

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***April 21, 2021***

**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.), LaVerne Kirn (Corbin City), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Paul Ludgate (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (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), Ralph Bernard (Weymouth)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**GEHWA Trustees in Attendance:** Julie Akers, Paul Ludgate, Clark Sprigman, Carol Jones, Bill Stuempfig

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Bill Reinert (Alt. Somers Point), Brooke Handley (Stockton Intern), Bob Johnson, Sandra Boone, Steve Zellars, Ralph Cooper, Keith Boakes

**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 GEHWA website calendar.

**Approval of Minutes:** Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting. Bill Handley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Fred introduced Keith Boakes, from Hamilton Township. He feels the barge is a hazard and needs to be removed. He is willing to pay for an excavator to remove it from the river. He is also interested in getting involved. Fred also introduced LaVerne Kirn from Corbin City. Bob Johnson was also in attendance. Sandra Boone introduced herself and stated that she grew up on the river, but currently lives out of state. She thanked everyone for the work they are doing on the river.

**Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)**  
**In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:**

**Williamstown Middle School:** Lynn provided 14 days of virtual education for 397 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Williamstown MS.

**ACUA Earth Day Celebration:** The ACUA is celebrating Earth Month with daily programs. GEHWA is providing two of the programs.

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:**

**GEHWA:** GEHWA's Annual Member Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. Current GEHWA Trustees were reappointed, and Bill Stuempfig was appointed as a new Trustee. GEHWA Officers were also elected. The program consisted of a discussion of current projects.

**GEHWA:** The next GEHWA Member Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. This is our annual "Hike for Frogs". Location to be announced.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul is currently working on a new Cooperative Agreement for GEHWA. This year's pass through is \$165,000.00 and is an increase of \$15,000 over last year's amount.

### **Old Business:**

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Fred shared a list and photos, of all of the marine debris that has been found to date. He also shared some brainstorming ideas for dealing with the marine debris, and asked the RCs to share any ideas they have.

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

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie is promising cookies for our 1<sup>st</sup> in person meeting that we have.

**Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown):** Dave said that anyone can get the title, from the state, to an abandoned vessel, regardless if it is found in the water or on land. The cost is about \$200.00.

**Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen):** Fred shared that the Marine Debris letters were sent out to property owners along the river and, as an afterthought, they were also sent to the elected officials in each town. The mayor of Estell Manor has reached out to Fred in response to letter. He is interested in helping.

**GEHWA: (Julie Akers):** Julie stated that GEHWA's annual audit has been completed.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill said there was an online petition that could be signed by anyone, which asks the Federal Government to provide the money needed to fix the dam at Lake Lenape. He also said that the herring came upriver earlier this year. Bill has counted 12 boats on the river near Gravelly Run at one time. Bill is available to go out to collect marine debris. He doesn't feel that the townships will be willing to help, financially at this time,

**Monroe Twp.: (Rick Coe):** Rick asked if the municipalities have a Harbor Commission. The RCs were not aware of any Commissions, only a Harbor Master.

**Somers Point: (Bill Reinert):** Bill asked Fred if the barge is on Atlantic County Park property in Estell Manor. Fred stated it is and he will send Bill the information. Bill also shared that the Somers Point eagle's nest has 2 chicks.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill stated that Upper Township is in the construction phase of Beesleys Point Park which should be completed in July. The residents on Marshallville Road have

formed a committee regarding the Mill Creek Bridge. They will be meeting with Jeff Van Drew in May regarding the bridge. Orsted's plans to run power lines from their offshore wind project to the BL England site is being met with some opposition.

**Bill Stuempfig** suggested corporate sponsors might be interested in supporting marine debris removal projects.

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. Hill Week:** Fred shared a slide showing all the Zoom meetings he attended in a 1 week period that had to do with Hill Week.

**2. GEHR FY2022 Work Plan and Budget:** Fred shared a slide of the GEHWA FY2022 Budget Summary which starts on October 1, 2021 for FY 2022

**3. Corbin City Park Erosion Control:** Fred talked about the erosion at the Corbin City River Park. He showed slides depicting the progression of erosion at this site over the years. Fred sent the slides to Amy Greene Environmental. Bank stabilization would result in no swimming at the park. LaVerne Kirn said that Corbin City does not approve swimming, though people continue to swim there. There is a no swimming sign at the park.

**4. GEHWA Mission Map Update:** The initial setup of the Mission Map has been completed. Fred demonstrated how to navigate the site.

**5. GEHR Marine Debris Program Update:** Brooke talked about the boat removal on Saturday, April 24 and about the mailing to river front homeowners.

**6: River Herring Protection in Federal Waters Update:** Fred continues to serve on the MAFMC River Herring and Shad Advisory Panel which works on protections in federal waters

**7: Lake Lenape Dam:** Repair/Replacement of the dam is moving forward. The necessary permits have been approved. There are plans to install an automatic fish counter on the fish ladder.

**8. Memory Lane Pictures:** Fred shared slides of pictures along the river.

**9. Other Items of Interest:** None

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.