

River Council of the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River
Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2026

Meeting Called to Order: at 6:35 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: Jenn Jennings (Buena Vista Twp.), David Brown (Egg Harbor Twp.), Dick Colby (GEHWA), Bill Christman (Hamilton Twp.), Greg Gregory (Somers Point City), Bill Egan (Weymouth), Kristin Wesler (Winslow Twp.)

Board Members Absent: Alison Stefanik (Corbin City), Jim Owen (Estell Manor City), Greg Conway (Folsom Boro), John Keenan (Hammonton), Rick Coe (Monroe Twp.), Bill Handley (Upper Twp.)

Special Note: Due to technical issues with the internet the meeting could not be accessed via Zoom. Several River Councilors and alternates had planned to attend the meeting by Zoom.

Quorum Present – Yes

Alternates in Attendance: Clay Emerson (GEHWA), Susan Stiles (Weymouth), Jenna Mudforte (Winslow Twp.)

GEHWA Trustees in Attendance: Dick Colby, Clay Emerson

Others Present: Fred Akers (Operations Manager), Brooke Fisher (River Administrator), Kurt Cheng (NPS), Lynn Maun (Coordinator)

Approval of Minutes: Bill Christman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2026, meeting. Dick Colby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Portion: None

Education & Outreach Coordinator Report (Lynn Maun)

In Schools, Nature Center, and Outdoor Classroom:

Special Thank You To GEHWA Volunteers: Fred, Brooks, and Lynn thanked all the volunteers that helped make out spring programs a success: Julie Akers, Tom Baum, Jacob DeRose, Dave Brown, Bill Handley, MaryBeth Spiegel and Ashley and Lauren from NJ Marine Fisheries

Fernwood MS at Corson's Inlet: Throughout the month of May, Fred, Brooke and Lynn, along with volunteers: Julie Akers, Tom Baum, Dave Brown, Bill Handley and Ashley & Lauren provided 6 days of outdoor classroom programing for 185 7th grade students from the Fernwood MS. GEHWA has

provided programs for Fernwood MS for 16 years.

Bel Haven MS from Linwood: On May 15, 2026, Julie and Lynn provided a program on “Frogs and Toads of NJ” for 39 students from Bel Haven MS at Estell Manor Park.

Delsea HS AP Environmental Science Class: On May 19, 2026, the Delsea HS’s AP Environmental Science Class was at Corson’s Inlet on the same day GEHWA was there for Fernwood MS. The students received an abbreviated “Tank Talk”.

New York Avenue School from Atlantic City: On May 21, 2026, Julie and Lynn provided a program on “Frogs and Toads of NJ” for 30 5th grade students from the New York Avenue School at Estell Manor Park.

Holly Heights School from Millville: On May 29, 2026, Julie and Lynn provided a program on “Honeybees” for 72 kindergarten students from Holly Heights School at Estell Manor Park.

Upper Twp. Primary School: On June 2, 2026, Brooke and Lynn provided a program on “Beach Objects” for 457 PreK through 2nd grade students from Upper Twp. Primary school.

Events, Meetings and Continuing Education:

ACUA Earth Day Celebration: GEHWA attended the 2026 ACUA Earth Day celebration on Sunday, April 26, 2026, attendance was down due to the weather.

Friends of the Parks 3rd Saturday: Julie and Lynn provided a program on the “Frogs and Toads of NJ” for “Friends of the Parks” 3rd Saturday at Estell Manor Park on May 16, 2026.

GEHWA: As always, the annual GEHWA “Hike for Frogs” on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at the Piney Hollow Preserve was a fun event.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Ocean City Yacht Club Minnow Program at Corson’s Inlet: GEHWA will provide programs on July 9, 21 and August 6, 2026, at Corson’s Inlet for the OCYC Minnows & Seas Program. This is GEHWA’s 5th year hosting these programs at Corson’s Inlet State Park.

GEHWA: The 20th annual GEHWA “Picnic and Campfire” will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:30 pm at Lake Lenape Park. Additional information will be sent out prior to this event.

