pink plant near Gravelly Run.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

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