

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:31 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.), 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), Kristin Wesler (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: None

Quorum Present – Yes

Alternates in Attendance: Paul Ludgate (GEHWA), Denise Appleget (Hamilton Twp.), Jenna Mudforte (Winslow Twp.), Clay Emerson (GEHWA)

GEHWA Trustees in Attendance: Julie Akers, Dick Colby, Paul Ludgate, Carol Jones, Bill Stuempfig, Kyle Rumaker, Clay Emerson

Others Present: Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Fisher (River Administrator), Kurt Cheng (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator), Stephen Jasecki (Margate Green Team), Tyler Kinney (Coastal Biologist NJDEP)

Nomination and Election of Officers of the River Council: Brooke Fisher introduced the existing slate of officers as the nominees for 2026 and inquired if there were any other nominations to be made. None were made and the following motions were made to accept the slate of officers listed below:

Chair - Greg Gregory
Vice Chair - Rick Coe
Treasurer - Dick Colby
Secretary – Brooke Fisher

Bill Christman made the motion to accept the nomination of **Greg Gregory** as Chair, **Rick Coe** as Vice Chair, **Dick Colby** as Treasurer, and **Brooke Fisher** as Secretary. Julie Akers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Resolutions: Brooke Fisher brought the following resolutions before the council for vote:

Resolution 1-2026: Designating Depository of Funds and Fiscal Agent.

Resolution 2-2026: Designating Official Publications.

Resolution 3-2026: Notice of Meetings of the River Council

A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Dick Colby, to approve Resolution 1-2026. Roll call; all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 2-2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bill Christman and seconded by Julie Akers, to approve Resolution 3-2026. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom: The 2026 calendar is filling up with dates for educational programs.

Upper Pittsgrove School Science Fair: Julie and Lynn judged the science fair at Upper Pittsgrove School on 1-8-2026.

Homeschool Group: Lynn and Julie provided a program on Bugs/Insects for a Homeschool group that meets at the Fox Nature Center on 2-16-2026.

Williamstown MS: Lynn will provide programs on Stormwater Runoff and Groundwater in March.

Hammonton MS: Lynn will provide programs on Frogs and Toads of NJ in March.

Pleasantville School: Lynn and Julie will provide a program on Frogs and Toads of NJ at the Fox Nature Center in March

Hess School: Lynn and Julie will provide a program on Frogs and Toads of NJ at the Fox Nature Center in April

Stockton University: Fred, Brooke and Lynn will lead 2 Environmental Principals lab classes during an outdoor streamside event in March.

Stockton University: Brooke and Lynn will present a program for the Environmental Seminar in April.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

GEHWA Member Meeting: The last GEHWA Member Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Stephen Jasiecki presented “Dealing with Microplastics”. It was well attended online.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Pinelands Short Course: Fred, Lynn and Brooke will attend the Pinelands Short Course on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Stockton University. The River Council will reimburse any RCs for the cost of the Short Course.

GEHWA: The Annual GEHWA Member Meeting and program will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:30. The meeting will be hybrid (in person and via Zoom).

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

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

1. Kurt announced he will manage GEHR and Maurice River. GEHR has received \$220,000.00 in funding for FY 2026. Kurt also announced that the NPS is also accepting grant applications for projects costing between \$5,000 and \$30,000.

Old Business: None

Other Old Business: None

New Business:

1. **NJ Fish and Wildlife Report:** Tyler Kinney, Coastal Biologist from NJDEP talked about Tuckahoe Island. Tuckahoe Island is owned by NJDEP. Tyler is part of the team planning the restoration of Tuckahoe Island.

2. **The Nature Conservancy Report:** The Nature Conservancy is also a project partner for the Tuckahoe Island projects.

3. **Steve Jaisecki on Microplastics in Construction:** Steve explained how he is encouraging municipalities to control plastic waste pollution from construction sites by approval of an ordinance.

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality:

Corbin City: (Daniel Patterson): Daniel reported that Corbin City is looking into the possibility of replacing its wooden docks with floating docks.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that the river is still frozen.

Estell Manor City: (Jim Owen): Jim reported that people are riding on frozen Maple and Stephen Lakes with Can-Ams and Dirt Bikes.

Folsom: (Greg Conway): Greg had previously reported on a local road construction company's construction waste at the December 2025 GEHRC meeting. He reported it to NJDEP who then referred it to the Atlantic County Health Dept. The Health Dept. sent someone to the site who stated they couldn't find any problems at the site. He will try to follow up on this issue.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick stated the need for additional GEHWA Trustees. He continues to work on the long-distance trail.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported seeing many birds once Gravelly Run thawed.

Hamilton Twp.: (Alt. Denise Appleget): Denise reported seeing a lot of dead fish that bald eagles are then eating.

Hammonton: (John Keenan): John reported that Hammonton Lake has a large number of dead Canada Geese. He reported this information to NJ DEP's Fish and Wildlife "Wild Bird Disease Reporting Form". NJ DEP is monitoring Avian Flu in wild birds.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Greg reported the Bay Avenue is being heavily developed.

Upper Twp.: (Bill Steumpfig): Bill reported that the Tuckahoe River has thawed, and he has seen many mergansers on the river. He also found otter scat on his dock.

Weymouth Twp.: (Susan Stiles): Susan reported seeing big black birds on her property. She could not ID the birds.

Winslow Twp.: (Kristin Wesler): Kristin reported there are plans to build prison near Ancora Hospital. Winslow Twp. is not in favor of this project. She warned that the plans to build a prison may show up somewhere else in the watershed.

Winslow Twp.: (Alt. Jenna Mudforte): Jenna stated that she has been attending township meetings.

Other New Business: None

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

1. Tuckahoe Island Project Update: Brooke shared drone images and video of the frozen river with a focus on Tuckahoe Island. She also gave an update of the status of the current work being done to assess the possibility of saving Tuckahoe Island.

2. Data Centers in Watershed: Fred reported that data centers have a big impact on the environment. It has been estimated that one data center can draw millions of gallons of water per day.

3. Gravelly Run Watershed: Fred reported that a golf course in the headwaters of Gravelly Run would like to change from being an 18-hole course to 12-hole course. They would then like to develop the available property, after the change, into 198 townhomes. This number of homes is far less than the existing zoning allows.

4. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Greg Conway, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.