

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***October 19, 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.), Kathleen Federico (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.), Bill Egan (Weymouth)

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

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**GEHWA Trustees in Attendance:** Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Clay Emerson

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Handley (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Clay Emerson (Atl. GEHWA), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Tom Baum (Alt. Egg Harbor Twp.), Lynnee LoCicero (Alt. Hammonton), Daniel Patterson (Corbin City), Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.), Emily Ruth (Corbin City), Ralph Cooper (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.

**Approval of Minutes:** Julie Akers made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2022, meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.): Denise is interested in protecting Gravelly Run. Emily Ruth (Corbin City): Emily is attending to find out more information about the GEHWA/GEHRC.

Ralph Cooper (Upper Twp.): Ralph is just visiting.

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

**EHT Talons Enrichment Program:** Students from the EHT Talons Enrichment Program received both an indoor program at the Nature Center lead by Lynn and an outdoor program in the park lead by Julie on Friday, August 19, 2022.

**Stockton University:** On Wednesday, September 21 and Thursday, September 29, 2022, Fred, Brooke and Lynn led Catherine Tredick's Environmental Principals lab classes during an outdoor streamside event. The students sampled the macroinvertebrates from the Morse's Mill stream as a tool to determine the water quality in the stream.

**St. Vincent De Paul Elective Program** – Sixth, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a bird watching program on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as part of the SVDP electives program.

**Fernwood MS School Outdoor Program at Corson's Inlet** – Jim Thoms' 7<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in an outdoor classroom at Corson's Inlet on, October 12, 14 and 18, 2022.

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:**

**GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Canoe/Kayak Event:** The annual canoe/kayak event was held on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

**GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting:** The next GEHWA Member and Friends meeting will be a hybrid meeting held at the Nature Center on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:30PM. The program will look at the damage done to Gravelly Run by offroad vehicles.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul attended a recent meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps is seeking a 2-year extension for the back bays study. There is a new update to the "Back Bay Study" on the GEHR. He also reported that the proposed storm surge barrier across the GEHR has reverted back to the original one barrier plan instead of the 2-barrier plan recently proposed.

**Old Business:**

**1. Amendments to the River Council Bylaws:** The Bylaws Committee led by Rick Coe met on Zoom on 10/13/2022. Rick Coe discussed the revisions to the GEHRC Bylaws that were agreed upon at that meeting. Copies of the final draft of the revisions have been emailed to the RC members with paper copies given out at the RC meeting on 10/19/2022. Questions or additional changes should be submitted to Rick Coe or Brooke Handley by 11/30/2022. Final vote on updated Bylaws will be at the 12/21/2022 RC meeting.

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**1. Resolution 8-2022 to Support Ocean Wind 1:** A motion was made by Bill Handley and seconded by Gregory Gregory, to approve Resolution 8-2022 that supports the proposed route for Ocean Wind 1 to bring cables from the offshore wind site to the BL England site. The planned route will go under the beach and then along Roosevelt Boulevard in Ocean City instead of through the Great Egg Bay. The resolution also supports the Green Acres Diversion Mitigation. All in favor. Motion carried.

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers):** Julie reported that a Milmay resident reported issues identifying small properties adjacent to the headwaters of the Tuckahoe River on old municipal parcel maps.

**Corbin City: (Kathleen Federico):** Kathleen reported that Corbin City's 100-year anniversary was a success.

**Folsom: (Greg Conway):** Greg reported that there is some controversy about how to handle a beaver dam at Cains Mill Road in Collings Lakes which is causing road flooding.

**GEHWA: (Dick Colby):** Dick asked if anyone has observed any negative consequences regarding the low flow of the river due to the recent drought.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill reported that the plans for repairs of the dam are in the County's hands and that it seems to be proceeding accordingly.

Bill also reported that he and Fred spoke to the Township Committee regarding the work that GEHWA and GEHRC does with the municipality. He is glad that there is an interest in doing something about the off-road vehicle damage at Gravelly Run

**Hammonton: (John Keenan):** John reported that Hammonton received a \$10,000 grant to explore the feasibility of creating a "Stormwater Utility". The study was completed. Hammonton was then given the opportunity for an additional grant to proceed to the next level of forming a "Stormwater Utility", but the Township Council turned it down stating they did not want to proceed any further.

**Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley):** Bill has heard from the County that the plans regarding the repair/replacement of the Marshallville bridge are progressing.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Bill Egan):** Bill reported that the Mays Landing Yacht Club had their Night of Lights. It was a very good event. He also reported that he saw many changes in the river over the summer due to the rising salt line in the river due to the lack of rain.

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. GEHWA's Staff has Re-organized:** GEHWA now has 3 fulltime staff at 40 hrs./week: The following are the staff and their positions: Brooke Handley (River Administrator), Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Lynn Maun (Education Outreach Coordinator).

**2. Stephen's Lake Dam Investigation:** The dams at Stephen's Lake have failed and are considered a significant hazard.

**3. Corbin City 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary:** Carol Foster, members of the Historical Society and volunteers hosted a great 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary party.

**4. Beesleys Point File Reviews:** Fred and Brooke took a field trip to Trenton to go through old B.L. England files. They found limited information on wetlands restoration, but significant archaeological information and dredge material information. Brooke and Fred digitized some of the files and compiled them into a .pdf. They also went to Stockton and found significant archaeological information.

**5. Hamilton Twp. Committee Meeting:** Fred and Bill addressed the Hamilton Twp. Committee to update them on W&S designation and Hamilton Twp's contributions. Brooke asked if the RCs would like a similar presentation for their towns.

**6. Off Road ATV Issues at Gravelly Run:** Fred attended a clean-up at Gravelly Run on 9/17/2022 and while there he assessed the stream damage to Gravelly Run due to heavy ATV use.

**7. BL England Cooling Tower Implosion:** Brooke shared images of the implosion.

**8. Troop 79 Eagle Scout Project:** The GEHRC/GEHWA assisted Eagle Scout candidate Noah Wertzberger from Troup 79 to install 2 replacement osprey platforms on state land.

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

**Adjournment:**

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