

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2013

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:07PM by Dick Colby, Acting 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), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Steve Eisenhauer (Alt. Upper Twp.),

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (Atl. GEHWA), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City),

Open Meetings Act: Dick Colby 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 April 17, 2013 meeting. Steve Eisenhauer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

Fernwood Avenue Middle School: June 12, 2013 River Cruise on the Duke of Fluke. Students helped to erect an Osprey platform, followed by flounder fishing.

Alder Avenue Middle School: On May 29, 2013 the Alder Avenue School sponsored the “Water Festival” event on the school grounds with funding from a NJDEP grant.

Middle Township Middle School: Bill Handley’s students from the middle school participated in events at Kennedy Park on June 4 and 5th.

St. Vincent DePaul School: SVDP fifth grade class concluded the year with events at the Wetlands Institute, identifying macroinvertebrates and by presenting an environmental puppet show to the lower grades.

Events and Meetings:

Earth Day at the ACUA: The ACUA Earth Day event held on Sunday, April 19, 2013, was well attended. We were busy all day.

GEHWA Member Meeting: GEHWA partnered with PPA for our annual “Walk for Frogs” that was held at Sahara Sands on Tuesday, May 28, 2013. The water level in the vernal pond was extremely low. We found puddles with both dead and live, tadpoles and macroinvertebrates.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA Member Meeting: GEHWA’s annual picnic and campfire will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013. Location and more info will be sent out prior to event.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): PWSR’s programs will be cut between 10 and 15 percent. The Mid-Atlantic Rivers received the greatest cuts. There are issues with NPS “Directors Order 46”.

Old Business:

1. Financial Assistance for EHT School Cruise Program: Fred reviewed the GEHRC budget prior to making a determination for assisting the EHT School River Cruise Program. RC expenditures for 2012 were \$5,975.00. The RC 2013 budget is \$18,264.00. The amount needed to fund October’s School Cruise program is \$2,680.00.

Ralph Bernard made a motion to fund the EHT School Cruise Program for \$2,680.00 for four fall trips in October. Jim Owen seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the motion: Julie Akers, Yes; Brian Camp, Yes; David Brown, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Steve Eisenhauer, Yes; Ralph Bernard, Yes; Chris Jage, Yes. Motion carried.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian asked when construction will start on the Route 50 Bridge.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): David asked if there was any news on Lakes Creek project.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Complained about the humming noise in the Nature Center.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill stated that Hamilton Township had a Hometown celebration. There are continued issues with the stormwater basins. He would also like to know about the Miry Run Bridge project.

Hammonton: (Chris Jage): The William Penn Association will be funding groundwater and surface water restoration projects. Hammonton has been identified as a possible project area.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Bill reported that many strippers have been caught this year.

Other New Business: None

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers):

1 NPS Funding Cut: The National Park Service continues to cut funding to local river managers. NPS is taking a portion of the funding for themselves. The GEHR cooperative agreement funds have been cut a total of 37,000.00 from 2009 to 2013. All PWSRs cooperative agreements have been cut a total of \$235,000.00 from 2009 to 2013.

2. Congressional Support for PWSRs: PWSRs received good Congressional support for the Dear Colleague letters. Thirty members of the House signed the Dear Colleague letter from a total of 15 states. Seven US Senators signed on from 7 states.

3. Open Space Funding Update: The NJ Senate will vote on June 20th on critical bill SCR138 which is for a dedicated funding source for Green Acres and Blue Acres projects. If the bill passes it will be put on the November ballot for public approval.

4. Request for Pollution Remediation Assistance: Fred received a request from Mr. Deull for assistance. Mr. Deull received a notice that he is responsible for the pollution that is found on his site. Fred did a historical assessment of the property known as Block 387, Lots 1 & 2. There is a historic record of pollution at the site from 1907. This pollution occurred prior to Mr. Deull owning the property.

5. Request for Open Space Preservation Assistance: Jake Simon wants to sell 554 acres for Open Space preservation and called Fred for help in selling the land. Fred showed slides of the current landuse at the site. The property consist mostly of wetlands.

6. Hamilton Mall Basin: Hamilton Mall, LLC has made a request to the Hamilton Twp. Planning Board to modify their plans to correct the basins at the mall. Specifically basin #6. Hamilton Mall LLC would like approval for this basin to hold water for a portion of the year. The Planning Board gave approval for the CO but denied the request and told the LLC to fix basin.

7. River Trails Grant: GEHWA received a Franklin Parker Small Grant for \$5,750.00. This money will be used as a pass through grant to improve GEHR trail signs in the Atlantic County Parks system. The grant will pay for the upgrade of 4 signs and the creation of a brochure. Depending on the cost of the signs, there may be enough money it may to erect signage along the river pointing out the correct direction towards Lake Lenape.

8. River Herring and Menhaden Protection: The ASMFC approved a new management system for Atlantic Menhaden. And MAFMC approved a management plan for river herring, shad and mackerel.

9. Osprey Colony Update: Fred is planning to count and band Osprey chicks between June 20 and July 10.

5. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Julie Akers and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8.58 PM.