

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2018

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:38 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 Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth),

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Jen Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Denise Percoskie

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 20, 2018 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach:

New Programs for Students and Organizations in 2018:

- Animals-Pollution-Plastics for the Twilight Program at the Holbein School in Mt. Holly on Friday, February 23, 2018.
- Wildlife Program for the 2018 NJ Envirothon Training on March 29, 2018 at the Cape-Atlantic Soil Conservation District Office in Mays Landing.
- All Pollen is Not Equal for the Jersey Cape Beekeepers Meeting on April 19, 2018. This program was created by Julie and Lynn.

These new programs will be used again. I will present the Plastics programs to Jim Thoms 7th Grade class on April 27th.

Williamstown Middle School: Lynn is providing programs for the 5th grade science classes at Williamstown Middle School between April 9 and 19th. Fifteen of the 21 programs have been completed. To date 340 students and 9 adults have been educated about stormwater runoff, nonpoint source pollution, groundwater and the Great Egg Harbor River.

St. Vincent DePaul School in Mays Landing: Lynn has provided several programs at SVDP for the 5th and 6th grades.

St. Vincent DePaul School in Mays Landing: The annual 5th Grade “Puppet Show will be held on May 14th and 16th.

Fernwood Avenue School in EHT: River Cruise program on the Duke of Fluke starting on May 15th.

Alder Avenue School in EHT: Fred and Lynn will table at the Alder Avenue “Water Festival” on May 24, 2018

Dawes Avenue School in Somers Point: The annual outdoor program for Dawes 4th, 5th and 6th grades will be on June 4th, 6th and 7th at Kennedy Park and Higbee Beach.

H. Ashton Marsh School in Absecon: Lynn will present a program for the 4th grade students on June 5th.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: Programs are scheduled this spring with the Dawes Avenue and Jordan Avenue Schools from Somers Point and the Pennsylvania Avenue School from Atlantic City.

New Schools at the Nature Center -

– **Hess School in Hamilton Township:** The Hess School will be bringing 300 students to the Nature Center on May 29, 30 and 31.

-**Vineland High School:** Special needs students will come to the center for a program on June 1.

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

Workshops/Training Events: Fred and Lynn attended the 22nd Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, March 2, 2018 in New Brunswick. Not a good travel day. But very informative event.

Atlantic County Parks Program: Julie and Lynn provided a program on “Bugs” for Atlantic County Parks on Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn presented a program on “Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates” on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 for the 2018 Environmental Stewards Class.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: ACUA annual Earth Day event is on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

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 28, 2018.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next GEHWA member meeting will be held outside at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township for our annual “Frog Walk” on Tuesday, May 22, 2018. Details will be sent out.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul received word today that the Department of the Interior has approved our funding for 2018. Documents related to the river since its initial study, going back 30 years, are being sent to the National Archives. Some documents will also be sent to the Federal Records Center.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie report that many trees came down following the last storm. She also questioned the effect high ground water will have on the river.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that he recently launched the Duke of Fluke with 2 new engines.

EHT: (Alt. Tom Baum): Tom has pictures of the property that Bill Christman talked about. He has also been sampling the river for river herring, there were many ripe females. He has another month of sampling.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim report two dams on Stevens Creek are being surveyed where the two creeks come together. Herring have been seen up to the Mays Landing Dam. He has also seen them in his creek. Fred stated that Elmer Ripley has been seeing River Herring on Babcock Creek behind his home.

Folsom: (Alt. Ira Grindlinger): Ira has been hearing peepers.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick has observed many downed trees in the trails he follows in the woods. He recommended watching “A Plastic Ocean”. ACUA winched out 2 boats. Dick asked if the fish ladder is open and is it being monitored.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that a property near his property has excavated down to the river. No evidence that there was a permit to do so.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John reported that the Environmental Commission has decided to take on a project to reduce plastic bag use.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported catching stripers at Drag Channel.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that Winslow and Monroe took a hit with downed limbs from the 4 nor'easters and are having trouble getting it cleaned up. He always looks forward to the spring chorus of frogs.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. PSWRs FY 2019 Appropriations Update:** Fred reported that 41 members of the House of Representatives from 16 states signed the “Dear Colleague Letter” for FY 2019. The letter started to circulate in the Senate today.
- 2. GEHR FY 2018 Work Update:** NPS funding for GEHR for FY 2018 is \$140,000. The same as it was for 2017. Funding for FY 2019 may also be \$140,000.
- 3. Outdoor Programs Update:** Fred talked about all of the scheduled programs for spring 2018. Fred taught Jim Thoms' students how to submit comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management against offshore oil and gas drilling.

4. **Press of AC Environmental Reporting:** The River Council has received some notice in the Press recently. The Press has also been reporting about recent weather, sea level rise and flooding.
5. **Atlantic County Coastal Reanalysis Meeting:** Fred attended the FEMA Region II meeting on Tuesday.
6. **Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Dennis Levinson has requested \$25,000 for the purchase of the parcel. Hamilton Twp. has agreed to receive the \$25,000 for the purchase.
7. **Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update:** Fred displayed a poster of some of the project areas in Winslow Twp.
8. **Somers Point Opportunity Zone:** Somers Point has been designated as an opportunity zone by the governor.
9. **2018 Osprey and Eagle Update:** Three platforms had their tops blown off and need to be repaired. Five of the six new nesting platforms installed by a consultant to replace those on the power line concrete bases, have nests.
10. **River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** Bycatch cap was reached within the first 2 months of this year. Fred has been invited to attend a workshop in Maine at the end of April for Pelagic Fisheries.
11. **Citizen Racecar:** Fred received an estimate for a short documentary video, 2 -3 minute duration, of the Great Egg Harbor River.
12. **Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

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