

Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River Council
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting
Meeting Held via Zoom Due to Covid-19 Restrictions
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:33 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)**, Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Susan Stiles (Weymouth), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Joel Spiegel (Folsom Boro), John Keenan (Hammonton)

Quorum Present – Yes

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper Twp.), Dylan O'Brien (WMA 15 Watershed Ambassador), Ralph Cooper (Upper Twp. Green Team), Bill Reinert (Atl. Somers Point), Carol Jones (Trustee)

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: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting. Bill Stuempfig seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Carol Foster abstained).

Public Portion: Fred introduced Dylan O'Brien, the new WMA 15 AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador. Dylan provided his background information and said his term of service as an Ambassador is from 9/9 to 7/9/2021. Dylan will do a program on the "Water Quality of the GEHW" at the next GEHWA Member Meeting on November 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Ralph Cooper from the Upper Township Green Team would like to be notified of any Citizen Science projects that are focused on the Tuckahoe.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun):

Schools: No programs since March, 2020

Osprey Count 2020: On June 23 & 25, 2020 we surveyed the osprey nesting platforms, to count this year's chicks, found within the Great Egg Harbor Estuary west of the Parkway Bridge. We counted 59 chicks found in 28 active nests. A total of 52 nesting locations were surveyed.

River Council Meeting on the Duke of Fluke: The August 19, 2020 meeting of the GEHRC was held on the Duke of Fluke due to Covid -19 restrictions. Lynn shared pictures of the event.

Community Outreach: On 9/1 and 10/10/2020 we lead 2 hikes exploring the “History Trail Challenge” at Estell Manor Park to view the 18 trail interpretive signs located there about the historic ruins of the Bethlehem Loading Company.

Continuing Education: Fred and Lynn are attending a variety of educational Zoom meetings.

GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting: The next GEHWA Member Meeting will be a zoom meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul reported that the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) is working on a pilot program at Barnegat Inlet to deposit dredge spoils in an effort to mitigate shoreline erosion. He is hoping the ACOE can develop a program to use the dredge spoils as part of their permitting program so that the spoils are not removed to an off site upland location and are instead used in the same ecoregion. Paul will be sending a letter to the ACOE in support of keeping the dredge spoils in the same region with the hope they will change how they do things. Gregory recommended the RC also write a letter of support. Bill Christman made a motion to write a letter in support of keeping the dredge spoils onsite, Carol Foster seconded the motion. Motioned carried.

Paul also mentioned that the NPS is writing newsletters that will feature every Partnership Wild & Scenic River. Currently they are working on a newsletter that will featuring the GEHR.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Resolution 4-2020, Support for Winslow Twp. Basin Survey: Following a presentation by Fred Akers and discussion by the RCs, a motion was made by Julie Akers to approve Resolution 4-2020 in support of funding the “Winslow Township Basin Survey” in the amount of \$11,800.00. The motion was seconded by Rick Coe. The discussion requested the Administrator to make sure that the study is completed and the basin redesign is funded and completed as well. Role call vote. All Yes. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill asked if there has ever been a sighting or capture of a bull shark in the river. Bill had an encounter with a 1-2 foot shark upriver near where he lives, that grabbed a crab from the water after he threw it overboard. After doing some research he found evidence that indicated it might be a bull shark. Bull sharks have been known to travel upriver into brackish water.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg reported that the pontoon boat has been removed from the sandbar near Drag Island.

Upper Twp.: (Alt. Bill Stuempfig): Bill reported finding a 6 foot stuffed alligator while cleaning up trash found along the Tuckahoe River

Other New Business: None

Administrator’s Report (Fred Akers):

1. Atlantic County Park First Park Rangers: Fred showed a picture of the 1st Park Rangers for Atlantic County Parks. River Councilor, Jim Owens was one of the rangers.

2. South River Unpermitted Cedar Cutting Report: Fred presented a program regarding unpermitted Atlantic White Cedar cutting along the South River in Hamilton Township. He plans to notify local and state authorities on what he has found.

3. ArcGIS Online Public Information Portal: Fred discussed the online web portal that will provide information available to the public on the GEHW. The GEHWA will contract with Young Lemon, LLC to set up the web mapping application.

4. Great Egg Harbor Watershed Phragmites Study: Andrew Crosby, a senior at Stockton University reached out to GEHWA to see if he could do an intern project. His project will be to do an analysis of the change in phragmites communities from 2002 – 2015 that are found within the watershed using GIS. He will analyze the phragmites found within both the Federal Boundary and the watershed at large.

5. Camden County Link Trail: Fred shared some information regarding the “Cross Camden County Trail Feasibility Plan”. It will go from Camden down through Winslow Twp. Bill Reinert stated that it is possible it may connect up to the Atlantic County Bikeway West.

6. Fisheries Management Update: The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has decreased the Menhaden take by 10% for the 2021-2022 fishing season.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment: Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.