

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020

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), Tom Baum (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: John Keenan (Hammonton City), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jenn Jennings (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper Twp.), Chuck O'Donnell (Alt. Corbin City), Lisa Schroeder (Watershed Ambassador WMA 15), Carol Jones (GEHWA Trustee), Ryan Coe (Monroe Twp.), Kelly Camp (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.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2020 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair - Greg Gregory
Vice Chair - Rick Coe
Treasurer - Dick Colby
Secretary - Fred Akers

Bill Christman made the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Fred Akers** as Secretary. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Fred Akers brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2020: Designating Depository of Funds and Authorized Signatures on River Council Accounts.

Resolution 2-2020: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2020: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

(Approved all three at the same time)

A motion was made by Rick Coe to approve Resolution 1-2020, 2-2020 and 3-2020, Gregory Gregory seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2019 meeting. Joel Spiegel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Lisa Schroeder the new Watershed Ambassador for WMA 15 introduced herself and offered to help with programs.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

Schools:

Williamstown Middle School: During the spring and fall of 2019, 805 5th grade students from the science classes at Williamstown Middle School were educated. A total of 42 programs were provided.

Upper Township Middle School: On January 21st Lynn presented a program to the 6th grade students at Upper Township Middle School. These were students that did not participate in the trip to Stokes State Forest.

Jordan Road School: On February 4th Lynn presented a program to the 6th grade students at Jordan Road School. These were students that did not participate in the trip to Stokes State Forest.

St. Vincent DePaul School: Julie, Fred, Lynn and Paul Ludgate were judges at the St. Vincent De Paul "Science Fair" on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

Spring Programs at Nature Center: Programs scheduled for spring.

Atlantic County Adult Day Care: Lynn will present a 3rd program for Special Needs adults from Heritage Homestead on March 10th.

Nature Center: Lynn is working with Adam Witcraft to provide a program(s) for Hammonton Middle School focusing on local ecology and the sustainability. Hammonton MS is planning weekly programs at the Nature Center using multiple presenters.

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

New Osprey Platform: A new osprey platform was installed across from Higbee Beach in Somers Point on 1/15/2020.

GEHWA Member Meeting: The next GEHWA member meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Program to be announced.

NJ Envirothon Training: Lynn will provide wildlife training on March 31, 2020 for students participating in the 2020 NJ Envirothon.

Environmental Stewards: Fred and Lynn will present a program on Wednesday, April 7, 2020 for the 2020 Environmental Stewards Class on "Water Quality and Macroinvertebrates".

Clean-Up: The GEHRC, GEHWA, Atlantic County Parks, Friends of the Parks, ACUA and AC Parks and Environmental Advisory Board will partner in a clean-up on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: ACUA annual Earth Day event is on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

Workshops/Training Events:

- Fred and Lynn – 24th Annual New Jersey Land Conservation Rally on Friday, March 20, 2020 in Somerset, NJ.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): The 2021 budget for GEHWA has been submitted. Paul received plans to install new bulkhead, docks and piers at 4555 Catawba Avenue, Mays Landing, Block 1121, Lot 13 which is within the Wild and Scenic designation. The State did not let Paul know about the review. He will review the plans once the State of NJ had submitted their review. There is also a second dock review which is located at Block 980, Lot 18. He is also waiting for the State to submit their review on these plans before his review.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Corbin City and Folsom River Councilor Resignations:

Fred read three resolutions honoring the 3 River Councilors, Brian Camp, Chuck O'Donnell and Ira Grindlinger that have resigned from the RC. With no objection, resolutions R:04-2020, R:5-2020 and R:06-2020 were approved by unanimous consent.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Egg Harbor Twp.: (Tom Baum): The new Osprey platform is still standing. Tom observed juvenile Bald Eagles on the osprey platform at English Creek. He also observed a seal up river. He has also found Wharf Road flooded during a full moon high tide.

Folsom: (Joel Spiegel): Folsom has updated their local River Management Plan. The plan was adopted by Pinelands Commission.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): On March 10th Dick will participate in a conference for the continuous bike trail that will be used as part of the bike trail system in Atlantic County

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Patcong Marina has been dredging. Bay Breeze Village has recently gotten approval to dredge. The body was found of girl that jumped from the bridge.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill Handley thanked Brian Camp and Chuck O'Donnell for all their help.

Alt. Upper Twp.: (Bill Stumefig): Bill has spotted coyote on his property. There is an eagle nest upriver and he has observed neighbors feeding the eagles. Common dolphin have been sighted in ocean.

Winslow: (Clark Sprigman): To date the Camden County Parks signs have not been installed.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

1. Staff Activity Annual Reports: Fred showed documentation of staff activity for FY 2019.

2. PWSRs FY 2020 - FY 2021 Appropriations Update: FY 2020 full funding request was granted in the amount of \$255,000. Funding enacted \$220,000. FY 2021 funding request per president's budget is \$204,000. Our request \$255,000.

3. Block 809 Lot 6 Green Acres Update: Possible settlement in March on this open space project.

4. Green Infrastructure Project Update: Fred reported that there are several rain garden projects that the RC could assist. One located at 611 Johnson road, Winslow Twp. and the other located at the free library in Monroe Twp. Both of these projects would qualify for financial assistance from the River Council. Fred is also interested in doing an Impervious Cover Assessment for Egg Harbor Township.

5. River Sign Maintenance Update: Fred received a letter in January from Atlantic County Executive, Dennis Levinson approving the replacement and/or installation of new river signs. Atlantic County will provide the labor and GEHWA will pay for the materials.

6: Offshore Wind Update: Fred showed a picture of a conceptual view of offshore windmills viewed from the Ocean City Boardwalk that would be located 15.6 miles offshore that was presented by Orsted. He sent the picture to everyone by email.

7. Fisheries Management Updates: Atlantic Striped Bass are overfished. There will be an 18% reduction for 2020. Bag limit of 1 fish at 28"-35". Bluefish allocation and rebuilding amendment to the bluefish fishery management plan. The plan states that bluefish have been overfished but overfishing did not occur in 2018. Bag limit reduced from 15 to 3 fish for private anglers and party boats to 5. Atlantic Menhaden management is focusing on managing Menhaden for its ecological reference point (ERP) importance.

8. 2019 Osprey, Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon Summary: Osprey 2019 report, osprey numbers are increasing with over 700 nesting pairs. Bald Eagles over 190 active nests. Peregrine Falcons over 38 pairs, numbers down from previous year.

9. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.