

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2018

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:32 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Brian Camp (Corbin City), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.)

Board Members Absent: David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.) Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Tom Baum, retired Marine Biologist with the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries, Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Lisa Bender (Executive Director, Patcong Creek Foundation)

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.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2018 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 by unanimous consent.

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

Resolution 1-2018: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2018: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2018: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 1-2018. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 2-2018. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rick Coe, and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 3-2018. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2017 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Ron Meischker introduced Lisa Bender, newly appointed Executive Director of the Patcong Creek Foundation. Lisa is looking forward to working with GEHWA and GEHRC. Fred introduced Tom Baum, retired Marine Biologist with the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Tom has helped to ID fish and is a possible Alt. for Egg Harbor Twp.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

St. Vincent DePaul School: Fred, Lynn and Paul Ludgate judged the St. Vincent De Paul “Science Fair” on Thursday, February 15, 2018.

St. Vincent DePaul School: Lynn did the first of 2 elective programs at SVDP. First program was on trash and ways to reduce how much is thrown out.

Upper Township Middle School: On Tuesday, February 8, 2018, Lynn presented a program at Upper Township Middle School on Ocean Life to the 6th grade students that did not participate in the field trip to Stokes State Forest.

Williamstown Middle School: Lynn will do programs for seven days for the 5th grade science classes at Williamstown Middle School.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: Programs are scheduled for spring.

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

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next GEHWA member meeting will be on Tuesday, March 27, 2018.

Winslow Township 173rd Birthday Celebration: Fred will table at Winslow Township’s “Birthday Celebration on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

Pinelands Short Course: The Pinelands Short Course will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Stockton College.

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn will present a program on “Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates” on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 for the 2018 Environmental Stewards Class.

Clean-Up: The GEHRC, GEHWA, Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, ACUA and AC Parks and Environmental Advisory Board will partner in a clean-up on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: ACUA annual Earth Day event is on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Atlantic County Parks Program: Julie and Lynn will provide a program on “Bugs” for the Atlantic County Parks on Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

Workshops/Training Events: Fred and Lynn will be attending the following workshops:

- Fred and Lynn – The 22nd Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, March 2, 2018 in New Brunswick.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul reported that the Federal Government’s 2018 budget resolution has been agreed to and signed, and that 2019 budget numbers have been agreed to in congress. We should be receiving the signed 5 year “Cooperative Agreement” for the Great Egg in May.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Resolution Opposing Offshore Drilling: The River Councilors were asked to support a resolution opposing the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s 2019 -2024 proposed draft of the oil and gas leasing program for the outer continental shelf.

A motion was made by Julie Akers, and seconded by Brian Camp, to approve Resolution 4-2018. All in favor. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian reported that there are new RC signs on Route 50. There will be a cleanup of the Tuckahoe River on June 8, 2018.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick had 5” of precipitation in his CoCoRaHS rain gauge this month. As a result high water levels were measured on the river. Caution should be used when canoeing and kayaking on the river during those times of high water.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that Main Street has been opened. He also reported that birds of prey are catching fish.

Other New Business: None

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers):

1. Staff Activity Reports: Fred presented the “Staff Activity Reports” for fiscal year 2017.

2. PWSRs FY 2018-2019 Appropriations Update: Fred explained the process of the funding distribution. He also explained the “White Paper” that is distributed to congress which asks for their support so that budget cuts can be avoided.

3. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Fred has applied to the Hamilton Twp. Zoning Board to get an extension on the zoning variance for Block 809, Lot 6. He will also to appeal to Atlantic County Open Space for a \$25,000 match.

4. Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update: Fred again spoke about the need for this project and reported that the work on it has begun. Fred received a draft report on 2-13-2018.

5. 2017 Osprey and Bald Eagle Summary: Fred reported that the State of NJ has released the 2017 Osprey Report. He also discussed that there are plans to removal the power line towers crossing the bay and as a result of their removal, 5 new osprey platforms will be placed on the surrounding marsh.

6. River Herring and Menhaden Protection Update: Fred discussed the current status of the River Herring assessment. NOAA will do a status review and extinction risk assessment, followed by a peer review with a listing determination in January 2019.

7. Wayward Boat Removal Report: Fred gave a report on how volunteers successfully removed an abandoned boat that has been in the back bays of Somers Point since a 2009 northeaster. The volunteers received recognition from the Somers Point Mayor and Council.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.