

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**June 21, 2006**

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 7:15 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chair.

**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), Bill Egan (Weymouth Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Gary Theno (Egg Harbor Twp), Tom Walker (Corbin City)

**Board Members Absent:** Dick Colby (GEHWA), Keith Kendrix (Hammonton City), Bud Paynter (Winslow Twp), John Olansen (Upper 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:** Rick Coe requested a correction to the April 19, 2006 minutes. Under New Business, River Councilor Reports, Monroe Twp: The minutes should read: Rick Coe cited the need to follow up on the Blue Hole Bridge project connecting Monroe and Winslow Twp. Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2006 meeting with the correction. Rick Coe 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. **New revenue source for River Council:** To date, \$2108.00 has been received in memory of Elmer Gregory, Greg Gregory's father. These funds have been dedicated towards the preservation of the bluffs at Kennedy Park in Somers Point. This preservation project, "Save the Bluffs", has been promoted by the Dawes Avenue School with GEHWA adding additional support. In May 200 bushes were purchased for \$1650.00, 160 of those bushes were planted on the bluffs to help prevent erosion and combat invasive species.
2. **Hamilton Township Roadshow:** The River Council paid \$200.00 to ANJEC for the Roadshow hosted by the Hamilton Township Environmental Commission on May 10, 2006. To date \$2870.00 has been spent from the budget.
3. **River Council Sign Update:** A total of twelve GEHR signs have been placed in Folsom, Buena Vista Twp., Winslow Twp. and Monroe Twp. \$1020.00 was spent for these signs.

4. **Kennedy Park Erosion:** Fred presented a slide show of the bluffs planting in Somers Point. Fifth and sixth grade students and their teachers from the Dawes School, along with GEHWA and GEHRC planted 160 bushes on May 24 and 26. Local politicians and members of the media were also present and expressed an interest in the project. The school plans to make the bluffs a yearly project. The school had received a grant from HP to work on the project. Teachers from the school were planning to go to a conference sponsored by HP in San Diego to present their project along with other schools from around the nation. Good luck Dawes School.

5. **Ground Water Advisory Committee:** Fred Akers is a member of Atlantic County's Ground Water Advisory Committee. The committee is charged with monitoring, reviewing and reporting on groundwater issues as they affect the natural resources, economic development and quality of life in Atlantic County. Fred provided a handout on an article that appeared in the Atlantic City Press on May 7<sup>th</sup>, "Steady drain on resources", which addresses some of the issues facing the committee.

6. **2006 Integrated List & Water Quality Update:** Fred attended an NJDEP sponsored seminar on "Water Monitoring and Standards Information Session on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The information presented at the seminar represented what was reported to the EPA on the quality of water in NJ. Based on the Clean Water Act this information must be updated ever two years. In a move to decrease the number of watersheds being monitored the DEP will look at subwatersheds at the HUC 14 level. This reduces the number monitored from approximately 6000 to 1000. If the findings are negative, instead of a portion of the HUC 14 being impaired, the whole subwatershed will be considered impaired.

Fred reported that NJDEP's move to categorize headwater streams as C1, which is an antidegradation designation, would add an additional 26 streams at the HUC 14 level with a 300' buffer, to GEHR National Scenic and Recreational river corridor.

Fred included a handout on "Statewide and Regional Fish Consumption Recommendations to Reduce Exposure to Dioxin, PCB's and Mercury".

Fred also included a handout on "Stormwater Best Management Practices in Site Plan and Subdivision Review".

Fred was invited to a meeting in Winslow Twp. to discuss proposed changes to the operation of the Winslow Sewerage Treatment Facility. Winslow in an effort to save money, plans to close the plant, pump 2 million gallons/day of water out of the ground, and transport the waste water to Camden's sewage treatment facility to be discharged into the Delaware River. Currently the 2 million gallons of water infiltrate back into the ground in Winslow. What this would amount to is a loss of 2 million gallons /day recharge to the groundwater and ultimately the Kirkwood Aquifer.

7. **Patcong Creek Cleanup:** The Patcong Creek Cleanup was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Many bags of trash, tires and an assortment of miscellaneous items were collected by the 300 volunteers who participated in the day. There were many donations of food and beverages. Fred stated his surprise when he discovered a fish ladder under the Bargaintown Bridge during the cleanup.

8. **ORV Update:** Fred provided a handout on the Pineland Preservation Alliance's public education campaign regarding the disastrous effects of off-road vehicle (ORV) use in the Pinelands of New Jersey. Fred stated his involvement with the campaign and his efforts to educate about ORV deaths and injuries.

Fred also showed slides of frogs and toads found at Sahara Sands, which is under consideration as a future ATV park

9. **Boating Safety Update:** Fred provided a handout of an Atlantic City Press article from June 18 on “Speeding boaters leave damage, injury in their wake”.

10. **National Park Service Funding Cut:** The federal funding requested by the river partnership for fiscal year 2007 may be impacted by the designation of an earmark of \$75,000 for the Westfield River in New Hampshire and a cut in funding. The Westfield River is not a Congressionally designated river and it is not included in the river partnership. If the earmark and the cut are approved, New Jersey’s partnership rivers will face an \$82,000 budget cut. The House of Representatives approved the cut. The Senate still needed to act on the bill. Fred has sent letters to state’s Congressmen/women and Senators asking for their support in funding the rivers and to add the cuts back into the bill.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul discussed “Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the NPS’s new regulations on how to manage parks. The focus will be on increased recreation uses (conservation), which is in direct contrast to past manage, which focused on limited recreation uses (preservation).

#### **Old Business**

**Belinda Fund:** Joel Spiegel presented a check for \$200.00 for the Belinda Memorial Fund to Fred. Fred stated there was approximately \$6,000 in the fund and that the first scholarship award in the amount of \$500 would be present in November to either a student or an organization.

**Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area:** John Brudon stated he needed to meet with Paul Kenney and Lee at the WMA to discuss plans.

**Other Old Business:** none

#### **New Business:**

**Corbin City:** Tom Walker stated that an Environmental Commission had been formed and that he is a member. Corbin City is rewriting its master plan and will designate a coastal center and management area. The number of new homes in the new plan has not been determined, 90 are currently zoned, though with redevelopment there would be more.

**Somers Point:** Greg Gregory talked about two major events that had taken place at Kennedy Park, Day at the Bay and the plantings by Dawes School on the bluffs.

**Buena Vista Twp.:** Julie Akers stated that they would be hosting Pinelands Preservation Alliance’s campaign to educate the public regarding OVR use in the Pine Barrens. Julie also inquired if anyone had information regarding contamination from the galvanizing plant in Folsom and the solid waste disposal facility.

**Weymouth Twp.:** Bill Egan stated that the township was still trying to purchase 1800 acres of open space.

**Hamilton Twp.:** Bill Christman stated that the Hamilton Township Environmental Commission hosted an ANJEC road show on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Six other municipal environmental commissions attended. Approximately 50 participants found the programs on site plan review and Atlantic County’s GIS helpful and educational.

#### **Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.