

GREAT EGG HARBOR NATIONAL SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER COUNCIL

2018

Newsletter

Issue #4

Buena Vista Township
Corbin City
Egg Harbor Township
Estell Manor
Folsom Borough
Hamilton Township
Hammonton Town
Monroe Township



Somers Point City
Upper Township
Weymouth Township
Winslow Township
Great Egg Harbor
Watershed Association
National Park Service

Creation and Purpose of the Great Egg Harbor River Council

The Great Egg Harbor River was studied and designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress in 1992 based on its outstandingly remarkable cultural, historic, recreational, and natural resource values and became a cooperatively managed unit of the National Park System.

The Township of Buena Vista, the City of Corbin City, Township of Egg Harbor, City of Estell Manor, Borough of Folsom, Township of Hamilton, Town of Hammonton, Township of Monroe, City of Somers Point, Township of Upper, Township of Winslow, and Township of Weymouth all have certain acreage of their municipalities located within the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor as defined by Public Law 102-536, Section 3(a). These municipalities all recognized that their economic and cultural vitality are supported by their close proximity to the Great Egg Harbor River and designated tributaries, and that the health of the Great Egg Harbor River is dependent upon the economic, cultural and environmental policies of their surrounding municipalities.

Working together as the Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee with the National Park Service and county and state agencies starting in 1990, these municipalities assisted in the preparation of Local River Management Plans and a Comprehensive Management Plan for the long-term management and protection of the federally designated segments of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.

During this planning process, it was determined that it would be necessary to continue a formal organization to monitor implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan and assist the twelve municipalities, individually and collectively, in dealing with matters concerning the Great Egg Harbor River System. (Continued on page 2)

Therefore, it was agreed that the twelve municipalities and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association would establish the “Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council” to provide on-going monitoring, coordination and assistance to the participating municipalities in implementing the Comprehensive Management Plan and to the National Park Service in addressing issues in accordance with the organizational structure and procedures as set forth in the Comprehensive Management Plan and the Bylaws of the River Council.

The River Council was officially organized and started in 2001, and its purpose is to assist river municipalities in effectively implementing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan and Local River Management Plans with the National Park Service. This includes:

1. Presenting the Comprehensive Management Plan to municipal officials in the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor, other governmental officials and the public.
2. Providing direction and coordination in the implementation of the plan.
3. Providing a forum for open discussion of river corridor management issues and projects.
4. Providing a vital communication link between the twelve municipalities and four counties for insuring that all river related planning activities are performed on a corridor-wide basis.
5. Providing technical assistance to the twelve municipalities in the watershed on water quality, water quantity and watershed management issues.
6. Establishing a public education program to improve understanding of watershed management issues, particularly in the Great Egg Harbor River Conservation Zones.
7. Coordinating an on-going water quality, water quantity, and watershed monitoring program to document the ecological and hydrological condition of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.
8. Providing annual updates of water quality, water quantity, and watershed management activities in the designated river corridor.
9. Performing, coordinating and/or overseeing scientific research projects on the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River and its watershed.
10. Updating the Comprehensive Management Plan from time to time in cooperation with the National Park Service as required and recommend these revisions and related regulatory measure for adoption by municipalities in the Great Egg Harbor River designated boundary.
11. Assisting municipalities in updating Local River Management Plans to address resource protection needs.
12. Reviewing compliance with Local River Management Plans.

The Great Egg Harbor River Council Sponsors \$195,000 since 2001 to Implement the Comprehensive Management Plan

Started in 2001, the River Council has issued 64 grants totaling \$195,000 to implement the management plan for the river under the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. Primarily supported by Congressional Appropriations and Cooperative Agreements with the National Park Service, the River Council has granted funding over the past 17 years in the following seven areas:

Land Preservation \$4,532: Two grants were given to support survey costs for possible land acquisition. \$2,032 was given to Weymouth Township in 2004 to survey 1,800 acres for threatened and endangered species habitat, and \$2,500 was given in 2007 to the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge in Buena Vista Township to assist with appraisals for the acquisition of 37 additional acres.

