

**River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River**  
***Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes***  
***June 21, 2023***

**Meeting Called to Order:** at 6:36 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

**Roll Call:** by Brooke Handley, River Administrator

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Daniel Patterson (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 Stuempfig (Upper Twp.), Susan Stiles (Weymouth)

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

**Quorum Present** – Yes

**Alternates in Attendance:** Kathleen Federico (Corbin City), Paul Ludgate (GEHWA), Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.)

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

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Handley (River Administrator), Paul Kenney (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), LuAnne McCardell (Hamilton Twp.), Olivia Bowers (NPS Intern)

**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 17, 2024, meeting. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Public Portion:** None

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

**In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:** Lynn reported on the various groups educated during the Spring 2024 indoor and outdoor programs: Williamstown MS – Monroe Twp., Texas Avenue School, Atlantic City, Homeschool Group at Fox Nature Center, Richmond Ave. School – Estell Manor Park, Gateway Preschool, Fox Nature Center, Middle Twp. MS – Middle Twp., Hammonton MS – Hammonton, Fernwood MS – EHT, S. Main Street School – Pleasantville, Jordan Road School – Somers Point, Brandywine Living at Brandall Estates - Fox Nature Center and Linwood Facility.

**Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:**

**ACUA Earth Day Celebration:** The 2024 ACUA Earth Day celebration was held on Sunday, April

28, 2024. An estimated 10,000 people attended.

**GEHWA:** The annual GEHWA “Hike for Frogs” was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at the Piney Hollow Preserve.

**Route 52 Causeway Rookery:** Lynn shared pictures highlighting some of this year’s activity at the rookery near the Ocean City Visitors Center.

**NPS Report (Paul Kenney):** Paul introduced Olivia Bowers, an NPS Intern, who will be working with the Partnership W & S Rivers through August. He also reported that a new hire will work with GEHR ½ time over the next 4 yrs. Paul hopes the new hire will start in late July. Their office will be located at Sandy Hook. Paul stated that the Sugar Hill Inn did not get permits for their docks and he has turned the issue over to the NJDEP. They are looking into it. Paul is currently reviewing the Cooperative Agreement for GEHW. Following a question from Gregory, Paul stated he doesn’t know when the dredging of Patcong Creek will start but will look into it.

**1. NPS Intern Olivia Bowers:** Olivia introduced herself and stated she is looking forward to working with GEHWA. She is a student at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

**Old Business:** None

**Other Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**River Councilor Reports for each Municipality**

**Corbin City: (Daniel Patterson):** Daniel reported that the grass is doing well where the coir logs have been installed.

**Corbin City: (Kathleen Frederico):** Kathleen reported that boaters are beaching their boats on the banks of the Tuckahoe which is degrading the banks. She also reported that there seems to be less diamond back terrapin road casualties this year.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman):** Bill reported that the GEHR is full of fish. He is also seeing a lot of river traffic with boat operators not showing any river courtesy to other boaters. Bill reported that Atlantic Electric easement gates in 3 areas of the Hamilton Preserve have been open since 1/10/2024.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Denise Appleget):** Denise feels the increased boat traffic is due to the success of the Sugar Hill Inn.

**Hamilton Twp.: (Luanne McCallan - Hamilton Clean Communities):** Luanne said that Hamilton Clean Communities plans to erect signage with the local ordinance and fines with a QR code.

**Somers Point (Gregory Gregory):** Gregory said Somers Point is planning to create several nature trails.

**Upper Twp.: (Alt. Bill Steumpfig):** Bill found another dock down streams from Yanks Marina. He feels 2 boats can recover the dock. He is also finding ballons on the marsh recently for graduation and Mother’s Day.

**Weymouth Twp.: (Susan Stiles):** Susan reported that Weymouth Township approved a resolution for the railroad issue. She also reported that Mays Landing is doing a boat parade the “Night of Lights” on August 17.

**Other New Business:** None

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

**1. August GEHRC Meeting:** The August 21, 2024, GEHRC meeting will be on the Duke of Fluke with boxed meals from Gregory's. Members will meet at the marina at Higbee Beach in Somers Point at 6:00 PM. Members will receive an email with menu selections.

**2. Paddle for the Edge:** GEHWA will participate in "Paddle for the Edge" in July and will also be doing our own "Marsh Assessment" program during the months of June, July, August, and September.

**3. GEHWA Marsh Assessment Program:** Matt Duffy is working with GEHWA to create a program using ESRI's Survey 123 so that we can do our own marsh assessment survey. The purpose is to gather data to better understand what changes are occurring to our marshes and to garner interest in future restoration projects.

**4. Mission Map Updates:** Fred generated maps showing what organizations manage the different waterbodies of the GEHR. The Waterway Network can be found on our Mission Map

**5. Upper Township Kayak Race:** Upper Township Rescue Squad is sponsoring the Upper Township Kayak Race on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> with a rain date Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Marine Debris Program Update:** New marine debris was identified on the Tuckahoe River by Bill Stuempfig. Boats and balloons.

**7. PPA Science Forum:** Fred attended the Pineland Preservation Alliance (PPA) Science Forum on 6/13/2024 on Forestry Management and Climate Change.

**8. NJ Osprey and Bald Eagle Update:** The State of NJ is planning to downlist both the Osprey and the Bald Eagle to species of special concern.

**9. GEHWA Film Update:** The new GEHWA film is almost completed. It will be a 5-minute video.

**10. Egg Harbor Twp. Zell Parcel Donation of 525 Acres:** Egg Harbor Twp. received a donation of 525 acres at Broadway Parks East & West. EHT is seeking the help of GEHWA for advice in managing the property.

**Township of Hamilton to Construct Foot Bridge:** The Township of Hamilton is planning to construct a new foot bridge adjacent to the old Mays Landing trestles bridge. It will be a 4-yr project.

**Turtle Run:** Brooke recently joined a running club and participated in a "Turtle Run" on June 19<sup>th</sup> where they rescued turtles in danger of being hit by cars, while they were running. Any turtle that was injured or killed but not flattened by cars were taken to the Wetlands Institute.

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

**Adjournment:**

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Julie Akers, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.