

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Monthly Meeting
August 16, 2006

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:10 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), John Brudon (Estell Manor City), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), 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), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

Board Members Absent: Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor 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, Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing and the GEHWA website.

Approval of Minutes: John Olansen did not attend the June 21 RC meeting and asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect this. Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting as corrected. Tom Walker 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. **Save the Bluffs:** A twenty minute video was shown. The video was produced by staff at the Dawes Avenue School in Somers Point with equipment purchased using a \$25,000 Technical and Teaching Grant from Hewlett Packard (HP). The video documented the steps taken by students and faculty to promote the "Save the Bluffs" project. The video was shown at a HP conference in San Diego. Out of 2000 participating schools, the Dawes School was one of fifteen chosen to receive a \$56,000 HP Leadership Grant for 2006-2007
2. **Governor's School:** Julie Akers was a teacher at the Governor's School held at Richard Stockton College during the month of July. The focus of this month long educational experience for her class of twelve high school juniors from around the state was "Sprawling Suburbs – Shrinking Water Resources". Julie led them on many excursions outside of the classroom to

explore South Jersey issues and areas. A short video (produced by one of Julie's students) documenting some of these experiences was shown.

3. **River Council Sign Update:** After many months of unproductive communication with NJDOT, a completed application and a check for \$175.00 was sent to NJDOT for approval to place signs on state roads. A suggestion was made to consider the purchase and erection of additional signs on county and local roads.

4. **ORV Update:** A model ORV Ordinance was given to RC members. Buena Vista has already adopted the ordinance, and Corbin City, Upper Twp and Folsom have also requested copies to consider their adoption. Keith Kendrix suggested that new legislation, similar to what exists for the boating industry, be implemented and given to customers prior to purchasing an ORV. Dick Colby inquired about attendance at the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's sponsored ORV meetings that have been held recently. Fred responded that ORV riders had greater attendance and heckled him during his presentations. Fred stated that some municipalities are beginning to step-up enforcement of their ORV ordinances. Individuals are speaking out to enforce their municipal ordinances, including farmers who are tired of ORV riders trashing their fields. Rick Coe noted that Monroe tried 10 years ago to enact an ordinance regulating ORV's, but dropped it at the time due to an outpouring of opposition from users.

5. **National Park Service Funding Cut:** The Musconetcong River in NJ received approval from both the House and Senate and is a Presidential signature away from full Congressional designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The entire New Jersey congressional delegation co-sponsored the legislation. The House of Representatives cut \$247,000 of the Partnership Wild and Scenic River (PWSR 2007) funding and added an earmark of \$75,000 for the Westfield River in Massachusetts. The Westfield does not have a congressional designation. In prior years the Senate has restored any funding cuts to the partnership, but to date they have not acted on the FY2007 appropriation. Fred and Paul attended a meeting with the folks from the Musconetcong Watershed. Fred stated that though he felt this would be a beneficial addition to the PWSR, it would also be an additional draw on the dwindling funds designated for the PWSR. Fred will be attending American Rivers Lobby Day in Washington DC on September 11 & 12 to speak with NJ representatives.

6. **Osprey Platform Project:** Ben Wurst from NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife's Endangered and Nongame Species Program has asked for help to repair and erect Osprey platforms on the Great Egg Harbor River; immediate needs, according to Ben, are to replace 3 and add 2-3 new platforms. Ben will provide a jet pump for the installation of the platforms. A copy of the Osprey Nest Platform specifications and materials list was handed out. Fred stressed the importance of building the platforms according to the specs. There are two platforms at Bill Egan's marina that are ready to be installed. Fred will contact those interested in assisting when plans are set to start in September.

Greg Gregory asked if the council would support the buying, building and installation of the platforms. The council unanimously agreed.

Keith Kendrix wanted to know if the current Osprey population supported the need for additional platforms. Fred replied that the NJFWS was making the request and he also stated that the birds are now nesting on any surface that will support a nest.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): None

Old Business: Tom Walker (Corbin City) and John Brudon (Estell Manor) stated that to date, there has not been any action from the state on repairing the water control structures for the impoundments at the Tuckahoe WMA. The state was to draw down the water levels in the impoundments between July and August to prepare enable repairs. This has not occurred.

New Business: The Township of Upper has requested a grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 to perform a Tuckahoe River Cleanup Project slated to occur in September (9/9). The cleanup will include the banks on both sides of the Tuckahoe River from Head of the River to the mouth at the bay, as was done in 2002. Boy Scout troops #79 of Marmora and #55 of Tuckahoe will be responsible for the cleanup. John Brudon made a motion to approve the grant request of \$4,000.00 for the cleanup; each troop is to receive \$2,000.00. Rick Coe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was made: Julie Akers YES; John Brudon YES; Bill Christman YES; Rick Coe YES; Dick Colby YES; Bill Egan YES; Greg Gregory YES; Keith Kendrix YES; John Olansen YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Tom Walker YES. Motion carried. Fred will check if the Troops need to receive 1/2 payment of the grant prior to the clean-up date. Fred and Lynn will also make presentations about the Great Egg Harbor River at both Troop meetings, either before or after the cleanup.

River Councilor Reports:

Hammonton City: Keith Kendrix reported that his son has labeled the Great Egg Harbor River and Mullica River storm drains and has satisfied the requirements to receive his Eagle Scout Badge. He will send photos to Lynn to include in the next newsletter.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Keith Kendrix, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.