

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
**Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting**  
**August 15, 2007**

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:07 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), Ed Curry (GEHWA-Alternate), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), 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), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

**Board Members Absent:** Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp),

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), 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:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2007 and June 20, 2007 meetings. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Julie Akers made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried. There were no comments from the public. Julie Akers made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):**

- **Whitesbog Blueberry Festival Nature Walk:** Fred Akers lead a walk at historic Whitesbog Village on June 24th.

- **Richard Stockton College:** Julie Akers taught at the Governor's School for the Environment in July. This is the second year she has done so. GEHWA staff participated by giving presentations at night and in the classroom. The staff also helped during an overnight camping trip, at Babcock Creek while doing a stream side bio-survey, and during a tour of Birch Grove Park.

- **Presentation to Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Trustees:** On June 26<sup>th</sup> GEHWA's trustees were invited to PPA's trustee meeting. Fred Akers gave a presentation about water quality at the meeting. His presentation was well received. One of PPA's trustees has since become a member of GEHWA.

- **Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association Picnic and Campfire:** GEHWA held its annual campfire and picnic at Weymouth Furnace on July 24th. It was suggested that the river councilors try to attend next year's event so that members can meet the representative for their municipality.

- **Atlantic County Friends of the Park Folk Art Festival:** For the second year, on August 4<sup>th</sup>, GEHWA tabled at this event. The event is a good place to make contact with county and municipal government representatives. It is also an opportune time to speak with individuals concerned about the quality of their water and threats to it.

- **Margate Library:** Staff from the Margate library invited GEHWA to take part in their summer program. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, using the Groundwater Model and the EnviroScape Model, a presentation was given on "Water Pollution from Stormwater Runoff" and "Where Your Water Comes From".

#### **Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

- **River Council Sign Update:** All 36 signs have finally been placed. The signs are now located at all 18 roads that cross over the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries that are within the Wild & Scenic Federal Boundary.

- **River Council Budget Update:** To date \$2,110.00 of the \$22,464.00 River Council budget for 2007 has been spent on projects.

- **Bill Christman EPA Award:** Bill Christman received an award on July 30, 2007 for his outstanding volunteer service. Stephen L. Johnson, U.S. EPA Administrator, presented Bill with The President's Volunteer Service Award during a ceremony at the ACUA wastewater treatment facility and wind farm in Atlantic City.

- **Egg Harbor River-Lake Lenape Storm Safety Committee:** Hamilton Township's mayor sent a letter to Fred asking that he serve on their newly formed "Egg Harbor River-Lake Lenape Storm Safety Committee".

- **Adams Branch Update:** The basins at the mall have been drained and are at their lowest level in years. An engineer's report is needed to assess problems and suggest solutions on the basins' drainage problems. It is possible that a 319 grant could be used to pay for the report. This could pose a problem though, since it would be using public money to pay for a project on privately owned property.

- **Gravelly Run ATV Damage Report:** Slides were shown of the damage done to banks and streams on Gravelly Run. This property is preserved open space. It was noted that an "Adopt a Stream" program could be implemented on Gravelly Run since it is in close proximity to the Hess School.

- **Atlantic County Environmental Conference:** Atlantic County will be hosting an Environmental Conference on September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Councilors received a handout on the event.

- **Pinelands Commission Update:** The councilors were given a modified copy of the "State of the Pinelands Report" that was produced by PPA. The report prompted a meeting between the Pinelands Commission, PPA and other environmental groups to discuss issues.

- **Water Quality Management Plan Rules Update:** NJ DEP has proposed changes to the Water Quality Management Plan. These new rules seek to update the regulations and management plans that will be necessary to manage NJ's septic and sewer systems.