NPS Report (Kurt Cheng):

1. On May 21, 2026, GEHWA’s Cooperative Agreement was amended to include an additional \$18,500 for a total of \$228,500. These funds are to be used during FY26-FY27 to implement the Comprehensive Management Plan and create a documentary of the work at Tuckahoe Island. Kurt will continue to provide field support for Tuckahoe Island.

Old Business: None

New Business:

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality

Buena Vista Twp.: (Jenn Jennings): Jenn shared that she observed a dung beetle in action for the 1st time.

Egg Harbor Twp.: (David Brown): Dave reported that the river has been busy with boat traffic. He also reported seeing a pod of dolphins in the ocean in front of Shore Memorial Hospital on 6/14/2026.

GEHWA: (Dick Colby): Dick reported that all the legal documents for GEHWA have been filed.

GEHWA: (Alt. Clay Emerson): Clay reported that river traffic near him has been quiet. There are not many kayakers and tubers. He reported seeing many Cownose rays and Diamond-backed terrapins.

Hamilton Twp.: (Bill Christman): Bill reported that the buoys are now in the river. He also shared that the river traffic has been quite near him.

Somers Point: (Greg Gregory): Gregory reported that weekend traffic on the river was also down. He reported catching 5 stripers during a recent fishing trip. He has also seen bald eagles.

Weymouth Twp.: (Alt. Susan Stiles): Susan reported there are many events planned in Weymouth Twp. in the coming months. Mays Landing is having a free boat ride and dinner for veterans “Vets and Vessels” on 6/20/2026. Information is posted around town. On 7/25/2026 is the “Cardboard Regatta”, 8/22/2026 “Night of Lights”, 9/19/2026 there will be a chicken BBQ, and on 9/26/2-26 a river clean-up.

Winslow Twp.: (Kristin Wesler): Kristin reported that Winslow Twp. is in the process of drafting 2 ordinances that will regulate data centers within the Twp.

Winslow Twp.: (Alt. Jenna Mudforte): Jenna reported that township schools are having flooding issues. She would like to explore using some of the suggestions in the “Impervious Cover Assessment” that Rutgers created for Winslow Twp. to alleviate these issues. She is working on finding the correct contacts within the township.

Other New Business: None

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

1. Tuckahoe Island Update: Brooke reported that GEHWA staff and other partners are spending significant amounts of time on Tuckahoe Island collecting data. This is an ongoing project.

2. Cedar Swamp Bridge Project: Brooke reported that an event was held on 5/20/2026 at the Cedar Swamp Creek Route 50 bridge to highlight the replacement of the bridge. Governor Mikie Sherril was present, along with many other dignitaries. This project is being built under the innovative Design-Build project delivery method. Route 50 was closed for the event.

3. Marine Debris Update: On 6/11/2026, Fred and Dave kayaked up Powell Creek to see if they could find any identifying information on 2 abandoned boats, a 34’ Cruiser Yacht and a 31’ Bertram Yacht, that have sunk in the creek. They could not find any identification on the Cruiser and only a partial id on the Bertram. Stockton informed Fred they could fund the removal of this marine debris. There is a Travel Lift at Thomson’s Marina that could help facilitate removal of these boats. There is also a dock on the GEHR marsh that needs to be removed.

4. Somers Point Defeo Lane Project: The Somers Point “DeFeo Lane Nature Trail” received a Green Acres funding grant of \$116,461.00. This grant requires a 50% match. The GEHRC anticipates providing some funding for this project.

5. NJSP Marine Police on the River: The NJSP Marine Police will provide a weekend presence on the river this summer.

6. Summer Fieldwork Operations: GEHWA's summer field work will include: oyster spat monitoring, osprey chick count and ongoing trips to Tuckahoe Island.

7. Tuckahoe River Clean Up: On May 3, 2026, there was a clean-up on the Tuckahoe River. Good news, not as much trash as last year.

8. Crest Memorial: On 5/3/2026, Brooke did a program at Crest Memorial Elementary in Wildwood.

7. Other Items of Interest: None

Adjournment:

Upon motion by Bill Christman and second by Dick Colby, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.