

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Annual Reorganization Meeting
February 19, 2004

Meeting Called to Order at 7:10PM by Rick Coe, Chairperson

Roll Call by Fred Akers

Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Township), John Brudon (Estell Manor) Bill Christman (Hamilton Township) Rick Coe (Monroe Township), Bill Egan (Weymouth Township), Greg Gregory (Somers Point), Andy Mair (Winslow Township), Creed Pogue (GEHWA), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Borough) and Marc Thyrring (Egg Harbor Township)

Board Members Absent: Representative for Corbin City and Keith Kendrix (Hammonton)

Quorum Present? – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Dick Colby, (Treasurer) Mary Vavra (National Park Service), Belinda Irizarry (GEHWA), Gary Theno (Alternate for Egg Harbor Township) Wally Shields and Josh Willson (Egg Harbor Township Volunteer Fire Department) and James Pridgeon (Weymouth Township Alternate)

Proceedings

Rick Coe 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.

Nomination and Election of Officers

■ ***Chairperson:*** Creed Pogue nominated Greg Gregory as Chairperson. Andy Mair seconded the motion. Greg Gregory nominated Rick Coe as Chairperson. Nomination of Rick Coe was not seconded. Rick Coe made a motion, which was seconded by Creed Pogue, that the nominations be closed. Members voted unanimously to support Greg Gregory as Chairperson. Greg accepted the nomination and expressed his interest in continuing the mission and goals of the River Council

■ ***Vice Chair*** – Creed Pogue nominated Andy Mair as Vice Chairperson. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Rick Coe made a motion, which was seconded by Creed Pogue, that the nominations be closed. Members voted unanimously to support Andy Mair as Vice Chairperson. Andy accepted the nomination.

■ ***Treasurer*** – Julie Akers nominated Dick Colby as Treasurer. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Rick Coe moved that nominations be closed. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to support Dick Colby as Treasurer. Dick accepted the nomination.

■ ***Secretary*** – Andy Mair nominated Fred Akers as Secretary. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Rick Coe moved that nominations be closed. Creed Pogue seconded motion. Members voted unanimously to support Fred Akers as Secretary. Fred accepted the nomination. Mary Vavra will assist Fred Akers with Secretarial responsibilities when necessary.

Resolutions:

Upon reviewing Resolutions 2-2004, 3-2004, and 4-2004, Creed Pogue made a motion to the board to consolidate the decision making process for all resolutions since there are no specific changes. Creed also

recommended approval of all three Resolutions. Julie Akers seconded this motion. Resolution 2-2004 was for “Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts”; Resolution 3-2004 “Designated official publications for the River Council”; and Resolution 4-2004 addressed the “Notice of Meetings of the River Council”. Rick Coe reminded members that some of the meetings of the River Council will not be for board meetings, but for subcommittees to meet and address specific issues and opportunities. Julie Akers suggested that the telephone number for the River Administrator be changed to 856-697-6114. The motion to approve the three Resolutions passed unanimously. Rick Coe will finalize the Resolutions and send it to Greg Gregory for signature.

Approval of Minutes

Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2004 meeting of the River Council. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Portion

A motion was made by Rick Coe to open the meeting to the public at 7:30PM. Wally Shields, (Egg Harbor Township’s Fire Chief) and Josh Willson (volunteer fireman) made a presentation on the Township’s rescue responsibilities both on and off the river to educate River Council members about their roles and responsibilities. The Township has a trained water rescue service with a 14-foot whaler and a hovercraft which generally gets used 8-10 times a year on the river for emergencies. The Township has manpower and training, as well as some equipment and started a technical rescue team that performs ice and water rescue services. Wally expressed interest in working with the River Council to further promote water safety and determine where both groups could work together. A suggestion was made to establish an Awareness Program to further promote water safety. Julie Akers suggested that Wally and Josh work with the River Council subcommittee on Emergency Management Planning to develop a coordinated effort. Gary Theno and Bill Egan offered their marinas (Hidden Mill and English Creek) as access points. The discussion on emergency management procedures was deferred to a later part of the evening’s agenda. The public portion was closed at 7:45PM

Administrator Report

Fred Akers provided members with a written synopsis of New Jersey’s new stormwater management rules (MS-4 Regulations). Bill Christman recommended taking the information provided to Environmental Commissions which often do not receive information promptly. Andy Mair agreed that it would be very useful to open up this point of communication with Environmental Commissions. Fred Akers will forward the whole package of information through e-mail for easy distribution. Fred is also working on how the River Council and GEHWA can be of assistance to municipalities in undertaking some portion of the responsibilities under the new rules. A discussion ensued about the best approach to reaching municipal officials. Creed Pogue then made a motion for the River Council to write a letter to mayors, environmental commissions, and planning and zoning boards so that they know GEHWA and the Council can provide assistance in the area of public education and in other aspects of stormwater management. Marc Thyrring seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Greg Gregory encouraged all River Council members to personally deliver the message to their municipal officials that the River Council and GEHWA can be of assistance.

Fred Akers had an opportunity to attend a meeting held by Governor McGreevey in Galloway Township on February 2nd where the primary focus was on water quality. Fred provided River Council members with a written report on the meeting and discussion points.

National Park Service Report

Mary Vavra mentioned that she and Fred made a presentation to a fifth grade class at Bells School in Gloucester County in early February on water quality and related issues using GEHWA’s groundwater model. The presentation was well received with the children asking many questions. Mary mentioned that

as a result of that presentation, other teachers expressed an interest in having the presentation repeated for other classes. A suggestion was made that River Council members should contact their environmental commissions explaining GEHWA's role and the education programs that are available for both children and adults. Belinda Irizarry handed out a brochure that listed all GEHWA education programs. In addition, Belinda mentioned that she sent the brochure to various schools and other entities to market the available programs. River Council members were strongly encouraged to personally reach out to the schools and officials within their individual municipalities.

Old Business

Sign Project – Fred Akers showed a sample watershed sign that can be produced for \$150 each which includes installation. Fred estimated that the budgeted amount would produce approximately 40 signs. A discussion ensued on the best approach to securing local approvals for sign placement and installation. Creed Pogue made a motion that initially only 12 signs are produced so that River Council members could take them to their local officials to determine location/interest. River Council members should come back to the next meeting with decisions on interest and location of signage. Rick Coe seconded the motion. **Roll Call vote:** Julie Akers – yes; John Brudon – yes; Bill Christman – yes; Rick Coe – yes; Bill Egan – yes; Greg Gregory – yes; Andy Mair – yes; Creed Pogue – yes; Joel Spiegel – yes; and Marc Thyrring – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Emergency Management Planning – Fred Akers recommended that a subcommittee for Emergency Preparedness/management be established for the tidal section of the river to look into the best approach for addressing this issue. Since Egg Harbor Township has the most river frontage in the tidal section, it was recommended that they be involved in the subcommittee. This issue needs to be coordinated with all other entities that have responsibility for emergency management. Bill Egan will chair the subcommittee and work with Marc Thyrring, Gary Theno, Wally Shields, Josh Willson and Fred Akers in exploring this issue and returning to the River Council with information and possibly a proposal. Gary Theno also suggested undertaking a dry run for emergency management to test skills and response time as well as to provide community focus on safety and procedures. The subcommittee will consider this option.

Marc Thyrring suggested producing a trash bag for use in marinas and elsewhere to promote a cleaner and safer river environment. Marc will investigate the costs associated with this and provide details at the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Rick Coe. Motion was seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9PM.