

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**April 20, 2005**

**Meeting Called to Order** 7:00 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call** by Fred Akers, Administrator

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), John Brudon (Estell Manor City), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Dick Colby (GEHWA representative), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), John Olansen (Upper Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (alternate, Egg Harbor Twp)

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), (Winslow Twp), (Corbin City)

**Quorum Present?** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (National Park Service), Mayor Bert Mossey (Estell Manor), and William Donath Sr. (proposed Estell Manor alternate)

**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 and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2005 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brief minutes of the Workshop meeting held 3/16/05 were noted as attached; Julie Akers and John Olansen gave a brief summary.

**Public Portion**

Mayor Bert Mossey expressed interest in seeing what the River Council does. She introduced Bill Donath, Sr., Fire Chief in Estell Manor. Both were thanked for coming and welcomed to attend at any time.

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

1. Hamilton Greenway: Fred presented an overview of the project that will begin this summer with assistance from Stockton interns. The purpose will be to assess the Gravelly Run corridor, and then expanded to include other sections of the Hamilton Greenway in future phases. Access to the river through trails is one of the objectives of the CMP, and establishment of a greenway is a first step.

2. Windmill Osprey Project: Fred showed slides of the newly relocated osprey platforms installed near the ACUA's facility, future site of a windmill demonstration project.
3. ACUA Water Conservation Project: Fred summarized the County's new public education program (pamphlets, billboards, and other packaged promotional materials) that has been just begun through a grant from remaining NJ DEP Watershed Management funding (\$167,000).
4. PAL Property: Fred attached a copy of a recent Press editorial recommending that PAL and the County/EHT compromise to ultimately see the 90-acre parcel along SP-ML Road be set aside as recreational open space. Fred also proposed a draft resolution to be sent to PAL and Atlantic County to encourage this recommendation. The draft was amended to read as follows: After "Now therefore, be it resolved . . . , 1. The River Council recommends and encourages the Egg Harbor Township Police Athletic League and Atlantic County to permanently protect this land from development by agreeing to terms for the sale of the property at fair value to Atlantic County." The rest of the language remained as drafted. Rick Coe motioned to approve the amended resolution, and Bill Christman provided a second. All voted in favor, with one vote of opposition made by Gary Theno, who felt that PAL should be able to make as much money as it could on the sale.
5. Somers Point Bikeway Extension: Fred will communicate with SP Administrator Wes Swain for more info about SP's envisioned bikeway plans over the new bridge.
- 6 Kennedy Park Erosion: Fred reminded the council that there is still \$3,000 earmarked for Somers Point, and this could be used to address this issue. Revetements were discussed.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):**

Paul commented that he is currently reviewing four developments for the NPS.

**Old Business**

1. Local River Management Plan Updating: Fred reviewed again the possibilities for updating LRMP's. Municipalities may ask him for assistance with GIS mapping.
2. Watershed Sign Update: Atlantic County has already installed signs designated for county road Rt. 559. Fred also showed a copy of the public relations report he has sent out to the state for education and sign placement.
3. Other Old Business:
  - a. Gary Theno addressed the issue of abandoned barges on the river, and the high incidence of other debris floating in the river from flooding damage to docks.
  - b. Fred asked John Olansen about Upper Township's request to have the Tuckahoe area designated a CAFRA town center, and what the implications would be for the scenic and recreational sections of the Tuckahoe River in that area. John is a member of the Petition Committee on this topic and indicated that the group has met just once. He and Fred will communicate with the planner in Upper for more information. Paul Kenney will also write a letter to Upper advising them of the potential inclusion of a town center within the W&S corridor.

**New Business:**

**1. River Councilor Reports**

- Monroe Township: Rick Coe asked about the status of the Blue Hole project (bridge). Fred will resume this project research once the signage project is completed.
  - Egg Harbor Township: Gary Theno reported on a meeting he attended regarding the NJ Clean Marina Program, and passed around a Guidebook which he received there. He encouraged more action to establish pump-outs on the river and designation as a “No Discharge Zone”.
  - Somers Point: Greg Gregory reported that *Day at the Bay* will be on June 4 from 7:00AM – 6:30 PM.
  - GEHWA: Dick Colby brought to the Council’s attention recent news about the B.L. England Plant. Reported was the announcement that DEP Commissioner Campbell wanted to “save” the plant, by finding a buyer who would retrofit the plant so it could continue to operate.
2. \$10,000 Additional NPS Funding: Paul confirmed that NPS has added this money to GEHWA’s Cooperative Agreement. It will be used for assistance to the River Council.
  3. Other New Business: Gary Theno requested that the River Council send a letter of support (as per the Delaware Riverkeeper’s report) to the Department of the Army to discourage the disposal of VX in the Delaware River. Gary made a motion to send a letter stating this, and John Brudon seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with one abstention made by Dick Colby, who contended that the West Jersey Group of the Sierra Club is dealing proactively with this issue, and it is outside of the Great Egg Watershed.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.