

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2019

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:40 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.) (9 Members)

Board Members Absent: Brian Camp (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Pat Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

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 19, 2019 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, Outdoor Classroom and Events:

Fund Raiser: Gregory Gregory used “Network for Good” to raise \$416.00 for the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association through donations for his birthday.

Fox Nature Center: Lynn provided 2 summer programs in July for new groups at the Nature Center. One was for the Salvation Army Youth Program from Toms River and the other was for a group of challenged students from the Yale School.

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

GEHWA Annual Picnic and Campfire: Our annual Picnic and Campfire was rescheduled due to bad weather. It was originally scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2019, but moved to Tuesday, July 30. Twenty people attended and enjoyed the food and renewing friendships.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Canoe/Kayak Event: The annual Canoe/Kayak event will be on Saturday, September 28, 2019, at 12:00 PM. We will be launching from Danger Beach at Lake Lenape Park.

Events that Fred Akers Attended:

Fred attended the Assault on Patcong Creek BBQ, the ANJEC 50th Anniversary Event at the Pinelands on 6/21/2019 and did a program at the Seashore Science Center in Somers Point.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney):

Patcong Creek Marina Redevelopment Project: Fred provided information regarding Patcong Creek and Higbee Marina and the project to replace bulkheads and docks at an old marina. Paul stated a preapplication meeting was not held prior to receiving the full application on the project at the old marina. All requisite approvals are still required from a variety of agencies. Paul stated that the application is incomplete as received. He also stated that the length of piers exceeds what is allowed within the Wild & Scenic designation.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business: None

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie reported that there are issues with Pancoast Mill Pond which drains into Deep Run and has received a lot of runoff. The pond is filling in.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported the County is planning on replacing the bridge over the Great Egg near the fish ladder in Mays Landing. The project could take 2 years. Construction will be put on hold during the herring migration.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported that a new outdoor restaurant at Doplín Dock was blocked due to the unrealistic ability of the area to support the seating capacity planned for the restaurant since adequate parking was not available.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that Upper Township and Somers Point met to discuss when the bike path on the bridge would open.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph reported that Absecon Power Squadron would be doing a cleanup.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark thanked Fred for following through on the finalization of the sign.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Camden County Sustainability Champion of the Month: Fred received the Camden County's Sustainability Hero for July from the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Fred used this event to leverage the installation of the 3 Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreation River signs: 1 at New Brooklyn Lake Dam and 2 at other locations that would be determined.

2. Pinelands Commission Climate Change Committee: Fred attend the first Pinelands Commission Climate Change Committee meeting where they are starting to work on what the impacts of climate change will be on the NJ Pinelands.

3. About Time for Turbines: The Federal Government is selling leases to Offshore Wind Companies to install wind turbines. Construction could begin as early as 2021

5. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Fred needed to hire a second surveyor. The first survey was rejected by Green Acres.

6: Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update: Fred received a call from Winslow's Director of Public Works regarding problems with a flooding roadway spilling over to an adjacent private property.

7. 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting: Fred reviewed the agenda for the upcoming PWSRs meeting.

8. Piney Hollow Preserve: Jane Morton-Galetto reported to Fred that she smelled sewage recently at the Piney Hollow Preserve. Fred took councilors on a photo tour of the preserve. Fred found that the smell was coming from a pond covered in green algae.

10. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.