

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 18, 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), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), 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.) (12)

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.)

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), Bill Egan (Alt. Weymouth), Jim Thoms (7th Grade Teacher – Fernwood Avenue School – Egg Harbor Twp.), Carol Jones (GEHWA Trustee), Bill Stuempfig (Upper Township), Susan Stiles (Potential Alt. for Weymouth Twp.), 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 October 16, 2019 meeting with the following correction to item #7 of the Administrator's Report: change White Horse Pike to Black Horse Pike. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Jim Thoms distributed a handout to those present. He talked about the River Cruise program on the Duke of Fluke.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:

Williamstown MS 5th Grade: Due to a change in the Science curriculum at Williamstown MS, Lynn will present 21 programs on Stormwater Runoff, Groundwater and the Great Egg Harbor River in December. Currently, 18 of the 21 programs have been completed with 347 students educated. Since 2015, 2,559 students have been educated.

Heritage Homestead: Lynn will provide a program for a group of special needs adults from Heritage Homestead on Monday, January 6, 2020. This is the same group from September 2019.

2020 School Year: Calendar is filling up with school programs for 2020.

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

Annual GEHWA Trustee Meeting: The annual meeting of the GEHWA Trustees was held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at the Harley Dawn Diner. All trustees were in attendance along with several guests.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

GEHWA: The next GEHWA Member Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Program to be announced.

Rutgers Environmental Stewards held in Atlantic County at the ACUA: In an attempt to foster greater participation the Atlantic County Environmental Stewards will now be holding their classes in the evening. GEHWA is scheduled to provide a "Water Quality Assessment and Macroinvertebrate program on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Both the House of Representatives and the Senate approved an increase for PWSRs to receive full funding. The funding bill is now waiting for the president's signature. This is a program increase of over 50%. A new full time NPS employee was hired. Paul gave a presentation in Trenton where he stated that NJ is the only state that regulates W & S Rivers. He is working with the NJDEP to have the W & S Rivers listed in the states regulations.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

NJ Green Amendment Resolution: A motion was made by Bill Christman to approve the Green Amendment Resolution. The motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. 11 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Alt. Chuck O'Donnell): Still dumping dredge spoils in Tuckahoe at Surrans Nursery.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Folsom EC-Greg Conway is now chair of the Folsom EC.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported on the GEHWA Trustee meeting. He also mentioned Elmer Ripley's death.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that the county has accepted a bid to do the work on the bridge at the dam. He has also observed fishermen in waders fishing for striper.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported that a woman jumped off the 9th Street Bridge.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill reported that repairs are being made to the Marshallville historic bridge. He is also continuing to work with youth at his church to educate the public regarding pollution.

Weymouth Twp.: (Ralph Bernard): Ralph reported a blowout tide during the full moon the other night. He has not spotted any otters yet.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): Clark reported that currently, the water level is high at the New Brooklyn Lake Dam.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. 2019 PWSRs Congressional Appropriations Update: FY 2020 full funding of \$3,576,000 was requested and approved by Congress. This is an increase from \$2,280,000 previously approved in FY 2019. Funding has been stable for the past 3 yrs.

2. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: NJDEP approved the green acres survey and the deeds drafted by Rick Coe. The next step is for Atlantic County to approve the deeds and set the closing date.

3. Green Infrastructure Projects Update: Atlantic County Hammonton Library "Green Infrastructure Projects" (Rain Gardens) will be funded through the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and the William Penn Foundation. The Winslow Township rain garden project located at 611 Johnson Road in Sicklerville, installation cost is \$3,384.75. Winslow Township would pay for the project, but it could also be a possible grant application opportunity for the RC.

4. River Herring Update: The NRDC sent notice of intent to sue for violations of the Endangered Species Act regarding the National Marine Fisheries Service's "Not Warranted" listing decision for Alewife and Blueback Herring. Fred received a letter from Adam Witcraft from Atlantic County Parks that the fish ladder at Lake Lenape will have a fish counter installed by Marine Fisheries that will be monitored by the staff.

5. Student River Classroom Video: Fred showed a short video.

6. Remembering Bill Hughes: Fred showed a video clip where Bill Hughes talked about the MOA regarding the Federal designation of the GEHR.

7. Remembering Elmer Ripley: Fred also showed a video clip in memory of Elmer Ripley.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.