

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

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:34 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), 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.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.) 11

Board Members Absent: Brian Camp (Corbin City)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth), Jen Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Kristina Koreivo (Watershed Ambassador - WMA15)

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 April 18, 2018 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Kristina Koreivo the new Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15 started in May and will be here throughout the summer.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach:

In Schools, Nature Center, Outdoor Classroom and Events: Students educated between 4-1 and 6-14-2018 totaled 2,601.

Williamstown Middle School (MS): Provided 21 programs at Williamstown MS for 436 5th grade students. The students learned about stormwater runoff and groundwater, and were also taught about the importance of the Great Egg Harbor River and its status as a National Scenic and Recreation River.

Fernwood River Cruise Program: The Fernwood Avenue School “River Cruise Program” began on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. There were a total of 7 spring trips on the Duke of Fluke. One of the trips was a reward “Fishing Trip”.

Alder Avenue Water Festival: GEHWA participated in the annual “Water Festival” at Alder Avenue School on Thursday, May 24, 2018

St. Vincent DePaul School: The 5th Grade at SVDP did a great job presenting the annual puppet show, now in its 11th year, to the Pre-K 3 through 4th grades.

Dawes Avenue School: The annual Dawes Avenue School outdoor program was held June 4th and 7th. This is the 13th year (began 2006). The Patcong Creek Foundation sponsored the River Cruise for the Dawes Avenue 6th grade.

Absecon Marsh School: Lynn provided 4 programs at the Marsh School in Absecon for the 3rd grade on June 5, 2018.

St. Joseph's Regional School – Somers Point – 7th Grade: On June 14, 2018, the Patcong Creek Foundation sponsored a River Cruise for the 7th grade students from St. Joe's in Somers Point.

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

ACUA Earth Day Event: The ACUA annual Earth Day Event was held on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Dick Colby and Julie Akers helped staff the GEHWA/GEHRC table. The event was well attended.

Clean-Up: The GEHRC, GEHWA, Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, ACUA and AC Parks and Environmental Advisory Board partnered in a clean-up on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Atlantic County Parks Program: Julie and Lynn lead a "Frog Walk" at the Estell Manor Park for Atlantic County Parks on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

GEHWA Member Meeting: GEHWA's annual Frog Walk was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 7:30 PM at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township.

Environmental Stewards: Members of the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program that is held annually at the ACUA facility, participated in a "River Cruise" on the Duke of Fluke on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Picnic and Campfire: The annual picnic and campfire will be on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 5:30 PM at Lake Lenape Park.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): In follow up to a question from the last meeting, the Wall project across from Bill Christman on the Great Egg was licensed and approved.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

Resolution RC:05-2018 Authorizing the River Council to grant \$12,500 for a Rutgers Impervious Cover and Green Infrastructure (ICA) Project in Monroe Township: Following an introduction to the project by Fred Akers, Rick Coe made a motion to approve \$12,500.00 to fund a Rutgers Extension Service – Water Resources Program for an ICA Project in Monroe Township. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All yeas. Motion approved.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported he is happy to see that the river is busy.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger): Ira reported that dam improvements at Hospitality Lake may finally be moving forward.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported participating in an Atlantic County Parks Commission outing at Stockton to see a new method for controlled burns. He also reported that the Regional Plan Association has produced a proposal to make the Meadows Lands of NJ a national park.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John reported that the annual blueberry harvest is underway. Looks to be a banner year. Annual Red White and Blue festival will be this Sunday.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick has noticed at the Monroe Township Planning Board that there is an increase in requests for D5 (increased density) variances.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory announced that the Assault on Patcong Creek is this weekend.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that there was a clean-up on June 8th at Corbin City and Tuckahoe. Did not find much trash.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph found a snapping turtle in his driveway. He also announced that the “Night of Lights” will be on Sept 8, 2018. There will also be a clean-up in September

Winslow Twp.: (Clark Sprigman): Clark is concerned about the recent beach closures.

Other New Business: None

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers):

1. **Outdoor Programs Update EHT MS4:** Fred coordinated for the EHT schools to receive MS4 points for their watershed education programs at the Alder Avenue Water Festival.
2. **Volunteer Recognition:** Fred announced that Tom Baum contributed 50 plus volunteer hours to our programs this spring.
3. **Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update:** Previously covered under Monroe Township Resolution.
4. **Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Fred is working to complete needed paperwork.
5. **New Open Space:** Recently, 1155 acres were preserved in Hamilton Twp.
6. **Cologne Ave. Open Space Opportunity:** There are 35 acres that may be added to Atlantic County’s Cologne Ave Park.
7. **2018 Osprey and Eagle Update:** The annual osprey survey will start next week.
8. **Fisheries Management Update:** Fred completed the IFish course. He also sent comments regarding the American Eel.
9. **Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area:** Impoundments at the Tuckahoe WMA have been repaired.
10. **Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

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