

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2018

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:40 PM by Dick Colby, Acting Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Administrator.

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Ira Grindlinger (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton City), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Jennifer Jennings (Winslow Twp.), 12 total.

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Ron Meischker (Alt. Somers Point), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth)

Open Meetings Act: Dick Colby 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.

(Chairman Greg Gregory arrived at this point and took over chairing the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2018 meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools and Community Outreach:

Schalick High School: On November 5th I provided a program on groundwater for 9th and 10th grade students at Schalick High School.

2019 School Year: Calendar is filling up with school programs for 2019.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

2nd Annual NJ Watershed Conference: Fred and I attended the Watershed Conference at the Watershed Institute on November 2nd, Fred presented.

Vineland Chamber Of Commerce – Green Team: Provided a program on November 14th for the

Vineland Chamber of Commerce Green Team.

GEHWA Trustee Report: The GEHWA Trustees met on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the Harley Dawn Diner. Seven Trustees were present along with 4 others. The Trustees voted for the following slate of officers: Julie Akers, President, Ed Curry, Vice-President Dick Colby, Treasurer, and Lynn Maun, Secretary. The Trustees also approved the following appointments to the River Council: Dick Colby, Primary, Paul Ludgate #1, Clay Emmerson #2, and Ed Curry #3. The Trustees approved the NPS FY 2019 budget and work plan. They also approved the Green Acres Enabling Resolution for the Bohren property.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA: The next member meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2018 at 6:30 pm, at the Fox Nature Center. Program will be announced.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul and Fred worked on an article that was submitted to the NPS for publication called the “Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment Leads to Greater Watershed Protection in the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River”.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Tremendous volume of water in the stormwater basins in Buena Vista Twp.

Folsom: (Ira Grindlinger): The Folsom Environmental Commission may become active again in 2019 following several years of inactivity.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick informed the councilors that he has maps of the “Long Distance Trails Through Atlantic County” available for distribution. He is also wondering how the environment in NJ will fair as NJ transitions from LoBiondo to Van Drew. And lastly he would like to know if anyone knows the future of the BL England power plant.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Buoys have been pulled from the river.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported catching over 200 striper this year.

(Ron Meischker): Ron stated that the dredging project on Higbee Beach is underway. He also talked about Somers Point’s plastic bag ordinance which will begin on 1-15-2019. The Patcong Creek Foundation has applied for a grant in order to continue to remove ghost pots from the creek

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. **GEHR to host 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting:** The PWSR's program meeting will be held on September 15, 16 and 17 at Pier 4 on the Bay in Somers Point. Thirty rooms will be reserved @ \$113.47 per room per night. The agenda is still a work in progress.
2. **Sign Projects Updates:** The sign for the headwaters of the Great Egg is finally ready to be produced and shipped.
3. **Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update:** The Second St. Park project is starting to move forward as the legal procedures are being completed.
4. **Army Corp Permit Correspondence:** A question arose regarding the dredging that was taking place in the creek at Perch Cove, Block 8191, Lot 14:01. An inquiry to the Army Corps has revealed that the owner has a maintenance dredging permit that is effective until 2021. The regulator of the day hotline is 215-656-6728.
5. **NJ Pinelands Commission Update:** The Candace McKee Ashmun Pinelands Education Exhibit was dedicated on 12-14-2018 at the Pinelands Commission.
6. **NJ Watershed Conference Presentation:** Fred was a presenter at the conference.
7. **CoCoRaHS and Joe Martucci:** Lynn was featured in a Press of AC article on CoCoRaHS. Over 15 new observers signed up as a result of the article.
8. **Other Items of Interest:** Part of the net trapped at the fishing pier by Rainbow Channel was salvaged by Ron and crew.

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.