

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2022

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

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Secretary

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Greg Conway (Folsom Boro), Clay Emerson (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: Carol Foster (Corbin City), Clark Sprigman (Winslow Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

GEHWA Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Clay Emerson

Others Present: Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Handley (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Nick Brown (Act Engineers), Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.), Jason Howell (PPA)

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: Approval of the October 19, 2022, River Council Meeting Minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Public Portion: Nick Brown, Coastal Engineer with Act Engineers, is working with the Beesly's Point group.

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

St. Vincent De Paul Elective Program – On Friday, November 4th, 2022, sixth, 7th and 8th graders participated in a 2nd bird watching program led by Lynn and a hands-on activity exploring alternative energy forces using magnets and balloons, which was led by Julie.

Middle Twp. Middle School Indoor/Outdoor Classroom: Bill Handley's Beach and Boat Life class participated in an indoor/outdoor classroom on November 21, 2022. This event was led by Lynn, Brooke, and Fred. Following the event, students recorded interviews with Lynn, Fred, and Brooke.

Students Educated in 2022: GEHWA's Education and Outreach programs took off in March after the lifting of 2 years of Covid restrictions. Overall, it has been an extremely successful year. Lynn

educated 1,905 students. Also, due to increased staffing capacity this year, Lynn, Fred, Brooke and Julie educated 4082 students.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting: The next GEHWA Member and Friends meeting will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in person at the Nature Center on Tuesday, January 23, 2023, at 6:30PM. Program details will be sent out prior to the meeting.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Not present.

Old Business: None

1. River Council Vote to Approve Updated Bylaws: A motion was made by Bill Handley and seconded by Jim Owen, to approve the updated River Council bylaws. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Resolution 9-2022: to Support Municipal Off-Road ATV Ordinances for River Council Municipalities: A motion was made by Julie Akers to approve Resolution 9-2022 seconded by Bill Handley to approve Resolution 9-2022 with the suggested additions corrections. The resolution supports municipal off-road ATV ordinances for River Council Municipalities. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

2. Resolution 10-2022: Asking the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust to Better Protect Gravelly Run from Off-Road ATV Damage and Dumping: A motion was made by Jim Owen and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 10-2022 with the suggested additions and corrections. The resolution is requesting the cooperation of the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust and other parties to adopt a strategic plan to stop the ATV damage at Gravelly Run. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Julie stated that there are some issues with beaver dams causing flooding issues in the township.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave contacted Terry Wilbert from the EHT Planning Board and shared the article Fred had sent about Climate Change.

Folsom: (Greg Conway): Greg said Folsom is working on their dam issues.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John said that Hammonton's Master Plan review is behind schedule but is still progressing.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg said that Somers Point sent a letter to homeowners, as part of their Stormwater Management practices, with information on what they can do to keep pollutants out of their stormwater runoff.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill said a dead whale wash up on Whale Beach and that it was buried on the beach.

Other New Business: None

Administrator's (Brooke Handley) & Operation's Manager's (Fred Akers) Report:

1. Coir Log Installation at Corbin City Beach: New coir logs were installed at Corbin City beach with a \$3,700.00 grant from the RC.

2. NJDOT, BPDG and GEHWA Meeting: The NJDOT, Beesleys Point Development Group (BPDG) and GEHWA met on 11/9/2022 regarding Beesleys point redevelopment.

3. History Hike at Estell Manor Park: GEHWA partnered with Friends of the Parks for a history hike of Estell Manor Park.

4. Ocean Wind 1 Public Meeting: Brooke and Fred attended a public meeting held by Ocean Wind 1 on 11/21/2022 regarding the substation location. Attendees could ask questions of the Wind 1 staff.

5. Beach Plum Planting at Strathmere Beach: GEHWA/GEHRC helped plant beach plums at Strathmere beach.

6. Upper Twp. Draft Climate Report: Upper Twp. as a participant in Resilient NJ Municipal Assistance program, created an interactive website for their climate change hazard vulnerability assessment.

7. NPS Wekiva River Meeting: Fred, Brooke and Lynn attended a partnership river meeting on the Wekiva River.

8. Donations and Continued Support from Jane and Peter Galetto: Jane and Peter Galetto have donated \$3,300. in stocks and an additional \$1,000.00.

9: Jamie Cromartie Stockton University Internship Program: Jamie Cromartie was a professor at Stockton University and a GEHWA Trustee. In memory of Jamie, GEHWA will begin a Stockton University Internship program in 2023.

9. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment: Upon motion by Jim Owen and second by Bill Handley, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.