

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***June 15, 2022***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:35 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Carol Foster (Corbin City), Tom Baum (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.), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

**Board Members Absent:** Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

**Quorum Present** – Yes

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

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Brooke Handley (Assistant River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (Atl. GEHWA), Kathleen Federico (Alt. Corbin City), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Bill Reinert (Alt. Somers Point), Carol Jones (GEHWA Trustee), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper Twp.), Ralph Cooper

**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 April 20, 2022, meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

**In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:** Spring 2022 indoor and outdoor educational programs for: Marsh ES – Absecon, Williamstown MS – Monroe Twp., Middle Twp. MS – Middle Twp., Hammonton MS – Hammonton, Fernwood MS – EHT, Cleary ES – Buena Vista Twp., S. Main Street School – Pleasantville, Jordan Road School – Somers Point.

School	Date	Location	Number of Students Educated by Each Person								Volunteers			
			Lynn		Julie		Fred		Brooke		Paul	Tom	Shane	David & Cheryl
			S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A				
Marsh Elementary School - Absecon	3/23/2022	Estell Manor Park	39	22	39	22								
Marsh Elementary School - Absecon	3/31/2022	Estell Manor Park	39	14	39	14								
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/8/2022	School	115	7										
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/11/2022	School	110	7										
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/12/2022	School	111	11										
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/13/2022	School	105	10										
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/21/2022	School	115	7										
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/22/2022	School	107	7										
Middle Twp. MS - Middle Twp.	4/26/2022	School	22	2					22	2				
Williamstown MS - Monroe Twp.	4/29/2022	School	47	3										
Hammonton MS - Hammonton	5/3/2022	School	94	4										
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/4/2022	Corson's Inlet	28	2			28	2	28	2	x			
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/5/2022	Corson's Inlet	28	3	28	3	28	3	28	3	x			
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/11/2022	Corson's Inlet	27	3			27	3	27	3				
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/12/2022	Corson's Inlet	31	2	31	2	31	2	31	2			x	
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/17/2022	Corson's Inlet	29	2	29	2	29	2	29	2			x	
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/18/2022	Corson's Inlet	30	2	30	2	30	2	30	2		x	x	
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/19/2022	Corson's Inlet	26	2	26	2	26	2	26	2	x		x	
Cleary ES - Buena Vista Twp.	5/20/2022	Estell Manor Park	99	62	99	62								
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/23/2022	Corson's Inlet	32	4	32	4	32	4	32	4	x			
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/25/2022	Corson's Inlet	31	4			31	4	31	4	x			
S. Main Street School - Pleasantville	5/26/2022	Estell Manor Park	65	11	65	11								
Fernwood MS - EHT	5/26/2022	Corson's Inlet					30	5	30	5				
Jordan Road School - Somers Point	6/1/2022	Kennedy Park	62	11			62	11	62	11				
Cleary ES - Buena Vista Twp.	6/2/2022	Estell Manor Park	85	50	85	50								
Fernwood MS - EHT	6/2/2022	Corson's Inlet					30	5	30	5				x
Cleary ES - Buena Vista Twp.	6/6/2022	Estell Manor Park	91	43	91	43								
Middle Twp. MS - Middle Twp.	6/8/2022	Corson's Inlet	31	5	31	5	31	5	31	5				x
Jordan Road School - Somers Point	6/10/2022	Kennedy Park	74	7	74	7	74	7	74	7				x
<b>Total Students</b>			<b>1673</b>		<b>699</b>		<b>489</b>		<b>511</b>			<b>3372</b>		
<b>Total Adults</b>				<b>307</b>		<b>229</b>		<b>57</b>		<b>59</b>		<b>652</b>		
<b>Special Guest's at Corson's Inlet</b>														
<b>Turtle Lady</b>		Loretta the Turtle Lady - Diamondback Terrapin Rescue												
<b>NJ Fish and Wildlife</b>		Endangered Shorebird Protection												

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:**

**ACUA Earth Day Celebration:** The 2022 ACUA Earth Day celebration was held on Sunday, April 24, 2022. It was estimated that 10,000 people attended.

