

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2017

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.), 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), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Brian Camp (Corbin City), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Michelle Post (Press of AC), Jen Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Ryan Coe (Alt. 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 Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2017 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Michelle Post is writing an article regarding the 25th anniversary of the Recreational & Scenic Designation of the Great Egg Harbor River.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Groups:

Brownies at EHT Arboretum: Educated Brownies about stormwater runoff and groundwater.

Fernwood Avenue Middle School – River Cruise on Duke of Fluke: The Fernwood Avenue fall “River Cruise” program began on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. Four dates are scheduled for October.

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

GEHWA/GEHRC Canoe/Kayak Event: The GEHWA and GEHRC sponsored our annual canoe/kayak event on Saturday, September 30, 2017.

Program for the Dalles Lore Nature Club: Lynn presented a program on “Backyard Bugs” for the Dalles Lore Nature Club. The club celebrated its 87th anniversary.

ANJEC 44th Annual Environmental Congress: Fred, Lynn and Jennifer Jennings attended the event.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Stockton Environmental Principals Lab: Fred and Lynn will teach 2 labs for Stockton's Environmental Principals class.

Atlantic Audubon Program: Lynn will present a program on Osprey at Atlantic Audubon's meeting in October.

GEHWA/GEHRC Member Meeting: The next GEHWA and GEHRC member meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 6:30 PM.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul is glad to be back. He stated that 2017 was a good year for the Wild & Scenic program which saw a significant increase in funding. Paul wrote an article about the "25th Anniversary River Cruise" that was posted on the front page of the NPS internet site.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie gave an update on Friends of the Parks Pleinair event. She said it was a good that event highlighted Atlantic County Parks.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave state things are slowing down on the river. He also reported seeing 2 osprey last week and 5 bald eagles.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim is glad to know that the river is being enjoyed.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger): Ira reported that there is progress resolving the Collings Lake dam issue.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick shared pictures of bird observation blinds. He thought it might be possible to install them along the river for viewing of wildlife.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick reported that a 52 home development project was proposed near Four Mile Branch. There are wetlands on the property so the developer requested an increase in density. The application was denied.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported that the fishing piers are popular on the new bridge.

Alt. Somers Point: (Ron Meischker): Ron reported that there was a clean-up on 10-28-2017 at the Corbin City WMA.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman & Alt. Jen Jennings): Both Clark and Jen observed more activity, fishing and boating, on the lake this year than in years past, and as a result it is a very congested area. There may be a clean-up planned around the lake.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. 25th Anniversary Cruise Report: Fred reported that the River Council had a quorum on the anniversary cruise. Ambassador Bill Hughes was present prior to the Duke of Fluke setting sail. Many dignitaries were present.

2. ANJEC Environmental Congress Report: Fred shared some photos of the event.

3. Signage for the Headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River: Fred shared a draft of the sign submitted to Camden County Parks for approval.

4. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Fred has contracted with an appraiser for the property.

5. NJCWA: Fred has been working on analysis of NJ Water Supply Master Plan.

4. Linwood Poplar Avenue Update: CAFRA has approved sewer service expansion and building at this location.

5. Atlantic County Masterplan Update: In January 2017, Atlantic County produced a new draft Master Plan. The plan contains a lot of pertinent information. Fred stated it is a very comprehensive plan.

6. Osprey Colony Maintenance Updates: Fred gave an update on the stats from this year. Ben Wurst contacted Fred to inform him that monopoles will replace the electrically towers that currently cross the bay.

7. River Fisheries Update: The Menhaden Management Board will meet on 11-13-2017 to consider approval of Amendment 3. Fred will table at the event.

8. Other Items of Interest: Fred shared some pictures from a 2004 river cruise.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.