

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 16, 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.), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.) (9)

Board Members Absent: Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), 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)

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 August 21, 2019 meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:

Heritage Homestead: Program provided for a group of special needs adults from Heritage Homestead on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Fernwood Avenue School – EHT: The fall Eco-Cruise programs on the Duke of Fluke for Jim Thoms' 7th grade students have been delayed due to weather. We are hoping to start on Thursday, October 17th.

Richard Stockton University: Lynn and Fred taught Stockton Professor Catherine Tredick's Ecology Lab on October 3 & 9, 2019. The focus was on "Water Quality Assessment using Macroinvertebrates".

2020 School Year: Schools are starting to request programs for 2020.

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

PWSR's Biannual Meeting: Attended and helped facilitate this 3 day event in Somers Point from Sunday, September 15 through Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

Camden County Environmental Stewards: On Friday, September 27, 2019, Fred and Lynn provided a Water Quality Assessment and Macroinvertebrate program for the Camden County Environmental Stewards class held in Cherry Hill. This was the first time for the Environmental Stewards class was held in Camden County.

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Canoe/Kayak Event: Due to an injury we had to cancel this year's canoe/kayak event, scheduled on for Saturday, September 28, 2019.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

3rd Annual New Jersey Watershed Conference: Fred and I will be attending the conference on Friday, November 1, 2019 at the Watershed Institute in Pennington.

GEHWA: The next GEHWA Member Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney):

Gateway Marina at Patcong Creek Redevelopment Project: The lengths of the proposed docks pose a potential hazard to recreational boaters. The final submitted plan complies with the "Wild and Scenic River Rule" that no dock extends beyond 20% of river width. The development plan has been approved by the NPS.

Public Notice of Dredge Materials: Surrans Nursery in Corbin City is to be the recipient of dredge materials from Cape May Harbor Village and Yacht Club Association. The property falls within the Federal Wild and Scenic River boundary and also the CAFRA Pinelands Forest area.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie talked about a dam that was decommissioned at Unexpected Wildlife Refuge.

Corbin City: (Brian Camp): Brian stated that the visibility of the river is very clear.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): A friend of Dave's showed him a video of water that is going under the doors at the Lake Lenape Dam.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick stated that if the Lake Lenape Dam is every drained in order to replace the dam, he would request that the old train trestle bridge be repaired at the same time so that the bike path can be completed. He also stated that Unexpected Wildlife Refuge will be constructing a visitor's center and that a new caretaker is needed and that they must be vegetarian.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that Hamilton Twp. has not yet received a schedule for the proposed work that is to be done on the bridge near the dam.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John stated that the installation of a rain garden at the Hammonton Library, which is a green infrastructure construction project, is 90% of the way to getting the necessary approvals.

Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe): Rick will be forwarding a photo that he posted on Facebook while kayaking on the Great Egg Harbor River. It's a photo that has received the most likes of any he has posted.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory sighted a juvenile Bald Eagle sitting on the osprey nest at English Creek. Greg reported seeing many eagles.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. 2019 PWSRs Program Meeting Update: Fred stated that the 2019 PWSRs conference was very successful. He received a lot of positive feedback.

2. New National Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition: The mission of the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition" is to protect and defend existing and potential Wild and Scenic Rivers and broaden the movement for their conservation by raising awareness about their value. Fred is now involved in this coalition.

3. Representative Van Drew Update: Van Drew introduced a bipartisan bill to fully fund the \$900 million Land and Water Conservation fund.

4. Water Protection Network Meeting in DC: Fred will be going to DC to attend a members meeting for the Water Protection Network on October 29 & 30.

5. River Council Sign Update: Fred delivered 3 signs and bases to Camden County Parks last week. One sign will be installed in Berlin Park, another at the New Brooklyn Lake Dam and a third at a location not yet determined.

6. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Fred has received Green Acres approval for the 2nd survey. The deeds still need to be prepared.

7. New NJDOT Stormwater Basin in Hamilton: NJ DOT will be building a stormwater basin at Cologne Avenue and the Black Horse Pike.

8. Atlantic County Green Infrastructure Projects: Fred will show details of these projects at the next meeting.

9. River Herring Update: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted to maintain the 129 metric ton river herring and shad bycatch cap in the mackerel fishery for 2020.

10. Higbee Marina Dedication: Dedication of the new marina was held on August 28, 2019. To date the electric has not been connected.

11. Night of Lights in Mays Landing: Fred showed pictures of the "Night of Lights" event that recently took place in Mays Landing.

12. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.