

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2019

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:36 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), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Jennifer Jennings (Winslow Twp.) (11)

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), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Suzanne Marx (Special Project Manager for 2nd Street Park), Amy Menzel (ACUA), Paul Ludgate (GEHWA Trustee)

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 2019 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 Christman 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. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

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

- Resolution 1-2019: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.
- Resolution 2-2019: Designating Official Publications.
- Resolution 3-2019: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Dick Colby, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2019. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Bill Handley, to approve Resolution 2-2019. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Bill Handley, to approve Resolution 3-2019. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Public Portion: Amy Menzel from the ACUA was glad she was able to attend the meeting.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

Upper Township Middle School: Fred presented a program for the 6th grade students at Upper Township Middle School. The students were those that did not participate in the trip to Stokes State Forest.

Jordan Road School: Lynn provided a program on February 8, 2019 for the 6th grade students at the Jordan Road School that did not participate in the trip to Stokes State Forest.

St. Vincent DePaul School: Fred, Lynn and Paul Ludgate were judges at the St. Vincent De Paul "Science Fair" on Thursday, February 21, 2019. Lynn is also providing a variety of programs for the school.

Williamstown Middle School: Lynn has completed the 7 days of programs for the 5th grade science classes at Williamstown Middle School where 391 students were educated about the GEHR and Stormwater Runoff and Groundwater.

NJ Envirothon Training: Lynn was invited back for the 2nd year to teach students that will be participating in the 2019 NJ Envirothon.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: Programs are scheduled for spring.

Community Outreach:

Atlantic County Adult Day Care: Lynn presented a program on March 11th for 75 adults that participate in the Atlantic County Adult Day Health Care program. She will provide an additional program on April 23.

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn will present a program on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 for the 2019 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 27, 2019.

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: GEHWA will participate in the ACUA's annual Earth Day event on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

Workshops/Training Events: Fred and Lynn will be attending the 23rd Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, April 12, 2019 in New Brunswick.

Additional Information:

NPS Newsletter Publication: Fred, Paul and Lynn contributed to an article that will be published in the spring addition of the NPS's River Currents magazine. River Councilors received a copy of the article.

Hawaiian Goby: Lynn talked about a small native Hawaiian goby, a fish that can climb the 442' Akaka Waterfall.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul recently reviewed a permit to replace the Lakes Creek Bridge. Mays Landing Road will detour to Bevis Mill Road during construction of the bridge. The new bridge will be longer and wider than the existing bridge. It will also have permanent coffer dams. Paul also reported that: The NJ Coastal Heritage Trail has been reauthorized and three new Wild and Scenic rivers have been added to the Partnership Program for a total of 16 rivers.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Resolution R: 04-2019 Supporting the Green Acres Pilot Program:** A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Dick Colby, to approve resolution R: 04-2019 supporting the Green Acres Pilot Program. Motion carried by unanimous consent

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie reported there is concern about the high water levels around the township.

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian stated that he enjoyed day on river with Fred.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave is glad spring is here.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Ira Grindlinger may need to be replaced as an alternate on the River Council.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick stated that brochures are available on the "Blue Blaze Trail in Atlantic County Parks".

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that the tree frogs have been active. He also reported that electric monopoles have replaced the old towers near the river.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John reported that his neighbor's official Rutgers weather station recorded 71 inches of precipitation last year.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory mentioned an article in today's Press noting that the trails and boardwalks are submerged at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge due to the excessive amount of precipitation NJ received last year.

Alt. Somers Point: (Ron Meischker): Ron reported that the dredging at Higbee Beach is behind schedule. This may force Captain Brook of the Duke-O-Fluke to find an alternate place to dock the Duke of Fluke this spring and early summer to accommodate the spring student marine cruises.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported on the Upper Twp. side of the bike path. He stated that there are plans for a paved parking lot and 2 boat ramps. There will also be a boardwalk and an observation platform. He mentioned that people living near this area are concerned regarding the increased traffic (both vehicular and human) it will bring to the area.

Winslow: (Jennifer Jennings): Jen reported that there are some projects that are slated to happen in Winslow.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Staff Activity Annual Reports: Fred had distributed a handout to the RC members.

2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update with Suzanne Marx: Fred reviewed the history of property regarding the work done to preserve this parcel as open space. Suzanne Marx introduced herself and her interest in this project. She also talked out the work she has been doing in the community. Sue reported that she will be walking the property with Christine Clemenson, who owns a native plant nursery, on Friday, March 29 in an effort to identify the plants on this parcel. Sue mentioned that she also has a working relationship with St. Vincent De Paul.

3: 2018 Osprey and Bald Eagle Summary: Fred discussed the 2018 annual reports released for Bald Eagles and Osprey. He noted a downward trend in the number of young produced for both species. He also reported that two osprey platforms were replaced with new structures on Sunday, March 24, 2019. Several of the River Councilors participated.

8. Marshallville Bridge Restoration: In Tuckahoe, the Marshallville Bridge, which crosses Mill Creek qualifies as a NJ Historic Bridge and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Cape May County is interested in restoring the bridge as a pedestrian bridge, and has requested support from the River Council to gain approvals from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

9. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

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