

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:37 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), Greg Conway (Folsom Boro), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), John Keenan (Hammonton), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Susan Stiles (Weymouth)

Board Members Absent: Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

GEHWA Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Carol Jones, Bill Stuempfig

Others Present: Fred Akers (River Administrator), Brooke Handley (Assistant River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Kathleen Federico (Alt. Corbin City), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Bill Reinert (Alt. Somers Point), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper 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 GEHWA website calendar.

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Fred Akers introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2022 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. Carol Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Resolution 1-2022: Designating Depository of Funds and Fiscal Agent.

Resolution 2-2022: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2022: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Bill Handley, to approve Resolutions 1-2022, 2-2022 and 3-2022. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021, meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom: Reaching out to teachers regarding programs for Spring 2022.

Marsh Elementary School: Lynn is scheduled to teach the 3rd grade students from Marsh Elementary School at the Fox Nature Center in March.

Williamstown Middle School: Lynn is scheduled to teach the 5th grade students at Williamstown Middle School in April about water quality, stormwater runoff and groundwater.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

Green Thumb Garden Club: Gregory and Lynn provided a program for the Somers Point “Green Thumb Garden Club” on February 1, 2022 titled “The Biodiversity Found in Our Backyards – Land and Sea”.

Upcoming Events and Meetings: Lynn has attended a variety of continuing education programs.

Pinelands Short Course: Fred, Brooke and Lynn will attend the Pinelands Short Course on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Stockton University.

GEHWA: The Annual GEHWA Member Meeting and program will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30. The election of GEHWA Trustees will take place at the meeting. Gregory Gregory will provide the program “Fish Tales with Gregory”. The meeting will be hybrid (in person and via Zoom).

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: The 2022 ACUA Earth Day celebration will be held on Sunday, April 24, 2022. We will table at this event.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Paul and Fred reviewed the following topics.

1. Dredge Spoils Dumping: Fred reviewed a proposal to dump dredge spoils from Atlantic City at the Tuckahoe Turf Farms in Estell Manor which is in both the Wild and Scenic River and the Pinelands boundaries. During a 10-year period, 111,217 cu. yds. of dredge spoils will be deposited which amounts to 5,560 truckloads. Fred also reviewed the proposal to dump 1461 cu. yds. or 73 truckloads of dredge spoils at the Surran Soil Replenishment LLC in Corbin City. Fred submitted comments regarding these proposals.

2. Lake Lenape Dam Replacement Plan: Fred reviewed the “Lake Lenape Dam Rehabilitation and Spillway Reconstruction” project to fix the dam.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1. Resolution 4-2022 Increase Staff Time for FY 2022:** A motion was made by Bill Christman, and seconded by Rick Coe, to approve Resolution 4-2022, to increase staff time for FY 2022. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried. Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.) and Bill Handley (Upper Twp.) abstained. Jen Jennings voted for Buena Vista Twp. and Bill Steumpfig voted for Upper Twp.
- 2. Resolution 5-2022 Request Increased State Funding for the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund (PITF):** A motion was made by Dick Colby and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 6-2022 in support of a request to increase state funding for PITF; with the suggested changes. All in favor. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie informed the RC that municipalities with ORVs issues, can pass an ordinance that enables the confiscation and destruction of an ORV if found to be operating on public lands

Buena Vista Twp.: (Alt. Jenn Jennings): Jenn stated that the weather has not been conducive to the retrieval of ghost pots from the GEHR.

Corbin City: (Carol Foster): Carol announced that the 100-year anniversary of Corbin City will be celebrated on 10-1-2022. They will be selling bricks that will be installed near the garden area at City Hall. She also stated that the ACUA is a source of good information and that they recently provided a program on reusable bags in preparation of the “Plastic Bag Ban” that will go into effect on May 4, 2022.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported seeing eagles in a tree.

Egg Harbor Twp: (Atl. Tom Baum): Tom reported seeing a seal on the river and an eagle on an osprey platform. He also said that the trees Stockton University is using for its maple syrup project can be seen from Mosquito Landing.

Folsom: (Greg Conway): Greg stated that the water level in Penny Pot Lake is down since the dam broke. He also said that local residents have noticed bald eagles and osprey in area. He wanted to know if an osprey nest could be installed. Greg also said that the Folsom Environmental Commission will be holding their 1st Green Day event on Saturday, April 30, 2022, rain date May 1st., from 10 am – 3 pm., at Cushman Lake in Collings Lakes.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick announced that Jamie Cromartie, GEHWA Trustee and Stockton professor passed away on 2-15-2022.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill has observed 3 juvenile bald eagles fishing in the river at high tide. He is also participating in the review of Hamilton Township’s Master Plan, and noted that there is a big change in the Stormwater Management Plans.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory completed a FHWAR survey regarding hunting, fishing and wildlife.

Somers Point: (Alt. Bill Reinert): Bill said that the eagles are incubating eggs at the nest in Somers Point.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill thanked everyone for supporting Brooke.

Upper Twp.: (Alt. Bill Steumpfig): Bill mentioned a tabling event in Cape May on June 11, 2022

Other New Business: None

Assistant River Administrator's Report (Brooke Handley):

- 1. River Management Society Article:** Fred and Brooke collaborated on an article on "Ghost Crab Pots" for the River Management Society.
- 2. CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge:** Fred and Brooke installed a rain gauge at Brooke's house. She is the 62nd registered observer in Cape May County.
- 3. Green Infrastructure Champion Training Program Update:** Brooke gave an update on her training to be a "Green Infrastructure Champion".
- 4. Rutgers Introduction to Fisheries:** Fred and Brooke have been taking a Rutgers course focused on stakeholders to teach them how have a greater impact on improving fisheries management.
- 5. Outdoor Classroom at Corson's Inlet:** GEHWA is planning to participate in an outdoor classroom event with Bill Handley's students from Middle Twp. Middle School in June.

Administrator's Report (Fred Akers):

- 1. Annual Staff Activity Reports:** Fred reviewed staff activity for FY 2021
- 2. Ghost Crab Pot Recovery Program Update:** Fred reviewed the Ghost Crab Pots project.
- 3. Other Items of Interest:** None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.