

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:34 PM by Rick Coe, Acting Chairperson.

Roll Call: by Fred Akers, Secretary.

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

Quorum Present – Yes

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

Others Present: Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Handley (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jennifer Jennings (Alt. Buena Vista Twp.), Denise Appleget (Alt. Hamilton Twp.), Lynnee LoCicero (Alt. Hammonton), Bill Stuempfig (Alt. Upper Twp.), Susan Stiles (Alt. Weymouth), Hanna Volk (NPS), Olivia Wilson (NPS)

Open Meetings Act: Rick Coe 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 August 16, 2023, meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

School Programs

Stockton University: On Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 28, 2023, 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.

Fernwood MS School Outdoor Program at Corson’s Inlet – Jim Thoms’ 7th grade students participated in outdoor classroom events at Corson’s Inlet on, October 11, 13 and 17th.

Texas Avenue School – Atlantic City: Lynn will provide a program for the “Garden Club” at the Texas Avenue School in Atlantic City on November 2, 2023.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

Somers Point Good Old Days: We tabled at Somers Point's Good Old Days festival at Kennedy Park on Saturday, September 9th 2023. It was a fun event.

GEHWA/GEHRC Annual Canoe/Kayak Event: The annual canoe/kayak event was held on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

BL England Smoke Stack Implosion Event: GEHWA/GEHRC will have an information table on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at the open house hosted by the Beesley's Point Development Group's "Say Goodbye to the Stack" event.

Hammonton's 14th Annual Green Day Event: Hammonton's 14th Annual Green Day Event will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

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 28, 2023, at 6:30PM. Program details will be emailed later.

NPS Report (Paul Kenney): Olivia Wilson and Hanna Volk, who are River Conservation Fellows with the NPS, introduced themselves.

Paul received an application for review that was submitted to the US Army Corp of Engineers for a marina redevelopment project on Patcong Creek for 71 jet ski ports. Under Section 7 of the WS Rivers Act there is no way to stop the application.

Paul also reported that the draft survey for the Back Bay Study has been delayed until the spring of 2024.

Old Business:

1. Resolution 10-2023 Regarding Railroad Hazmat Information: A motion was made by Julie Akers and seconded by Bill Christman, to approve Resolution 10-2023, supporting the USDOT proposal requiring railroads always maintain and update in real-time - accurate, electronic information about rail shipments of hazardous materials in a train. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Corbin City: (Daniel Patterson): Daniel thanked the RC for funding the coir logs project to stabilize the banks at the Corbin City Park.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that some of the RC signs that identify the creeks on Rte. 559 are missing.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick stated that most rail derailments result from the failure of the hotbox on railcars. He also reported that trash may be sent by rail car in the future resulting in increased derailments.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that a stolen car was found in a pond at Gravelly Run. He also reported that he almost hit a young person crossing the road near the guardrail at Gravelly Run

Hamilton Twp.: (Denise Appleget): Denise stated the stolen car was removed from the pond.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): Gregory asked John if Hammonton received leaf debris from other municipalities. John did not know.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory recapped Somers Point's Good Old Days event. He said he received many positive comments regarding our seining program at the event and that it is a good idea to move our setup closer to the water next years. He also reported that the open space lot at Dobbs Avenue looks good following all the work done over the past year.

Upper Twp.: (Alt. Bill Steumpfig): Bill inquired if there was any information regarding the types of development proposed for Beesley's Point. He expressed concern about an increase in vehicular traffic.

Other New Business: None

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

1. GEHWA Film: 5 Tribes Cinema has been hired to create a new film of the Great Egg Harbor River and Bay.

2. Hamilton Preserve Guardrail Updates: The Hamilton Preserve land survey is being prepared by Cape Land Survey.

3. Tires on GEHR in Hamilton: GEHWA is working with Hamilton Twp. and the property owner to engage Atlantic Electric in addressing the issue of the deterioration of the tires on the north bank of the GEHR where the Atlantic City Electric powerline crosses near Gravelly Run. Atlantic City Electric has been ignoring this issue.

4. EHT Historical Society Presentation: Gregory and Brooke gave a presentation to the EHT Historical Society on Leni Lenape.

5. Hill Week FY 2025: The Senate has proposed funding of 5.8 million dollars for the Partnership W & S Rivers program

6. BL England Implosion: The implosion of the BL Engand stack is scheduled for Thursday October 26th at 10 am.

7. Pinelands Preservation Alliance: Fred attended the Pinelands "Hall of Fame" event on October 14, 2023. The Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association was a sponsor of this event.

8. New Tuckahoe WMA Boat Ramp: The state has rebuild the boat ramp at the Tuckahoe WMA.

9. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Bill Stuempfig, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.