

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: at 8:05 PM by Greg Gregory, Chairperson.

Open Meeting Act: Greg Gregory stated that the meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meeting 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.

Roll Call: by Brooke Fisher, River Administrator

Board Members in Attendance: Julie Akers (Buena Vista Twp.), Alison Stefanik (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), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.), Susan Stiles (Weymouth), Kristin Wesler (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.)

Quorum Present – Yes

Alternates in Attendance: Kathleen Federico (Corbin City), Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.), Lynnee LoCicero (Hammonton), Bill Reinert (Somers Point City)

GEHWA Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Kyle Rumaker

Others Present: Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Fisher (River Administrator), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Jacob DeRose (Watershed Ambassador WMA15), Sierra Duffy (Hamilton Twp. Sustainability Team), Andy Anzardo (EHT), Lauren Domenick (EHT)

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, meeting. Greg Conway seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: Sierra Duffy (Hamilton Twp. Sustainability Team) is planning a cleanup and would like to coordinate with GEHWA and GEHRC. Details to follow.

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:

Williamstown MS: In March, Lynn provided 27 programs on Stormwater Runoff and Groundwater for 561 students at Williamstown MS.

Hammonton MS: On March 5th, Lynn provided programs on Frogs and Toads of NJ for Hammonton MS.

South Main Street School - Pleasantville: On March 26th Lynn and Julie provided a program on Frogs and Toads of NJ and a hike at the Estell Manor Park for South Main Street School.

Stockton University: On April 6 & 8 Brooke and Lynn led 2 Ecological Principals lab classes on macroinvertebrates during an outdoor streamside event at Stockton University.

Stockton University: On April 13 Brooke and Lynn presented a program for Stockton's Environmental Seminar for ENVL sophomores.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

GEHWA Member Meeting: The last GEHWA Member Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Dr. Lenore Tedesco from the Wetland's Institute presented "Coastal Resiliency". A recording of her presentation is available on GEHWA's YouTube channel.

Ocean City Library: On March 4 Fred, Lynn and Julie attended a Zoom presentation by Doug Tallamy on "Homegrown National Parks" that was hosted by Ocean City Library.

Pinelands Short Course: On March 7 Fred and Lynn attended the Pinelands Short Course at Stockton University.

CoCoRaHS: Lynn reported that the Maun and Akers CoCoRaHS stations have less than average precipitation since 2021 and 2022 respectively.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: The 2026 ACUA Earth Day celebration will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026. We will table at this event.

Friends of the Parks: On May 16, 2026, at 9:30 AM Lynn will present a program on "Frogs and Toads of NJ" for the Friends of the Parks.

GEHWA: The next GEHWA Member & Friends Meeting will be our annual "Hike for Frogs" event. It will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 7:30 PM at the Piney Hollow Preserve.

NPS Report (Sarah Bursky) & (Kurt Cheng):

1. Kurt Cheng has finished his training and will replace Paul Kenney as our NPS representative.

Old Business:

1. Construction Dust Contamination Impacts:

Resolution 4-2026 Supporting Construction Dust Ordinance: Resolution 4-2026 supports a model ordinance to control construction dust and contaminants and keep it from entering the environment. A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Tom Baum, to approve Resolution 4-2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Buena Vista Twp.: (Julie Akers): Recently Julie worked with Dick on the Blue Blaze trail near Lake Lenape West.

Corbin City: (Alt. Kathleen Federico): Kathleen reported that people have been launching jet skis from the Corbin City Beach.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (Alt. Tom Baum): Tom reports that as of April 1st, the river herring are spawning in the river. He has also seen eagles on the nest at Wharf Road. Bill Reinert stated that the nest produced one of the 1st chicks reported in the state.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that the GEHWA tax documents will be filed for 2025 on time. Dick spoke about the ongoing work to have the Mullica River included in the Partnership Wild

and Scenic Rivers program. He also stated there is a great deal of trail work that needs to be done along the river following this past winter.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that the river is full of catfish. He said the State has been sampling the river for fish. Bill also reported that the preserve is filled with trash and ATVs are still accessing the site. He reported that the State is late placing the channel markers in the river.

Hamilton Twp.: (Alt. Denise Appleget): Denise reported that an abandoned boat (Clam Digger) was removed from the river near Mays Landing.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported there are rumors of people harvesting full grown oysters in Somers Point. He also stated that Gregory's Bar is celebrating its 80th anniversary. He said Somers Point is still doing road repairs. Gregory said there was a recent cleanup on Defeo Lane.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Handley): Bill announced that he and Bill Stuempfig are organizing a cleanup on the Tuckahoe River on May 3rd. He said Clean Ocean Action did a beach sweep recently and a lot of plastic bottle caps were found. Bill will be offering boating and water safety programs soon.

Winslow Twp.: (Alt. Kristin Wesler): Kristin reported that the Township has proposed 2 ordinances banning AI data centers.

Other New Business: None

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

1. Tuckahoe Island Project Update: On March 28 Fred and Julie went to Tuckahoe Island to check the data loggers. One had broken loose and was repaired. Fred and Brooke continue to meet with partners working on the restoration.

2. Tuckahoe River Clean Up: There will be a cleanup of the Tuckahoe River on Sunday May 3 at 10 AM. Staging for the cleanup will be at Mosquito Landing Beach.

3. Marine Debris Update: There are two abandoned boats on Powell Creek, upstream from Thompson Marine in EHT. There is also an abandoned pontoon boat on the GEHR marsh located across from South River confluence

4. Data Centers in Watershed: The Pinelands Commission stated it would not approve a data center in the Pinelands Preservation Areas. It is possible that one would be approved in the Regional Growth Areas but it would have to meet Pinelands standards.

5. Stockton Environmental Seminar: The program was well received by the Stockton students.

6. New Signage: We are working on new signs for Corson's Inlet SP in partnership with OCYC.

7. Spring & Summer Fieldwork Operations: There are many planned events scheduled.

8. Pop-up Arts Program: On March 31st, Brooke provided a program at the Ocean City Arts Center for an after-school group.

8. Seal sighting in Strathmere: Brooke encountered a juvenile seal on the beach in Strathmere. It later returned to the water.

8. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Greg Conway, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM