

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***December 16, 2020***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:36 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** by Fred Akers, Administrator.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Carol Foster (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Lynnee LoCicero (Hammonton), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Board Members Absent:** Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**GEHWA Trustees in Attendance:** Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Paul Ludgate, Pat Sprigman, Clark Sprigman, Carol Jones

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Kathleen Federico (Alt. Corbin City), Bill Reinert (Alt. Somers Point), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper Twp.), Brooke Handley (Stockton Intern), Ralph Cooper (Upper Twp. Green Team), Matt Duffy (Atlantic County), Dylan O'Brien (Watershed Ambassador for WMA15)

**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.

**Approval of Minutes:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2020 meeting. Carol Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Fred introduced GEHWA intern, Brooke Handley, who is a Stockton student who needs 130 intern hours as part of her course work. Brooke is a senior at Stockton and will graduate in the spring of 2021 with a BA in Environmental Studies. She is working on GEHWA's Marine Debris project.

Fred also introduced Matt Duffy who works for Atlantic County. Matt is currently working on an interactive GIS project for GEHWA.

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)**

**In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:** Lynn has been reaching out to teachers and offering to do virtual programs.

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:** Fred and Lynn are attending continuing education programs virtually.

**Upcoming Events and Meetings:**

**GEHWA:** The next GEHWA Member meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Program to be announced.

**GEHWA:** The Annual GEHWA Member Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Program to be announced.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Not present.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

### **River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie and Fred will be attending their local Planning Board meeting regarding a big housing development.

**Corbin City: (Carol Foster):** Carol shared concerns regarding the railroad bridge that crosses the Tuckahoe. There are spikes below the bridge that are only visible during low tide. This is a concern because individuals jump off the bridge during the summer. A letter has been written to Conrail. She is hoping to also get a letter of support from Upper Township. Carol also stated that some of the coir logs near the boat ramp have been destroyed by jet skis pulling up onto the beach over the summer. She stated that dredge spoils have been deposited at a local nursery to fill in holes from the removal of plants/trees.

**Somers Point: (Greg Gregory):** Gregory contacted Fred regarding sediment runoff. Fred showed slides that were from a construction site near the Garden State Parkway where the stormwater runoff carried the sediment into nearby waterbodies. Fred will reach out to the Atlantic County Soil Conservation District. Residents' calls to the NJDEP have not received any response.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill will look into the status of the remediation for the Marshallville Bridge. He also stated that the Somers Point-Beasley's Point bike path parking lot is out for bid. He responded to a question regarding the status of remediation around Beasley's Point that there is no formal information out yet.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick questioned when the bike path over the parkway bridge will be completed. He also commented that Conrail (and the Railroad bridge) may have been taken over by a private owner?

**Winslow: (Clark Sprigman):** More water is moving over the dam at New Brooklyn Lake.

**Other New Business:** None

### **Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):**

**1. PWSRs FY2021 Congressional Appropriations Update:** Funding for FY2021 in the amount of \$255,000.00 for the Great Egg has been requested by the house. The senate has proposed that the funding remain at FY 2020 level.

**2. GEHR National News Articles:** Fred stated that President Elect Biden should propose a budget for FY 2022 in February of 2021. He also shared that Biden sponsored the designation of White Clay Creek. He feels that might work to the benefit of funding of the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program. Fred also shared the link for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers News, October 2020 issue which featured GEHR.

- 3. Township of Hamilton Rutgers Green Infrastructure Study:** The Hamilton Township Green Team received a grant and hired Christopher Obropta to do a study for Green Infrastructure Projects.
- 4. Open Space Payment in Lieu of Taxes Update:** NJ has not restored the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, as promised, due to the expenses incurred by Covid-19. The Pinelands Commission authorized a resolution in support of the restoration of Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.
- 5. South River Unpermitted Cedar Cutting Update:** Fred received correspondence regarding the history of the cutting of cedar trees along the South River in Hamilton Twp. Fred will continue to follow this issue.
- 6. Winslow Township Basin Study Update:** The contract with Princeton Hydro is on hold. Fred has reached out to Winslow Township to see if there are any documents regarding the as-built construction of the basin. He has not received any info to date. Clark will try to follow up with the mayor on this, as well as status of when the new signs for Camden County will be installed.
- 7. ArcGIS Online Public Information Portal Update:** The Pinelands Commission has created a public online interactive map of the Pinelands. He reported that Atlantic County has recently purchased the Petinga properties to add to their preserved Cologne tract, and showed how this Pinelands mapping program could be used to show wetlands and buffers covering the properties.
- 8. Coastal Flooding and Dredge Spoils Update:** There is a project on the Maurice River where dredge spoils will be used to help mitigate against erosion and coastal flooding. Fred shared slides from NOAA regarding what contributes to coastal flooding. Fred had images of Anchorage Point dating from 1930 to 2017 to show how Anchorage Point is being reduced in size. He also showed images from Dog Beach for the same time period. Dave and Gregory commented that the sod banks that used to exist there had disappeared quickly once the Marina was built.
- 9. GEHR Marine Debris Program:** Brooke Handley discussed the goals of the program by reviewing the 3 main tasks: public outreach, identification and mapping (to be included in GEHWA's new interactive GIS program), and clean-up strategies and plans. She also showed slides of some debris that has been located to date, from abandoned boats to oyster growing mesh sacks. Bill Reinert suggested reaching out to NJ for list of Sandy debris removal contractors.
- 10. Fisheries Management Update:** Fred shared slides of anglers with their fish.
- 11. Other Items of Interest:** Wishing everyone happy and safe holidays. Our reorganization meeting will be held February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom.

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Carol Foster and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.