- **Garden State Preservation Trust Update:** Governor Corzine has approved a \$200,000,000 bond issue for the continuation of the trust for 2008. Voters must approve this allocation on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Update-NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Congress had not approved the 2008 budget prior to breaking for the summer. Beth Styler Barry, Executive Director from the Musconetcong will attend the RC meeting in October. The NPS office in Boston is closing and as a result the Philadelphia office will be reorganizing in September. The NPS approved a \$4,300.00 matching cost share grant for the 2007 Bird Survey.

### **Old Business:**

-**Resolution in Support of the Watershed Institute Grant:** Councilors were given a copy of a grant request sent to Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's Watershed Institute Grant Program. The \$20,000.00 grant request is for the "GIS Subwatershed and Municipal Land Use Analysis" of the twelve municipalities within the boundary of the federal designation. Fred requested that the RC show support of this grant request by approving Resolution R:05-2007.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by John Olansen, to support the resolution. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept resolution R:05-2007: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Ed Curry YES; Bill Christman YES; Tom Walker YES; Bill Egan YES; Keith Kendrix YES; John Olansen YES; Greg Gregory YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Gary Theno YES. Motion carried.

-**BVT Grant Proposal for Unexpected Wildlife Refuge:** Julie Akers requested that the River Council provide the funds for an appraisal needed by Unexpected Wildlife Refuge so that it can purchase an additional 27 acres. The funds would come from the municipal assistance account. The cost of the appraisal is approximately \$2,000.00. Tom Walker expressed concern about giving funds to an organization and not to the municipality since the money was coming from the RC Municipal Assistance Account. Julie Akers also stated that she has had the same concern in the past. GEHRC has provided money directly to scout troops for clean ups out of the same account in the past and not to the municipality the troop is in. Paul Kenney stated that the Municipal Assistance Account was not mandated by the NPS, but was instead a name given to an account by the RC Administrator as a way of tracking the dispersal of funds. This being the case, Paul does not foresee any problems.

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Tom Walker, to approve \$2,000.00 to come from the Municipal Support Account for the appraisal. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was made to accept the \$2,000.00 request for the appraisal: Julie Akers YES; Jim Owen YES; Ed Curry YES; Bill Christman YES; Tom Walker YES; Bill Egan YES; Keith Kendrix YES; John Olansen YES; Greg Gregory YES; Joel Spiegel YES; Gary Theno YES. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

- **Additional River Council Road Crossing Signs:** Consideration is being given to the placement of additional signs at road crossings that are within the watershed. Councilors were given a handout with

additional locations. In the past the Atlantic County Road Department has installed the signs for free. Fred will ascertain costs for sign materials to be installed on Atlantic County Roads.

**-Slow Speed No-Wake Signs on Small Tributaries:** There was a discussion on placing Slow Speed No-Wake signs on the river to promote safety and reduce erosion in narrow channels. A number of diverse comments for and against this idea were presented by the River Councilors, with no consensus for action to be taken on this issue at this time.

**-Other New Business: *Pump Out Boat*** – Councilors were given a handout and a discussion was held. It was the general consensus that a pump out boat was not necessary for the river. Gary Theno noted that he has observed illegal pumping of waste, from boats, directly into the river. It was suggested that a pump out located at Gaskill Park would be appropriate.

### **- River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Corbin City (Tom Walker):** A start-up habitat based wildlife group would like to relocate Bobwhite Quail, whose habitat is being destroyed, to an area that has or will have suitable habitat.

**Egg Harbor Twp. (Gary Theno):** Activity on the river has not decreased as a result of rising gas prices. Wildlife is also present on the river.

**Folsom (Joel Spiegel):** Two bridges were closed after the April storm but were reopened within 2-3 days. The bridge over Hospitality was closed at a later date for repairs.

**Hamilton Twp. (Bill Christman):** Mentioned the flooding issue that was previously discussed.

**Hammonton (Keith Kendrix):** Mentioned the recent ATV fatality.

**Somers Point (Greg Gregory):** The river was clean on a recent Winding River canoe trip. Only 2 beer cans were collected.

### **Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Keith Kendrix and second by Tom Walker, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.