**Folsom's 1st Annual Green Day Event:** Folsom's Green Day Event took place on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at First Beach at Braddock Lake, in Collings Lake. We had a positive experience at this event and hope to see it continue.

**1st Annual Captain May Day:** The 1st Annual Captain May Day at the Memorial Park in Mays Landing on Saturday, May 7, 2022, was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**GEHWA:** The annual GEHWA "Hike for Frogs" was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at the Piney Hollow Preserve.

**Route 52 Causeway Rookery:** Lynn shared pictures highlighting the activity at the rookery this year.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul is working on updating the management plan. He is also reviewing the plans for a proposed marina. Paul is reviewing the data regarding the dredge spoils that were proposed to be dumped along the Great Egg. He would like to see the dredge spoils remain within the area from where they have been dredged as a means to combat sea level rise.

**Old Business:** No

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie reported that Buena Vista School's bus cost to Estell Manor Park was \$8,000.00 – \$9,000.00 dollars for 3 days and 9 buses. She stated that if the school continues to bring students to Estell Manor Park maybe the River Council could fund some of the cost for busing.

**Corbin City: (Carol Foster):** Carol reported that placement of the coir logs has been delayed. Corbin City's "Anniversary Celebration" is scheduled for 9/17/22, with a rain date of 9/24/22.

**Folsom: (Greg Conway):** Greg reported that repair of the dam on Cushman Lake is being blocked by private property owners.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick reported that all financial forms have been filed.

**Somers Point: (Alt. Bill Reinert):** Bill stated that he was glad to see the outdoor classroom at Kennedy Park.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill was very appreciative of the educational opportunities provided at Corson's Inlet. He also reported that some work has been done on the bridge on Marshallville Road.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan):** Bill reported that the river has been quite following Memorial Weekend. He also reported seeing dolphin at Jeffers Landing.

**Other New Business:** None

**Administrator's (Fred Akers) & Assistant River Administrator's (Brooke Handley) Report:**

**1. River Rally – Washington DC:** Brooke and Fred attended River Rally 2022 in Washington DC.

**2. Ghost Crab Pot Recovery Program Update:** 69 ghost crab pots were removed from the river.

**3. Marine Debris Program Update:** Toured the river with Vernon Ogrodnek from the Press to see the marine debris on the river. Brooke and Fred also removed several abandoned boats and had a successful river cleanup on May 15, 2022 with approximately 30 volunteers.

- 1. Resolution RC: 7-2022, \$250.00 Marine Debris Cleanup Grant to BSA Troop 79:** A motion was made by Bill Handley and seconded by Tom Baum, to approve Resolution 7-2022, for BSA Troop 79's to receive a \$250.00 grant for their assistance with the May 15, 2022 "Marine Debris Cleanup". Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

**4. Beesleys Point Redevelopment Update:** Fred and Brooke met with David Kreutz who is an owner of the Beesley's Point Development Group. The Development Group is interested in GEHWA's environmental perspective regarding their development plans.

**5. Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District Meeting:** GEHWA had a meeting with the staff from Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District. They were interested in partnering with us when we provide educational programs. Cape Atlantic Soil Conservation District provided one of the stations at Kennedy Park for the Jordan Road School.

**6. River Council Osprey Program Update:** The counting of osprey chicks will take place the last week of June.

**7. Watershed Tour of Gravelly Run:** Fred and Brooke found swamp pink and river herring on 4/27/2022 when they explored Gravelly Run.

**8. Joel Spiegel Memorial Bench Update:** The Joel Spiegel Memorial Bench was dedicated on 6/4/2022. It was very well attended.

**9. Mary Vavra Trailer Donation:** Mary donated a kayak trailer to the Watershed Association. It will transport 4 kayaks or 2 canoes.

**10. Other Items of Interest:** A Cobra Tandem Kayak that was found on the marsh and Fred restored it.

**Adjournment:**

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