Restoration and Enhancement \$8,438: Two vegetation stabilization projects for \$5,238 were funded at the bluffs in Kennedy Park in 2003 and 2006 and included student volunteers from the Dawes Avenue School. Another project was for \$500 strategic plantings in both Weymouth and Estell Manor. Started In 2008, \$2,000 was provided for the installation of 15 Osprey nesting platforms in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary, with \$700 added for maintenance in 2017. In 2009 the water trail at New Brooklyn Lake was restored for \$543 by Eagle Scout Ryan Coe.

Watershed Education and Outreach \$41,189: \$1,000 started the Egg Harbor Township School's Adopt-A-Stream program, \$975 to Weymouth Twp. for GIS hardware and \$200 for the South River trail brochure. In 2008-2009 \$10,000 was invested in the production and airing of 50 chapters for the Watershed Minute Radio Program, \$1,065 was provided to sponsor the Friends of the Atlantic County Parks annual Folk Arts Festival, and \$200 for an ANJEC Road Show in Hamilton. Since 2007, \$26,242 has been invested in 40+ student river cruises bringing 1,200+ youth to experience the river. In 2017, \$850 for a new Groundwater model, and \$857 for the 25th Anniversary Cruise, was spent.

River Stewardship \$14,157: Five separate river cleanup projects were funded during the last 17 years in Hamilton Township, Corbin City, and Upper Township including support for two local Boy Scout Troops in Upper Township and Corbin City who waged major cleanup campaigns on the Tuckahoe River. In 2009, 1,000 tires were cleaned up in Hamilton Twp. at a cost of \$4,114.

Watershed Signage \$10,822: \$6112 for 60 specially designed signs with stream names were installed at 30 locations where watershed roads cross federally designated stream segments. In 2017 \$1,850 was spent to maintain the road signs, and \$2,860 for 3 interpretive signs for Camden County.

Science and Research \$96,595: \$1,000 to Richard Stockton College for fish species data, \$3,000 for Stockton Interns, \$82,095 for the 10 year Winter Raptor and Waterbird Survey, and \$10,000 in 2018 for the Winslow Green Infrastructure Project.

Recreation Management \$19,875: \$15,125 was given to the Hamilton Township Police Department in 2001-2002 to implement the staffing of the River Patrol, which was started by the National Parks Service in 2000 with a donation of a motorboat and trailer. In 2015, \$3,500 was given to the Scullville Fire Department for Fire Boat equipment, and \$1,250 was given to Somers Point for a kayak rack.

Great Egg Harbor River Council Members

Gregory Gregory, Chair

Ron Meischker

Somers Point

Rick Coe, Vice Chair

Monroe Twp.

COUNCILLORS:

Julie Akers

Lou Harvey

Buena Vista Twp.

Brian Camp

Chuck O'Donnell

Corbin City

Bill Christman

Michael Dupras

Hamilton Twp.

John Keenan

Robert Reitmeyer

Hammonton

Paul Kenney

National Park Service

Jim Owen

William Donath Sr.

Estell Manor

Joel Spiegel

Ira Grindlinger

Borough of Folsom

David Brown

Walt Vreeland

Egg Harbor Twp.

Bill Handley

Steve Eisenhauer

Upper Twp.

Ralph Bernard

Bill Egan

Weymouth Twp.

Clark Sprigman

Jennifer Jennings

Winslow Twp.

Dick Colby, Treasurer

Clay Emerson

GEHWA

7 Founding Members Since 2001, Congratulations for 17 Years of Service!!!!

The River Council conducts meetings at the Warren E. Fox Nature Center, Estell Manor Park, Route 50, Estell Manor, New Jersey, from 6:30 – 8:30pm on the third Wednesday of every even numbered month as follows: February 21, 2018, April 18, 2018, June 20 2018, August 15, 2018, October 17, 2018, December 19, 2018, February 20, 2019

Please contact River Administrator Fred Akers at 856-697-6114 to confirm meeting dates or receive additional information. Please send correspondence to: Great Egg Harbor River Council, P.O. Box 109, Newtonville, NJ 08346