

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2018

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:34 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), 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), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Brian Camp (Corbin City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Enzo Acosta (Eagle Scout), Mrs. Acosta, Pat Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ryan Coe (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: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2018 meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Two abstentions. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Life Scout Enzo Acosta reported to the River Council regarding the successful completion of his Eagle Scout project at Kennedy Park. Fred provided a slideshow of the work that was done at the park to prepare and install the sign. The scouts also removed Japanese Knotweed from the bluffs.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach:

Programs at Nature Center: Provided summer programs at Nature Center.

Fernwood Avenue School – EHT: Provided a program for Jim Thoms' 7th grade students on Groundwater on October 1st. The GEHRC/GEHWA sponsored river Eco-tours for the 2018-2019 school year began on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. The start time has been pushed back an hour because of busing issues. As a result the trip was rushed and one of the monitoring locations has had to be eliminated.

Richard Stockton University: We continue to provide assistance for Catherine Tredick's Ecology Labs, at the University, with our program on "Water Quality Assessment using Macroinvertebrates".

2019 School Year: Schools are starting to request programs for 2019.

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

Osprey Banding: Osprey banding took place on June 26 & 27, 2018. Forty-seven nests were monitored. There were 29 active nests with a total of 62 chicks counted and banded.

GEHWA & GEHRC Picnic and Campfire: The annual GEHWA and GEHRC picnic and campfire took place on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at Lake Lenape Park. We had a total of 16 adults attend.

6th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum in Cape May: Fred, Paul and Lynn attended the forum in Cape May on September 25 & 26. Fred and Paul presented a program on the Wild and Scenic Rivers program with a special emphasis on the "Nationwide Rivers Inventory" by Fred.

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Canoe/Kayak Event: There were 8 participants, in 2 canoes and 5 kayaks, for the GEHWA/GEHRC's annual one day canoe/kayak event held on Saturday, September 29, 2018. It was a beautiful day traveling upriver on Babcock Creek from Mays Landing.

Dalles Lore Nature Club: The Dalles Lore Nature Club is located in the Bridgeton. They celebrated their 88th anniversary this year. On October 2nd I provided a program on "Osprey".

45th ANJEC Environment Congress: Fred and Lynn attended the Environmental Congress on October 12. The keynote speaker was former governor Christine Todd Whitman.

Fish Tales Program: Fred provided a program, "Fish Tales", on September 12th for Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River.

Monroe Township's Green Fair: Fred tabled at the Green Fair on September 22nd.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA: The next member meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not present for meeting

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie reported that there was a fungi walk in Estell Manor Park on October 28th.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (Alt. Tom Baum): Tom report on the commercial trawl net that is hung up on the fishing pier on the Route 52 causeway bridge.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim reported that there were many mosquitoes due to the abundant rainfall this year.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported that Dunkin Donuts is now open for business and could be a new source of trash in the river.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that GEHWA's annual meeting will be on December 13 at the Harley Dawn Diner at 6:00 pm. He also attended a transportation meeting about improving the branding of South Jersey.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick report that developers with prior site plan approval are now seeking D5 variances for greater density. To date the variances have been denied.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Caught 54 stripers in one day using peanut bunker. Speaker for Atlantic County Historical instillation dinner at Great Bay Country Club.

(Alt. Ron Meischker): Ron gave an update regarding the fishing net tangled on the fishing pier. He also announced that on Sunday October 28th the annual Tuckahoe/Corbin City cleanup will be held. There will be free food and drink. This is the fifth year for the cleanup.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that the Mill Creek Bridge on Marshallville Road that crosses Mill Creek, a tributary of the Tuckahoe River, is falling into the creek. The bridge has been used by local residents as a walking bridge that connects the community. Currently there is caution tape stopping foot traffic.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Bill reported that the Mays Landing Yacht Club held a cleanup on September 9th. Bill's house won for lights during the "Night of Lights".

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that in early September improvements began around New Brooklyn Lake.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Ceremony for Rep. Frank LoBiondo:** Fred attended an event for Rep. LoBiondo acknowledging all the positive work that he has done for the environment.
- 2. Material for Osprey Platforms:** Fred is working on evaluating the condition of existing osprey platforms to determine what needs to be either repaired or replaced.
- 3. GEHR to host 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting:** Fred facilitated discussion regarding the location and time of year to hold the PWSRs program meeting. It will be a 3 day, 2 night

event, Sunday to Tuesday held on September 15-16, 2019. The meeting location will be at the Pier 4 Motel in Somers Point. Gregory will look into blocking 30 rooms.

4. **Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update:** Rutgers is currently redoing the metrics so the project has stalled.
5. **Monroe Green Infrastructure Project Update:** The Monroe project has not started yet.
6. **Sign Projects Updates:** Fred reported that a sign was installed at Kennedy Park. He has not gotten a response from Camden County regarding a headwaters sign.
7. **Babcock 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Fred reported hiring a lawyer to do the paperwork to finalize the property acquisition.
8. **Petinga Parcels Update:** This parcel is adjacent to the Cologne Ave. Park. The owner would like to donate the parcel.
9. **Great Egg Harbor Oyster Aquaculture Development:** Fred reported on the plans to locate oyster aquaculture off of Drag Island in the Great Egg Harbor Bay.
10. **NJ Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study:** The New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management feasibility study was by the US Army Corp. of Engineers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends no structural stormwater management.
11. **Patcong Creek Foundation Science Center:** The Patcong Creek Foundation is establishing the Seashore Science Center at the Somers Point Youth Center. The Assault on Patcong Creek will be held on June 21 & 22, 2019.
12. **Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.