

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:33 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth),

Board Members Absent: Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ira Grindlinger (Alt, Folsom Boro), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Ryan Coe (Alt. Monroe Twp.), Ashley Aversa (WMA 15 Watershed Ambassador)

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.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2017 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair - Greg Gregory
Vice Chair - Rick Coe
Treasurer - Dick Colby
Secretary - Fred Akers

Bill Handley made the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Fred Akers brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2017: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.
Resolution 2-2017: Designating Official Publications.
Resolution 3-2017: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2017. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 2-2017. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Rick Coe, to approve Resolution 3-2017. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

St. Vincent DePaul School: Fred and Lynn were judges at the Science Fair held at St. Vincent De Paul on Thursday, February 9, 2017.

Upper Township Middle School: On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, Lynn presented a program on Ocean Life to the 6th grade students that were not able to participate in the trip to Stokes State Forest.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: GEHWA's educational programs are being scheduled for spring at the nature center. Julie will be helping with orienteering.

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

GEHWA Member Meeting: The January's meeting had to be cancelled because we could not get into the building. The program "Newly Protected Deep Sea Corals" was rescheduled for our March meeting.

Somers Point "Green Thumb Garden Club": On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, Gregory Gregory and Lynn presented a program on "Raptors".

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Winslow Township 172nd Birthday Celebration: Fred will table at Winslow Township's "Birthday Celebration on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

Pinelands Short Course: The Pinelands Short Course will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Stockton College.

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn will present a program on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 for the 2017 Environmental Stewards Class on "Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates".

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.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next meeting's program, "Newly Protected Deep Sea Corals" will be on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Fox Nature Center.

Workshops/Training Events: Fred and Lynn will be attending the following workshops:

- Lynn – Complying with New Jersey Stormwater Regulations presented by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at the Pilesgrove Municipal Building.

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

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not able to attend, due to changes with his job.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Resolution RC 04-2017 authorizing the River Council to grant \$5,600.00 for transportation to enable 240 7th Grade Students from Fernwood Avenue School to experience the river and learn about its values on the Duke of Fluke:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve a 2017 Saltwater Cruise Grant for \$5,600.00 with the stipulation that they also make an attempt find to funding. Rick Coe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All yeas. Motion carried

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie was reappointed to the RC.

Corbin City: (Alt. Chuck O'Donnell): Chuck reported that the construction crews are making good progress with the replacement of the Route 50 Bridge.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): David reported that lately he is not seeing any commercial fishing on the river. He thinks that the water is too warm.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported that the County replaced the deck on bridge going over GEHR near Penny Pot Park.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick report that AC Parks hired Catherine Tredick, a professor from Stockton to monitor the wildlife in the parks. She has reported an increase in wildlife. He also reported that they are making progress with the long distance trail that will run from north to south Jersey.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that on January 27th at 2:00 am the windows in his home were rattling and there were sounds coming from the river. It was a foggy night and a large vessel, out on the river, had run aground.

Somers Point: (Ron Meischkner): Ron reported that there is crab dredging currently taking place near Somers Point. He stated that this is not a good practice. He also reported that Somers Point has sent letters in opposition to the proposed flounder regulations.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that Upper Township is concerned that there will not be adequate parking, at the new parkway bridge, for the new walking trail that will go from Upper Twp. to Somers Point.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Staff Activity Reports:** Fred gave an overview of the staff's activity for 2016.
- 2. PWSRs FY 2018 Appropriations Update:** Fred reported that we are currently using 2016 funds to finance 2017 programs. He also stated that it is time to request funding for 2018.
- 3. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Fred reported that Hamilton Township has agreed to own the lot if the purchase is successful. Fred submitted the application to the Green Acres Program to preserve the property.
- 4. Linwood Development Issue Support:** Linwood has sought out support to deny the development of a lot without sewer service.
- 5. 2016 Osprey and Bald Eagle Summary:** Fred reviewed Osprey and Bald Eagle data.
- 6. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** The state has been sampling for fish.
- 7. Other Items of Interest:** Fred attended the Assault on Patcong Creek fund raiser.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Brian Camp, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.