

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:10 PM by Dick Colby, Acting Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), Rick Foster (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Bill Handley (Upper Twp)

Board Members Absent: Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Steve Eisenhauer (alt. for Upper Twp.)

Open Meetings Act: Dick Colby 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: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Community Outreach: GEHWA continues to work with and support the programs of the following schools.

Egg Harbor Township: Alder Ave Middle School

Hamilton Township: Mays Landing, St. Vincent DePaul

Egg Harbor Township: Fernwood Avenue Middle School

Somers Point: Dawes Avenue School

Events and Meetings: GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award: The Oasis Animal Sanctuary was the recipient of the annual Belinda Irizarry Memorial Award in the amount of \$500.00.

River Bend Cleanup: Members of GEHWA and the RC participated in this cleanup event.

ACUA Earth Day: This is a very popular event that is well attended by the public.

Eco Fair: This event was held at Wheaton Village.

Kayaking Trip on the Tuckahoe: Fred led a trip kayaking trip to the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management area impoundments.

GEHWA Member Meeting – Hike for Frogs: This is a popular annual event that is held at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township

GEHWA Annual Picnic: The annual picnic and campfire was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at Weymouth Furnace.

Upcoming Events:

Pinelands Folk Arts Festival: Will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at Lenape Park East.

Green Day Festival: Will take place in Hammonton on the grounds of St. Joseph's High School from noon until 4:00 pm.

GEHWA Member Meeting: "Let's Paddle the South River", Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at 5:30pm, at the South River boat launch.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The Musconetcong River Council finally adopted bylaws. The GEHRC's bylaws were used as a template.

Old Business:

1. **2011 NJ Fertilizer Law Information for Municipalities:** A two page summary was included in the RC's packets.

Other Old Business: The Upper Township Zoning/Planning board has twice tabled the application for development on the Tuckahoe River near Route 50. The property owner is making improvements to the property without the appropriate approvals.

Flooding occurred at the dam located at Penny Pot Lake and Route 322. The dam held.

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): The Collings Lake dam blew out during the mid-August storm.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim reported that the dam held during a 3.5" rainfall event.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported that 8th Street flooded during Hurricane Irene.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick gave testimony at the Energy Master Plan meeting.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Chiggers are thriving. Hamilton Twp. is awaiting the outcome of Hurricane Irene.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): The channel markers (buoy type) were finally placed on the Tuckahoe River in August.

Alt. Upper Twp.: (Steve Eisenhauer): Steve suggested that GEHWA look into getting bumper stickers. He felt that bumper stickers would provide good exposure for the organization.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. RC Osprey Project Update:** The Osprey Project received good media attention this year. A data sheet with stats on nests occupied and number of young produced was included in RC's packets
- 2. Patcong Creek Environmental Steward Volunteer:** Holly Horner, Rutgers Environmental Steward Intern will be working on a service project that is centered on and around Patcong Creek. GEHWA will be the host organization for this project.
- 3. NLT Exempt and Tax Delinquent Parcels Project:** Data regarding tax delinquent parcels can be accessed via Google Earth.
- 4. References about Dams and Dam Removal:** American Rivers supports and advocates for the removal of dams. "Natural free flowing rivers are better for the health of a river".
- 5. Folsom Bridge Replacement:** Atlantic County would like to replace the 8th Street Bridge that crosses over Hospitality Branch. The pony trussed bridge qualifies as a historic structure.
- 6. Herring Rescue Update:** There is pressure to list the River Herring as an endangered species. If listed it would force the Fisheries Council to tighten regulations for the protection of these fish.
- 7. River Council Ecology Cruise Program Update:** There are 3 cruises planned for October. RCs can go on the cruises. EHT teacher, Jim Toms may be a candidate for the Pinelands Hall of Fame.
- 8. 2011 River Management Society Fall Outing:** The Great Egg Harbor River will be the focus of River Management Societies Fall Outing. Fred is organizing the event.
- 9. Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Joel Spiegel, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.