

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes and Joint Meeting with GEHWA Trustees
December 18, 2013

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:30 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

River Council Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Richard Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp., Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Chris Jage (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Jim Owen (Estell Manor City, Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

GEHWA Trustee Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Sarah Summerville, Steve Eisenhauer, Clark Sprigman, Dick Colby, Clay Emerson, Elmer Ripley

Trustees Absent: Jamie Cromartie, Pat Sprigman, Ed Curry

Quorum Present – Yes

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

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: Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013 meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun) No report given due to time restraints of the meeting.

Fred Reported.

That Lynn had an article published in the recent ACUA Newsletter. A copy of the newsletter is included in the RC's packet. He also reported that Lynn gave a presentation at the recent GEHWA Member Meeting.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): None – Not present for meeting.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Resolution for the December River Council meeting to be an “Annual Joint Meeting” with the GEHWA Trustees.**
Julie Akers made a motion to have December be an annual joint meeting between the River Council and the GEHWA Trustees. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion passed.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie reported that land in the South River watershed, which was owned by the township, was recently sold to a local farmer.

Chuck O’Donnell (Alt. Corbin City): Chuck stated there are many coyotes on river.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported on the progress of replacing the 8th street Bridge which has been closed since November of 2012. The plans are to remove the old bridge, determine its historic value and place it in storage. A one lane steel bridge will be installed. Completion of the new bridge is expected in the summer of 2014.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick has been in the woods working on a footpath between Weymouth Furnace and Mays Landing on the south side of the GEHR. He also stated that he is not opposed to the proposed nature gas pipeline extension to the BL England Plant. The conversion of the plant to natural gas is expected to result in a 40% decrease in the use of river water for cooling.

Fred has done a literature search to try and find out what the impact is on the bio matter in the river from the intake and discharge of water from and to the river at the BL England power plant.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Lake Lenape dam is damaged and repairs will be risky. Bill has had two pets disappear from his backyard in the past several months. Possible predation by coyotes.

Hammonton: (Chris Jage): Hammonton recently passed an ordinance that will give credits to city water users who install water conservation devices.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg reported seeing an increase in coyotes in Somers Point.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill has not seen any Nutria on the river lately.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): The Power Squadron (which teaches safe boating) did a kayak trip and clean-up on the river the first week in October. They collected 28 bags of trash (and many flip flops).

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Winslow’s EC received a grant and would like to use some of the funds for a cleanup at New Brooklyn Lake or the Blue Hole in the Winslow WMA.

GEHWA Trustee Reports:

Julie Akers: Reported under “RC reports”.

Dick Colby: Reported under “RC reports”.

Steve Eisenhower: Running a natural gas pipeline to the BL England power plant is currently a big issue. Steve also reported that Black Vultures will kill newborn sheep and calves.

Clay Emerson: Clay has seen a few live and dead coyotes in Hamilton Twp. He stated that coyotes not native to the state are displacing foxes and that the incidence of Lymes disease is on the rise with the decrease in fox which eat the white-footed mouse.

Elmer Ripley: Elmer stated that Lake Lenape dam has three flume gates. The one closest to the fish ladder was not installed properly and as a result erosion has occurred. He stated that from historic records the dam went in out around 1870.

Clark Sprigman: Reported under “RC reports”.

Sarah Summerville: In 2007 the dam on Unexpected Road was breached and Miller Pond was lost. The dam has finally been decommissioned and the stream flowing through what was Miller Pond will now be free flowing. Sarah also noted that there are many coyotes in the area and the beaver at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge had three kits this year.

Other New Business: None

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers)

1. River Trails Grant/Project Update: Fred showed graphics for new “River Trails sign. The signs will be erected at three river access locations: at 8th street, Weymouth furnace and Lake Lenape, with one extra sign kept in storage. Brochures with the new map will also be created.

2. Atlantic County Wetlands Mitigation Bank: Atlantic County’s wetlands project was the winner of the 2013 Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award.

3. Osprey Project: A handout was included in the RC’s packet. The ENSP program has documented the continued increase in nesting Osprey within the State of NJ.

4. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Ralph Bernard and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.