

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:41 PM by Rick Coe, Acting 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.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Alt. Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Walt Vreeland (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Ryan Coe, Monroe Twp.

Open Meetings Act: Rick Coe 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 August 17, 2016 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Rick Coe abstained, he was absent from last meeting. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

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

Clemson's Nursery: Lynn presented 4 programs at the Nursery's open house on Saturday, September 17, 2016.

Hammonton Green Day Festival: On Sunday, September 18, 2016 Fred and Lynn tabled at the Festival. They reported that the Festival was not well attended.

ANJEC Environmental Congress: Lynn and Fred attended the ANJEC Environmental Congress on Friday, September 30, 2016. Keynote addresses were given by Dave Robinson State Climatologist and Seth Siegel author of "Let There Be Waters", Israel's solution for a waters starved world.

GEHWA/GEHRC Canoe/Kayak Event: The annual canoe/kayak event was held on Saturday, September 24, 2016. The 4 participants launched from Weymouth Furnace.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Centennial Cruise on the Duke of Fluke: The Centennial Cruise on the Duke of Fluke, commemorating the “100 Year Anniversary of the National Park Service” will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 12:30 – 5:00 pm.

Fernwood River Cruise Program: The fall “River Cruise Program” are scheduled from October 18 – October 27, 2016 (4 cruises are scheduled).

Williamstown Middle School Program: Programs for the 5th grade science classes are scheduled from October 24 – November 18, 2016 (8 days).

Programs at Nature Center: GEHWA is providing fall programs at the Fox Nature Center (New school – North Wildwood)

Stockton Ecological Principals Class: Fred and Lynn will be leading the Stockton Ecological Principals Lab class in macroinvertebrate surveys – 2 days

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next GEHWA member meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd.

Other:

Coyotes – Good and Bad: Maps were shown of the increasing dispersal of coyotes in NJ from the early 1950s to the present day.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul has reviewed the plans to replace the transmission towers and wires passing over Great Egg River near Gravely Run. He is also reviewing a permit for replacing the Main Street Bridge in Mays Landing.

Old Business

1. **Resolution RC: 9-2016 to approve a \$3,500.00 budget for Camden County Signs:** A motion was made by Bill Christman Resolution to approve resolution RC: 9-2016 authorizing the River Council to grant a budget of \$3,500.00 to design, purchase and install 3 - 36” x 48” signs in both the Berlin and the New Brooklyn Camden County Parks. The motion was seconded by Clark Sprigman. A roll call vote was taken. All yeas. Motion carried.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported that striper and perch are running.

Folsom: (Alt. Ira Grindlinger): Ira stated that no progress has been made towards repairing the Collings Lake Dam.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick participated in the canoe/kayak event on river on September 24. He encouraged better attendance by requesting that the River Councilors to attend future events. Dick reported that cell phone providers have reported pockets of cell phone overuse which reduces local cell signals. To resolve this problem the cell phone providers are planning to install 80’ towers without obtaining municipal approval. They claim they do not need local approval. Dick is still working on the High Point to Cape May Point long distance walking trail. He stated the need to build a bridge across both the Stephens and South Rivers.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported an abundance of fish in the river this year. It is the most he has seen in 40 years.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John stated that the Hammonton Master Plan does not reference the Great Egg Harbor River Management Plan. In addition the municipality does not have a local River Management Plan.

Somers Point: (Alt. Ron Meischker): Ron reported that dredging has been approved. This winter the crab pot recovery will continue in the bay. Ron announced there will be a cleanup on 10-29-2016 that will staging from bird observation platform in WMA near Corbin City

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported the possible sighting of a mountain lion.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. PWSRs FY 2016 Appropriations Update:** FY 2016 funding will be \$132,000.00. This is a \$15,000.00 increase over 2015 funding.
- 2. Congressman LoBiondo Environmental Summit Report:** Fred attended a meeting on 10/11/2016 with Congressman LoBiondo.
- 3. NPS C2A Grant Update:** A summary of the NPS C2A grant program was included in River Councilor's packets.
- 4. NPS Atlantic County River Signs:** In 2002 ten interpretive signs introducing the Great Egg Harbor River to the public were purchased and delivered to Atlantic County Parks. To date, only one sign was ever installed and its location is at the Fox Nature Center. Fred was pleased to report that the other nine signs have been found in storage and the possible installation of those signs has been proposed.
- 5. Babcock Creek Blue Acres Update:** Blue Acres will not fund acquisition of property on Babcock Creek. Fred is looking for other sources to fund the acquisition.
- 6. Hamilton Township Livery Issues:** There is ongoing concern about the overuse of the river by local liveries.
- 7. Pinelands/NJDEP ORV Issue Update:** The Pinelands Commissions has data showing vehicle damage in Wharton State Forest.
- 8. River Herring and Shad Update:** The Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council has determined that River Herring and Shad do not need to be managed with a Fisheries Management Plan.
- 9. Other Items of Interest:** Fred tabled at the 2nd Annual Horsepower by the Bay.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Ron Meischker, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.