

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2018

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), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Alt, Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Paul Ludgate (Alt. GEHWA)

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: Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting. John Keenan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun) Due to a family commitment, Lynn was not present. She will present her report next meeting.

Upcoming Events and Meetings: The GEHWA/GEHRC's annual one day canoe/kayak event will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018. We will be boating upriver on Babcock Creek from Mays Landing. More details to follow.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): (1) Paul received a call from a resident who lives downstream from Penny Pot who expressed concern about tubers not realizing how much longer a tubing trip can be as opposed to average canoeing times written on River Trail signs. Although a warning specific to "Tubing" could be added, Bill Handley suggested adding to the signs: "Tubing not recommended" or other wording on advice from local JIF insurance. (2) The next 5-year Cooperative Agreement is just about complete.

Old Business

- 1. River Development Notifications:** Paul and Fred are receiving US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices, which can also be accessed by any interested person. Fred will forward on notices of interest to River Councilors

Other Old Business: None

New Business: None

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported there are a lot of peanut bunker in the Tuckahoe River.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim told story of how he and his friends would travel along the river and plug up sewer outfalls with rags, pushing them as far up as they could with a long stick.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger): Ira reported on the history of the Teakwood Dam on Hospitality Branch at Rt. 322, and provided current photos and video. Cokenakes, dam owner, has gotten a 2-year DEP permit to dismantle the dam.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick made Sierra Newsletters available to the Councilors.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg reported there have been thousands of small stripers, peanut bunker, and eagles on the river between Jeffers Landing and Somers Point.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported Beesleys Point beach has tested high again for fecal coliform after a big storm. However, it has been determined that Tuckahoe Inn is not the problem. He asked if we could push for river water testing again; the state used to test, producing a map of red and green dots. Paul commented the Musconetcong River did a fecal DNA study, which attributed 70% of results to deer.

Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan): Bill reported that Mays Landing Yacht Club will host Night of Lights on Sept. 29th (check MaysLandingYachtClub.com) He also asked if a clean-up of Maple Lake could be done. He reported there is a lot of trash, and he met 3 DEP game wardens there.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark commented on the serious issue of red tides in Florida, but thankfully, not here.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. New GEHR Cooperative Agreement Update:** Fred reported Senator Menendez is making a move to fully fund PWSR's.
- 2. GEHR to host 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting:** Help is needed in planning this bi-annual meeting of 13 PWSR's in 8 states. About 30 people would be in attendance. Gregory suggested moving the summer meeting time to September.

3. **Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update:** Rutgers is recalibrating the impervious cover assessment to delineate between effective and ineffective impervious cover.
4. **Sign Projects Updates:** The Atlantic County NS&R GEHR sign will be installed in Somers Point at Kennedy Park by Boy Scout Troop 55 on 8/25. The Eagle Scout project will also involve pouring a slab for the sign and removing and bagging invasive Japanese knot weed from the Bluffs on 8/17. Gregory suggested dedicating the sign and recognizing the project at S.P's Good Ol' Days festival after Labor Day. The Camden County NS&R GEHR sign was submitted to Camden County many months ago, and Camden County has not yet approved the design.
5. **Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Fred is waiting for Hamilton Twp solicitor to draw up the Agreement of Sale.
6. **2018 Osprey and Eagle Update:** We now have 47 platforms, of which 29 had active nests this year. There were 62 chicks counted (18 banded), resulting in an average of 2.14 chicks/nest. From a chart showing annual nest production averages from 2009-18, this year was above average. It was noted that the 5 nests erected by Tom Byrd were not counted; however, 3 nests had chicks during the season. Fred will go out in October to secure platforms as needed, so they will be ready come Spring for returning birds.
7. **Fisheries Management Update:** The remand of T&E status classification for Blueback herring is scheduled to be completed in 2019. The MAFMC recently increased the river herring and shad by catch quota in the Atlantic Mackerel fishery from 82 metric tons to 159 metric tons by 2021. The ASMFC recently increased the quota for the yellow eel fishery, but denied an increase to the elver fishery in Maine.
8. **Other Items of Interest:** Tom Baum asked if the River Council wanted to remove Derelict Boat #2 after the great success with #1. This boat is bigger and has been stranded for about 3 weeks. Gregory will check on it.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Dick Colby and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.