

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2011

Meeting Called to Order: at 7:00 PM by Gregory Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp), Keith Kendrex (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Rick Foster (Corbin City), Dick Colby (GEHWA)

Quorum Present – Yes

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

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: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2011 meeting. Ralph Bernard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Mr. Joe Ingemi, who lives in Folsom, expressed concerns about the DEP's issue with the recent repairs on the dam at Penny Pot Lake which is a Class III dam. The state DEP was contacted regarding work that was taking place on the dam. After the DEP investigated the complaint it was found that no permits were issued prior to the repairs to the dam. Dam Safety then sent a letter to the owner of the dam. The owner of the dam passed that letter along to Mr. Ingemi. The DEP has since fined the dam owner. The privately built and owned dam has breached several times. The most recent breach was in the fall of 2010. Nick DeRosa helped to organize the recent repairs to the dam. Mr. Ingemi stated that the original dam was built of teak in 1917. He also said that it is possible that damage occurred to the dam when Route 322 was built. He mentioned that prior to the recent blowout; the last blowout was about 20 years ago.

Robert Brueunig, who lives in Upper Township, expressed his concerns regarding a proposed waterfront development on the Tuckahoe River near Route 50. The owners are proposing to develop a marina with 12 boat slips; they also plan to demo jet skis. They want to fill in a portion of the lot after installing a bulkhead. At the request of the Army Corp of Engineers Paul Kenney (NPS) has reviewed the application for the installation of bulkheads and docks. Ralph Bernard (Weymouth) stated that historically the site was used as a marina in the 50s & 60s. In the 1990s Upper Township denied the prior owners' application for the operation of a marina at the site.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun): Due to the length of public portion of the meeting, the Coordinator's report will be given during the August meeting.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Great Egg Harbor River has had its NPS 2011 funding cut by \$25,000.00. The funds will be used to support NPS positions that do not assist GEHW.

Fred led a recent boat tour on the Wading River with 3 NPS employees, Paul Kenny, Richard Harris and Charles Barszcz.

Old Business:

Delaware River Dredging Issue: A copy of the letter that is ready to be sent to legislators is included in the RCs' packets.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

NPS \$25,000.00 Funding Cut: NPS funding for FY 2011 is \$109,500.00; a \$25,000.00 reduction from FY 2010 funding. Fred did not find out about the cuts until we were eight months into the year. This meant that he would not have had adequate time to plan budget cuts in the year the cut was received. But Fred anticipated that GEHWA's funding might be cut for FY 2011 and so he cut expenses in the program budget prior to the FY 2011 funding cut. Based on 2011 funding the program budget for 2012 will also need to be cut. The NPS needs an improved and timely method of reporting funding for the coming FY. GEHWA needs \$126,000.00 for FY 2011 to fund all of its program obligations.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Hamilton Township is interested in implementing the state's new pesticide and fertilizer regulations.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick is working with Fred to set up a date for the clean up

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Somers Point was happy to help out Middle Twp. schools.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill thanked Greg Gregory for helping with the program at Kennedy Park. The Middle Township students had to create videos of the watershed minutes as a prerequisite to participating in the program. Steve Eisenhower provided the kayaks.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Deep Run Sewer Plant Discharge:** PC approved sewage discharge.
- 2. Fish Species Features – Northern Pipe Fish/Garfish/Needlefish:** Showed pictures of the fish.
- 3. Herring Rescue Update:** A copy of an article in the NJ Fish and Wildlife Digest, May 2011 included a picture of the fish ladder at Lake Lenape, was included in the RC packet.
- 4. 2011 River Management Society Fall Outing:** The River Council will host the fall outing of the River Management Society. RC Administrator Fred Akers is planning a two day campout at Camp Acagisca. Atlantic County has waived the fees for use of the park. Fred is planning two trips. A 3 hour trip on Saturday and 6 hour trip on Sunday. He will provide two meals, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. The dates for the outing are October 15 & 16, 2011.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Keith Kendrex and second by Ralph Bernard, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.