

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 19, 2006

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Tom Walker (Corbin City), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), John Brudon (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp),

Board Members Absent: John Olansen (Upper Twp), Bud Paynter, (Winslow Twp)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator)

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 and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing.

Approval of Minutes: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2006 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers): Fred presented the following agenda items for information and/or action:

1. Follow-up on Fish Ladder at Lake Lenape dam: photo presentation of construction.
2. Final Guidelines for Local River Management Plans: Fred distributed copies of the *Guidelines* to all Councilors, which were originally provided to each municipality during the LRMP-development process. These can be used for information and background purpose.
3. Open space update: Fred distributed handout of Pinelands permanent land protection map, showing target areas of Pinelands interest for acquisition, including Hamilton Twp Greenway.
4. ORV Issue Update: photo presentation of Gravelly Run vernal pond degradation.
5. Kennedy Park erosion: Fred and Gregory have been in contact with Dawes Ave. School regarding a "Save the Bluffs" program started by the school to build support for erosion control measures at the Park. An estimate of \$283,000 was received from Somers Point's engineer to continue the same erosion control project done several years ago. Fred is planning a bush-planting component with the Dawes School for sometime

next month. Contributions continue to come in memory of Gregory's father; these will be targeted to Somers Point and can be used for the purchase of plantings.

6. Patcong Creek clean-up: Linwood and ACUA are planning a boat and land clean-up of Patcong Creek on May 7th; GEHWA will be assisting.
7. C-1 Buffer court decision/ PL waters connection: photo presentation of HUC 14 Stormwater Rule areas affected by 300-ft buffers.
8. Red Knot / Horseshoe crab update: An update was made on the pending moratorium on horseshoe crab harvesting and relationship with migrating birds, and significance for the Delaware Bay as well as the GEHR Bay.
9. Upcoming events: Day at the Bay, and other participation at municipal and Earth Day events.

NPS Report: Fred summarized federal funding status.

Old Business

1. Monroe Bridge: Rick Coe will follow up to see if Monroe Twp's Public Works Dept labor can satisfy a requirement for matching funds. There is also a Blue Hole hike scheduled Saturday 4/22.
2. Watershed Sign Update: Signs will soon be up on all local roads; signs on State roads are still on hold. There could be more signs budgeted to be placed on county and local roads.
3. Tuckahoe WMA water controls: John Brudon and Tom Walker met with Lee Widjeskog (NJF&W). Lee wants to drain the ponds in June, and will need to talk with Paul Kenney. John and Tom reported that the South impoundment is completely gone – Ducks Unlimited engineers may help with specifications and/or perhaps some funding. The North impoundment may be able to be fixed in house (per Lee), but they would need equipment assistance. Besides their importance to shorebirds, the state of the impoundments has also caused saltwater intrusion concerns for Estell Manor and Corbin City residents.
4. RC sponsored cruise: Fred reported that GEHWA is already partnering with NJ Audubon for a cruise (plus an additional reserved rain date) on the Duke O' Fluke in October, and RC could participate too. As an alternative way to get Councilors and municipal reps out on the river, Gary Theno suggested having us visit his newly renovated marina. His facilities can host 100 people; included could be a catered "old-fashioned" BBQ and mini-tours of the river in small private boats furnished by several Councilors. We should each check our calendars and municipal interest for a Saturday in mid-July, from 3-6PM or 3-8PM (high tide between 4-5 PM).
5. Other Old Business: none

New Business:

1. River Councilor Reports

- Somers Point: Greg Gregory presented \$500 raised at a recent golf tournament in his father's memory. This will go towards the Bluffs project.
- Monroe Twp: Rick Coe cited the need to follow up on the Blue Hole Bridge project connecting Monroe and Winslow Twp.

- Buena Vista Twp: Julie Akers reported on the Richland train project which connects to Tuckahoe, and ongoing opposition in BVT regarding the proposed Sahara Sands ORV site.
- Folsom Boro: Joel Spiegel reported that their Environmental Commission is participating in the Adopt-A-Road program. An amenity (besides getting roads cleaned up) is that all clean-up supplies are provided.
- GEHWA: Dick Colby asked if copies of the *Guidelines* would also be sent again to municipalities. It was decided that Councilors would follow up with this information to their planning bodies, especially in the updating of LRMP's.
- Hamilton Twp: Bill Christman announced that HT will be hosting an ANJEC road show (funded by the RC) on May 10th. All RC towns are invited.
- Hammonton City: Keith Kendrix reported that the Hammonton Environmental Commission has approved his son's Eagle Scout project to do storm drain stenciling. It was suggested that the town engineer could provide him with a map of drains.
- Corbin City: Tom Walker reported that Corbin is considering forming an Environmental Commission.
- Egg Harbor Township: Gary Theno reported that Stu Farrell (Stockton College professor and consultant) may be coming out to do another evaluation of potential for river dredging in his area.
- Weymouth Twp: Bill Egan had nothing new to report.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 9:03PM.