

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2004**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:15PM by Greg Gregory.

Roll Call by Fred Akers:

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Township), John Brudon (Estell Manor), Bill Christman (Hamilton Township), Dick Colby (GEHWA alternate), Bill Egan (Weymouth Township), Greg Gregory (Somers Point), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton), and Joel Spiegel (Folsom Borough).

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Township), John Olansen (Upper Township), Creed Pogue (GEHWA), and Marc Thyrring (Egg Harbor Township). Regrets from Rick, John and Creed.

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (National Park Service)

Proceedings

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

The Minutes of June 16 were approved unanimously.

Public Portion

As there was no one present from the public, there was no public portion.

River Administrator Report

Fred Akers reported on:

1. Watershed signage: Signs have been ordered and will be ready in next few weeks.
2. Monroe Bridge project: Significant historical information about the Blue Hole and Inskip area has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Ormsby (GEHWA members from Monroe Township who are active with the Monroe Twp Historical Society). This will be used to garner support for potential grants to recreate a footbridge between Winslow and Monroe Twps across the GEHR.
3. River Tour for Municipal, County, and State Officials: The planned date for this informational tour is Saturday, October 9 aboard the Duke o' Fluke. The boat will depart from its Somers Point dock at 12:30 PM and travel up to the bulkhead at Mays Landing, returning to Somers Point by 5:30 PM or earlier. The cost for the boat will be \$600. Since the boat holds 45 passengers, three reps from each municipality will be offered the opportunity to attend (the designated river councilor and two other interested municipal board members or substitutes). In addition, reps from federal agencies/government will also be invited.
4. Clean Vessel Act: Atlantic County has responded that it is not able to fund operation for a pump-out boat, and is not interested in pursuing this project. Fred will continue to do research. A recommendation to look into erecting "No Discharge Zone" signs and disseminating more of the NJ info about No Discharge

and use of pump-out facilities will also be researched as a means of promoting better awareness in the meantime. Keith Kendrix reported that he had received info with his recent boat purchase; a boater must be 2.5-3 miles offshore to dump a holding tank, or use a pump-out facility otherwise. Additionally, there is a \$10,000 fine if a boat is stopped and the sea cock to the holding tank is not locked.

5. American Planning Association: Five people from GEHR Council and GEHWA participated in this conference on 8/10/04 at Stockton College, including John Olansen, Dick Colby, Fred Akers and Belinda Irizarry.

6. Stormwater Management: Fred then showed the slide show that he had presented at the APA conference. Focus was on the Adams Branch / Babcock Creek stormwater project.

National Park Service Report

Fred introduced Paul Kenney, who has been designated the successor to Mary Vavra effective October 1. Paul will be providing the same support and W&S Section 7 reviews that Mary has done. He will be working jointly for both the GEHR and Maurice River. He announced the upcoming meeting of Northeast Partnership Rivers in New England on November 5-6, where discussion of funding and distribution will be very important.

Old Business

1. River Council 2005 Workplan: Fred distributed copies of three grant requests that GEHWA has just submitted as examples of possible funding projects. He noted that he is currently working on the Monroe Twp footbridge funding proposal, and that other Councilors could bring potential funding ideas from their municipalities to his attention too.

2. Barge Removal Contract: No information has been received. Tabled.

New Business

River Councilor Reports

1. Hamilton Twp: Bill Christman reported on a recent application for a 39-home subdivision before the Planning Board. He asked if any other municipalities had had to determine if a stormwater basin qualified as a buffer, as this applicant had contended. The Planning Board pointed out sound and visual concerns that would arise if a 200' wooded buffer were replaced by a pond "buffer".

2. Estell Manor: John Brudon reported that there would be a meeting September 1 regarding the use of contaminated fill as a material to cap the municipal landfill.

3. Buena Vista: Julie Akers passed.

4. GEHWA: Dick Colby announced the upcoming GEHWA Members' Meeting to be held 9/28. The presentation will be made by Clay Sutton on his recently completed 2003-4 Winter Raptor and Shorebird Survey.

5. Folsom: Joel Spiegel reported on Belinda's educational support in Folsom. He praised her for her highly receptive programs, and how she continues to work closely with the Environmental Commission.

6. Hammonton: Keith Kendrix also commented on Belinda's visibility at their Environmental Commission meetings, and he will pass along the educational program info to interested people in his town.
7. Weymouth Twp: Bill Egan reported that his municipality expressed thanks to the River Council for their funding of a GIS printer. Greg Gregory requested that other towns be reminded that they could ask Weymouth for assistance with GIS expertise. Bill also described the upcoming SJ Gas pipeline that will be drilled through the Peninsula and under the river to add expanded service to high-growth regions on the other side of the river. Fred Akers commented on the SJ Gas project history and the environmental alternatives that had been considered to make the project the least disruptive.
8. Egg Harbor Twp: Bill Egan also reported on the Wharf Road subdivision proposal. Fred and Bill summarized the issues, noting the amount of waivers that the applicant was seeking. An environmental consultant hired by the Environmental Commission has compiled many concerns and questions voiced by the Commission, local residents and GEHWA, which has led to two tabled hearings. The next hearing may be rescheduled for November. Fred noted that a joint meeting of all EHT Boards had recently been held, and all Boards had been encouraged to NOT grant development waivers easily.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.