

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***April 17, 2019***

**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), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.). (11)

**Board Members Absent:** Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Winslow Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), 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:** Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

**Schools:**

**Absecon Marsh School:** Provided a programs at the Fox Nature Center on March 28 & 29 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

**St. Vincent DePaul School:** The annual SVDP 5<sup>th</sup> grade puppet show will be on Friday, May 30, 2019.

**NJ Envirothon Training:** The Envirothon training went well, but due to time constraints additional training programs have been scheduled for both Absegami and Cedar Creek High Schools.

**Reminder - 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 27, 2019.

**ACUA Earth Day Celebration:** ACUA annual Earth Day event is on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

**Workshops/Training Events:** Fred and Lynn attended the following the 23<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, April 12, 2019 in New Brunswick.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul answered some questions from the previous RC meeting in March. He informed the RCs that the Lakes Creek Bridge will be out for 6 months to 1 yr. He also stated that the armoring being installed, as part of the new construction, is necessary to protect the bridge. The coffer dams installed during construction will be reduced in size to just under the mud line, and left in place permanently to prevent scouring of the abutments. Paul also shared the National Park Service written comments on an Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study that is looking at the benefits of installing flood gates at the Great Egg Harbor Inlet.

**Old Business:**

**Resolution of Support for the Marshallville Bridge Restoration:** A motion was made by Bill Handley, and seconded by Rick Coe, to approve the resolution that supports the restoration of the Marshallville Bridge. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave reported that the Duke of Fluke is going back into the water this week and will be docking at C-Jam in Somers Point.

**Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen):** Jim reported there was a fishing tournament on 4-13 in Estell Manor. He also stated that the herring are running.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick announced that the Friends of the Parks and the Atlantic County Parks and Environment Advisory Board will host guest speaker Maya van Rossun, author of the “Green Amendment”, at the Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Twp. on May 1.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill experienced an unexpected blowout tide on Monday due to the strong winds

**Folsom Twp.: Joel Spiegel:** Joel asked Fred to report that Mike Cokenakes erected a privacy fence along the river.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Gregory stated there were issues with local residents and an unapproved osprey platform at the marina. The platform has since been removed.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill thanked the RC for passing the resolution regarding restoration of the Marshallville Bridge. He also reported seeing osprey on nests.

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):** Clark reported that the traffic around New Brooklyn Lake is worsening during rush hour.

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. Congressional Support of PWSRs:** Fred reported that the “Cooperative Agreement” funding for the Great Egg is \$140,000.00 for FY 2019. He also reported that the “Dear Colleague” letter that

circulated the House of Representative acquired 42 signatures from 18 states. The Senate letter is currently circulating and so far, has signatures from 12 senators from 7 states.

**2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** Fred is waiting for the completion of a few items so that the purchase can be finalized.

**3: Monroe & Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update:** Rutgers has completed the assessment reports. Fred separated out projects that fall within the Pinelands boundary for possible funding by the Pinelands. Fred demonstrated how to access the information regarding the 2 projects on the Rutgers website.

**4. Higbee Marina Dredging/Patcong Creek Berm Project Update:** The dredge spoils from the reconstruction of Higbee Marina are being used to create a berm for the “Somers Point Mays Landing Road Resiliency Embankment” at Patcong Creek.

**5. Great Egg Harbor Watershed Recreation Inventory:** Fred is working on a recreational inventory of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River for the NPS.

**6. GEHR to Host 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting:** GEHWA will be hosting the PWSRs meeting from Sunday September 15 to Tuesday, September 17 at the Pier 4 Motel in Somers Point. Thirty rooms have been reserved.

**7. Atlantic County Recycling:** The ACUA has published detailed information regarding what items can currently be recycled. A copy of the ACUA’s Spring issue was given to the River Councilors.

**8. Other Items of Interest:** None

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Rick Coe and second by Bill Christman, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.