

GREAT EGG HARBOR NATIONAL SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER COUNCIL

Bylaws

I. PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Great Egg Harbor River was studied and designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1992 based on its outstandingly remarkable cultural, historic, recreational and natural resource values and became a cooperatively-managed unit of the National Park System;

Whereas, the Township of Buena Vista, the City of Corbin City, Township of Egg Harbor, City of Estell Manor, Borough of Folsom, Township of Hamilton, Town of Hammonton, Township of Monroe, City of Somers Point, Township of Upper, Township of Winslow and Township of Weymouth have certain acreage of their municipalities located within the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River corridor as defined by Public Law 102-536, Section 3(a); and

Whereas, the economic and cultural vitality of the above municipalities are supported by their close proximity to the Great Egg Harbor River and designated tributaries; and

Whereas, the health of the Great Egg Harbor River is dependent upon the economic, cultural and environmental policies of the surrounding municipalities; and

Whereas, the original Great Egg Harbor River Planning Committee established in 1990 has successfully completed its task of preparing a Comprehensive Management Plan and assisted in the development of Local River Management Plans for participating municipalities; and

Whereas, it is necessary to continue a formal organization to monitor implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan and assist the twelve municipalities, individually and collectively, in dealing with matters concerning the Great Egg Harbor River system;

Now, therefore, it is agreed that the twelve municipalities and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association establish the "Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council" (herein referred to as "River Council") to provide on-going monitoring, coordination and assistance to the participating municipalities in implementing the Comprehensive Management Plan and to the National Park Service in addressing issues in accordance with the organizational structure and procedures set forth herein.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the River Council is to assist the twelve municipalities in effectively implementing the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan, as well as Local River Management Plans with the National Park Service and to coordinate among competing interests, always keeping in mind resource protection. To accomplish this purpose, the River Council shall, at a minimum, undertake the following activities:

1. Present the Comprehensive Management Plan to municipal officials in the designated Great Egg Harbor River corridor, other governmental officials and the public.
2. Provide direction and coordination in the implementation of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Comprehensive Management Plan.
3. Provide a forum for open discussion of river corridor management issues and projects.
4. Provide a vital communication link between the twelve municipalities and four counties for insuring that all river related planning activities are performed on a corridor-wide basis.
5. Provide technical assistance to the twelve municipalities in the watershed on water quality, water quantity and watershed management issues.
6. Establish a public education program to improve understanding of watershed management issues, particularly in the Great Egg Harbor River Conservation Zones.

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7. Coordinate an on-going water quality, water quantity, and watershed monitoring program to document the ecological and hydrological condition of the Great Egg Harbor River and its tributaries.
8. Provide annual updates of water quality, water quantity, and watershed management activities in the designated river corridor.
9. Perform, coordinate and/or oversee scientific research projects on the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River and its watershed.
10. Update the Comprehensive Management Plan from time to time in cooperation with the National Park Service as required and recommend these revisions and related regulatory measures for adoption by municipalities in the Great Egg Harbor River designated boundary.
11. Assist municipalities in updating Local River Management Plans to address resource protection needs.
12. Review compliance with Local River Management Plans.

III. ORGANIZATION

A. River Council Membership

The River Council shall be composed of one (1) member each from the twelve municipalities, as well as one member from the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association. Municipal members will be appointed by each participating municipality. The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association member will be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Each municipality and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association may also appoint a maximum of two (2) ranked alternate members, either one of whom may serve in the absence of the regular Committee member.

All appointees shall serve a two-year term renewable annually (rolling membership) and be eligible for reappointment at the discretion of the participating municipalities for municipal appointees and the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Board of Trustees for Watershed Association appointees.

B. Community Participation

It is also recognized that other groups such as other municipal, county, regional, state and federal agencies and private organizations have involvement and interest in activities in the Great Egg Harbor River corridor. It is the intention of the River Council to interact with all other agencies interested in the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River system to coordinate their participation in the management of the Great Egg Harbor River system, as appropriate, to best implement the Comprehensive Management and Local River Management Plans for the public and community at large.

C. Officers

The officers of the River Council shall be:

1. Chair
The Chair shall preside at meetings of the River Council and supervise the general conduct of River Council meetings. The Chair shall also serve as spokesperson for the River Council.
2. Vice Chair/Treasurer
The Vice Chair shall conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair and perform other duties as requested by the Chair. The Vice Chair shall also oversee the conduct of all financial

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matters of the River Council in conjunction with the Executive Director if one should be appointed.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall see that all River Council proceedings and documents are properly signed, recorded and stored. Minutes of meetings shall be kept.

The Officers shall be elected annually in February by majority vote of the River Council and serve as an Executive Committee to organize activities of the River Council.

D. Executive Director

The River Council may appoint an Executive Director and one or more subordinate staff members whose duties may include:

1. Provide general coordination of all River Council activities.
2. Prepare the agenda for all River Council related meetings.
3. Provide for all administrative activities including preparation of correspondence, minutes, and other written materials; negotiation of contracts and any related administrative actions needed to effectively implement River Council actions.
4. Prepare an annual budget for review.
5. Provide assistance in seeking funds for operating activities of the River Council.
6. Provide contact with government agencies, private organizations and, as appropriate, to carry out the activities of the River Council.
7. Perform such other duties as requested by the River Council.

The staff may be compensated at a rate to be established annually.

E. Sub-Committees

The River Council may create sub-committees, as needed, to undertake special activities. Sub-committees will initiate studies, complete investigations, prepare reports and drafts for the full River Council. Sub-committees will generally consist of three members but can be expanded depending upon need. The Chair of the full River Council will designate the Chair of any sub-committee. Sub-committees will also interact with other interested groups, as appropriate, to accomplish their objectives. Persons who are not members of the full River Council can be designated as ex-officio members of sub-committees.

F. Meetings/Procedures

1. The River Council will hold an annual reorganization meeting during February. Regular River Council meetings will be held every two months or at the discretion of the Chair. Meetings will be open to the public with time designated for public comment. Notice of meetings of the River Council shall be provided in accordance with the New Jersey Public Meetings Act. The presence of at least seven (7) members of the River Council as defined in section III (A) above shall constitute a quorum.
2. Matters involving the budget and/or recommendations for action by the governing body of a municipality shall have seven affirmative votes of River Council members to be approved.
3. The conduct of meetings will be governed by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules Of Order*,

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Newly Revised. Minutes will be available to the public.

IV. BUDGET/FUNDING

The Executive Committee will prepare an annual budget for review and presentation to the full River Council for adoption.

After adoption, the Executive Committee will be authorized to expend funds within the limits of budget appropriations.

The River Council will seek funding from a variety of sources and develop methods of funding in order to successfully accomplish River Council activities.

V. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of seven River Council members, at a meeting where all members of the River Council have been given ten days prior written notice of the proposed amendment.

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APPROVED BY:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>River Council Appointee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Township of Buena Vista	_____	_____
City of Corbin City	_____	_____
Township of Egg Harbor	_____	_____
City of Estell Manor	_____	_____
Borough of Folsom	_____	_____
Township of Hamilton	_____	_____
Town of Hammonton	_____	_____
Township of Monroe	_____	_____
City of Somers Point	_____	_____
Township of Upper	_____	_____
Township of Weymouth	_____	_____
Township of Winslow	_____	_____
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association	_____	_____