

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***April 16, 2014***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:04 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.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.),

**Board Members Absent:** Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow 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), Walter Vreeland (GEHWA Member), Ralph Cooper (Upper Township)

**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 19, 2014 RC meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Ralph Cooper, who is a member of Upper Township's Green Team, is looking for organizations interested in partnering with Upper Township's Green Team.

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

**Schools:**

**St. Vincent DePaul School:** Fred, Julie and the Watershed Ambassador from WMA 15 judged SVDP's Science Fair held on February 27, 2014. On March 21, 2014 Julie and Lynn presented the last of 6 programs, "Discovering Macroinvertebrates" to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Lynn will facilitate the "Annual 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Puppet Show" on June 2 & 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Dawes Avenue School:** GEHWA will provide programs on June 16, 17 & 18, for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades from Dawes Avenue School at Kennedy Park, Higbee Beach and on the Duke of Fluke.

**Absegami High School:** On Earth Day, April 22, 2014 Lynn provided a program for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Absagami HS about Osprey and other raptors.

**Alder Avenue School:** Lynn provided programs for John Jones' 6<sup>th</sup> grade class on March 26 about birds, on April 15 about amphibians, on May 13 Fred and Lynn provided live macroinvertebrates for

the students to sort and identify and on May 28 Fred and Lynn will participate in the “Project Wet Water Festival” held at the school.

**ACUA Environmental Stewards:** On April 2, 2014 Fred and Lynn taught a class for the Environmental Stewards class that is sponsored by the ACUA.

**Upper Township Middle School:** On April 8, 2014 Lynn educated the seventh grade students at Upper Township Middle School about Stormwater Runoff and Groundwater using the EnviroScape and Groundwater Models.

**Fox Nature Center:** GEHWA has acquired contacts with 9 new schools by working in partnership with Atlantic County Parks and has or will be providing programs for the following schools: March 20 & 24, 2014, Absecon School; April 14, 2014, Westminster Christian Academy; May 12, 2014, AC Headstart; May 14, 2014, EHT Elementary School 1<sup>st</sup> grade Autistic Class; May 21, 2014, Cumberland County Christian School 3 to 5 yr. olds; May 29, 2014, Texas Avenue School 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; May 30, 2014, Richmond Avenue School 3 grade (event sponsored by the National Park Trust); and the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Children’s Academy of Galloway Twp.

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

**Winslow Township Birthday Celebration:** GEHWA supported the Winslow Township Birthday Celebration held on March 8, 2014.

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled because of inclement weather. The scheduled program topic was Backyard Bugs.

#### **Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

GEHWA will support the following events: FAA Earth Day Event at the FAA Center on April 24, 2014 from 10 to 1; ACUA Earth Day Event being held on Sunday April 27, 2014 from 10 to 4; and Galloway Twp. Green Festival being held on Saturday May 17, 2014

**GEHWA Member Meeting:** The next GEHWA Member event will be a frog walk held on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:30PM. The location is yet to be determined.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul participated in the dedication of the Lenape Village reservation that is located on the Musconetcong. Paul has received a permit application for the Route 50 Bridge going over Tuckahoe. The new structure will be a free span bridge. The piers supporting the existing bridge will be cut down to their bases on the river bottom.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

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

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie reported that Otters have been spotted in Pancoast Mill Pond

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave reported that striped bass and perch were caught in a seine net. He has also seen otters behind his house,

**Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen):** Jim reported that beaver are back on Stevens Creek. He also stated that he is glad to know there is concern about the impacts of road salt on the environment. Jim

attended a presentation by Mark Dimetroff and thinks it would be a good presentation for either the RC or a GEHWA meeting.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick reported there was a clean-up on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the trestle bridge in Mays Landing which included the removal of tires. Dick has been working on a long distance foot path that will eventually traverse the whole state. Dick announced the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge will hold a clean-up on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill reported seeing a bobcat on his property and thinks it might be what predated his pets. He has also heard a coyote but has not seen evidence of one on his property.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Greg reported multiple fox sightings in Somers Point.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Regarding Parkway Bridge, he inquired about a fishing pier and if there will be a bike and running path. He is concerned Jet Ski population may move to Drag Island when fishing pier is completed. Marine Mammal Stranding Center will be holding a seminar at Stockton College on May 19 regarding what to do when something washes up on the beach.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan Alt.):** Bill reported the sighting of a seal on a dock at English Creek.

**Folsom: (Joel Spiegel):** Fred reported on an email sent to him by Joel regarding the progress of work on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge..

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. National Wild and Scenic Rivers Report:** GEHR W & S Work Plan Budget for FY 2014 is \$117,000. The Dear Colleague letter sent to both the House and Senate had the greatest support to date. Unfortunately only 1 Senators from NJ supported the letter. Greg Gregory questioned the wording of the Dear Colleague letter. Fred will look at the wording. Fred reported about the gathering of the Northeast Regions PWSR's on April 10 and 11, 2014. Nine of the 12 rivers were represented.

**2. River Trails Grant/Project Update:** Awaiting delivery of new signs.

**3. Fernwood Saltwater Cruise Grant/Project Update:** Fred reported that Fernwood Middle School's Saltwater Cruise is a very successful educational program on the river. GEHRC helped to fund a river cruises for approximately 200 students in the 2013 -2014 school year. The RC approved \$2680.00 for the program for the 2013-2014 school year. The cost of the fall cruises was \$1610.00 leaving a balance of \$1070.00 for the spring cruise.

**4. Great Egg Harbor River Water Quality Update:** USGS Nutrient Report on the water quality of the GEHR indicated elevated levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. There is concern regarding road salts getting into the groundwater.

**5. Route 9 Bridge Removal Update:** Fred reported that the removal of the old Route 9 Bridge spanning the Great Egg Harbor Bay is taking place while the new bridge is being built.

**6. Wind Energy Information:** Fred has been working with the Marine Fishery's Council regarding wind power. He stated that there are areas off limits to wind power in the GEHW.

**7. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update:** Fred stated there have been reports of River Herring in GEHR. Fred attended a Fishery's training event at the Woods Hole Institute in Mass.

**8. Other Items of Interest:** None

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Handley and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.