

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:37 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Ira Grindlinger (Alt, Folsom Boro)

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 June 15, 2016 meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion:

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Events and Meetings: GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

Osprey Banding: Osprey banding took place on June 27 & 30, 2016.

Programs at Nature Center: Provided several programs at Nature Center for summer camp groups.

GEHWA & GEHRC Picnic and Campfire: The annual GEHWA and GEHRC picnic and campfire took place on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at Lake Lenape Park.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Monarch Teacher's Network: Participated in the Monarch Teacher Network program on August 18th and 19th.

GEHWA/GEHRC Canoe/Kayak Event: GEHWA and the GEHRC will be sponsoring a one day canoe/kayak event on Saturday, September 24, 2016. We will launch from Weymouth Furnace.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul's manager and his manager's manager are retiring. Paul had a meeting with official in Trenton to discuss the construction of a proposed trail in Somers Point on top of a berm created from dredge fill. Somers Point is applying for a 10 year dredging permit.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **Resolution 08-2016 To Atlantic County supporting the County Park System:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve Resolution 08-2016 authorizing the River Council to formally recognize and commend the Atlantic County Park System. The motion was seconded by Bill Christman. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie has been reviewing archived information regarding liveries using the river.

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported that the Route 50 Bridge will be opening a lane. Recently signs have been installed along the roadways in Corbin City identifying it as a Scenic Byway.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported seeing dolphins near Jeffers Landing.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Joel reported the construction of a new house being built on Penny Pot Lake (swampy area).

Folsom: (Alt. Ira Grindlinger): Nothing happening with the Collings Lake Dam situation.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported catching abundant large crabs up the river near Gravely Run.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John reported that Hammonton has received a grant for their "Mainstreaming Green Infrastructure" project.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory discussed dredging procedures that have been done in the past.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported seeing a large number of horseshoe crabs on the beach in Strathmere this year. There was a fatality of a youth who jumped off a railroad bridge into the Tuckahoe River in Upper Township. He is also concerned about the recent jet-ski accidents.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Bill reported that the past weekend was very busy on the river.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark lives approximately ¼ mile from New Brooklyn Lake. Even though there has not been any rain for 2 ½ weeks, the water flowing over the dam is still strong,

Winslow: (Alt. Jen Jennings): Jen is working on "Sustainable Jersey" certification for Winslow Twp. Jen would like to know the depth of the New Brooklyn Lake.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update:** Fred is waiting for FY 2017 funding.
- 2. NPS C2A Grant Update:** All student trips should be completed this fall. Fred asked if the River Councilor's would be interested in a river cruise sometime after September 25th.
- 3. Babcock Creek Blue Acres Update:** The property on Babcock Creek does not fit with the Blue Acres program at this time. Fred asked for support with the county's land acquisition programs.
- 4. Hamilton Township Livery Issues:** Thirteen years ago there were issues with the liveries along the river. Problems were resolved, but things have gotten out of hand in recent years and the local residents attended a township committee to complain. Fred participated in a meeting in an attempt to rectify the situation.
- 5. Mid-Atlantic Ocean Planning Report:** Fred discussed the final recommendations of "The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force", and the draft of the "Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Planning" document.
- 6. River Herring and Forage Fisheries Update:** Fred discussed the Mid-Atlantic Council's approval of an amendment to protect unmanaged forage species, and also its approval of an ecosystem approach to the Fisheries Management Guidance Document.
- 7. Assault on Patcong Creek:** GEHWA received a \$500.00 donation which enabled the Dawes Avenue 6th grade to get out on the river on the Duke of Fluke.
- 7. Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by John Keenan, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.