

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2013

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:11 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), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City),

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Lou Harvey (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City)

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 February 20, 2013 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools: Lynn continues to work with area schools.

Alder Avenue Middle School: The Alder Avenue School has been instrumental in creating a “Community Garden” at the location of the EHT Historical Society.

Atlantic County Parks and Absecon Elementary School: GEHWA has partnered with Atlantic County Parks to help supply programs for area schools that plan trips to Estell Manor Park.

Richard Stockton College: Fred and Lynn assisted Professor Cromartie with several of his outdoor classroom events.

Events and Meetings: GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

GEHWA Member Meeting: March 26, 2013 was GEHWA’s Annual Member Meeting and program. Julie Akers presented a photo and video graphic program centered on vernal ponds and the amphibians that are dependent on them.

ACUA’s Environmental Stewards Class of 2013: Fred and Lynn taught one of the 2013 Environmental Stewards Classes that are being held at the ACUA Recycle Center. The focus was on water quality and using macroinvertebrates as bioindicators of water quality.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Earth Day at the ACUA: This Sunday, April 19, 2013, the ACUA will hold its annual Earth Day Event. GEHWA will be present at this event.

GEHWA Members Meeting: On Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 7:30 PM, GEHWA's annual "Walk for Frogs" will be held at Sahara Sands. This event is open to the public.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): No report, absent.

Old Business:

1. Open Space Funding Resolution 4-2013: Julie Akers made a motion to approve Resolution 4-2013 recommending that the State of NJ identify a sustainable source of funding for the preservation and stewardship of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historic Sites in New Jersey. Chris Jage seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

2. Mill Creek Recreation Conflict: The state is aware of the conflict at Mill Creek and has spoken to the property owner regarding restricting access to the stream.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

Financial Assistance for EHT School Cruise Program: Fred presented an overview of the GEHRC budget prior to the RC's making a decision to financially assist the EHT School Cruise Program. Total RC expenditures for 2012 were \$5,975.00. The current 2013 RC budget is \$18,264.00. The total funds needed for both the June and October cruises are \$2,900.00 (\$500.00 for June and \$2,400.00 for October).

Greg Gregory made a motion to fund the \$500.00 needed for the June EHT School Cruise Program, and at the June RC meeting to review the RC's budget and determine if available funds will support the allocation of the \$2,400.00 needed for the October cruise. Bill Christman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the motion: : Julie Akers, Yes; Richard Camp, Yes; David Brown, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Chris Jage, Yes. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian stated that the river looks good, and that he did not see any debris on the banks.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick suggested that a possible project for the GEHRC would be to fund the replacement of the video camera at the fish ladder at Lake Lenape. Dick is working with the Sierra Club and the South Jersey Outdoors club on a long distance trail from High Point to Cape May.

Hammonton: (Chris Jage): Chris stated that Hammonton has received a grant from ANJEC and plans to install interpretive signage at the park.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg was appointed as an alternate on the Somers Point Environmental Commission. Greg also provided a copy of a thesis by Anne Nickles entitled "An Historic Trip up the Great Egg Harbor River". The copy will be scanned and an electronic copy will be given to the NPS.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. NPS Meeting in Wilmington Delaware: Fred, Julie, Rick and Lynn attended the "Partnership Wild and Scenic 101" meeting in Wilmington Delaware on April 10, 2013.

2. Congressional Support for PWSRs: Support for the PWSRs Dear Colleague Letter for FY2014 has the support of 28 House legislators as of 4/16/2013. The letter has received a record number of signers this year. Fred is working to find a supporter in the Senate.

3. Stormwater Pump at Hamilton Commons: Hamilton Township has required that the developer of Hamilton Commons repair the failed basins due to the repeated flooding of the stormwater basins and the need to pump the flood waters from the basins.

4. Garden State Parkway Expansion: There is an expansion project of the Garden State Parkway near the Shore Mall.

5. Berlin Circle Mitigation: When the Berlin Circle was removed a wetlands area was created to help infiltrate the runoff.

6. Blue Bird Box Restoration: Fred restored the blue bird boxes at Michael Debbie Park. The RC has been credited with the project.

7. Osprey Colony Update: An old Osprey platform across from Miry Run was replaced in March. Osprey have already moved in and set up house.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.