

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:11 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), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Rick Foster (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

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

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: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2010 meeting. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2011 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair - Greg Gregory
Vice Chair - Rick Coe
Treasurer - Dick Colby
Secretary - Fred Akers

Clark Sprigman made the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Bill Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Fred Akers brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2011: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2011: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2011: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Gregory Gregory, to approve Resolution 1-2011.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolution: Julie Akers, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Rick Coe, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Bill Handley, Yes; Clark Sprigman, Yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gregory Gregory, and seconded by Clark Sprigman, to approve Resolution 2-2011 and Resolution 3-2011.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: : Julie Akers, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Rick Coe, Yes; Greg Gregory, Yes; Bill Handley, Yes; Clark Sprigman, Yes. Motion carried.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Community Outreach -

Egg Harbor Township: John Jones, a teacher at Alder Avenue School, is working with his students to build a garden/rain garden at the EHT Historical Society Building on New Jersey Avenue. He has requested that GEHWA work to educate his students regarding the project.

Hamilton Township: Both Julie and Lynn provided programs in January at St. Vincent DePaul School in Mays Landing. The programs are part of a monthly elective program. A bird watching program will be offered on Friday, February 18th as one of the elective programs.

Atlantic County Library Mays Landing: GEHWA showed the movie "Tapped" on February 2, 2011 at the Mays Landing library. This was the first in a series of movies that will be shown at the library over the coming months. Fred facilitated the discussion following the movie. Approximately 30 persons attended the event.

Events and Meetings -

GEHWA Member Meeting: On January 25, a group of 16 GEHWA members and friends gathered to view the movie "Dirt".

River Bend Cleanup: In cooperation with the ACUA, Natural Lands Trust and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Atlantic County Park Manager Clayton Ingersoll has planned a coordinated effort to clean up this area on Saturday April 30th.

Info -

GEHWA Newsletter: Reminded River Councilors to forward any community news for inclusion in the next newsletter.

GEHWA Membership: GEHWA Membership Forms were distributed to the River Councilors.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): A letter was sent to the principal of the Fernwood Avenue School regarding Jim Thoms and the Fernwood School Cruise Project. A copy of the letter was included in the RCs packet. Fiscal year 2011 funding is uncertain at this time. The Federal government is operating under a continuing resolution that is in effect until 3-4-2011.

Old Business:

1. **2011 River Council Budget:** The RC has \$18,974 available for grants in 2011. A balance of \$825.00 remains of the funds that were allocated for the 2010 Fernwood Avenue River Cruises.
2. **Monroe Boy Scout Troop 70 Public Lands Stewardship Project - \$1,000.00 Grant Request:** Scout Troop 70 is planning a cleanup of the spent shells and other debris littering the ground at the gunnery range in the Winslow Wildlife Management Area. There are nine active youth in the troop. It is estimated that 10 workers working for 10 hours will be needed to adequately tackle this project. Grant monies awarded help to fund activities for the youth in the troop. The project will be scheduled in either March or April to avoid insects.

Gregory Gregory made a motion to approve a \$1,000 grant for the cleanup project. Clark Sprigman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was made to accept the resolutions: : Julie Akers, Yes; Rick Foster, Yes; Jim Owen, Yes; Dick Colby, Yes; Bill Christman, Yes; Rick Coe, Recused himself; Greg Gregory, Yes; Bill Handley, Yes; Clark Sprigman, Yes.
Motion carried.

3. Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Recognition for Bill Egan:** Fred requested ideas in order to recognize Bill Egan's 10 years of service on the River Council. The RC suggested that additional efforts be made to appeal to Weymouth to keep Bill on the RC, and everyone agreed if he was not reappointed to have a plaque made honoring his years of service with the intention of presenting the award to him at a RC meeting and/or the city council meeting. It was suggested that a notice be sent to the newspaper.
2. **2011 EHT Student River Cruise Program Grant:** The Fernwood Avenue School River Cruise program will need funding for 2011. The approximate cost is \$2700.00 minus the \$875.00 remaining from the 2010.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): There are issues regarding new development within the township. Julie will report further on this issue at the next meeting and also on a dredging issue on the South River.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim inquired about the impact that road salt, applied during the recent winter season, will have on the environment.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): The annual Belinda Irizarry Award ceremony will be held in on the fourth Tuesday in April. The ACUA Earth Day event is scheduled for May1st. Egg Harbor City is investigating its stormwater basins that do not drain properly.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): The Hamilton Twp. Environmental Commission secretary was laid off. She was instrumental in carrying the many necessary tasks of the Commission. Bill has concerns that the absence of the secretary will invalidate the Environmental Commission.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): The RC received positive press as a result of Ryan Coe's Eagle Scout project. Ryan Coe's project was selected at the best project in the Old Colony Boy Scout District. His project will now go on to be judged at the regional level.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory inquired about GEHRC's stance on the Delaware River dredging issue? Greg suggested that Fred check with the Delaware River Keepers to inquire if they would like a resolution from the RC showing their support against dredging in the Delaware River. Julie Akers made a motion to contact the Delaware River Keepers to see if they would like the RC's support, and if so to send a letter showing the RC's support to Governor Christie and NJDEP. Rick Coe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gregory also mentioned that the Somers Point bike path will include a bike lane on the new causeway bridge.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill asked how the debris from bridge repairs is kept from going into the water. One of the RC members told him that barges are positioned beneath the bridge to collect any refuse. A question was raised about channel markers. Bill stated that the Tuckahoe river channel markers are not placed until July and would like to know why they are placed so late in the season. Paul Kenney will check with the Coast Guard.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): The Winslow Environmental Commission is planning an Environmental Day. The EC will make a decision about the event by end of the month.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. 2011 River Council Newsletter and Staff Activity Report:** Fred is working on Issue #4 of the River Council Newsletter. The Staff Activity Report was included in the RC packet
- 2. South Jersey Industries Grant:** An application was submitted to South Jersey Industries requesting a grant for the RC grant program.
- 3. New Jersey American Water Grant:** Plans are underway to erect an osprey webcam on an osprey nest in the Great Egg Bay. Conserve Wildlife Foundation would like to then stream the live video on their website.
- 4. Linwood/Patcong Creek Open Space Target:** There are various parcels that are being considered for acquisition as open space in Linwood. One parcel has a new eagle's nest. There are also plans to move an osprey platform to a better location.
- 5. Herring Rescue Update:** The Herring Alliance is working on legislation to limit the amount River Herring bycatch that is caught by the commercial fishing fleet.
- 6. Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Gregory Gregory and second by Rick Coe, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.