

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***August 16, 2017***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:35 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ira Grindlinger (Alt, Folsom Boro), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City)

**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 21, 2017 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)**

**Schools:**

**Total Students Educated for FY 2017:** A total of 2,835 students have been educated for FY 2017 (10-1-2016 to 6-30-2017), which is an increase over last year's number of 2,522. Also, during that time 1540 adults have been educated.

**Programs at Nature Center:** Provided a program at Nature Center for a summer camp group. Several scheduled programs were cancelled due the weather and a lack of participation.

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:** GEHWA sponsored and/or supported the following events.

**Osprey Banding:** Osprey banding took place from June 28 - 30, 2017. Forty-two nests were monitored. There were 24 active nests with a total of 50 chicks counted and 28 banded.

**Partnership Wild and Scenic River Gathering:** Fred, Lynn and Paul attended a 2 day gathering in Westfield, Massachusetts from July 9-11, 2017. Fred will speak more about this event.

**GEHWA & GEHRC Picnic and Campfire:** The annual GEHWA and GEHRC picnic and campfire took place on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at Lake Lenape Park. We had a total of 21 adults and youth attend.

**Eastern Apiary Society Annual Conference:** As a part of my continuing education I attended 4 days of the Eastern Apiary Society Annual Conference that was held at the University of Delaware from July 31 to August 4, 2017. I also partnered in a presentation with three others, one of whom was Julie Akers.

### **Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA/GEHRC Canoe/Kayak Event:** GEHWA and the GEHRC will be sponsoring a one day canoe/kayak event on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 10:00 AM. The location will be at Stephens Lake off of Route 50 near Estell Manor Park. Details will be sent out at a later date.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Fred reported for Paul. GEHWA's cooperative agreement needed additional review because it exceeds \$100,000.00 as per the new administration.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

### **New Business:**

#### **River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie asked Fred if ACUA could pick up trash in a county park from a river clean up on the Great Egg. Atlantic County's Friends of the Park are promoting an art event that highlights Atlantic County Parks. Julie has been promoting the scenic vistas that can be seen along the river.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick has been working one day a week on the long distance walking trail in the Makepeace area. Dick is also working with Bill Reinert on paved bike paths.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill asked if there was any news about the liveries on the river. Fred shared stories that he has heard about animal abuse on the river. Police are responding to complaints.

**Somers Point: (Ron Meischker):** Ron inquired if Fred had heard about a Linwood resident trying to get approve to build in a dangerous flood zone. Fred has been working on this issue and will be submitting comments to the Atlantic County Freeholder Board.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan):** The Mays Landing Yacht Club is planning two events. A clean-up on 9-9-2017 and the "Night of Lights" on 9-16-2017. Fred suggested staging trash in Gaskill Park so that it can be picked up by Atlantic County Utilities Authority.

**Other New Business:** None

**Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

- 1. PWSRs FY 2018 Appropriations Update:** The FY 2017 enacted total for the Partnership Rivers is \$2,108,000.00. For FY 2018 there is a possible \$160,000.00 decrease for the Partnership Rivers program. The Great Egg's program funding could be decreased by \$13,000.00 in FY 2018. The Cooperative Agreement funding amount that the Great Egg will receive for FY 2017 is \$140,000.00. Fred talked about the trip to Massachusetts. At the Partnership Meeting he shared what he is excited about, his concerns and his plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wild and Scenic rivers program. An anniversary cruise on the Duke of Fluke is planned for Saturday September 23, 2017 with a rain date of Sunday, September 24, 2017.
- 2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** On 8-15-2017 the Green Acres Program approved the application for the appraisal of the property. Fred now has to get an appraisal on the property.
- 3. Water Supply Plan Comments:** Fred submitted comments on the proposed "Water Supply Plan".
- 4. Osprey Colony Maintenance Updates:** This is the 9th year of the River Council's Osprey Project. Four platforms were replaced and 4 were repaired in 2017. The concrete platforms supporting the power line towers in the Great Egg Bay will be removed and replaced with monopoles. This will require new nesting platforms to replace those that were on the concrete bases of the towers.
- 5. River Fisheries Update:** The draft amendment #3 for the management of Atlantic Menhaden is currently out for public comment. Fred asked the RCs for approval so that he can represent the council in support of Option E. Ira Grindlinger made a motion to give Fred the authorization to represent the River Council when he supports Option E for the 75% target of menhaden. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- 6. Assault on Patcong Creek:** Fred shared the stats on those participating in the event. Next year's Assault will be held on June 22-23, 2018.
- 7. Tribute to the Tributaries:** Fred attended this event. Gregory Gregory read 5 "Watershed Minutes".
- 8. Other Items of Interest:** None

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.