

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
April 18, 2007

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:12 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

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

Board Members Absent: Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

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, 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 21, 2007 meeting, Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: No members of the public were present.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

The April 15th Storm: Using Power Point, pictures of the aftermath of the storm were shown. On April 17th and 18th the river reached flood stage. It was two feet above flood stage at the Folsom Gauging Station.

Gary Theno raised concerns regarding the failed basins at the Hamilton Mall and inquired who was responsible for them.

BSA Troop 79 Tuckahoe WMA Cleanup Event April 21: The troop will concentrate their cleanup efforts on the sides of the impoundment roads within the wildlife management area. The cleanup is scheduled to begin at 8:30.

Osprey Platform Project Bay Locations Update: Adam Day will erect 5 osprey platforms on the Tuckahoe River for his Eagle Scout Project. A slide presentation was given of the locations of existing and proposed sites, equaling a total of 27 locations. Nine platforms are needed for the Great Egg Harbor River.

Coming Events: ACUA's Earth Day, April 22; GEHWA Trustees Meeting, April 24; Atlantic County's Government Day, April 25; Somers Point BayFest, April 28; Frog Walks: Unexpected Wildlife Refuge, May 2 and Manumuskin, May 8; Collings Lake Homeowners Association, May 7; Egg Harbor Township Schools Jamboree-Catawba Project, May 16.

New Natural Lands Trust Acquisitions in W & S Headwaters of Babcock Creek: In Atlantic County, 542 acres have been purchased by the NJ Natural Lands Trust.

More Targeted Land Acquisition Areas in Atlantic County: The Pinelands Commission has mapped areas within the Reserve that are targeted for acquisition. 113,000 of those acres are in Atlantic County and should be the focus for future acquisitions.

Sahara Sands Proposed ORV Park Report Released: A detailed report using GIS analysis was released. The report affirmed that the Sahara Sands property on Jackson Road, in Monroe Township was the wrong location for an "Off Road Vehicle Park." The report was sent to state and local government representatives.

ORV Legislation Sprouting in Trenton: A large group of NGOs are seeking the support of the legislators in Trenton to support ORV legislation that would require registration and tags for all new ORVs sold.

Birch Grove Park/Maple Run water quality project: The purpose of the project is to monitor the impact of stormwater runoff on Maple Run. Work on mapping streams and locating water control structures has begun, and is part of the project. The project is in the early stages.

South River Trail Brochure: Information on the Weymouth Township Trail Brochure needs to be corrected. On the front cover where it is mentioned that the brochure was produced by the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, it needs to be replaced with the Great Egg Harbor River Council.

NPS Report: None

Old Business:

Resolution in support of the renewal of the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT): The River Council (RC) was asked to support Resolution No. 2007-04. Dick Colby requested the following additions/corrections: 1. Wants copies sent to Legislators and Council Chairs, and 2. Would like a letter sent to the municipalities of the RC asking for their support of the GSPT.

Julie Akers made a motion to accept resolution 2007-04 with corrections; the motion was seconded by Gary Theno. Motion Carried

River Council Sign Permit: Fred Akers reported that the signs would be erected soon.

New Business:

River Councilor Reports:

Buena Vista Twp.: Julie Akers reported that the 1st award from the Belinda Irizarry Memorial Fund would be presented at GEHWA's May Members Meeting. Julie also reported that the Pinelands Commission voted to approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) amongst itself, the Buena Borough

Municipal Utilities Authority (BBMUA) and Buena Vista Township, which will permit the Buena Borough MUA to build a wastewater infiltration-percolation facility. Once the facility is operational it will cease the discharge of treated sewage wastewater into Deep Run which flows easterly to the Great Egg Harbor River.

Egg Harbor Twp.: Gary Theno gave Fred Akers a report from the NJDEP regarding Shield Alloy. Gary also expressed concern that boaters were not using the pump-out that is located at his dock, and he believes, are instead dumping the waste from their boats' tanks into the river. He had received a grant from the state to install the pump-out equipment, and his is the only one to be found in that area of the river. He spoke about offering some type of prize as an incentive to use the facility.

Folsom Boro: Joel Spiegel mentioned the roads that were closed due to flooding following the April 15th storm.

Monroe Twp.: Rick Coe appreciated the good work Fred Akers did on the Sahara Sands Report.

Weymouth Twp.: Bill Egan reported that an Earth Day Cleanup took place on the South River.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Julie Akers and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.