

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
**Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting**  
**April 15, 2009**

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:08 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** by Fred Akers, Administrator.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City), Dave Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Jay Cook (Alt. for Winslow Twp.) (10)

**Board Members Absent:** Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bill Handley (Upper Twp)

**Quorum Present?** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator)

**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 18, 2009 meeting. Dave Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:**

Bill Mitchell, a concerned citizen, who has previously corresponded with GEHWA arrived prior to the meeting seeking guidance and/or help regarding the bridge that crosses Mare Run. His family owns property on the other side of the bridge and prior to making any improvements to the property the bridge would need to be repaired or replaced.

Julie Akers made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting with the option to open it again later if needed. Bill Christmas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun Reported):**

**New Table Drape for Events:** Lynn is researching information for the purchase of a new table drape that will be used when GEHWA attends events. The artwork on the table cover will include both the GEHWA and RC logos. There are problems using the existing logos in the screen printing process. Both Greg Gregory and Jay Cook suggested the names of vendors who could possibly do the required work using the existing graphics.

**New York Avenue School (AC):** January 16<sup>th</sup> Lynn assisted Stockton's Water Watch Group in educating the students about stormwater runoff and pollution using the EnviroScape model.

**Richard Stockton College:** Lynn presented a program at Stockton's Environmental Seminar on January 26<sup>th</sup> to upper level students.

**St. Vincent De Paul:** In April the 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes will receive Groundwater and Stormwater runoff demonstrations using the models. The fifth grade class will give a puppet show in May to the lower grades.

**Upper Township Elementary School:** Lynn worked with the students in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. They learned about groundwater, and stormwater runoff for three days during the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Williamstown MS:** On March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, Lynn instructed the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about groundwater, and stormwater runoff.

**Unexpected WR:** On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Sarah Summerville presented a program about Unexpected Wildlife Refuge at the GEHWA Member Meeting.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Dawes Avenue School: Bluff Days – June 8, 9 & 10.

ACUA – Earth Day (April 26)

EcoFair – Wheaton Village (May 2)

Egg Harbor Twp Schools Jamboree (May 27)

Unexpected Frog Walk (May 9)

GEHWA – Sahara Sands Frog Walk (May 26)

### **NPS Report (Paul Kenney):**

1. Rutgers completed a study of the Mustconetcong River. The focus of the study was fecal coliform and E-coli. The NPS sent a letter to Rutgers inquiring if they would be interested in partnering with the Park Service and/or GEHWA to do a similar study of the Great Egg Harbor River.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Stevens Creek Dam Reports:** (Paul Kenny reported) Steve Richey from Dam Safety reported that there does not seem to be any problems with the dams. Steve will write a letter to DOT requesting that they inspect the dams (hopefully before the end of summer).
2. **Mizpah Tire Cleanup Report:** Approximately 10 tons of tires were removed. The event was very successful. Those who participated included 40 students from Stockton, and 10 other volunteers (RCs, GEHWA members and a politician).
3. **South River Shoreline Stabilization:** A request was made for financial and professional support to stabilize the shoreline of the tidal South River at the Estell Manor Park. Estimated cost is \$4,000. Fred is negotiating with the county to get their approval for the project.
4. **Watershed Radio Update:** Forty-six minutes have been written and broadcast.
5. **River Council Budget Update for 2009:** Presently, \$18,100.00 of the 2009 RC budget is allocated towards projects that are in the works.

### **New Business:**

1. **River Council Osprey Monitoring and Banding Project:** Greg, Fred and Lynn went to Osprey banding school. Fred made a recommendation that the RC implement a volunteer, “Osprey Colony Monitoring and Banding Program”. Fred would provide GIS maps indicating the locations of all the Osprey platforms west of the Garden State Parkway, and the data forms that would need

to be completed by the volunteers. The volunteers would be required to field monitor the nest sites, from a boat, several times during the current breeding season to determine if a nest is active. This would then enable those banding the chicks, between June 20 and July 10, to know which nesting sites to visit. There are currently 27 existing platforms and 7 additional nesting sites to monitor.

Keith made a motion to set up the volunteer program, and that program costs should not exceed \$500.00. The volunteers are to include RCs and possibly other interested individuals. Rick Foster seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Julie Akers, YES; Rick Foster, YES; Bill Christman, YES; Bill Egan, YES; Greg Gregory, YES; Keith Kendrix, YES; Dick Colby, YES; Joel Spiegel, YES; Dave Brown, YES; Jay Cook, YES. Motion passed.

## **River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

### **Corbin City: (Rick Foster):**

1. Corbin City is in the process of selling 3.5 acres to Tuckahoe WMA.
2. Bill Collins, Council President is organizing a river sweep in conjunction with the national beach sweep.

### **GEHWA: (Dick Colby):**

1. NJ Audubon is in the process of creating a pinelands region birding trail map. They are requesting that individuals nominate their favorite sites online at [www.njwildlifetrails.org](http://www.njwildlifetrails.org) which, if selected, would be included in the publication.
2. Dennis Levinson, Administrator of Atlantic County has reported that there is no funding available this year for the purchase of open space.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill reported that the tire clean up was a success and he thanked the RC for backing the event. The event received a positive write-up in the Press.

**Hammonton: (Keith Kendrix):** Hammonton is working on making improvements to the airport. It does not involve any areas within the watershed.

### **Winslow: (alt. Jay Cook reported):**

1. Someone built a dock in the river near Piney Hollow Road. The dock runs lengthwise to the river.
2. A local hunter/fisherman raised concerns that there is no river access below the Lake Lenape dam for a motorboat.
3. Jay provided pictures of trash at New Brooklyn Lake below the causeway.

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

**1. PWSR/NPS Funding Update FY2009 & FY 2010:** The 2010 fiscal year Dear Colleague Letter, that the PWSR sent to Washington to be circulated through the House of Representatives received 25 signatures.

**2. Water Quality Monitoring (Babcock Creek):** On 4/14/2009 GEHWA and the Rutgers Environmental Stewards class from the ACUA, completed a streamside biosurvey of Babcock Creek at Pine Street.

**3. New Open Space Acquisitions:** Fred presented a GIS map depicting the preserved open space lands within the watershed, and that are also in close proximity to the federal boundary. The recent purchases in 2008 of the Feischer-Edsall and Gerdson Rose properties, fall within the federal boundary and add protection to Deep Run

**4. Pinelands Management Area Changes:** Based on an analysis using the EIA, the Pinelands Commission is proposing to change several areas from rural development (1 house per 5 acres) to forest (10 – 70 acres / house).

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.