

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2012

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:09 PM by Gregory 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), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Chris Jage (Alt. Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Steve Eisenhower (alt. Upper Township), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Rick Foster (Corbin City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (alt. GEHWA). (Paul Kenney NPS, absent.)

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 15, 2012 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Lynn reported that she continues to work with the following schools.

Egg Harbor Township: Alder Avenue School – Project Wet Water Festival - May
Fernwood Avenue School – River Eco-Cruises in May
Cedar Creek Magnet High School (New contact)

Hamilton Township – Mays Landing: Fred and Lynn helped to judged St. Vincent DePaul’s Science Fair in March. Lynn continues presenting monthly programs at St. Vincent DePaul (groundwater, stormwater, animals, macroinvertebrates and bird watching). The fifth grade will present a Puppet Show in June

Mainland Regional High School – Special Needs Class (New contact)

Middle Township Middle School – Taught Bill Handley’s students how to use GIS ArcMap to work with the NJDEP 2007 Landuse/Landcover shapefiles. They worked on the project so they could participate in an outdoor event at Beesley’s Point and Somers Point Kennedy Park.

Atlantic County Parks: Lynn is working with Karen from Atlantic County Parks to develop Bird Watching programs that will be held in July and September. They are also working on creating a puppet program

Events and Meetings:

GEHWA Member Meeting: GEHWA's March meeting was held at Camp Acagisca and the May meeting will be a frog walk at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township.

Cologne Avenue Tract Clean Up: On Saturday April 21st Atlantic County Parks and the Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association/River Council will partner in sponsoring a clean up at the Cologne Avenue Tract.

ACUA Earth Day: Fred and Lynn will table at the ACUA Earth Day event on Sunday, April 22, 2012

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): No Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): For the past several years the township committee has talked of installing a small sewage treatment plant. The Pinelands Commission funded a study for this project. The Township Committee has since shelved this project and no further action will take place at this time.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): The Duke of Fluke will be put in the water today.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): The Stevens Creek Great Egg Harbor River Council sign was damaged. It has been repaired and is due to be put back up.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): The ACUA sponsors community clean ups. Atlantic County Parks will have a new head. Dick participated in a forum that was held regarding water management of the Kirkwood Cohansy. The BL England power plant burns coal and oil to produce electricity and would like to convert the plant to natural gas. Dick asked if the drought is having an impact on the vernal ponds and frog populations?

GEHWA: (Clay Emerson – Alt.): Gave a presentation at Stockton on stormwater management.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): The retention ponds at the Hamilton Mall are dry. The water was pumped out. Approx. 10,000 fish were removed with a 50 ft. bag seine and the fish were transferred to Lake Lenape. Princeton Hydro did the work. They had fish removal and stocking permits from the state.

Hammonton: (Chris Jage – Alt.): On March 3rd Hammonton City held its annual Hammonton Lake cleanup that included cleanup of the town. Hammonton City is working to have the whole town certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): The owner of Bay Breeze Marina would like an Osprey platform installed near his home. He is willing to pay costs.

Upper Twp.: (Steve Eisenhauer - Alt.): In June students from Middle Township MS will take part in a variety of programs at Beesley Point and Somers Point (Kennedy Park).

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): The Environmental Commission collected old electronics from residents. It was a very successful program. Many residents turned in old electronics.

Other New Business:

None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. CoCoRaHS Recognition: Fred and Lynn received recognition from the NJ State Climatologist's office for their contribution in reporting precipitation to the CoCoRaHS organization in 2011.

2. PWSRs Letter to President Obama and VP Biden: A letter to the president and vice-president and congress will be sent asking for an additional \$446,000 to support the PWSRs.

3. Great Egg Designation History Presentation: Fred presented "National Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Pinelands National Reserve" at the Pinelands Short Course in March. Documents are included in the RCs packets regarding this program.

4. New Natural Lands Preservation Report: Potential land acquisitions: Lenape Farms (Burns – 2795 acres and Reardon – 2139 acres) 4934 acres. Also, 400 acres of Atlantic Blueberry fields will be donated to the state of NJ. Winslow Twp will transfer some lots to NJ Fish and Game (may include an old landfill).

5. Hamilton Mall Basin Repair: The Mall basins have been drained and there are plans to repair them. The fish were relocated.

6. Great Egg Harbor River Fisheries Study: In 98-99 the NPS paid for a fish study. River Herring (Alewife and Blueback) are currently being studied for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Atlantic Sturgeon has been listed as endangered. American Eel are also under consideration. New 2012 size limits and fish advisory included in RC packets.

7: River Herring/Menhaden Rescue Update: Letters that have been sent are included in RC packets.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Clark Sprigman, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.