

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

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:35 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), Walt Vreeland (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Bill Egan (Atl. Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Chris Jage (Hammonton City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Pat Sprigman GEHWA Trustee (Winslow Twp.), Ryan Coe (Monroe 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 December 16, 2015 meeting. Rick Coe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2016 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

Bill Christman 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 Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Greg Gregory stated that he is happy that there has been a quorum at all the 2015 RC meetings and hopes that it will continue in 2016.

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

Resolution 1-2016: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2016: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2016: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2016. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Dick Colby, to approve Resolution 2-2016. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 3-2016. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Ryan Coe supports the work of the River Council.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

St. Vincent DePaul School: Lynn will be starting an elective series on birding in February with 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

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

GEHWA Member Meeting: January's meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

ANJEC: On Saturday, March 5, 2016, Lynn will be presenting a program about the "Environmental Resource Inventory" at the Annual Meeting of Environmental Commissions being held at the Riverwinds Recreation building,

Pinelands Short Course: The Pinelands Short Course will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at Stockton College.

Delaware Bay District United Methodist Women: On Saturday, March 12, 2016, Lynn will present a program on "Sustainable Backyard Habitats and Backyard Bugs" to a women's group.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The program at GEHWA's next meeting, on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, will be, "You Can Be a Citizen Scientist".

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): NPS FY 2016 budget info will be available by 3/1/2016. The GEHR may receive a \$10,000 to \$15,000 increase this year. It has been determined that the erosion problem at the Corbin City public park can be stabilized. The funding needed to evaluate the erosion issue at the park could come from the RC.

Old Business:

- 1. River Signs Maintenance and Expansion Report:** In phase I of the project in 2004, 36 signs at 18 crossings were installed. During phase II, 24 signs at 12 crossings were installed. It cost a total of \$6,000.00 for 60 signs at 30 crossings. Fred has checked the signs for damage. There are 14 locations where the signs need to be replaced. The estimate for replacement cost is \$2,280.00. There are also 26 possible locations for new signs within the W & S boundary, which would cost approximately \$10,400.00.

There was also discussion regarding the possibility of placing a more interpretive sign at boat launch locations.

- 2. Corbin City Municipal Park Stewardship Project Update:** Fred gave a presentation to Corbin City Council regarding stream bank stabilization at the municipal park.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie is working to get interpretive signs in Camden County for the river.

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian conveyed appreciation for Fred's recent program.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger, Alt.): Ira gave an update on the dam situation. The biggest dam is still damaged but hopes the problem will soon be resolved.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): 1. The Atlantic County Parks Commission plans to install bridges for foot traffic over the South River and Steven Creek. 2. The North-South trail system has support. 3. Still investigating the possibility of installing signage at the headwaters of the Great Egg Harbor River in Berlin.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory was reappointed to the Somers Point Environmental Commission. The EC will be taking part in the Sustainable Jersey program. The EC is also exploring the possibility of an ANJEC grant for a walking trail at Kernfield Pond.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Staff Activity Reports: Staff activity reports were included in the RC's packets.

2. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update: Fred reviewed the appropriations data that was recently released and also shared concerns he has with the removal of the Great Egg Harbor River from the PW & S group listed in the NPS Green Book.

3. Regional Director's Call to Action Grants Award: The award of a \$7350.00 grant will fund 8 student trawl trips on the river.

4. Lake Lenape Park Expansion: A multi-million dollar development has been approved at the Lake Lenape campground.

5. Babcock Creek Flooding Vulnerability: Fred sent FEMA an analysis showing the potential for major flooding within the Babcock Creek watershed.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Handley and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.