

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2019

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:30 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.), (10).

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Ryan Coe

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 17, 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: Lynn educated 1754 students between 1-1 and 6-13-2019. This numbers does not include the number of students educated by Fred.

Fernwood River Cruise Program: The spring Fernwood Avenue School 7th grade “River Cruise Program” began on Tuesday, May 9, 2019. There were a total of 5 spring trips on the Duke of Fluke. The sixth scheduled trip was cancelled due to weather and could not be rescheduled. One of the trips was a reward “Fishing Trip”.

Alder Avenue Water Festival: GEHWA was not able to participate in the annual “Alder Avenue School Water Festival” due to prior commitments.

St. Vincent DePaul School: The annual 5th grade puppet show at SVDP was cancelled by the principal due to poor student conduct. This would have been our 12th year providing this program. The 5th grade teacher, Leslie Lombardo is retiring at the end of the school year. Hoping the new teacher will be interested in GEHWA’s programs.

Jordan Road School: The annual Dawes Avenue School, now the Jordan Road School outdoor programs were held June 3rd, 7th and 12th. This is the 14th year (began 2006). The Patcong Creek Foundation sponsored the River Cruise for the Jordan Road 6th grade.

St. Joseph's Regional School – Somers Point – 5th Grade: The Patcong Creek Foundation sponsored a River Cruise for the 5th grade students from St. Joe's in Somers Point on June 6, 2019

Absecon Marsh School: Lynn provided 4 programs for the 3rd grade at the school on June 13, 2019.

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 28, 2019. 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 27, 2019 along Somers Point Road.

Atlantic County Parks Program: Julie, Lynn and Fred led a "Frog Walk" at the Estell Manor Park for Atlantic County Parks on Wednesday, May 14, 2019.

GEHWA Member Meeting: Our annual Frog Walk was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:30 PM at Sahara Sands in Monroe Township.

Environmental Stewards: Members of the Rutgers Environmental Stewards program that is held at the ACUA facility participated in a "River Cruise" on the Duke of Fluke on Wednesday, May 23, 2019.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Picnic and Campfire: The annual picnic and campfire will be on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Lake Lenape Park.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul reported that he has processed the package for 2020 funding for GEHWA. The New Zealand Mud Snail has been found in the Musconetcong River. It is a new freshwater invasive species that out competes other organisms.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business: None

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Beach and boat ramp have been very active in Corbin City.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): River is quite.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): All tax forms have been filed for GEHWA prior to the May 15th filing deadline. Jody Carrara from ANJEC has retired and has been replaced by Randi Rothmel.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): A property along Mays Landing-Somers Point road had 5 acres clear-cut for the construction of a church.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): Blueberry crop expected to be good.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): There is a new shipping container restaurant proposed at the Dolphin Dock location.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill sent an article regarding flesh eating virus (*Vibrio vulnificus*) to Fred. There were 10 occurrences in our area last year. Bill has heard from the township engineer. The bridge barriers have been replaced to allow for bikes and foot traffic. Bill will also be teaching a class on beach and boating safety next year.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Congressional Support of PWSRs: Fred submitted the work plan and budget for 2020. A total of 54 members of Congress supported the Dear Colleague letters. The Committee on Appropriations is asking for a \$1,093,000 increase for PWSRS for FY 2020.

2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Fred is still working on purchase of property. It has been a very lengthy process.

3. Monroe & Winslow Green Infrastructure Project Update: Monroe's Green Infrastructure project has been completed. Winslow's project is also complete and a meeting was held recently with the mayor and staff. Rutgers has offered to help with a project for each municipality.

4. Patcong Creek Dredging/Berm Project Update: Hundreds of plants have been planted on the newly created berm near Patcong Creek.

5. River Council Sign Update: Fred reported that Buena Vista Township has repaired a couple of damaged signs with parts supplied by Fred. Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River interpretive signs have been installed at points along the river.

6. 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting: Fred is working on planning the programs for the upcoming PWSRs meeting.

7. Threatened and Endangered Species Update: A Bald Eagle pair have nested successful on an Osprey platform at English Creek.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.